

Preparation & Safety – FAQ

Q: If I buy plywood sheets for my windows ahead of time, how can I keep them from warping in the heat and humidity?

A: First, always store the plywood off the ground, to keep it away from water and bugs. If it's laid out horizontally, weight the sheets with cinderblocks or bricks. You can also build a homemade clamp on a garage wall with eye hooks and wooden braces that will store the sheets and keep them straight.

Q: Should I tape my windows?

A: Tape does not prevent windows from breaking, so taping windows is not recommended.

Q: If I have turned off my electricity, gas and water before evacuating, can I turn them back on when I return?

A: You cannot turn them on yourself. You'll need a professional to do that.

Q: What do I do if I come upon a flooded road while driving?

A: Turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.

Q: After evacuating, how long do I have to wait before returning home?

A: Don't return until local authorities say it is safe. Even after the hurricane and after flood waters recede, roads may be weakened and could collapse. Buildings may be unstable, and drinking water may be contaminated. Use common sense and exercise caution.

Q: Should I take my pets with me when I evacuate?

A: It's up to you. If you do, make sure you have food, water and supplies for them. They will probably not be allowed in public shelters.