

# HURRICANE PREPARATION CHECKLIST



Actions to take before, during and after a storm to protect your family and your home.

## BEFORE A HURRICANE

- Check your marine insurance to determine if you must take action to make any claims valid
  - Ask your marina about their hurricane policies; marinas can order all boats to leave in some states
  - If you plan to move your boat, determine a location
  - Know the storm surge history and elevation of your area
  - Map safe routes inland and determine an evacuation destination
  - Keep an inventory of property on your boat. (*Photograph/video if possible*). Plan which items to remove and which must stay onboard
  - Keep all legal documents such as registration, insurance policy, marina rental agreement, radio license, etc. in one easily moved, secure container.
  - Make an inventory of documents, photos, and other irreplaceable articles to take with you in an evacuation
- Stock up on canned provisions
  - Check supplies of special medicines and drugs
  - Secure lawn furniture and other loose material outdoors
  - Tape, board, or shutter windows to prevent shattering
  - Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent their lifting from their tracks

## WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

A watch means sustained high winds of 74mph or greater are expected in the warning area within 24 hours or less

- Monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or Hurricane Hotline telephone numbers for official bulletins
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO

**If staying home, in a sturdy structure on high ground:**  
(*Note: plan to evacuate if you live on the coastline or on an offshore island, or live near a river or in a flood plain*)

## WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

A watch means there is a possibility hurricane conditions will strike the watch area within 36 hours

- Monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or Hurricane Hotline telephone numbers for news of the storm's progress
  - Assemble and check working condition of emergency equipment such as first aid kit, flashlights, and battery-powered radio
  - Move boats on trailers close to house and weight them down. Lash boat securely to trailer/use tie-downs to anchor trailer to ground or house. Let air out of trailer tires.
  - Anchored boats should be tied high, using a half hitch knot (*loop knots slip*). Anchor rigging should consist of new or good line and chain.
  - Attach extra lines of sufficient length to take care of excessive high water to boats docked at marinas
  - Once your boat is secured, leave and don't return while the wind and waves are up
  - Fuel your car
- Board up garage and porch doors
  - Move valuables to upper floors
  - Bring pets in
  - Fill containers (*bathtubs*) with several days' supply of drinking water (*one gallon per person per day*)
  - Turn up refrigerator to maximum cold and don't open unless necessary
  - Use phone only for emergencies
  - Stay indoors on the downwind side of the house away from windows
  - Beware of the eye of the hurricane
  - Bring in small hand tools to aid you should your home be damaged during the storm

**If you are evacuating:** (*ALWAYS evacuate if you live in a mobile home*)

- Leave areas which might be affected by storm tide or a stream flooding
- Leave early—in daylight if possible
- Shut off water and electricity at main stations

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## WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED (CONTINUED)

- Take small valuables and papers, but travel light
- Persons needing special foods or medicines should take them with them
- Take sufficient money in small bills to defray certain expenses you may incur
- Leave food and water for pets  
(shelters will not take your pets)
- Lock up house
- Notify family members or friends outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans
- Drive carefully to designated shelter or other evacuation location using recommended evacuation routes

## AFTER THE STORM PASSES

- Stay in your protected area until announcements are made on the radio or TV that the dangerous winds have passed
- Drive carefully; watch for dangling electrical wires, undermined roads, and flooded low spots
- Report broken or damaged water, sewer, and electrical lines
- Use caution re-entering your home.
- Check for gas leaks
- Check food and water for spoilage
- If your home has structural damage, do not enter until it is checked by building officials

Content courtesy of [BoatSafe.com](http://BoatSafe.com)