It’s never too early to start planning for the hurricane season. Waiting until a storm is offshore is too late. The following recommendations come from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

***Basic Preparedness Tips***

* *Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation route(s) to take and have a plan for where you can stay. Contact your local emergency management agency for more information.*
* *Put together a go-bag: disaster supply kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, medications, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate*
* *If you are not in an area that is advised to evacuate and you decide to stay in your home, plan for adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads.*
* *Make a* [*family emergency communication plan.*](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)

***Preparing Your Home***

* *Hurricane winds can cause trees and branches to fall, so before hurricane season trim or remove damaged trees and limbs to keep you and your property safe.*
* *Keep yard waste SEPARATE from garbage.*
* *Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts and clear any clogged areas or debris to prevent water damage to your property.*
* *Reduce property damage by retrofitting to secure and reinforce the roof, windows and doors, including the garage doors.*
* *Purchase a portable generator or install a generator for use during power outages. Remember to keep generators and other alternate power/heat sources outside, at least 20 feet away from windows and doors and protected from moisture; and NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging a generator into a wall outlet.*

It is important to have all necessary supplies on hand before a storm arrives, especially shutters, wing nuts, wing nut drivers, and other hardware necessary for protecting your home.

Home centers and hardware stores quickly sell their inventory of these items in the face of a storm. Get yours early before there is high demand. After the storm ensure that vegetation brought down by the storm is kept separate from other debris so that it can be picked up as part of the recovery process.