

## Florida Homeowner's Checklist for After a Hurricane

In Florida, hurricane recovery is a part of life. As building professionals, we've seen the damage hurricanes can do in the Orlando area and throughout the state.

As you get ready to face the aftermath of a storm, this hurricane recovery checklist can help you understand what steps you should take to protect your property after a natural disaster.

**Remember:** *Don't go home until it's safe. Follow designated roadways. Don't enter a building if it could collapse. Document property damage for insurance companies.*

### 1. Check Utilities

A problem with your utility systems creates a very dangerous situation. That makes it the top priority after a hurricane.

#### Look for:

- A gas leak
- Damaged electrical wiring
- Unsecured propane tank

### 2. Address Any Flooding In Your House

Flooding is a top concern after a hurricane. Not only can mold begin to grow within one to two days, but the longer your property is wet, the more damage you could see.

#### What to do:

- Use your sump pump to quickly remove water.
- Schedule a free inspection with foundation professionals so you don't accidentally collapse the walls of a flooded crawl space.

### 3. Inspect Your Structure

High winds frequently cause building issues. Preserve your investment by looking for indicators that there could be a structural problem.

#### Look for:

- Weakened or cracked walls
- Foundation damage
- Sagging floors
- Windows and doors that have shifted alignment

### 4. Prepare for Gross Stuff

After a hurricane, cleaning up your property can mean you'll encounter some unpleasant surprises.

#### Prepare for:

- Contaminated floodwaters
- Sewage backups
- Wildlife such as snakes or fire ants

Find out how **Florida Foundation Authority** can help you protect your home with a free inspection for foundation repair, crawl space moisture management, or drainage issues.