

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Protecting Your Home from Severe Weather

TALLAHASSEE, FLA – As Hurricane Ian makes its approach, it is important to take the time to equip your home with the accessories it will need to survive a storm.

“When you and your home are prepared, you’re more likely to weather the toughest storm,” says Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) President, TJ Thornberry. “Taking time now to prepare your home could save you a lot of money later.”

FHBA reminds you of these few steps you can take to ensure you are ready when severe weather impacts your community:

Review Your Insurance Policies

Before you do anything else, look over your insurance policies to make sure you’re covered for losses incurred as the result of a natural disaster or brutal storm. Damage caused by flooding, earthquakes and hurricanes is generally not covered by your regular homeowner’s policy but can be purchased separately. Make lists or videotapes of your belongings as documentation for the insurance company and keep that documentation in a safe location away from your house.

Seal Windows and Doors

Try to prevent wind and water from entering through windows, cracks, entry doors and garage doors. Wind funneling through your house pushes upward, and could lift the roof, allowing heavy rains to damage the interior of your home.

It’s important to seal your windows and doors as tightly as possible, or consider installing storm shutters.

DIY Storm Shutters

You can also make your own set of shutters out of ¾ inch marine plywood or metal storm panels. Make sure they overlap the windows on all sides by four inches. Then mark them so you know which window they fit. Don’t forget to make shutters for your skylight windows. Once made, the shutter panels can be stored and used when necessary. These shutters can help protect homes from all rainstorms accompanied by high winds, not just hurricanes.

Remember Your Roof

A roof in good condition can shield your home's interior from the storm outside. So roof work is another essential step in preparing your house to withstand a severe storm. Apply sealing around your home’s chimney or vent pipes. This will help prevent water from seeping into your home. Hire a contractor to check the structural integrity of the roof system.

Clean out clogged gutters and downspouts. If the rain that accompanies a heavy storm can’t run through the gutters and downspouts, it will spill over the sides, landing in areas where it can soak through to your home’s foundation, causing flooding and structural damage.

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Clear Your Yard

Next, take steps to protect your home from objects that take flight during a storm. Do a little yard work. Remove all dead and dying limbs from your trees, and secure lawn furniture, trashcans, flowerpots and other yard ornaments.

Disconnect and remove exterior television antennas from the roof. Then take all lawn furniture, grills, potted plants and other lawn accessories inside your house. If you can't secure lawn furniture or other outdoor items, bring them inside as well. High-speed winds could transform any of these objects into flying missiles.

Tie down the larger items such as sheds, doghouses, playhouses, swing sets and boats.

Prepare to Shelter-In-Place

Finally, stock your cupboards and closets with anything you might need if you have to take shelter inside your home. Keep a battery-operated radio, several flashlights in case you lose electricity, and plastic sheeting to cover exposed areas. Fill your drawers with brand new packages of live batteries for the flashlights. Stash canned foods and other non-perishable food items in your cupboards in case you can't get out to the supermarket for a while.

"As the storm passes and damage is assessed, we always remind you to ensure that you hire a licensed contractor to perform any work needed to repair your home," says Thornberry. "Unfortunately, unscrupulous contractors show up after natural disasters and try to take advantage. Be sure to do your homework to avoid paying for substandard home repairs."

About FHBA

Established in 1949, FHBA is affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and Florida's local/regional homebuilder associations. FHBA, along with its affiliates, work to create the best possible economic and regulatory environment for members to succeed. We represent the largest network of craftsmen, innovators and problem solvers dedicated to building and enriching communities.

For further information, please contact:

Candace Yeager, Director of Marketing and Communications
Florida Home Builders Association
352-303-1760
cyeager@fhba.com