

HURRICANE SEASON PREP GUIDE



FROM



INTRODUCTION

With hurricane season fast approaching, it's important to take steps to protect your home from potential damage. From high winds and heavy rains to storm surges and flooding, hurricanes can be incredibly destructive. However, by preparing your home in advance, you can help minimize the damage and keep your family safe during a severe storm. In this set of articles, **One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning**, **Benjamin Franklin Plumbing**, **Mister Sparky Electric**, **DRYmedic Restoration**, and **Screenmobile** will provide you with expert home service tips and advice on how to get your home ready for hurricane season. From protecting your air conditioning to prepping your plumbing, we'll cover a range of topics designed to help your home weather the storm. Whether you're a seasoned homeowner or new to hurricane-prone areas, these tips will equip you with the necessary knowledge to confront the hurricane season with confidence.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE 1: How to Protect Your Air Conditioning System During Hurricane Season	PAGE 1
ARTICLE 2: Preparing Your Plumbing for Hurricane Season	PAGE 2
ARTICLE 3: Preparing Your Electrical for Storms	PAGE 3
ARTICLE 4: Hurricane Season Tips & Tricks from Your Restoration Experts	PAGE 4
ARTICLE 5: Top Tips to Prepare Your Outdoor Spaces for Hurricane Season	PAGE 5





How to Protect Your Air Conditioning System During Hurricane Season

Hurricanes form every year in certain regions of the country and bring destructive winds, drenching rains, and flash flooding to communities. Storm preparation is a part of life for those who live in vulnerable areas.

It's worth taking special steps to protect your air conditioning system from costly collateral damage. Follow these tips to give your HVAC equipment a better chance of braving the storm.

In Preparation for Storms



Shut Down Your AC System

If you have a major storm bearing down on your area, you should shut down your air conditioning system and cut off the power either at a master shut-off switch or in the circuit breaker. That way, it's less likely to be damaged by a power surge or get shorted out by a flood.



Cover Your AC Unit

Next, you should cover your AC unit to protect it from debris, tree limbs, and excessive rain. One option is to cover the equipment with a tarp that is securely fastened to the ground or another solid object. Some people in storm-prone regions even construct wooden boxes to give their air conditioning systems a better chance of making it through the hurricane.

If you have a window air conditioning unit, your task is a bit simpler: simply unplug it and bring it inside where it has maximum protection against major damage.

After the Storms



Wait Before Turning Your System Back On

Once the hurricane moves on, you can't just flip on the power and fire up your air conditioning system like nothing happened. There could be water in the system, or debris and contaminants could have lodged in the fans or ducts. There's also a possibility that the coolant or electrical lines could be damaged. Before you try to restart the unit, have an HVAC professional inspect the system and make sure that it is still intact and won't cause a health or safety issue.



If Damage Occurred, Use Alternatives

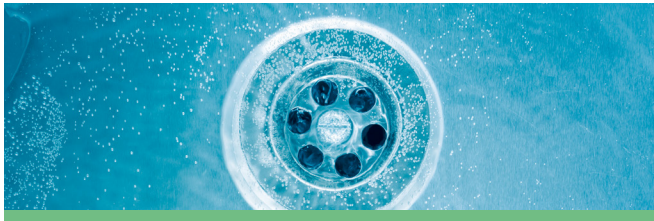
If you live in a hot area of the country and your air conditioning system does get badly damaged in a storm, you can find portable units that can tide you over and keep your home cool until you can get the central air unit repaired. Some households also keep a generator on hand that can power the air conditioning in case of an extended power outage.

If you need help shoring up your air conditioning before a storm comes in, or restoring it to working order in the aftermath, contact your local One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning today.



Preparing Your Plumbing for Hurricane Season

As you board up your windows and stockpile water, remember to take precautions against harmful water damage. When it comes to your home's water system and plumbing, it's a good idea to remember these important tips:



1. Clear Out The Pipes

Backed-up drains are more likely to become overloaded after a flood. **Test each faucet and toilet** to ensure that the water flows as it should. Slow drains and leaks might indicate a problem with your sewage or septic system, which can quickly be overrun by floodwater.



2. Protect Your Water Supply

To stop flooding from contaminating your home's water supply, **shut off the main water valve** before the storm hits. Ration water by opening the faucet farthest away from the main line. Have some water testing strips on hand to determine if the water is safe to drink. Each person in your home should have at least a three-day supply of drinking water.



3. Fill The Bathtubs With Water

Fill the bathtub(s) with water to use for non-sterilized tasks, such as flushing the toilet.



4. Close Exterior Crawl Vents

Close all exterior crawl space vents and tape them off to prevent moisture from getting inside.

It's better to be safe than sorry when preparing for a hurricane. For more information on safeguarding your plumbing, contact **Benjamin Franklin Plumbing online or by calling 1-877-BEN-1776.**



Preparing Your Electrical for Storms

The unpredictability of a storm makes planning for the possible damage and outages feel daunting and even impossible. Here is some advice that won't require significant spending or time as you aim to stay calm with loved ones:



CHARGE YOUR DEVICES

Get all of your devices fully charged ahead of time so you will be able to call the authorities or family not impacted by the storm to let them know your status.



MOVE ELECTRONICS

Move electronics such as the TV and laptops to higher floors of the home, if possible. For things you can't move, like the microwave, be sure to unplug them.



TURN OFF ELECTRICAL

Turn off heating, air conditioning, electrical range and the gas range and unplug devices and appliances.



TURN OFF BREAKERS

Turn off your breakers to avoid power surges.

During and after the storm, do not touch any electrical that has been in contact with the water! Contact your local Mister Sparky electrician after the storm to safely restore power and begin using your electronics again.



Hurricane Season Tips & Tricks from Your Restoration Experts

As hurricane season approaches, it's important to take steps to protect your home from potential damage caused by strong winds and flooding. Our restoration company has compiled a list of helpful tips and tricks for homeowners to follow in order to mitigate damage during a hurricane. **By taking the necessary precautions, you can help lessen the water and mold damage to your home during a hurricane.**



Install Sump Pump Battery Backup

If you have a sump pump, consider installing a battery backup to prevent flooding in case of power outages.



Board Up Windows

Prepare for strong winds by stocking up on wood to board up your windows.



Clean Gutters

Ensure proper drainage of rainwater by clearing out any leaves or debris from your gutters.



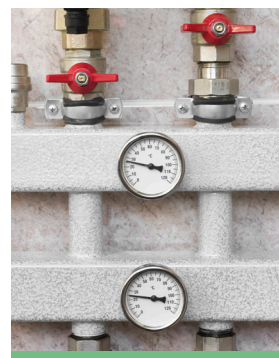
Use Sandbags

Prevent water from entering your home by placing sandbags at ground level entry points such as front and garage doors.



Clear Your Yard

Secure outdoor items by tying down anything that could potentially blow away.



Identify Shut-Offs

Locate the power and water shut-off valves for your home to be able to quickly turn them off in case of an emergency.

If you have been affected by water damage, fire, mold, or asbestos do not hesitate to contact us regarding any questions you may have. Our mitigation team is reachable 24/7 at drymedic.com with years of knowledge and the ability to arrive on-site rapidly!



Top Tips to Prepare Your Outdoor Spaces for Hurricane Season

As hurricane season draws closer, it's important to proactively inspect your home and evaluate which areas may be a greater risk for storm damage. Here are some simple ways you can secure your outdoor spaces and prepare for any storms that may blow your way. Doing so will help to minimize potential damage, and help you enjoy your space all season long!



CHECK THE SCREWS

Check the screws (and other fasteners) on your screen porch for signs of rust or corrosion. Replace damaged fasteners to keep your framing secure in high winds.



CONSIDER ROLLING SHUTTERS

Rolling Security Shutters are good for more than just security! At the push of a button, you can easily protect your doors and windows from wind damage.



INSPECT YOUR SCREEN DOORS

Inspect your screen doors to ensure they close and latch properly. The more secure your doors are, the fewer chances they will be damaged by a storm— or cause further damage to you home.



CHECK PATIO AREAS

Check your screened patio areas for any loose items that could blow away in high winds or cause damage to your space.



CUT THE SCREEN MESH *(If you are in direct impact of the storm)**

If you are near the direct impact of the storm, insurance companies recommend cutting the screen mesh on your screened pool enclosure before a hurricane hits. This allows the wind to travel through the enclosure instead of pushing against it—potentially causing the entire structure to lift and cause more severe damage.

*Make sure to check with your insurance provider to confirm their recommendations for preventing storm damage.

If your screens are damaged during a hurricane, Screenmobile is here to help! Contact your local Screenmobile to discuss the best options and solution for your space.

Authority Brands is the premier home services franchisor in North America.

Learn more about all our brands at AuthorityBrands.com.

