



PLANNING AHEAD FOR HURRICANE SEASON

BEFORE A STORM:

What to Do If You Live in a High-Rise Building

Be aware that winds are stronger at higher elevations (higher floors in a multi-story building). Hurricane force winds may blow out windows and sliding glass doors and weaken the structures holding them. Locations between the 3rd and 10th floors are most likely to keep you safe from storm surges and high winds.

If you live in a mandatory evacuation area, be prepared to leave when the order is given.

- ❑ Have a family evacuation plan that includes a place to stay off-island if Key Biscayne is evacuated. If family members are separated, decide where to meet. See [Have a Family Hurricane Plan \(PDF\)](#).
- ❑ Assemble hurricane supply and evacuation kits, including a waterproof container to store important documents.
- ❑ DO NOT use the elevator in a storm emergency.
- ❑ Know the locations of all stairways that serve as exits from the building. Note the direction to and count the number of steps to the closest exit in case the electricity is out and hallway lights do not work.
- ❑ Bring all items off the balcony or patio (furniture, potted plants, etc.)
- ❑ Close and lock all windows, sliding glass doors and shutters.
- ❑ Move valuables away from any outside openings.
- ❑ If you own your unit, make sure your insurance policies are effective and current. Make an inventory of your possessions.
- ❑ If you rent your unit, find out what the landlord's responsibilities are (e.g., putting up storm shutters). Check your renter's insurance policy for coverage.
- ❑ Don't forget your pets. See the ["Prepare your Pet" Checklist \(PDF\)](#) for tips.

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- ❑ Ensure that the Building Manager or Condo Association has emergency plans for the following:
 - ❑ Securing elevators at the top of the shaft to minimize damage by water or debris-blown wind
 - ❑ Securing grounds and common areas
 - ❑ Securing cars
 - ❑ Securing boats
 - ❑ Identifying a structurally safe meeting area for residents, such as a windowless hallway above the 3rd floor.
 - ❑ How to keep track of residents who plan to leave the building so all can be accounted for after the storm event.