

Hurricane Season Checklist

Plumbing, air conditioning & generator prep for South Florida homes — from the start of storm season through post-storm cleanup.

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON — May – June

Book service now — parts and appointments get harder to find once a storm is in the forecast.

PLUMBING

- ☐ Locate & test the main water shutoff valve; service if stiff or corroded
- ☐ Inspect and load-test the sump pump
- ☐ Install / check sump pump battery backup
- ☐ Schedule leak detection for slab or hidden pipe damage
- ☐ Clear gutters, downspouts & yard drains
- ☐ Check hose bibs, backflow preventers & outdoor fixtures
- ☐ Ask about a repiping evaluation if polybutylene or cast iron

AIR CONDITIONING

- ☐ Book AC maintenance in spring, before the rush
- ☐ Check refrigerant levels, electrical connections & condensate drain
- ☐ Ask about surge protection for the outdoor unit
- ☐ Photograph the condenser's model & serial number

GENERATORS

- ☐ Decide portable vs. whole-house standby if you don't have one
- ☐ Run an existing generator under load for 15–20 min
- ☐ Change oil & check air filter per manufacturer schedule
- ☐ Test the automatic transfer switch (standby systems)
- ☐ Confirm stored fuel & check fuel stabilizer

48 HOURS BEFORE THE STORM

Shift from maintenance to protection once a storm is tracking toward South Florida.

PLUMBING

- ☐ Fill bathtubs / containers with water
- ☐ Run the sump pump manually to confirm it cycles
- ☐ Shut off irrigation & backflow preventer if flooding expected
- ☐ Confirm every adult knows the water & gas shutoff locations
- ☐ Secure loose outdoor fixtures, hoses & drain covers

AIR CONDITIONING

- ☐ Strap down the outdoor condenser unit
- ☐ Turn off AC at the breaker if flooding is likely
- ☐ Don't wrap/seal the unit — it needs airflow
- ☐ Clear patio furniture & loose objects near the unit

GENERATORS

- ☐ Top off fuel; store extra in approved, labeled containers
- ☐ Plan placement: 20+ ft from windows/doors, never enclosed
- ☐ Test carbon monoxide detectors inside the home
- ☐ Have heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cords ready

AFTER THE STORM

Check methodically before turning things back on — it can prevent a bigger repair bill.

PLUMBING

- ☐ Check for standing water around the foundation; confirm sump pump keeps up
- ☐ Look under sinks, toilets & the water heater for new leaks
- ☐ Don't run water through fixtures if floodwater entered the home
- ☐ Watch for slow drains or gurgling toilets (sewer backup signs)

AIR CONDITIONING

- ☐ Visually inspect the outdoor unit before restoring power
- ☐ Have a submerged/flooded unit professionally inspected first
- ☐ Check the condensate drain line for storm debris

GENERATORS

- ☐ Inspect for water intrusion before restarting
- ☐ Keep monitoring CO detectors during extended outages
- ☐ Check fuel lines & connections for storm damage

Watch for mold in the days after

Mold can start within 24–48 hours of any water intrusion. Dry affected areas quickly, and watch drywall, baseboards & carpet over the following week.

Get ahead of hurricane season

Schedule your hurricane season inspection — 24/7 emergency service.

561-260-5763