

**FLASH**

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FLASH CARDS

*Strengthening Homes  
and Safeguarding Families*

**FLASH**<sub>inc.</sub>



**FEDERAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOMES**

[www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org)

# Emergency Board-Up

FLASH, Inc. recommends that you install tested and approved shutters for the highest level of protection from windborne debris. However, the following basic recommendations can be used in extreme emergencies to add temporary protection to doors and windows:

- Count and measure the openings to be covered on your house including all windows, French doors, sliding glass doors and skylights. Measure each opening, horizontally from inside to inside of the exterior trim and vertically from the sill to the bottom of the top trim. Add 8-inches to the width and 8-inches to the height measurements so that the panel will overlap the wall framing around the opening. Do not fasten the plywood directly to the window or door frame.
- **TOOLS:** hand or circular saw, drill and drill bits, hammer and wrench.
- **PLYWOOD:** 5/8" or greater exterior grade (CDX) plywood. Plywood sheets are generally 4' x 8', so your local building supply retailer can help you determine how many sheets to buy using the information about the number and size of openings you need to cover.
- More than one sheet may be necessary if you have any single opening larger than one 4' x 8' sheet of plywood.
- **HARDWARE:** double-headed nails, wood screws, bolts, wood or masonry anchors, nuts and large washers. A range of types of fasteners can be used to attach a plywood shutter. The type of fastener required will depend on the type of construction (wood, masonry, or concrete) and the type of exterior veneer (siding, brick or stucco).
- **SPACING OF FASTENERS:** If the shortest dimension of the window or door is 4 feet or less, space fasteners at 6 inches on center. If the shortest dimension exceeds 4 feet, space fasteners at 3 inches on center.
- Mount plywood and fasten into place. Mounting the plywood with two fasteners (one on each corner) first then installing the remainder of fasteners will reduce the strain on helper and facilitate set-up.
- Store plywood and other materials together in a location away from weather and harmful elements.

NOTE: Plywood shutters do not meet the requirements of the new Florida Building Code for the High Velocity Hurricane Zone. Homeowners who live in the High Velocity Hurricane Zone, where design winds exceed 139 mph, cannot install plywood shutters as a permanent measure. Log on to [www.floridabuilding.org](http://www.floridabuilding.org) to determine the design wind speed for your location.

Protect your home in a **FLASH** with  
the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes!

[www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org) ■ toll-free 1-877-221-SAFE