

# PREPARING FOR THE STORM

- Purchase a battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box. You may need to get to these documents promptly. Take pictures on a phone and keep copies of important documents and files on a flash drive that you can carry with you on your house or car keys.
- Place anything that you want to try to preserve in a plastic bin, put in your dishwasher and lock the door—this should make it watertight in case of any water intrusion into your home.
- Make sure you have an emergency kit ready:
  - o **WATER** (one gallon per person per day) and nonperishable food – enough to support each family member for up to three days (including pets)
  - o Battery-operated (or hand-crank) **RADIO** and **BATTERIES**
  - o **FIRST AID KIT**
  - o **FLASHLIGHT** and **BATTERIES**
  - o Manual **CAN OPENER** for food
  - o **MAPS**
  - o **CASH** (bills and change)
  - o Simple **TOOL KIT** including wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
  - o Comfortable **CLOTHING** for each family member and at least one change of clothes
  - o Waterproof jackets/**OUTERWEAR** for each family member
  - o Blankets and/or sleeping bags for each family member
  - o Unique **FAMILY NEEDS** like prescription medications, eye glasses, pet supplies and infant supplies



- Charge any devices that provide light, such as laptops, tablets, cameras, video cameras and unused cell phones. Also, charge external battery backups.
- Cook any meats or other perishable foods in advance, then freeze.
- Wash all dirty clothes and bed sheets. It is typically hot after a hurricane and if there is no power, there is no air conditioning. Changes of clothing and bedsheets will help promote good hygiene.
- Toss out any expiring food, clean cat litter boxes, empty all trash cans in the house, including those in the bathrooms. If you don't have a trash day pickup before the storm, find a city or county dumpster.
- Stock up on pet food and fill up bowls of water for pets.
- Refill any medications.
- Fill any propane tanks. You can heat soup cans, boil water and make coffee on your grill. Get an extra tank if possible.
- Make sure you have cash on hand.

## RIGHT BEFORE THE STORM

- Bring in any yard décor and secure anything that will fly around. Secure gates, bring in hoses, potted plants, patio furniture and grills.
- Wash out trash cans, buckets and unused coolers. Fill them with water. Consolidate outdoor trash cans, fill any empty ones with water and store in the garage or under shelter. Add bleach to sterilize them. The ratio should be two drops of bleach for every liter of water.
- Fill every **TUB** and **SINK** with water. Also, if available, fill your **WASHING MACHINE** and leave the lid up to store water. Fill any empty water **BOTTLES** and other smaller containers with water to keep near your sink for hand washing. Fill **GLASSES** with water and cover with plastic wrap. Store as many of them as possible in the **REFRIGERATOR**. Store the remainder on the **COUNTER** and use these first before any water bottles are opened. Fill plastic food storage **CONTAINERS** with water and store in **FREEZER** before the storm hits. These will help keep food cold longer and serve as another water supply.

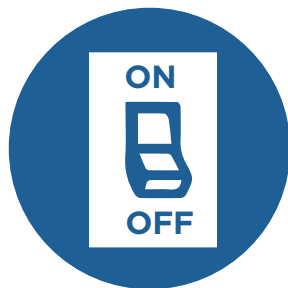


- Store water-filled trash cans next to each toilet for flushing.
- Stay well hydrated before the storm hits.
- Place important documents in a backpack or small file box that is easy to grab in the event of evacuation. Store in a water tight container in case of flooding.
- Lower your air conditioning temperature and lower temperatures in your refrigerator in advance of the storm.
- Gather all flashlights, lighters, matches, batteries and other emergency items and keep them accessible.
- Designate an emergency safe place, such as a closet or under the stairs. Store the items you'll need in that location for the brunt of the storm.
- Shower just before the storm is scheduled to hit.
- Keep baby wipes next to each toilet, but don't flush them, as they may clog your toilet.
- Put a small suitcase in your car in the event of evacuation. Store at least one jug of water in your car. Remember to pack for pets as well.
- Check on all family members, set up emergency backup plans, and check on elderly neighbors.
- Unplug all electronics. There will likely be power surges during and after the storm.
- Gas up your car and have a filled spare gas container.





- **STAY INDOORS** if at all possible.
- Don't walk on beaches, riverbanks or in **FLOODWATERS**.
- Use **FLASHLIGHTS** in the dark if the power goes out. Do NOT use candles.
- Continue listening to local area **RADIO** or **TV** stations for the latest information and updates.
- **AVOID CONTACT** with floodwater. It may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
- **TURN OFF** the power and water mains if instructed to do so by local authorities.
- Don't walk, swim or drive through floodwater. Just six inches of fast-flowing water can knock you over and two feet will float a car.
- If caught on a flooded road with rapidly rising waters, get out of the **CAR** quickly and move to higher ground.
- Don't allow **CHILDREN** to play in or near floodwater.
- Stay out of areas subject to flooding. Underpasses, dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc., can become filled with water.



## AFTER THE STORM

- Continue to listen to a local media for the latest updates.
- Stay alert for flash flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately.
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.
- Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are notified it's not contaminated. Continue to boil water for consumption otherwise.
- Wear protective clothing to avoid injury and be cautious when cleaning up.
- Watch your animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
- Use your phone only for emergency calls.

## PRO TIP:

Freeze a cup of water and place a coin on top after it is frozen. Keep this in your freezer to help gauge the temperature if the power goes out. If the coin stays on top, the food is staying frozen. If the coin falls into the water, the freezer thawed out and most food will likely need to be disposed of. If you need to evacuate, when you return the power may be back on and it may appear everything is still frozen. However, if the coin is frozen at the bottom of the cup, the freezer contents have thawed and refrozen and are spoiled.



POWER  
STAYED ON



POWER  
WENT OUT