



hurricane tips brought to you by:



As the storm clouds gather this hurricane season, let's ensure our homes remain sanctuaries of safety and comfort.

Here are 25 essential hurricane preparedness tips:

1. **Pre-Cool Your Home:** Before the storm arrives, lower your thermostat to cool your home. This keeps you comfortable longer if the power goes out.
2. **Unplug Electronics:** Unplug non-essential electronics to protect them from power surges during the storm.
3. **Turn Off Main Breaker:** If flooding is imminent, turn off your home's main circuit breaker to prevent electrical hazards.
4. **Elevate Appliances:** Raise electrical appliances above potential flood levels to avoid water damage. We can help you assess and elevate your HVAC units and other critical appliances.
5. **Secure Outdoor Units:** Anchor your outdoor AC unit to prevent it from being damaged or dislodged by strong winds.
6. **Install Surge Protectors:** Use surge protectors for essential devices to guard against voltage spikes.
7. **Generator Safety:** If using a generator, place it outside and away from windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
8. **Fuel Generators Safely:** Always turn off and let your generator cool before refueling to prevent fires.
9. **Stock Flashlights and Batteries:** Keep flashlights and extra batteries accessible for use during power outages.
10. **Avoid Using Candles:** Use battery-powered lights instead of candles to reduce fire risk during the storm.
11. **Schedule HVAC Maintenance:** Have your HVAC system inspected and serviced before hurricane season to ensure optimal performance.
12. **Replace Air Filters:** Install new air filters to keep your HVAC system running efficiently during increased usage.
13. **Seal Ductwork:** Ensure your ductwork is sealed and insulated to prevent moisture intrusion and maintain air quality.
14. **Install Programmable Thermostat:** Use a programmable thermostat to manage indoor temperatures and conserve energy during power fluctuations.
15. **Trim Surrounding Trees:** Cut back branches near power lines and your home to reduce the risk of damage during high winds.
16. **Turn Off Water Heater:** Switch off your electric water heater before the storm to prevent damage from power surges.
17. **Set Refrigerator to Coldest Setting:** Lower your refrigerator and freezer temperatures to keep food colder longer during power outages.
18. **Freeze Water Bottles for Cooling and Hydration:** Fill and freeze water bottles before the storm. They'll help keep your fridge and freezer cold during power outages and provide drinking water as they melt.
19. **Gather Important Documents:** Collect manuals, warranties, and service records for your electrical and HVAC systems for easy access after the storm.
20. **Compile Emergency Contacts:** Create a list of emergency contacts, including your utility company and service providers.
21. **Stay Updated on Weather Alerts:** Monitor local news and weather advisories to stay informed about the storm's progress. We can recommend reliable apps and services for real-time weather updates.
22. **Know Evacuation Routes:** Familiarize yourself with local evacuation routes and shelters in case you need to leave quickly. While we ensure your home's systems are storm-ready, your safety is paramount—know your exit strategies.
23. **Document Home Inventory:** Take photos and make a list of your home's contents, focusing on electrical and HVAC equipment, for insurance purposes.
24. **Inspect Electrical Systems Post-Storm:** After the storm, call Blue Collar Home Services to inspect your home's electrical systems before restoring power.
25. **Engage with Your Community:** Collaborate with neighbors to share resources and information, strengthening community resilience.