



<http://commonsensehome.com/hurricane-prep-checklist/>  
Assembled by Amber Bradshaw of The Coastal Homestead - <http://thecoastalhomestead.com/>

# Hurricane Prep Checklist

## Hurricane Prep #1 - Medicine

Make sure we have our apothecary fully stocked and ready, including bandages, salves, tinctures, and antibacterial medicine.

## Hurricane Prep #2 - Gas, and Gas/Oil Combo (for chainsaws, motors, etc)

4 Days before the storm's arrival, gas stations are all running out of gas. Make sure your tanks (and reserve tanks) are all full at the first sign of an impending disaster. It may be too late to find gas if you wait.

## Hurricane Prep #3 - Water

Four days before the storm is expected and the stores are already out of bottled water. You can live without many things but water isn't one of them.

You need at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for 3 days. A normally active person needs to drink at least one half gallon of water each day. You will also need water to clean yourself and to cook. (This means a family of four needs 12 gallons of water in their emergency supply.)

Keep in mind that the following groups may require more water:

- Children
- Pregnant women
- People who are sick
- People living in hot climates
- Don't forget about pets!
- Cats and dogs typically need 1 gallon for 3 days.

Fill your tub, coolers, water jugs, and containers. We also have a 20,000 gallon pool with salt water and a Salt-Water Distiller we can use if needed.

## **Hurricane Prep #4 - Cash**

Always have cash on hand. Banks will close early to allow their employees to evacuate as well, so you need to get there early. ATM's can quickly run out in a disaster situation.

## **Hurricane Prep #5 - Food**

Not only do I want to have food storage, but I want to have the right food. What good are bags of rice if we do not have power to cook them and it's too wet and windy for a fire? Making sure I have enough of the right food for a family of 5 for two weeks is a must. In my food storage I have fresh produce, canned goods, dried goods, ready-made meals, prepared foods, and snacks.

## **Hurricane Prep #6 - Ice**

Ice is very important during disasters and power outages. Not only will they keep my food cool and prevent spoiling in the event of a power outage, but having a full fridge and freezer will help it work more efficiently and stay cooler longer. I am filling up all of my available plastic containers and freezing them ahead of the storm.

## **Hurricane Prep #7 - Firewood, Propane, and Charcoal**

No electricity means no cooking in an oven or microwave. We are stocking firewood (inside so it doesn't get wet), extra tanks of propane, and charcoal. You will also need to have a fire to purify water, heat water for baths, and wash clothes.

## **Hurricane Prep #8 - Protection from looting**

Looting is a major issue following a disaster. Criminals take full advantage of abandoned homes and law officials are generally too busy helping victims to stop looters. Prepare to protect your home from looters and stock up on ammo, ropes, traps, etc.

## **Hurricane Prep #9 - Important Documents**

We make several copies of important documents and store them in various secure places. Keep a copy with you during disasters and make sure they are in a waterproof container. We are also preparing waterproof lanyards to wear around our necks with our:

**Birth Certificate \* Social Security Card \* CWP \* Proof of residency**

If we evacuate, they (military or law enforcement officials) will require this information in order to be allowed back to your home.

**Photos** - Before disaster hits it is a good idea to take pictures of your entire property, inside and out. Save a copy of these pictures to a flash drive and store in a safe place. Insurance, FEMA, or even the law enforcement will need copies for proof in the event that disaster strikes.

## **Hurricane Prep #10 - Lighting**

Prior to the hurricane arrival, we stage all of our emergency candles and matches. We also make sure all of our flashlights have fresh batteries, plus extra batteries in several rooms of our home.

## **Hurricane Prep #11 - Laundry**

It seems weird worrying about laundry during disaster preparedness, but you wouldn't believe how important this is. Do your laundry ahead of time, trust me - you will thank me later.

## **Hurricane Prep #12 - Porta Potty**

This is one lesson I learned the hard way during the 1000 yr. flood last year. We were without a toilet for a whole week with 5 people (3 of them are female), it was not a happy home. Check out the post , "[DIY Portable Toilet, Plus Tips to Get Rid of Smells](#)" for more information.

## **Hurricane Prep #13 - Empty Rain Barrels**

We have six 65 gallon rain barrels that we use for irrigation for our gardens. I was hoping to save the water for a dry spell but they will quickly overflow with the impending rain so they need to stay drained so they don't create washout with flooding.

## **Hurricane Prep #14 - Bees**

We are beekeepers and our bee's safety is very important to us so we need to make sure they are protected as well. We are securing their hives with straps and anchoring them in the ground. Bees can't forage during the rain and it takes 24-48 hrs for flowers to produce nectar after a spell of rain so you need to make sure you provide your bees with food during a disaster and storm.

## **Hurricane Prep #15 - Clean Coops/Mangers**

Not knowing how long the storm will last, I need to make sure all of my livestock have clean and fresh living quarters because I don't know if they will be able to forage and they may be stuck inside for a while. I will also include a variety of herbs to help keep them calm.

## **Hurricane Prep #16 - Clear Out Trash**

The recycling centers are state owned here and close with the government agencies. In the aftermath of a disaster, they will be overflowing with traffic, so we are making sure to haul off all of our trash before the storm.

## **Hurricane Prep #17 - Charge Everything**

Everything that has a plug and needs a charge is getting charged. We have battery cells for our phones, solar lamps, flashlights, tools, rechargeable batteries, etc. that are all being fully charged before the disaster strikes.

## **Hurricane Prep #18 - Hand Sanitizer**

In the event we are without running water, I will not be wasting precious water on washing our hands every time I touch something. I made a batch of homemade Hand Sanitizer to help keep clean during water outages.

### **Hand Sanitizer Recipe**

- 1/4 Cup Aloe Gel
- 1 Tbs Rubbing Alcohol or Witch Hazel
- 1/4 Cup distilled Water
- 10 Drops Tea Tree Oil
- 10 Drops of Lavender Oil

Add all ingredients to a spray bottle and shake before use.

## **Hurricane Prep #19 - Chainsaw and Generators**

Two of the most valued assets after a storm or hurricane are Chainsaws and Generators. Making sure the chainsaw is serviced and operating and start the generator to make sure it runs. We also make sure we have the gas/oil stocked.

## **Hurricane Prep #20 - Securing Anything Loose**

Even a piece of straw can become a weapon during hurricane force winds. If it's not bolted, screwed, concreted or tied down, it gets moved inside.

## **Hurricane Prep #21 - Games and Entertainment**

At three days before the storm's arrival, schools are already canceled. Make sure to have plenty of non-electric games and activities the kids can do indoors. Disaster situations are stressful on children as well, especially since they can't always understand. Keeping them active will help maintain a happy home during a disaster.

## **Hurricane Prep #22 - Glean the Fields**

I just finished picking the last of my summer crops. I wasn't ready to pick many of them but I don't want them to go to waste in the storm so I gleaned the property in preparation for the hurricane.

## **Hurricane Prep #23 - Life Jackets**

Have you ever watched the news and seen the people standing on the roofs waving for rescue? Well, I hope that's not us, but if it is and you see me on the news, I will be wearing an orange life vest. I might be waiting for a helicopter, but I won't be drowning!

## **Hurricane Prep #24 - Bathe**

I'm saving this for the last disaster preparation. A year ago, we were completely blindsided for the 1000 yr flood and unprepared. For a whole week we were unable to use our drains and septic system, this included the bathtubs. We are all taking long, luxurious baths and showers before the rain moves in. We may get wet after, we may be without water, but we'll all be clean when it hits.

## **Hurricane Prep #25 - Evacuate if Needed**

As the hurricane moves closer to the states, please seek shelter. If you live in an evacuation zone, please evacuate. You can replace 'things' you can't replace life.

If you have livestock, there are many wonderful people on social media who have farms that are offering to house livestock during the evacuation. If you have pets, there are listings for evacuation shelters that accept pets. "[Pet Evacuation and Pet Friendly Emergency Shelters: Tips and Information For Helping You and Your Pet in a Disaster](#)" has guides as to what you need to bring with you for your pet.

Stay safe and we will see you on the other side of the storm.