

Hurricanes



Building A Hurricane Safe Room

Should you choose to build a safe room, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has published construction schematics.

Here are five important steps to building a hurricane resistant safe room in your home:

1. **Flood Safe.** Find a location in your home surrounded by four walls that is located high enough to keep the room safe from flooding. Contact authorities at your local hurricane center to find out what the base flood elevation is in your location.
2. **Strong Frame.** Ensure the framing of your safe room exceeds the standards set forth by local building regulations. In some regions, the local standards may not be sufficient to withstand the wind force of more powerful hurricanes.
3. **Ventilation.** Provide sufficient ventilation through the installation of ventilation fans or ducts. Ducts should lead to the roof of your safe room and their exterior should be adequately protected to prevent the entry of external debris.
4. **Reinforcement.** Reinforce the roof of your safe room and install a steel door with heavy duty hinges and dead bolts.
5. **Extra Protection.** Cover the exterior of your safe room with a double layer of plywood and a steel sheathing skin that will keep out the wind and driving rain.



For additional information and to obtain specifics on constructing your own hurricane safety shelter, visit the FEMA website at www.fema.gov.

For more information about preparing for a hurricane, please visit www.libertymutual.com/prepare.

