

Weather TIPS

Keeping your home safe
before a storm hits.



Hurricane

- 1 Seal exterior walls, windows, doors, electrical boxes, vents and pipes.**
Rainfall in hurricanes can be driven horizontally, which can allow water to enter your home in ways typical rainfall cannot. A very inexpensive way to prepare is to buy a tube of silicone caulk and seal any gaps and cracks.
- 2 Assess your windows.**
If you replace your windows, consider those with a high impact rating that are resistant to breakage from debris tossed by hurricane winds. Purchasing [hurricane shutters](#) can help protect existing windows. Taping windows does not prevent window breakage. Adding plywood as a last resort could help, but it's not as effective as shutters.
- 3 Assess your garage door.**
Garage doors can blow in during wind events, which creates pressure on walls and roofs, causing them to fail. If you replace your garage door, purchase a [wind-rated door](#). Existing garage doors can also be reinforced with braces.
- 4 When getting your roof replaced, have your roof deck sealed.**
This can prevent water from entering your home if shingles are ripped off by hurricane winds.
- 5 Trim overgrown trees that may pose a threat to your home.**
Strong winds can cause trees with large or dead branches to crash into your home. An arborist can also examine your trees and help prune them.
- 6 Always keep power generators outdoors.**
Generators should be kept in a well-ventilated area away from windows, doors or vents that could bring carbon monoxide into your home. [View generator tips from the Red Cross](#).
- 7 Close all interior doors if you are evacuating your home.**
Research from the Institute of Business and Home Safety shows that closing all interior doors can reduce the occurrence of roof loss by 30% by offsetting the pressure that hurricane winds put on a home.