Storm Preparation & Landscaping Tips to Mitigate Damage
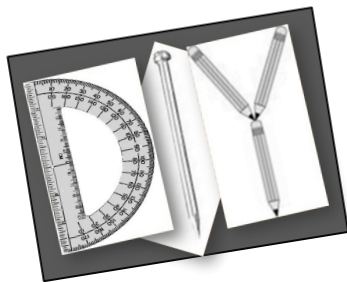
⇒ **Remove any outdoor items that may become wind-borne debris: children's toys, pool and patio furniture, planters, lawn equipment, etc.**

⇒ **Trim tree limbs and branches that extend over your home's roof and trim all foliage.**

⇒ **Replace gravel that could become wind-borne debris with landscaping mulch.**

⇒ **If you have a swimming pool, do not empty your pool before the storm. Keeping sufficient water levels in your pool provides the important weight to hold the sides and bottom in place.**

⇒ **To prevent water damage to surrounding structures, you may reduce the pool's water level by 1-2 feet.**

⇒ **You should super chlorinate your pool prior to the storm.**

⇒ **Turn off all electrical pool equipment. All exposed electrical equipment such as pump motors should be tightly covered with plastic wrap.**

⇒ **Remove all loose items—pool furniture, toys, pool equipment.**

⇒ **Clean gutters to present water damage and ensure gutters are secure to the house.**

Create a Storm Kit & Have a Family Disaster Plan

⇒ A key ingredient for storm preparation is to create a storm kit that includes a three-day supply of food for your family and adequate pet supplies.

⇒ The storm kit should also include a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, car charger for your cell phone and a manual can opener.

⇒ Be sure to include cash and important documents in your storm kit, such as insurance papers, birth certificates, passports, and important phone numbers.

⇒ Have a family disaster plan—know your evacuation route and locations of local shelters.

"Do-It-Yourself" Mitigation Techniques Checklist

⇒ Installing Temporary Emergency Shutters

⇒ Gable-end Bracing Techniques

⇒ Properly Securing Soffits

⇒ Selecting Roof Coverings to Minimize Wind-borne Debris & Water Damage

⇒ Strengthening Roof Sheathing & Decking

⇒ Adding Hurricane Clips & Straps

⇒ Securing Opening Protection—exterior doors, garage doors and windows

⇒ Storm Preparation & Landscaping Mitigation Measures

For information on how to mitigate your home against storm damage, go to www.fhba.com/homeowners.

Additional Mitigation Measures Your Contractor May Perform

⇒ Opening Protection Devices—impact resistant windows, doors, skylights and garage doors

⇒ Installing Shutters for Opening Protection

⇒ Hip Roofs & Gable-end Roofs & Proper Bracing

⇒ Secondary Water Barriers

⇒ Securing Foundations & Proper Roof, Wall & Floor Connections including bracing and anchoring techniques

⇒ Methods for strengthening or correcting roof-decking attachments and fasteners during re-roofing

⇒ Proper Flashing

⇒ Mechanical equipment fastening

To find more information on How to Protect your Family and your Home from Storms, please visit the following websites:

Florida Department of Emergency Management: www.floridadisaster.org
Preparedness Checklist: www.fdem-mediacenter.org/PDF
EmergencyPreparednessChecklist.pdf
County Emergency Management Website: http://www.floridadisaster.org/fl_county_em.asp
Family Disaster Plan: www.floridadisaster.org/family/
Business Disaster Plan: www.floridadisaster.org/business/
Tips for Evacuating Vulnerable Populations: www.floridadisaster.org/documents/Tips%20for%
20Evacuating%20Vulnerable%20Populations.pdf

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www. Fema.gov/

Plan, Prepare & Mitigate: www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate and www.ready.gov/hurricanes

Institute for Business & Home Safety:

"A Homeowner's Guide to Hurricane Retrofit:" www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/pdf/
hurricaneretrofit.pdf
Gable-end Bracing: www.disastersafety.org/project?projectId=4297
Gable-end Bracing Overhangs: www.disastersafety.org/project?projectId-4036

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes—FLASH:
www.flash.org/perilhurricanes.php

Disaster Contractors Network:
http://www.dcnonline.org/.

Office of Insurance Regulation:
http://www.floir.com/choices/

Department of Business and Professional Regulations:
Unlicensed Activity: www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/reg/
UnlicensedActivity.html

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