

## ***Protecting your family and your property from future storms: May 8, 2023***

### **Retrofit your home against hurricane flooding and wind**

There are many steps you can take to retrofit your home against hurricane flooding and wind. Here are just a few suggestions:

1. Reinforce your roof: Strong winds can cause significant damage to your roof. Reinforcing your roof with straps or clips can help keep it in place during a hurricane. Use hurricane rated shingles and ring shank nails.
2. Seal your home: Sealing your home can help prevent water from entering through cracks and gaps. This can be done by sealing around windows and doors, and caulking any gaps in your foundation or walls.
3. Secure outdoor items: Loose items such as patio furniture, grills, and plants can become dangerous projectiles in high winds. Secure these items or bring them indoors before a hurricane.
4. Consider landscaping: Trees and shrubs can help protect your home from wind damage, but they can also become hazards if they are not properly maintained. Trim any dead or weak branches, and consider consulting an arborist about removing trees that may be too close to your home.
5. Install hurricane-resistant windows and doors: These can withstand high winds and debris, reducing the risk of damage to your home and protecting you and your family from injury.
6. Installing hurricane shutters over your windows can provide an additional layer of protection against high winds and flying debris.
7. Reducing the size of eaves and soffits can help prevent wind from getting under the roof and lifting it off the house, which can cause significant damage during a hurricane. Install additional fasteners in exterior soffits under the roof overhangs to prevent winds from pulling the soffit finishes off the overhang framing.
8. Install a backup generator: Hurricanes can cause power outages that can last for days or even weeks. A backup generator can provide power to your home during an outage, allowing you to stay comfortable and safe.
9. Elevate your home: If you live in a flood-prone area, elevating your home above the flood level can help protect against flood damage. There may be grants and other programs to help offset the cost. If you do elevate, consider making other resiliency enhancements at the same time.

It's important to consult with a professional contractor or engineer to ensure that any modifications to your home are done correctly and in compliance with local building codes and regulations. They can assess your home's vulnerabilities and recommend the best course of action to protect your home against hurricane flooding and wind.

Make your home more resilient for hurricane season:

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/tblanchard/articles/page1623770909633>

Buyer's Guide to Resilient Homes:

<https://riskfootprint.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CRCBuyers-Guide-to-Resilient-Homes-Final-1.pdf>