DIY Wind

Wondering whether your home is as wind-resistant as it could be? Find out by doing your own wind inspection.

Step Number One:
Start with your windows. First, inspect your windows or check your records to determine when your windows were installed. Also, check your records and any window labels for product approval codes that may indicate whether your windows are impact-resistant. Specifically, look for these codes: SSTD 12; ASTM E 1886; and ASTM E 1996; or Miami-Dade Protocols TAS 201, TAS 202, and TAS 203.

If your windows have permanent shutters or temporary shutters or panels, inspect them and your records to determine if they are impact-resistant. Specifically, look for these codes: SSTD 12; ASTM E 1886; and ASTM E 1996; or Miami-Dade Protocols TAS 201, TAS 202, and TAS 203. Also check to be sure your shutters are working properly and fit securely.

Step Number Two:
Next, inspect your entry doors to determine their condition. Do the doors open inward or outward (outward-swinging doors are more wind-resistant)? Check the door jambs to detect any splits or loose screws. Ensure that all the hinges are properly installed and that the threshold is attached to the floor.

If you have a double door, ensure that the flush bolts go into the head and threshold at least one inch. Take note of your door type. Does it have glass? Is it metal or wood? Answers to these questions may help determine whether the door should be covered in high wind events.

Step Number Three:
Examine your garage door system for missing or rusted bolts or a damaged or loose track. Look at the rollers (wheels) and determine if they appear to have excess wear and tear. Count how many track mounting brackets there are. If you have only three or four brackets per side, your door may not be sufficiently wind-resistant. Also, check your records and any labels on the door to determine if your garage door is wind-rated.

Bring Do-It-Yourself Vigor to Home Strengthening, Too!

When it comes to our homes, most of us have some level of do-it-yourself ability. We’ve painted our living room, installed a ceiling fan, maybe even put down wood floors. What we’ve gained is not only a more comfortable home, but the self-confidence that comes with the accomplishment of doing something we’ve never done before. What if we brought that self-reliance to ensuring our home is as disaster-resistant as it can be? This issue of FLASH gives you the tools you need to look critically at your home’s ability to resist high winds. Step by step you will learn about your home’s most vulnerable components and what to look for in determining their overall condition. A checklist provided will aid in recording what you find so that you can take action, which may include some do-it-yourself projects or the hiring of a professional. Whichever it is, FLASH is there for you. Just give us a call at 877-221-SAFE or send us an email at flash@flash.org – we’re always glad to hear from you!
or impact-resistant. Likely your door is not sufficiently impact-resistant if you can find no mention of these codes: SSTD 12; ASTM E 1886 and ASTM E 1996; or Miami-Dade Protocols TAS 201, TAS 202, TAS 203.

From the exterior, look at your roof shingles or roof covering. Using binoculars will enable you to safely make up-close observations from the ground. Check for missing or loose shingles or tiles. Make sure that you do not have shingles that appear curled or broken or slightly lifted.

Also check shingles at the roof edge to see if any of the shingles or tiles are loose to a slight pull or if the edges are brittle to the touch. Only do this inspection if you can safely climb a ladder, and never do so alone.

If you can safely get into your attic, check from the inside for signs of leaks such as water stains or drip marks or other dark spots on the roof structure and decking.

Another way to check for water leaks is to inspect from inside the attic on a bright, sunny day to determine if you can see any points of daylight coming in through the roof where it joins plumbing lines and intersects with walls or other roof sections. Remember to keep the lights and your flashlight turned off while doing this. If you see any daylight, this may be a sign of some missing roof covering, deteriorated flashing or a rusted through nail, which has left an unprotected opening. As even a small nail hole can lead to significant water leaks, if you find holes, have them repaired immediately.

While you're in the attic, use a flashlight to look along the area where the framing meets the roof deck. If you see rows of long nails beside the framing, you are most likely seeing 'shiners', a sign that the nails used to attach your roof deck missed the framing members.

Also, look along where the framing members meet the wall of your house and count the number of hurricane straps you find. If you find very few or none, your roof may not be securely attached.
If your home has a gable roof, inspect from the attic to determine if the gable end has been reinforced with any 2 x 4s or other framing boards. Properly placed boards can brace the end of the wall in the attic area by connecting back to roof trusses or framing boards to create horizontal or diagonal support.

**WITH GABLES**

**HIP SHAPE**

**DIY Wind Inspection Checklist**

(Circle “Yes” or “No” as it applies.)

1. **WINDOWS**
   - Year Installed? ____________________ or Don’t Know
   - Impact-resistant?
     - Yes (If ‘yes,’ contact your insurance company to learn of possible insurance discounts available to you.)
     - No (no evidence of codes: SSTD 12; ASTM E 1886 and ASTM E 1996; or Miami-Dade Protocols TAS 201, TAS 202, TAS 203)

2. **ENTRY DOORS** (complete for each door)
   - Door #1
     - Location: ______________________________________
     - Door Opens (circle one) Inward Outward Other ______________________
     - Splits in Door Jam? Yes No
     - Loose Screws? Yes No
     - Loose Hinges? Yes No
     - Double Entry Door? Yes No
       - If ‘yes,’ flush bolt length at head and threshold: ___________

   - Door #2
     - Location: ______________________________________
     - Door Opens (circle one) Inward Outward Other ______________________
     - Splits in Door Jam? Yes No
     - Loose Screws? Yes No
     - Loose Hinges? Yes No
     - Double Entry Door? Yes No
       - If ‘yes,’ flush bolt length at head and threshold: ___________

   - Door #3
     - Location: ______________________________________
     - Door Opens (circle one) Inward Outward Other ______________________
     - Splits in Door Jam? Yes No
     - Loose Screws? Yes No

3. **GARAGE DOORS**
   - Missing bolts? Yes No
   - Condition of rollers (wheels) Good Bad Not Sure
   - Number of Track Mounting Brackets: ______________
   - Impact-resistant? Yes No
     - If ‘yes,’ contact your insurance company to learn of possible insurance discounts available to you.

4. **ROOF COVERING** (observed outside with binoculars and/or ladder)
   - Missing shingles or tiles? Yes No
     - If ‘yes,’ note location here: _____________________
   - Are shingles at edge of roof loose or brittle to the touch? Yes No

5. **SHINGLE ROOF COVERING CONDITIONS** (observed using a ladder)
   - Large amounts of roof granules in your gutter? Yes No

6. **ROOF LEAKS** (observed from inside the attic)
   - Are there water stains, drip marks or other dark spots on the roof structure and decking? Yes No
   - Can you see points of daylight coming through the roof where it joins plumbing lines and intersects with walls or other roof sections? Yes No

7. **ROOF ATTACHMENT** (with flashlight inside the attic)
   - Can you see rows of long nails (shiners) beside the framing? Yes No
   - How many hurricane strips do you see? ___________ None

8. **ROOF TYPE** (circle one)
   - Gable Hip Other

9. **GABLE END BRACING** (gable roof only)
   - Evidence of Gable End Bracing? Yes No
     - If ‘yes,’ contact your insurance company to learn of possible insurance discounts available to you.

10. **GIVE THIS COMPLETED FORM TO A LICENSED, BONDED, AND INSURED CONTRACTOR TO PLAN YOUR REPAIRS AND/OR RETROFITS.**
While FLASH recommends that you install tested and approved shutters for the highest level of protection from windborne debris, 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 top 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 wrenches.

PLYWOOD: 5/8” or exterior grade 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.

Store plywood and other materials together in a location away from weather and harmful elements. To see an online animation on emergency board up, visit: www.flash.org and find Animated How-To Emergency Board Up under the Hurricane tab.

DIY Wind EDITION

EMERGENCY
Board-Up How-To

FLASH
Florida's Storm Prevention System

FLASH Logo

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