

SECURE YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY

The most susceptible areas of your home are the exterior windows, large window areas, garage doors and roof and gable ends. If hurricane winds enter any of these openings, increased internal pressure and uplifting on walls and roof supports can cause damage. Look for and address any potential danger areas early in the season, so you can be ready to take action quickly when a storm approaches.

EXTERIOR WINDOWS

The most secure coverings for windows are shutters. If there are no shutters on your home, temporary coverings can be made of 5/8" plywood that must be installed with a 4" overlap on all sides. The plywood should be bolted to the house. This procedure will ensure it will stay in place and not become detached during a hurricane.

LARGE WINDOWS AND GLASS DOORS

Reinforcement of plywood over large windows and glass doors can be accomplished by bolting a two-by-four support beam across the plywood and angling another two-by-four beam from that beam to an anchor that has been firmly set in the ground.

GARAGE DOORS

Garage doors can be reinforced by adding horizontal bracing to each panel at its weakest point. Kits are available at your local home improvement center.

ROOF GABLE ENDS

Hurricane force winds can cause damage by literally lifting off the roof when entering unsecured openings of roof gable ends. Use the same temporary shutter procedures for exterior windows to cover the openings in this area.

ROOF PROTECTION

Hurricane straps, when installed correctly, can increase the strength of your roof against the uplifting forces of hurricane winds by 50 to 75 percent. They are galvanized metal bracing materials designed to hold the roof joist to the top plate and reinforce the bonding strength beyond that of regular nails. Retrofitting your home with these straps is not considered a "do-it-yourself" project, and a professional contractor or carpenter should be contracted.

WIND-BLOWN DEBRIS

Check around the yard for loose objects, such as toys, gardening tools, barbecue equipment, lawn chairs and other items that could cause damage if blown around. Have a "cleanup drill" to practice gathering these items quickly and putting them in a safe location.

IMPORTANT

Never tape your windows, it offers no protection.

Windows are usually broken from flying debris, which then become dangerous, sharp flying objects.

