



FLASH Fix-its

Protect your home in a **FLASH**

Projects to protect your home from natural disasters

Hurricanes, Floods and Tornadoes



Fix-it yourself:

- Fasten exterior items securely to your home to prevent them from becoming flying debris.
- Caulk and/or install weather stripping to all doors and windows to prevent wind from entering.
- Install impact-resistant shutters OR have cut-to-fit boards and mounting frames ready for all large windows and doors.
- Add protection to your roof sheathing by applying a 1/4-inch bead of APA AFG-01 certified wood adhesive along the intersection of the roof and deck AND roof support elements on both sides of the beam. (This can increase the wind uplift resistance of your home by up to three times more than nail-secured sheathing BUT should be used only on roofs one year old or older.)
- Make all entry doors impact-resistant by installing head and foot bolts with a minimum one-inch throw length to guard against wind pressure.

Fix-it with some help:

- Properly brace garage doors and tracks to meet impact-resistant criteria. (Approximately 80% of residential hurricane damage starts with wind entry through garage doors.)
- Brace the roof gable end framing with horizontal and vertical beams to strengthen it against strong winds.
- If you have a fuel tank, anchor it to a large concrete slab whose weight can resist the force of floodwaters and flotation.

Fix-it when building, rebuilding or remodeling:

- Install tie-downs on any porch and carport columns. (A tie-down is an internal rod within the porch column that better connects the porch roof to the foundation.)
- Secure wall-to-foundation connections with anchor bolts/rebar to ensure wind uplift resistance.
- Install impact-resistant windows & sliding glass doors.
- Anchor door frames to wall framing.
- If replacing your roof, your contractor should:
 - Remove sheathing to confirm that rafters and trusses are securely connected to the walls.
 - Replace damaged sheathing and properly refasten existing sheathing.
 - Install a roof covering designed to resist high winds (Miami-Dade approved product) and meet Class A fire-resistance specifications.
 - Consider a double-layer application of heavier felt roofing paper secured, with sufficient tin-tabs, to keep it fastened to the roof sheathing.
 - Consider taping the roof sheathing joints with self-adhering polymer modified roofing underlayment. This tape will prevent water damage if your roof covering is blown off.
- If your house is more than one story, firmly connect upper story wall framing with lower framing.
- Elevate your utilities (e.g. electrical service panel and disconnect(s), air conditioner, water heater, etc.) two to three feet above the base flood elevation.
- Install sewer backflow valves to prevent sewage entry into your home during flooding.



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Wildfires and Lightning



Fix-it yourself:

- Clear a 30-foot "defensible space" between your home and surrounding wooded areas, removing all dry grass, leaves, brush and firewood.
- Prune all lower branches within six feet of the ground, for trees taller than 18 feet, to prevent ground fires from spreading to treetops.
- Install surge protection devices at each electrical appliance in your home.
- Have at least one dry chemical fire extinguisher on hand.
- Install smoke detectors. Test detection twice a year. Change batteries every six months.
- Enclose the undersides of balconies and above-ground decks with non-combustible materials.
- Cover fireplace chimney outlet, attic vents and sub-floor vents with non-combustible screening of 1/4-inch size or less to prevent spread of fire.

Fix-it with some help:

- Install a whole house surge protection system to protect against lightning damage.

Fix-it when building or remodeling:

- Consider installing a residential fire sprinkler system.
- Install ground fault indicators within electrical outlets.

Personal and Financial Safety

- Make sure the street number of your house is clearly visible from the roadway so emergency vehicles can easily locate you.
- Review at least two exit routes from your home or neighborhood with a designated meeting place for your family.
- Identify a contact person who will notify relatives that you are safe in the event of a natural disaster.
- Review your property insurance coverage.
- Write down the name of your insurance company, policy number, and telephone number and store it in a convenient place.
- Keep an updated photo or video inventory of your personal belongings, furniture and children. Store a duplicate away from the premises.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio and pay attention to the latest National Weather Service information.
- Most homeowner policies do not cover flood damage. To determine your flood risk, contact your local growth management, building department or Florida's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) office at (850) 413-9960.