

Hurricane Preparation List

Before hurricane season, assess your yard and trees. Decide on how you will secure outside furniture and equipment before a storm or flood. Have trees trimmed well before a storm so that the debris can be removed. Have your storm water drains cleaned by your municipality if necessary. Have your gutters cleaned.

- Flashlights and extra bulbs.
 - Extra batteries.
 - Portable cell phone chargers. Keep them charged. Be sure to have charging cords and wall chargers in case the power is working in your shelter or another safe place.
 - Clock (wind-up or battery-operated).
 - Battery-operated radio.
 - NOAA emergency weather radio.
 - Toilet paper.
 - Matches (camping stores have waterproof matches).
 - Scissors.
 - Plastic garbage bags.
 - Working fire extinguisher.
 - Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots.
 - Fully charged battery-operated lanterns. Don't use candles and kerosene lanterns. They are fire hazards.
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- Enough nonperishable food to last two weeks.
 - Water: Plan on 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day, for a minimum of one week. Water for two weeks is ideal. (Also, figure another 1 gallon per person/ per day of water for washing hands, flushing toilets and for pets.)
 - Ice or dry ice.
 - Shelf-stable milk and juice boxes.
 - Canned and powdered milk.
 - Beverages (powdered or canned, fruit juices, instant coffee, tea).
 - Raw vegetables that don't need refrigeration (will last only a few days).
 - Canned vegetables and fruits.
 - Dried fruits.
 - Prepared foods (canned soups, beef, spaghetti, tuna, chicken, ham, corned beef hash, packaged pudding).
 - Snacks (crackers, cookies, hard candy, unsalted nuts).
 - Snack spreads (peanut butter, cheese spreads, jelly).
 - Cereals.
 - Sugar, salt, pepper.
 - Bread.
 - Dry and canned pet food.
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- Hand tools: hammer, screwdrivers, shovel and pickax for after the storm.

- Power screwdriver.
- Quarter-inch machine screw sockets and screws.
- Plastic sheeting to cover furniture.
- Rope.
- Sturdy working gloves.
- Duct tape to waterproof items;
- Canvas tarps.
- Sturdy nails.

First-aid kit

- Medical supplies.
 - First-aid handbook.
 - Insect repellent sprays.
 - Citronella candles, insect bite lotion.
 - Petroleum jelly for relieving itching.
 - Ointments for burns, cuts.
 - Antiseptic solution.
 - Sunscreen.
 - Extra over-the-counter medicine (for colds, allergies, cough).
 - Aspirin, acetaminophen, antacid.
 - Children's medicines.
 - Diarrhea medication.
 - Feminine hygiene items.
 - Incontinence supplies.
 - Rubbing alcohol.
 - Iodine.
 - Disinfectant.
 - Wet wipes.
 - Moist towelette packets.
 - Medic Alert tags.
 - Thermometer.
 - Hypoallergenic adhesive tape.
 - Cotton-tipped swabs.
 - Sterile rolls.
 - Adhesive bandages.
 - Sterile gauze pads.
 - Roller bandages.
 - Tweezers.
 - Needles.
 - Adhesive tape.
 - Safety pins.
 - Latex gloves.
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- Waterless hand sanitizer.
 - Manual can opener.
 - Water purification tablets.

- Bottle opener.
- Matches in a plastic bag.
- Pocket knife.
- Camp stove or other cooking device and plenty of fuel. (Use only canned fuel indoors — never charcoal or gas. Buy extra gas or charcoal to use in a well-ventilated open to outdoor space after the storm has passed.)
- Ice chests or coolers.
- Paper towels, plates, napkins.
- Plastic cups, utensils.
- Disposable pans for cooking.
- Plastic bags, jugs or containers for water and ice.

- Fill up your car's gas tank well before the storm.

- Disposable diapers.
- Baby wipes.
- Diaper-rash ointment.
- Baby medicines.
- Medicine dropper.
- Extra formula, baby food.

Emergency toilet:

- Garbage can with tight lid.
- Plastic bags for liners.
- Disinfectant or bleach.
- Deodorizer.
- Extra toilet paper.

- Special needs: Let EMS know if someone in your home has a medical condition that could be effected by loss of power and/or excessive heat.

• Water in bulk: You can buy 5- and 10gallon water bottles, but they're hard to move. Or sanitize a large garbage can with a lid to store drinking water. Pour 1 cup of regular, unscented household bleach into 30 gallons of water; let stand overnight, drain and rinse well. Fill with tap water and replace the lid. Buy a long-handled ladle; keep paper cups nearby. Freezing jugs of water also helps keep foods frozen and provides chilled drinking water.

• For household use, sanitize the bathtub by scrubbing well and rinsing with 1 cup of bleach in a tub of water. Let stand overnight; drain; refill. Use for flushing the toilet, but if necessary, for washing.

• Keep water clean! Contaminated water can cause diarrhea, leading to dehydration. If drinking water is compromised, use it for washing up or flushing toilets. After a storm, do not use tap water for drinking unless you boil it for 3 minutes first or use purifying methods.

- Wait until your utility or local government says water is safe to drink.

What are tips for storing ice during a hurricane?

- Freezing water jugs: Buy 1-gallon containers of drinking water drain out about a half cup to leave room for expansion, seal tightly and freeze.
- Keep jugs in the freezer even after the power goes out; they last longer than in coolers. Once thawed, water is drinkable. Put into smaller bottles to carry, or use it from the larger jugs, but keep it clean and uncontaminated.
- Buy block ice if possible (from ice companies, boat supply stores and some grocery stores). It lasts up to three times longer than bagged, cubed ice.
- Make your own blocks. When a storm approaches, clean the freezer and fill it with stackable containers of water. Large mixing bowls or small buckets work. Freeze, and when frozen, transfer ice blocks to sealable bags.
- Buy extra coolers. Smaller areas are easier to chill. Once the power goes out, and foods begin to thaw or warm, pack them, tightly, into the bottom of the coolers, then top them with ice.
- Try the bathtub. If you're not using the bathtub for water, use it for ice. Buy huge blocks and load the tub. Cover it with a tarp. Or fill with cubed ice; cover with newspapers and a heavy tarp, then a layer of plastic to keep cold in. Use a drain plug to save water for other uses.
- Put foods under ice, not above it.

What are important documents to keep safe and dry during a hurricane?

- List of emergency phone numbers.
 - Important telephone numbers, family and friends.
 - Copy of insurance policy.
 - Record of bank account numbers.
 - Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).
 - Record of credit card account numbers and companies.
 - Inventory of valuable household goods.
 - Copy of will, insurance policies, deeds, stocks and bonds.
 - Medical records.
 - Passports, Social Security cards, immunization records.
 - Backup hard drives.
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- Package venerable items that may be damaged by heat and excessive humidity.
 - Put electronic equipment and computers in water-tight containers.
 - Put musical instruments in their cases.
 - Elevate items that could be damaged by flooding.