

# Hurricanes



## Building A Hurricane Ready Home

The risk of damage to your home from a hurricane is high but there are a number of measures you can take to prepare ahead of time to minimize any damage.



1. **Install Hurricane Shutters:** Hurricane shutters keep water, strong winds and foreign objects from entering your home through broken windows. These fit on the outside of your windows and can be built at home from plywood, aluminum or steel, or purchased from a home store.
2. **Appraise Your Home's Strength:** Contact a housing inspector and arrange for a full appraisal of the ability of your home and any other nearby structures (such as barns and tool sheds) to withstand hurricane-strength winds. If it is determined that your home is not up to code, do not put off making any important upgrades as this could cause you to not only lose your home, but can compromise your family's safety.
3. **Prune Your Trees:** Falling trees are a common cause of structural damage during hurricanes.
4. **Hurricane Proof Your Roof:** Replace any worn or decayed shingles, and ensure that all efforts to re-roof your home conform to specified codes for high wind ratings. Prepare your attic vents for the possibility of wind-driven rain intrusion, and cover all openings as necessary. Ensure soffit vents have been secured prior to the storm. If your home has overhangs that exceed 12 feet, check to make sure they are secured and braced properly.

Strengthening your home to be hurricane resistant does not mean that you should ignore evacuation alerts from local authorities. In the interest of your family's safety, always evacuate when you are advised to do so.

For more information about preparing for a hurricane, please visit [www.libertymutual.com/prepare](http://www.libertymutual.com/prepare).

