

OFFICIAL VFFWS HURRICANE PREPARATION LIST



Before The Storm:

- Stay informed: Monitor weather updates and warnings from the National Hurricane Center, local news, or official emergency management agencies (and of course, VFFWS! 😊).
- Create an emergency kit for IF you have to evacuate:
 - Stock up on non-perishable food items
 - Water (at least a 3-day supply, if not more, for each member of the household. Try to get 1 gallon of water per person per day)
 - Flashlights
 - Batteries
 - Medications or over the counter drugs
 - Cash
 - Important documents
 - Invest in good quality portable phone chargers
 - Invest in a solar charging station
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- Develop an evacuation plan:
 - Know your evacuation zone, click here to find out:
<https://sarco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=0219841617274028b5bf5867fcf4c57b>
 - Sit down with family to talk over and develop/review this plan
 - Know where you will go (typically this may be a hotel (call ahead) out of harm's way, a friend/family's home out of harm's way, or somewhere you will be safe from flood waters and heavy wind damage)
 - If you need to evacuate to a shelter, plan ahead and research shelters closest to you
 - Remember to bring ALL of your emergency kit supplies with you
 - Always contact someone that you know and trust in order to tell them the location you're going to stay during the storm
 - Don't forget to plan ahead for any pets as well
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Secure your home/boat:

- Bring loose outdoor items inside (patio table/chairs, umbrellas, trash cans, flower pots, decorations, garden tools, etc.)
- Close and secure all windows and doors
- Board up windows/doors (if necessary)
- Use sand bags (if necessary)
- Clear gutters and drains
- Trim dead branches from trees nearby
- Cut down trees that could fall on home (if possible)
- Cover boat to prevent water build up/damage
- Take boat out of water if possible and secure OR anchor/tie boat to dock and hope for the best
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Backup or waterproof important data/paperwork:

- Protect important documents
- Photos
- Electronic data
- Backup files to an external hard drive or cloud storage
- ID Cards
- Insurance documents
- Passwords
- Health information
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Invest in a generator!

Fill car with gas and gas containers if needed for generators

Invest in long enough extension cords for your generator.

Withdraw some cash or have some cash on hand

Cooking/eating supplies:

- Manual can opener
- Paper plates
- Plastic utensils

- Paper towels
- Plastic cups
- Garbage bags
- Cooler(s)
- Small propane camping stove and filled propane tanks
- Hand sanitizer wipes
- Long lasting ice packs
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- Fill every tub and sink with water in order to flush toilets if power goes out. Cover sinks with saran wrap to keep it from collecting dust. Fill the washing machine and leave the lid up to store water. Don't forget a bucket to transport water!
- Fully charge ALL electronic devices you may use during or after the storm, e.g. laptops, tablets, cameras, video cameras, old phones, flashlights, radios, etc. *Reminder* Older flip phones can still be used for dialing 911. Charge external battery back ups/portable chargers. (Glow sticks also provide light for a few hours. Stand them upright in glass bottles or jars to make a lantern)
- Fill empty water jugs/bottles for hand washing.
- Fill empty tupperware containers with water and store in the freezer. This will help keep food cold longer and can also be used as a backup water supply.
- Cook perishable foods ahead of time. They can be frozen before the storm.
- This might be common sense, but wash ALL dirty clothes and bed sheets so they do not smell IF power goes out.
- Toss out any expiring food.
- Throw away any expired food or food that will expire within a few days.
- Empty ALL trash cans in the home.
- Deep clean all rooms/bathrooms in the home to prevent any odors. It will also give you a clean environment to ride out the storm.
- Have buckets of water ready in the bathroom(s) for flushing.
- Pet Care:

- Stock up on pet food (at least 7 days worth)
- Have plenty of water reserved for pets
- Clean litter box and stock up on cat litter (if you have cats)
- Have toys and other pet supplies ready to go in case you have to evacuate.
- Clean pet living spaces
- Get any pet medications together in one place so you know where they are
- Always have your pet on a leash if letting outside or evacuating
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Refill medications and plan ahead.

Shower before the storm (Common sense).

Use wet wipes/baby wipes in the bathroom instead of toilet paper, but DO NOT flush baby wipes down the toilet!

Make sure ALL dishes/silverware are clean beforehand.

Unplug electronics (Things like your TV or other things) in case of power surges

If running out of water, remember that the hot water tank can store quite a bit of water, and could be used as a source of water.

Health Supplies:

- Pain Relievers
- Anti-Diarrhea medications
- Antacids
- Laxatives
- Allergy Medications
- First Aid Kit
- Tooth brushes
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Hand Sanitizer
- Diapers for babies and toddlers

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- IN THE EVENT YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE, it may be a good idea to take a quick video of your home inside and out in case of any damage occurring. You can submit the before and after footage to your insurance companies (Highly recommend this).
- Freezer trick: Fill a cup of water, then put it in the freezer until frozen. Then, place a coin on top of the frozen water in the cup. If power goes out and the coin falls further into the cup, then the food in the freezer should be thrown away.
- This might be common sense, but make sure to have CLOSED toe shoes readily available for when you do have to go outside after the storm.

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During The Storm:

- Stay away from windows/skylights and glass doors (as best as possible).
- BE SURE that any generators being used are OUTSIDE and the exhaust is facing AWAY from the home. So many people die each year due to carbon monoxide poisoning and it is so easy to prevent death in this case with proper care.

- Keep the emergency kit and supplies in close reach.
- If power goes out, have battery operated devices ready to be used (and hopefully charged).
- If you do have to walk your pets in between the rain and heavy winds, remember to wear CLOSED toe shoes when outside in case of any debris on the ground.
- Have portable phone chargers ready to be used.
- If possible, try to refrain from using candles for light due to the higher risk of a house fire.
- Use flashlights, battery lanterns and other light sources when and if the power goes out.
- Leave urine in the toilet (to save water) but flush anything else!
- If your home takes on water, gather important items that are irreplaceable and put them into a plastic container and then put them into the dishwasher. Dishwashers are designed to be water-tight.
- Have bath towels and empty buckets ready just in case water leaks in from the roof or doors/windows.
- Play board games and other entertaining activities to keep your mind off of what's happening outside.
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After The Storm:

- Be cautious when stepping outdoors shortly after conditions lessen. Downed power lines, flooded areas, and debris on the ground could be hazardous.
- If possible, check on the well-being of your neighbors.
- If you did evacuate, wait until local officials give the all clear to return home.

- Begin the process of inspecting your home and property for damages and take videos/photos of the damage in order to submit claims to the insurance companies. Hopefully you took photos and videos before the storm, as this will be a huge help when getting approved for repairs from your insurance.
- Begin the clean up process around your home and property while also being careful not to injure yourself in the process.
- Throw away frozen food that is unthawed and is not safe to eat or refreeze from your freezer. Do the same with your refrigerator.
- Listen to local news and officials for updates on road conditions, cleanup efforts, and community assistance.
- Continue to make sure generators are in a safe place with exhaust facing AWAY from home.
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Sources:

- [Hurricane Season Guide](#)
- [Hurricanepreplist](#)
- [ChatGPT](#)