

HOMEOWNERBLISS!

How to Protect Your Home and Family from Hurricane-Related Hazards

To keep you and your family safe from hurricane-related storm surge, winds, and flooding, it's important to have a disaster preparedness plan in place before hurricane season. When a storm threatens you, your family, and your home, this plan will help you to make the best possible decisions.



Image via [Pixabay](#)

For tips on preparing for hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30, as well as staying safe during and after a storm hits, read on.

Preparing for Hurricane Season

As we approach the heart of hurricane season, be sure to complete the following steps to protect your home from property damages and keep your family safe from hurricane-related hazards.

- Review the [Insurance Information Institute's](#) tips on preparing for hurricane season. The Institute recommends planning an evacuation route, reviewing your insurance policies, and taking steps to hurricane-proof your home.
- Assemble an [emergency survival kit](#) that includes a portable radio, tactical flashlight, and hand sanitizer. Additionally, you'll want to stock up on non-perishable food items, drinking water, and prescription medications.
- Locate [pet-friendly emergency shelters](#) if you have animal companions at home.
- Follow the [CDC's recommendations](#) on preparing for a hurricane during the pandemic.

Keeping Your Family Safe During a Hurricane

If you are not required to evacuate your home when a hurricane strikes, you will need to take shelter in place until the storm passes. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind for when a hurricane impacts your area.

- Make sure you have your phone notifications turned on in order to receive [emergency weather notifications](#). Alerts are available through the many state & local governments, the Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio, and your local media outlets.
- [Stay safe](#) during a hurricane by obeying local evacuation orders, covering your doors and windows, and moving your emergency food and supplies to the area you'll be sheltering in. If you need to shelter in place, be sure to be in an interior room. If that is not possible, only be in rooms where the windows have been boarded over. (Do NOT use cardboard!)
- Visit [RaceWeather.net](#) for the latest weather forecasts and race updates, if a hurricane hits while you're traveling during a NASCAR race weekend.
- [Communicate with loved ones](#) via social media and emergency mobile apps to let them know that you're safe and taking shelter from the storm.

Additional Resources

Once the hurricane passes and it's safe to head outside, there are some steps you'll need to take to repair damages to your home while staying safe in the aftermath of the storm.

- [Hurricanes: Important Tips for After the Storm](#)
- [DIY Home Projects to Work on After a Natural Disaster](#)
- [How to File an Insurance Claim After a Natural Disaster](#)

To protect your home and loved ones from these destructive, costly, and potentially deadly storms, it's important to start taking precautions well before hurricane season really accelerates. The 2020 [Atlantic hurricane season](#) is forecast to more active than normal, and being prepared could mean the difference between life and death — especially amid the coronavirus pandemic.