

CHECKLIST FOR HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



When the weather is bright and sunny, printing out a hurricane checklist is probably the last thing you'd think to do. However, it's important to take the necessary steps to prepare for a tropical storm or hurricane in advance.

Here are some important things you should do now to ensure that you're ready when disaster strikes.

CHECK YOUR GENERATOR

- If you have a generator stored in the garage or basement, be sure to turn it on and ensure that it's running properly. If you don't own a generator, consider purchasing one well in advance of hurricane season: local stores will likely sell out of them when news of a storm is approaching.

OUTDOOR ITEMS

- Take the time to go around the outside of your home and bring things like grills, trash cans, lawn decor, patio furniture, and so on into your garage or basement. These items will likely be damaged if left outside.

GUTTERS AND DRAINS

- Hurricanes can dump massive amounts of water onto your home in a very short period of time. It's essential that your gutters and drains be clear so that this water can properly be shed from your home. Check your gutters for blockages well in advance of a storm.

STORM SHUTTERS

- Don't wait until the last minute to acquire the supplies you need to protect your home. Storm shutters are a good example of something you should purchase in advance. Once you have them, set aside some time to label them so that you know which windows they fit over.

HOME INVENTORY

- Make an inventory of all the valuable items in your home. Be sure to include both large and small items, and then put this inventory in a waterproof container of some kind.

PROPERTY FACTS

- Know well in advance of a storm what the elevation of your property is, and whether or not it's in the floodplain.

EVACUATION ROUTE

- Don't wait until the last minute to plan your evacuation route. Make sure that you and your family are clear on the route that you'll take. Most communities have evacuation routes pre-planned: contact local authorities for more information.

EMERGENCY KIT

- Set aside a weekend afternoon to put together an emergency preparedness kit for you and your family. As part of this kit, come up with an emergency contact preparedness plan for you and your loved ones. If you're not together when a hurricane strikes, where will you plan to meet? Remember that cell phone service is often unavailable during a storm.

At Heritage Insurance, we work hard to help families get the insurance they need to protect them from loss during a storm. If your home suffers damage as the result of a natural disaster, you can reach us by phone any time of day to report the incident.

Always call Heritage first at 855-415-7120