

Exterior Doors

Like windows, exterior doors also require a permanent or temporary shutter system. To reinforce exterior doors, ensure that the door frame and threshold are tightly screwed into the house. Tighten or replace loose or missing screws with stronger and longer ones. Consider adding additional hinges and stronger deadbolts.

Double entry doors are usually weaker than single doors. As a result, they are more susceptible to wind damage. You can reinforce double doors by adding a heavy-duty deadbolt, replacing the existing deadbolt with a stronger one, and/or adding at least one-inch long slide bolts at the top and bottom of the inactive door. The slide bolt should penetrate the floor.

Doors that are partially or fully constructed of glass will need to be protected by a permanent or temporary storm shutter system as described for windows.

Remove or Secure Objects the Wind Can Pick Up

Outdoor furniture, gardening tools, children's toys, loose tree limbs, etc. can become dangerous projectiles when carried by 100 mile per hour winds. Help protect your doors, windows and entire house from being battered by removing any moveable objects from your property before a storm hits. If an object cannot be removed, try to strap it down to the ground.

Before Hurricane season (June-November) arrives check the trees around your property. Loose branches and dead trees should be taken down before the wind blows them down.

Consider replacing gravel or other rock-landscaping material with fire treated, shredded bark or other lightweight mulch to eliminate the potential for those rocks to become windborne missiles.

You may not be able to control the debris from your neighbor's yard, but you can protect yourself by removing the hazards in your own yard. Be a good neighbor and keep your property free of debris and encourage your neighbors to do the same. It is for everyone's safety.

Obtain Permits & Hire Licensed Contractors

As with any modifications you make to your home, permits may be required, even if you do the work yourself. If you hire a contractor, require that they obtain all necessary permits and beware if they ask you to obtain permits on their behalf. The person who requests a permit is responsible for the work being done. You assume liability and have no recourse if something goes wrong if a permit is in your name and not the contractor's.

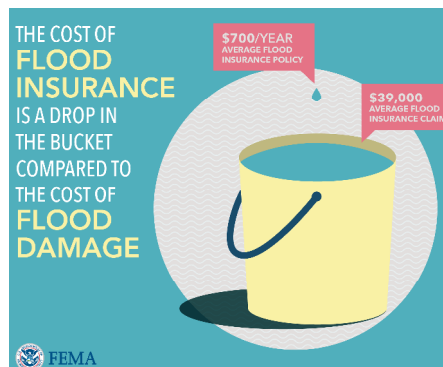


Only hire contractors whose license and credentials can be verified through your local jurisdiction or the South Carolina Labor Licensing and Regulation Department (www.LLR.SC.gov).

Get Flood Insurance

Your windows and doors protect your home from the elements, including rain and water. However, even the best window and door protection does not always prevent flooding. Give yourself added peace of mind by purchasing flood insurance.

Flood insurance is one of the best protection measures for a building. Usually, homeowners insurance does not cover floods. Only flood insurance covers floods. Flood insurance is available to owners and renters of residential and commercial properties under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and can be purchased through a licensed insurance agent.



Protect Your Windows & Doors from Windborne Debris During Hurricanes

Charleston County Building Inspection Services

4045 Bridge View Drive, Suite A311

North Charleston, SC 29405

(843) 202-6930

BuildingServices@CharlestonCounty.org

www.CharlestonCounty.org



Charleston County is at risk for hurricanes, tropical storms, tornados and other high wind events. Strong wind and the debris it carries can blow out doors and break windows. If wind enters a building it can cause severe structural damage. Broken windows and doors can allow water to enter a building which can further damage the structure, interior and contents.

To protect your home ensure your windows and doors are as resistant as possible to this threat. Retrofit your current openings or install new doors and windows that meet at least the minimum requirements of your jurisdiction. Further protect your windows with permanent or temporary storm shutters.

This brochure highlights some of the options for protecting your windows and doors. Contact your local jurisdiction for further suggestions on how to best protect your home from wind damage.

Impact Resistant Glass

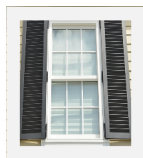
To satisfy most local jurisdiction's code standards, any new windows installed are required to meet at least a minimum Design Pressure (DP) rating. The stronger the rating, the more likely the window will resist shattering. Contact your local jurisdiction to find out the minimum DP rating that is acceptable.

Permanent Storm Shutters

Permanent storm shutters offer window protection that is often easy to implement. Building codes now require protection for all new window installations within hurricane zones. Pre-existing windows should also be protected. Permanent storm shutters come in a variety of types. Whatever type you choose, ensure that you purchase code compliant shutters.

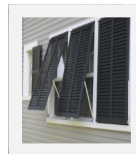
Colonial Shutters

Colonial shutters are permanently mounted on hinges and swing inward and latch to protect your window. Most colonial shutters can be closed from inside if you have double-hung windows.



Bahama Shutters

Bahama shutters are louvered panels permanently attached above windows on a hinge. They are opened and closed by moving two adjustable support rods. They can be closed from inside the house if you have double hung windows. Keep in mind that Bahama Shutters will obstruct your window view.



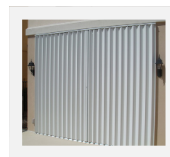
Rolling Shutters

Rolling shutters resemble miniature garage doors that roll downward or upward from a self-contained and permanent housing outside the window. They are operated using a hand crank, electric switch or remote control. There are even rolling shutters that are equipped with a wind sensor and will automatically close when the wind reaches a certain strength.



Accordion Shutters

Accordion shutters are installed on a permanent track outside of the house and when needed they are rolled horizontally across the window or door. If you have double-hung windows, some accordion shutters can be closed from the inside.

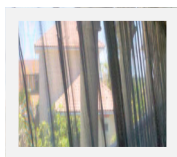


Temporary Storm Shutters

Temporary storm shutters are often less expensive than permanent storm shutters. However, installing them takes time and requires outside work, sometimes on a ladder.

Mesh Fabric Hurricane Screens

Removable mesh fabric screens are installed over windows and doors or larger areas such as sunrooms and porches. The flexible screen deflects flying debris from hitting your window or door. Some screens can prevent water intrusion and pressurization that causes roof lift-off during a hurricane. The fabric is attached to the exterior of your home with mounting clips or grommets. The fabric is lightweight and folds compactly.



Storm Panels

Removable storm panels are made of relatively lightweight material such as aluminum, steel, and polycarbonate resin. They are cut to size and attached to your home's exterior with anchors or tracks.



Wood Structural Panels

Wood panels that are at least 5/8-inch thick provide basic protection for doors and windows. Plywood panels should be pre-cut and sized for each opening of the house and then labeled accordingly. Permanent anchors must be installed into the structure. This is among the least expensive options for protecting your windows, but wood panels are heavy and challenging to install, particularly above the first floor. They also require a large amount of storage space when not in use and they must be stored flat to avoid warping.



Protecting Doors

Strong winds can buckle any door that is not properly protected and secured. Doors that are partially or totally constructed of glass are particularly vulnerable.

Garage Doors

Garage doors are one of the areas of your home most vulnerable to hurricane force winds.

Some garage doors can be retrofitted. This may involve installing horizontal bracing onto each panel, heavier hinges, stronger center and end supports, and a stronger track. Alternatively, you can purchase reinforced and wind pressure rated garage doors which can withstand winds of up to 120 miles per hour. Check with your local jurisdiction for information about the wind pressure rating your garage door should meet.

