

Hurricane Season Water Damage Prep Checklist

Gainesville and Alachua County edition. Peak season is August through October. Fridge-worthy.

BEFORE THE SEASON PEAKS (do this week)

- ☐ Walk the roofline: missing shingles, lifted flashing, debris in valleys
- ☐ Clean gutters and extend downspouts at least 4 feet from the foundation
- ☐ Find your water main shutoff and your breaker panel, show everyone in the house
- ☐ Photograph every room, wide shots plus big-ticket items (5 minutes that wins claims)
- ☐ Check insurance NOW: homeowners covers storm-created openings, rising floodwater needs separate flood coverage, and new flood policies wait 30 days to start
- ☐ Trim limbs hanging over the roof
- ☐ Pour a cup of water into the AC condensate drain area and confirm it drains

WHEN A STORM IS NAMED (72 hours out)

- ☐ Clear yard drains, street gutter mouths, and low spots of leaves and debris
- ☐ Stage supplies: tarps, plastic sheeting, buckets, towels, flashlights, batteries
- ☐ Charge phones and power banks, freeze water jugs for the cooler
- ☐ Move electronics, documents, and keepsakes off floors and away from windows
- ☐ Photograph your prep (insurers like to see mitigation effort)

DURING THE STORM

- ☐ Stay clear of sagging ceilings, they hold water like a balloon before they let go
- ☐ Never walk through water near outlets, cords, or the breaker panel
- ☐ Bucket and tarp active leaks only if it is safe to reach them

THE FIRST 24 HOURS AFTER (this is where houses are saved)

- ☐ Stop what is stoppable: water main off for plumbing failures, tarp roof openings
- ☐ **Photograph EVERYTHING before you move or throw out a single item**
- ☐ Kill power to wet rooms at the breaker if outlets or cords got wet
- ☐ **Start drying fast: in August humidity, mold starts in 24 to 48 hours**
- ☐ Call for professional extraction and drying, the earlier you call, the less you lose

24/7 Emergency Line: (352) 698-7499

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