



## How to protect your home from storm damage

### Before an Emergency or a Storm

- Know your hurricane evacuation [zone](#). Learn if you live in a pre-designated hurricane evacuation zone.
- Prepare for possible power outages. Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and have fresh batteries.
- Know where your electricity, gas and water switches and valves are located and how to shut them off.
- Elevate items stored in the basement to minimize damage from basement flooding.
- Consider [installing check valves](#) in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains in your home.
- Remove dead or rotting tree branches around your home.
- If you don't have storm shutters, make temporary plywood covers for windows and glass doors and store them in a readily accessible place.
- Store supplies so you can grab them quickly if you need to evacuate; know in advance what you will need to take.

### As a storm approaches

- Listen for warnings and notifications sent out by the town [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#), or radio stations WBSM 1420 AM or 107.1 FM to get information about evacuations, shelters, etc.
- Prepare for power outages by charging cell phones and electronics and setting your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings. If you use electricity to get well water, fill your bathtub with water to use for flushing toilets.
- Secure or bring in outdoor objects (patio furniture, children's toys, trash cans, etc.) that could be swept away or damaged during strong winds or flooding
- Anchor storage sheds and other outbuildings and objects that are unsafe to bring inside, like gas grills or propane tanks.
- Ensure that items stored in your basement are elevated to prevent damage. If you have a sump pump, check that it is working.
- If damaging winds are expected cover all of your home's windows with either storm shutters or temporary plywood covers.

### Resources

- Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Hazards <http://bit.ly/1HP2x8n>
- Know your hurricane zone <http://bit.ly/2dxJ4B4>
- Power Outage Safety Tips <http://bit.ly/1VV2R8D>
- Flooding and Sewage Back-ups Home Care Guide <http://bit.ly/1Uw6Cmb>