



**Tips to Help Reduce Hurricane Damage**  
**Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30**

The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, in partnership with Allstate, offers the following steps to help prevent or reduce damage from hurricanes. While some homeowners may be able to perform these tasks themselves, we encourage you to consider the potential hazards of heights and using special tools or supplies, and consider hiring a professional to perform these preventive measures.

- 1. Shingles:** Spend about \$4 on a tube of roofing cement to re-adhere shingles. One tube is enough for about 25 feet of shingles.
  - Focus on shingles near the roof edges and near gable ends
  - Place three one-inch diameter dabs of roofing cement under each shingle tab (near the edges and in the middle)
  - On gable ends, secure the three shingle tabs closest to the gable edge
- 2. Soffits:** Spend about \$6 for 10-ounce tube of polyurethane sealant and sharp-pointed, stainless steel screws and use them to secure soffits.
  - Apply bead of sealant along the joint between the edge of the channel and the wall
  - Install screws through the fascia and channels so that they connect the soffit material
  - Apply sealant in grooves where the fascia material butts against the fascia and wall channel
- 3. Seals:** Spend about \$2 on caulk and use it to seal:
  - Holes where wires, cables and pipes enter and exit the house
  - Openings for cable TV and telephone lines
  - Around electrical boxes and circuit breaker panels
  - Cracks around wall outlets, vents and electrical devices such as wall lights
- 4. Surroundings:** In a particularly strong hurricane, gravel can cause serious damage including shredded vinyl siding. Spend \$3/bag and replace gravel/rock landscaping materials. Choose soft mulch instead, and work with neighbors to minimize this risk.
- 5. Shutters:** Plan to spend \$9-\$30 per square foot of opening to protect against debris and pressurization. First determine what openings need protection (all windows, entry doors, sliding glass doors, garage doors and gable-end vents), then make a plan:
  - Choose permanent window and door protection or install permanent fasteners long before storm warnings and pre-cut shutter panels so they can be put in place quickly
  - Choose products with the following impact-resistance approval ratings
    - Florida Building Code TAS 201, 202, 203
    - ASTM E 1886 and 1996-03
    - Miami-Dade Protocols PA 201, 202, 203
- 6. Does your roof need to be replaced? Roof Damage Inspection Checklist:**
  - Do you have loose shingle tabs?
  - Are shingles missing, broken, cracked, buckling, curling or blistering?
  - Are shingles losing their granules and becoming worn/smooth?
  - Are there any signs of interior leaks on your ceilings?
  - Do you notice water stains on underside of the roof decking, around chimney, vents or pipes?
  - Are there any signs of discoloration on the roof deck, rafters or trusses?

Again, we encourage you to use your own good judgment, and when necessary, consult the assistance of a professional. For more information, go to [Allstate.com](http://Allstate.com), or [Disastersafety.org](http://Disastersafety.org).