



The *Ultimate* HURRICANE CHECKLIST

STANDARD ESSENTIALS:

- ☐ Frill-free landline phone & basic phone service (NOT cable)
- ☐ BATTERIES! (NOT rechargeable)
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Wine key & bottle opener
- ☐ Heavy-duty double-sided screwdriver
- ☐ Portable grill w/ plenty of PROPANE or CHARCOAL
- ☐ Disposable plates, napkins, cups & utensils
- ☐ Ice trays
- ☐ Pre-cut aluminum foil sheets
- ☐ Quart & gallon-sized Ziploc bags
- ☐ LED lanterns ([Atomic Beam Lantern/bulbhead.com](#))
- ☐ Several battery-operated fans (O2 COOL 10-inch portable fan w/ USB charging port)
- ☐ Several hand-held fans
- ☐ Plastic tarps, duct tape & bungee cords
- ☐ Emergency drinking water system ([WaterBOB.com](#))
- ☐ Silicone pot cover for tub drain
- ☐ Save gallon-size milk jugs for flushing toilets
- ☐ One watertight file box for important files
- ☐ Watertight container for garbage
- ☐ Well-stocked first aid kit (replenish annually)
- ☐ Bug repellent, bite ointment & sunscreen
- ☐ Flashlights & headlamps! (LED is best)
- ☐ MATCHES & multi-purpose LIGHTERS
- ☐ Rubber boots, heavy-duty work gloves & facemasks
- ☐ Large COOLERS with wheels & lots of freezer packs
- ☐ Automobile jumper cables
- ☐ Portable mobile phone chargers w/ cords
- ☐ Solar-powered mobile phone chargers w/ cords
- ☐ Unscented dry shampoo (you'll be glad you did)
- ☐ Spill-proof "safety" gas cans

OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Generator & gas (store per manufacturers manual)
- ☐ Carbon monoxide detector
- ☐ Gas-powered chainsaw (use w/ protective gear)
- ☐ NOAA weather radio

AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE:

- ☐ Review all insurance coverages
- ☐ Set-up online insurance account
- ☐ Inventory of all personal property
- ☐ Photograph all personal property
- ☐ Create a master list of accounts
- ☐ Service/repair hurricane shutters
- ☐ CASH (small bills are best)
- ☐ Non-perishable food (7 days)
- ☐ Toilet paper & paper towels (7 days)
- ☐ Disposable hand-sanitizer and/or baby wipes
- ☐ Disposable disinfecting wipes
- ☐ Drinking WATER for humans & pets (4 gallons/person & pet, per day for 14 days)
- ☐ Disposable toothbrushes
- ☐ Sandbags or large bags of potting soil
- ☐ Trim trees, palm fronds & coconuts, etc.
- ☐ No shutters? Have plywood cut in advance & have an installation plan in place
- ☐ Give a spare key to a friend for safekeeping

1 WEEK BEFORE THE STORM:

- ☐ Put shutters or plywood up
- ☐ Recycle any unwanted hazardous materials (<http://www.colliergov.net/recycles>)
- ☐ Remove blades from exterior ceiling fans
- ☐ Remove and/or tie down exterior light fixtures
- ☐ Remove decorative knickknacks, pots, statues, furniture & doormats, etc.
- ☐ Purchase boxed milk, oranges, & grapefruits & apples
- ☐ Turn on Government Alerts (mobile phone)
- ☐ Blankets, pillows & inflatable mattresses
- ☐ Set aside rubber boots & rain jacket w/ hood
- ☐ Fill lots of gallon-sized Ziploc bags w/ ice
- ☐ Empty freezer & refrigerator of all perishables
- ☐ Fill gas tanks & top off all automotive liquids
- ☐ Inspect tire pressure
- ☐ LIMIT DRIVING
- ☐ Fill spill-proof gas cans & store in garage
- ☐ If you decide to evacuate, DO NOT WAIT!

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE HURRICANE:

- ☐ Wash ALL dirty laundry
- ☐ Completely clean your home
- ☐ Change linens on all beds
- ☐ Balance bank statements
- ☐ Pay all credit card bills & estimated taxes
- ☐ Be sure everyone in your family carries detailed identification & medical information at all times
- ☐ Keep current photos of all family members & pets on hand in case of emergency
- ☐ Pack one duffel/person in case of evacuation
- ☐ Store all prescription medicines; eyeglasses, contact lenses, pet meds; checkbooks and passports in a watertight container
- ☐ Scan and/or store all insurance policies, HUD statements, title insurance (home), car titles and pet records (licenses & vaccinations) in a watertight container
- ☐ Refill all prescriptions in advance

24 HOURS BEFORE THE STORM:

- ☐ Turn icemaker "off" & empty ice tray
- ☐ Pre-cook ALL meat, fish & poultry
- ☐ Crank-up the freezer & refrigerator settings to coldest setting
- ☐ Crank-up HVAC to cool home (IMPORTANT: turn AC off when power goes off)
- ☐ Securely LOCK all doors & windows
- ☐ Pull blinds down to keep your home cool
- ☐ Fill bathtubs with water. NOT FOR DRINKING!
- ☐ Fill gallon jugs with water for toilet flushing
- ☐ Limit waste water use until given the "all-clear" by local utility company
- ☐ Run dishwasher & washer/dryer 1 last time
- ☐ CHARGE all mobile phones, tablets, laptop computers & external battery packs
- ☐ Back up files to the Cloud or to an external hard-drive (keep in watertight container)
- ☐ Put computer/laptop in dishwasher & lock
- ☐ Fill several thermoses with coffee
- ☐ Tell out-of-town friends & family where you will be during the hurricane, as well as your back-up plans (i.e.: evacuate)
- ☐ Tell family & friends to limit calls/ texts
- ☐ Clear all voicemail & all deleted voicemail messages from your mobile phone
- ☐ Put hurricane supplies in one place (off the floor)

DAY OF THE STORM:

- ☐ Pull car into garage as far as possible
- ☐ Lock garage from the inside by closing safety latch & put lift on "manual" setting
- ☐ Turn off hot water heater & circuits

- ☐ Unplug ALL small appliances
- ☐ Put dry towels & bath mats on the floor surrounding all windows & doors
- ☐ Tightly close all interior doors
- ☐ Put mobile devices on LOW BATTERY mode
- ☐ Leave your mobile devices ON at all times
- ☐ Pick a place where everyone will remain for the duration of the storm
- ☐ Have a "backup" location where everyone goes in case the windows blow
- ☐ If you do move into the "backup" room, take a headcount
- ☐ Lock all exterior doors & put key in close proximity to the door
- ☐ Discuss evacuation routes in advance
- ☐ Flying debris? Evacuate immediately!
- ☐ Wear long pants, sneakers & socks (NO shorts & NO flip-flops)
- ☐ Everyone should have a raincoat, rubber boots, umbrella and flashlight/headlamp readily available in case of emergency
- ☐ Keep passport, driver's license/identification, cash and credit/debit/ATM cards together in a handbag or Ziploc bag and place next to your raincoat for quick retrieval
- ☐ Turn off TV & unplug until power is stable
- ☐ Turn HVAC & corresponding circuits OFF. (Air handler first followed by condenser)

AFTER THE STORM:

- ☐ Reset HVAC system by turning air handler & condenser circuits OFF for 10 minutes before turning back on
- ☐ Change air filters & reset temperature to normal
- ☐ Run 2 full cycles in clothes washer & dishwasher to ensure water is clean
- ☐ Run 2 or 3 full ice maker cycles
- ☐ Reset refrigerator/freezer to normal
- ☐ Report all damages to insurance company
- ☐ Replenish all supplies after the storm
- ☐ Remove batteries from all flashlights, radios & fans when not in use

PET OWNERS:

- ☐ Pet food, meds & anti-anxiety pills stored in watertight container (2-week supply)
- ☐ Copy of all current vaccines & licenses
- ☐ Secure animals in crates with toys & long-lasting rawhide bones during & after storm
- ☐ ALWAYS secure pets with harness & leash
- ☐ Microchip all pets & have current ID on collar
- ☐ Puppy "pee-pee" pads
- ☐ Collapsible pet cages (essential for shelter)