

Prep Checklist

BRANDON FAUST • 5X NORMI-Certified Mold Specialist, Quad IICRC-Certified Restoration Tech • MOLDEBOOK.COM/CHECKLISTS

“First, if you are in an evacuation zone, listen to the authorities.

I have been in at least 7 hurricanes disaster zones, volunteering or working, and they are not pretty.”

- **Board Up Windows** • Use storm shutters or plywood. Secure doors, especially garage doors, as they are a weak spot in hurricanes.
- **Clean Gutters** • The further the water goes from your house, the better.
- **Lower the Pool Level** • You don't need the pool flooding with this much water coming.
- **Fuel Everything** • Fill up gas cans for generators and your car. Power outages can last for days, and fuel shortages often happen after a hurricane.
- **Charge All Devices & Battery Packs** • Charge all phones, laptops, cameras, and battery backups. Even old phones can dial 911. Glow sticks can provide temporary light (place in a jar to make a lantern).
- **Download Emergency Apps**
 - Make sure emergency apps are downloaded on your phone, and keep the volume up to receive flash flood warnings or storm updates.
- **Move Important Documents & Valuables** • Elevate important documents (ID, insurance papers, car papers, etc.) and valuables from low cabinets or drawers to counter tops or higher ground. Use waterproof containers if possible. Pack your most essential ones.
- **Raise Electrical Appliances** Move small electrical appliances like food processors, toasters, and crockpots out of low cabinets.
- **Save Your Food** • Move dry food from low cabinets and cook any perishable items in advance. You can freeze cooked food and hard-boil eggs for snacks.
- **Water Supply Prep** • Fill every Tupperware container with water and freeze it. Fill drinking cups with water, cover with plastic wrap, and store them in the fridge. Keep sealed water bottles on the counter. Freeze water balloons for extra ice packs.
- **Secure Medications & First Aid Supplies** • Move first aid kits and medications to higher ground. Keep any necessary prescription medications handy in case of evacuation.
- **Prepare for Pets** • Move pet food and supplies to higher ground. Keep leashes, crates, and food ready. Pets are family—make sure they're ready to go with you.
- **Cash on Hand** • Withdraw cash ahead of time. ATMs and card machines may not work after the storm, so keep enough cash for at least a week, including small bills.
- **Pack an Essentials Bag** Prepare a “go-bag” for each family member with essentials like ID, cash, snacks, medications, clothes, and important documents in plastic sleeves. Include extra items for pets.
- **Take Pictures & Document Valuables** • Photograph your home and valuables, and record serial numbers for expensive items. A video walkthrough can help document everything for insurance claims.
- **Manual Can Opener** • Keep a manual can opener on hand for canned goods in case the power is out.
- **Backup Communications** • Use battery-powered radios or walkie-talkies to stay connected if phone service is disrupted. Have car chargers ready for phones.
- **Old School Radio** • Have a battery-powered radio ready to receive updates if cell towers are down. Extra batteries should be stored with it to ensure long-term usage during power outages.
- **Sanitary Supplies** • Stock up on hand sanitizer, wet wipes, toilet paper, and feminine products, as water services may be interrupted.
- **Fire Extinguishers** • If you have the, keep fire extinguishers ready, especially if you plan to use a generator.
- **Clean Your Environment** • Ensure clear escape routes by moving furniture. Clean surfaces and start with a tidy environment. Mop floors, vacuum, and clean counters.
- **Prepare Toilets** • Clean trash cans and fill them with water for flushing toilets if the water service stops.
- **Turn Off the Breaker** • Shut off the breaker at the first sign of flooding, even if the power is already out.
- **Unplug Electronics** • Power surges during and after the storm can damage electronics. Unplug everything in advance.
- **Mark Gas and Water Shutoffs** Know where your gas and water shutoffs are located and how to turn them off in case of an emergency.
- **Secure Outdoor Items** • Bring in patio furniture, grills, hoses, potted plants, yard decor, and anything else that could fly around during high winds.
- **Waterproof Containers** • Store valuables and electronics in waterproof containers to prevent water damage.
- **Use Sandbags for Extra Protection** • If your home has low-lying areas, use sandbags to prevent water from entering through doors.
- **Monitor Freezer Temperature** Freeze a cup of water, and place a coin on top. If the coin sinks, to the bottom the food thawed and should be discarded.
- **Prepare Baby Supplies** • Move diapers, baby wipes, and toys out of low places, and have them ready for easy access.
- **Tool Kit** • Have basic tools (hammer, nails, duct tape, etc.) handy for emergency repairs.
- **Tarps** • Have tarps on hand to cover roof damage or broken windows after the storm passes. This will help protect your home from additional water damage if immediate repairs aren't possible.
- **Chainsaw or Tree Saw** • Might be a bit much for some, but if you live in an area with many trees, having a chainsaw or tree saw could be vital for clearing debris after the storm.
- **Heavy-Duty Gloves and Boots** Ensure you have heavy-duty gloves and sturdy boots for safely handling debris and navigating through any hazardous areas post-storm.
- **First Aid Kit** • Ensure your first aid kit is stocked and includes any prescription medications. Add bandages, antiseptics, and basic medical supplies.
- **Park Safely** • Park cars at the highest point nearby or in a parking garage. Remove valuables from the floorboards.
- **EV Vehicles** • As we have learned, these can catch fire if hit with storm surge. Park them in a safe place.
- **Backup Power Supply** • If you have a generator, never run it indoors or in enclosed spaces. Store fuel safely and ensure the generator is well-ventilated.
- **Check on Family & Neighbors** Set up emergency backup plans, check on elderly neighbors, and make sure everyone is prepared. ■