

Assemble an all-hazards kit in 4 easy steps

Preparedness is the key to survival in any disaster, including hurricanes and terrorism and having a family disaster supply kit handy can aid in recovery. The following sample shopping lists should help you assemble the basic items for a family disaster supply

kit over four weeks in four easy shopping trips. Purchase enough supplies to last two weeks so that you will be prepared in the event of a long-term emergency.



Week One: Hardware Store

- Containers to hold disaster supplies (large plastic tub with lid, backpack, etc.)
- Flashlights
- Portable tool kit
- Duct tape or other strong tape
- Utility Knife
- Tarps (to cover a leaky roof if necessary)
- Battery operated radio
- Batteries for flashlights and radio

Purchase or gather from existing household supply:

- Blanket/pillow, sleeping bag and other bedding for each member of household
- Towels and washcloths
- Books or games for entertainment
- Local road map
- Extra clothing and sturdy shoes for each member of household



Week Three: Drug Store

- Toothbrush for each member of household
- Large tube of toothpaste
- Over-the-counter and prescription medications
- Sanitary wet wipes and liquid hand sanitizer
- Personal and feminine hygiene supplies
- Disposable diapers
- Specialty/medical device batteries
- Family size first aid kit



Week Four: Grocery Store

- At least three gallons of water for each member of household, including pets
- Containers/boxes of quick energy snacks (granola bars, nuts, raisins, trail mix)
- Peanut butter
- Assorted plastic utensils (may not be able to wash dishes)
- Packaged paper plates and bowls
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Bleach, disinfectant and easy to use cleaner
- Extra pet food, kitty litter, etc.



Week Two: Grocery Store

- Non-perishable foods which do not require cooking (i.e., tuna, chicken, vegetables, fruits, dessert)
- Beverages (i.e. bottled water, tea, soft drinks, juices)
- Heavy-duty garbage bags with ties
- Zip-lock food storage bags for storing important papers and small items
- Manual can opener
- Specialty food items for babies and family members on special diets



Safeguarding your boat



- Heed and respect National Weather Service warnings.
- Complete all safety actions as early as possible, well before the arrival of gale force winds.
- If you store your trailerable boat at home, store it in a location least vulnerable to wind. Lash it securely to the trailer, lower the air in the tires to prevent rolling, remove all electrical equipment and also remove accessories which could become airborne debris. To the extent possible, fill the boat with water to increase its weight and further reduce rolling.
- Safe mooring lines should consist of new or good condition ropes of sufficient size, with extra length and at least three or four substantial anchor points for each craft.
- If possible, boats should be moored in groups with bow lines individually tied high to trees or pilings on the mainland with loose rope for rising tide, and sterns well anchored. Boats in the group should also be tied together at bows and sterns using protective fenders.
- Do not moor parallel to the bank as receding tides often breach or capsize boats in this type of anchorage. Be sure that a navigable passage at the stern of secured boats is made available for late-arriving boats seeking safe anchorage beyond the first boats anchored.
- Boats should be tied high, using a secure knot. Rope lengths should be sufficient to take care of excessive high water.

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- Can you do it yourself, SAFELY? (Consider personal safety, power lines, your knowledge of chainsaws, and your home)
- Use caution with suspended weight (Trees are extremely heavy, unpredictable, and using a ladder can get you hurt)
- Can you live with the mess for a while? (How critical is the cleanup? Prices are much better a month or so after the storm)
- If you feel the price is too high then it probably is (get a second estimate, preferably from a local; free markets always prevail)
- Get a written detailed estimate that describes exactly what will be done (don't get the tree off the house but left in your yard)
- Deposits, if necessary at all, should be no more than 10% of the job and not more than you can lose
- WAIT: high pressure contracts usually are more concerned with their wallet and not with helping you
- What skills and appropriate equipment does the contractor have? Was he an arborist or a landscaper before the storm?

Dan Has Extensive Hurricane Cleanup Experience From Storms Isabel, Katrina & Rita.