



Hurricanes

What should I do?

- Listen to a [NOAA Weather Radio](#) for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Check your [disaster supplies kit](#) and replace or restock as needed.
- Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture).
- Close windows, doors and hurricane shutters. If you do not have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood. For more information, download the [Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards](#).
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
- Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Talk with members of your household and create an evacuation plan. Planning and practicing your evacuation plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event.
- Learn about your community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for your pets to be cared for. [Link to list of hurricane evacuation shelters](#).
- Evacuate if advised by authorities. Be careful to avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Because standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, it's important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site at www.FloodSmart.gov.

What do I do after a hurricane?

- Continue listening to a [NOAA Weather Radio](#) or the local news for the latest updates.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding from run off even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- Stay out of any building that has water around it.
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.
- Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.

- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury. ([Repairing Your Flooded Home](#))
- Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Register yourself on the Safe and Well website via www.redcross.org to notify your friends and family that you are okay

Recovery

- Secure double entry doors at the top and the bottom.
- Strengthen existing garage doors to improve the wind resistance, particularly double-wide garage doors.
- Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or one-half inch marine plywood that is pre-cut to fit your doors and windows.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts to prevent flooding and unnecessary pressure on the awnings.
- Select trees that are not as subject to uprooting to replace damaged ones. A gardening or landscaping professional can give you excellent advice.
- Identify a place to store lawn furniture, toys, gardening tools and trash cans that is away from stairs and exits to prevent them from being moved by high winds and becoming missiles.

Ask a professional to

- Ensure roof sheathing is properly installed.
- Ensure end gables are securely fastened to the rest of the roof.
- Fasten the roof to the walls with hurricane straps.
- Elevate your home if it is near the coast and subject to flooding from storm surge.

For additional information:

- [State Civil Defense](#)
- [Kauai County Civil Defense](#)
- [Department of Emergency Management](#)
- [Maui County Civil Defense](#)
- [Hawaii County Civil Defense](#)
- [National Weather Service Central Pacific Hurricane Center](#)
- [Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#)
- [Hawaiian Homeowner's Handbook for Natural Hazards](#)
- [FEMA](#)