

## SECURE YOUR HOME

### 1. Hurricane Protection for Your Roof

First, determine what type of roof you have. Homes with gabled roofs are more likely to suffer damage from high winds. A gable roof can be strengthened by installing additional braces in the trusses and/or at the gable ends. A qualified builder can also install galvanized metal hurricane straps. These help secure the roof to the walls.



### 2. Hurricane Protection for Your Windows

The easiest and most effective way to protect windows and glass doors is to install storm shutters. Building supply stores sell many kinds of storm shutters, but you can also make your own shutters out of plywood.

### 3. Hurricane Protection for Your Doors

Most doors do not have bolts or pins strong enough to withstand storm-force winds. The American Red Cross recommends installing additional door bolt materials (costing from \$10 to \$40). Garage doors can be strengthened by installing horizontal bracing in each panel. Bracing kits can often be purchased from garage door manufactures. You may also need to add stronger supports and heavier hinges for your garage doors.

### 4. Check Your Trees

Every year falling trees and tree limbs cause hundreds of millions of dollars in damage as well as personal injuries and deaths. Homeowners are the first line of defense against problem trees.

You'll need to regularly check for signs of damage or disease including cracks in the trunk or major limbs, insect infestations, trees that look one-sided or that lean significantly, branches hanging over the house or near the roof, limbs in contact with power lines or mushrooms growing from the bark, which can indicate decay.



### 5. Secure Your Stuff

If you have furniture and other outdoor equipment on your patio or deck, bring them inside when strong weather threatens. Don't forget trashcans, grills, toys, and potted plants. Keep them from becoming flying objects that can cause additional injury or damage during storms with high winds.

### 6. Flood Insurance

Flood damage is not covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy. The National Flood Insurance Program is a pre-disaster flood mitigation and insurance protection program designed to reduce the escalating cost of disasters. The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners. [National Flood Insurance Program](#) call 1-888-CALL-FLOODext. 445, TDD# 1-800-427-5593.

These projects cannot guarantee the safety of your home, but, if done correctly, they may be able to minimize storm damage. For detailed instructions and construction diagrams, check out [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org) Also consult with building professionals in your area, and be sure to check your local building code requirements. Remember: building codes reflect the lessons experts have learned from past catastrophes. Contact the local building code official to find out what requirements are necessary for your home improvement projects.

**For More Information Go To [www.readyhouston.org](http://www.readyhouston.org).**