

# Hurricane Checklist from Meteorologist, Denis Phillips and his Facebook followers

Reference: [FB post](#)

1. Charge any device that provides light. Laptops, tablets, cameras, video cameras, and old phones.
  - a. Charge external battery backups.
  - b. Old cell phones can be used for dialing 911. And they can be used for a flashlight.
  - c. Glow sticks also provide light for a few hours. Stand them upright in a glass or jar to make a lantern.
2. Wash all trash cans, big and small, and fill them with water for flushing toilets. Line outdoor trash cans with trash bags, fill them with water, and store them in the garage. Add bleach to sterilize.
3. Fill every tub and sink with water. Cover sinks with Saran Wrap to keep it from collecting dust. Fill the washing machine and leave the lid up to store water.
4. Fill old empty water bottles and other containers with water and keep them near sinks for washing hands.
5. Fill every storage type container (s) with water and store in the freezer. These will help keep food cold longer and serve as a backup water supply.
6. Fill drinking cups with water and cover with Saran Wrap. Store as many as possible in the fridge. The rest you can store on the counter and use first before any water bottles are opened. FYI, ice can be impossible to find after a storm.
7. Reserve fridge space for storing tap water and keep the sealed water bottles on the counter.
8. Cook any meats in advance and other perishable foods. You can freeze cooked food. Hard boil eggs for snacks for first day without power.
9. Be well hydrated before the storm hits and avoid salty foods that make you dehydrated.
10. Wash all dirty clothes and bed sheets. Unwashed clothes will smell without the A/C, you may need the items, and with no A/C, you'll be sweating a lot. You're going to want clean sheets.
11. Toss out any expired food, clean cat litter boxes, and empty all trash cans in the house, including bathrooms. Remove anything that will cause an odor when the A/C is off. If you don't have a trash day pickup before the storm, find a dumpster.
12. Bring in any yard decor, secure anything that will fly around, secure gates, bring in hoses, potted plants, etc. Bring in patio furniture and grills.
13. Clean your environment so you have clear, easy escape routes. Even if that means temporarily moving furniture to one area.
14. Scrub all bathrooms so you are starting with a clean odor-free environment. Store water-filled trash cans next to each toilet for flushing.

15. Place everything you own that is important and necessary in a backpack or small file box that is easy to grab. Include your wallet with ID, phone, hand sanitizer, snacks, etc. Get plastic sleeves for important documents.
16. Make sure you have cash on hand. Tip: If you can, start stashing money in a lock box, etc. before a storm so you don't have to rush to the bank to withdraw.
17. Stock up on pet food and fill up bowls of water for pets.
18. Refill any medications. Most insurance companies allow for 2 emergency refills per year.
19. Fill your propane tanks. You can heat soup cans, boil water, make coffee, and other stuff besides just grilling meat. Get an extra, if possible.
20. Drop your A/C in advance and lower temperatures in your fridges.
21. Gather all candles, flashlights, lighters, matches, batteries, and other items and keep them accessible.
22. Clean all counters in advance. Start with a clean surface. Buy Clorox Wipes for cleaning when there is no power. Mop your floors and vacuum. If power is out for 10 days, you'll have to live in the mess you started with.
23. Pick your emergency safe place such as a closet under the stairs. Store the items you'll need in that location for the brunt of the storm. Make a hand fan for when the power is out.
24. Shower just before the storm is scheduled to hit.
25. Keep baby wipes next to each toilet. Don't flush them. It's not the time to risk clogging your toilet!
26. Run your dishwasher, don't risk having dirty smelly dishes and you need every container for water! Remember you'll need clean water for brushing your teeth, washing yourself, and cleaning your hands.
27. Put a small suitcase in your car in case you decide to evacuate. Also, put at least one jug of water in your car. It will still be there if you don't evacuate! Remember to pack for pets as well.
28. Check on all family members, set up emergency backup plans, and check on elderly neighbors.
29. Remember, pets are family. Take them with you!
30. Before the storm, unplug all electronics. There will be power surges during and after the storm.
31. Gas up your car and have a spare gas container for your generator or your car when you run out.
32. Use plastic cups and paper plates. You need water to wash dishes.... 🙄
33. If you run out of water tap your hot water heater it can have up to 30 gallons stored in there.
34. Put water in balloons and store it in the freezer.
35. If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown, flush it down!
36. Freeze a cup of water and place a coin on top after it is frozen...keep this in your freezer to help you gauge the temperature if the power goes out. If the coin stays on top, the food is staying frozen. If the coin falls into the water, the freezer thawed out and most food will likely need to be thrown away. This is

super helpful is you must leave and come back, as it may appear everything is still frozen, but if the coin is in the cup--you will know!!

37. It may help to take videos/pictures of all insured vehicles. Not sure how stuff works there. I do that here though.

38. Solar lights in your yard those are great to pull and put them out and in your home as a light source when you lose power

39. Tape battery operated string lights to bathroom mirrors. You'll have hands free lighting.

40. Always keep a few frozen bottles of water (usually the purified) in my freezer. If power goes out (not just in Hurricanes) I put them on the door in the refrigerator. It will keep things cold for a while. If power comes on you can put them back in the freezer or have cold water when they thaw out.

41. Invest in a battery-operated radio, with extra batteries. If power goes out, you'll still be able to listen to news and have noise in the background.

42. Pay as many bills as possible that are due during the week of the storm and 1 to 2 weeks after, if you can afford to. That way, if the power and Internet go out, and you normally pay your bills electronically, you've saved yourself a lot of aftermath hassle.

43. Fill ziplock-type bags of water in the freezer, too. Lay them flat in your freezer they don't take up much room. Easy to put in a cooler if needed and when thawed can drink or use the water.

44. Full bathtubs and important papers in dishwasher because it's sealed.

45. Have enough 9 volts batteries on hand if you have battery backup smoke detectors.

46. Put items that you can't take with you up high on shelves. If your dishwasher is empty, you can store items in there and lock the door to keep them dry and safe.

47. If you plan on hunkering down in the closet – get a 5-gallon bucket and a pool noodle cut the pool noodle to fit on the top of the bucket and use that as your toilet. If you end up being stuck in that closet for 5, 6, 7, 8 hours or more —you are going to need a toilet.

48. Have bug spray on hand. If tree limbs come down, it may disturb nests.

49. Take medical records for people and pets- take photos of rabies tags

50. Put all credit card, bank, insurance, mortgage company names, acct numbers, & phone numbers in your phone.

51. Have pet harnesses, leashes & crates handy.

52. Get a couple of LARGE bottles of hand sanitizer, a 6pk (ish) of paper towels.

53. Have extra garbage bags handy.

54. Have a new pack of each needed size of batteries.

55. Charge personal fans.

56. Consider turning on family locating services on each phone.

57. Be SURE to have a good hand can opener available.
58. Roofer tip: Take pics/vids of the outside state of your home as well. Be sure to be far enough away to get your roof line as well!! Email these pics or videos to yourself to have documentation of the state of the outside (as you stated the inside too) of your home... emailing it will have time stamps and will also be there in the chance you lose your phone. Your insurance agents will thank you!
59. Take a video of your house and contents... walk room to room--open cabinets/drawers and closets. This will help if you need to make a claim later. It will show proof of items and help you list all the items (help your memory, so you don't forget anything) ...I highly recommend it!!!
60. Cooling towels that you can wet, and they will keep you cool.
61. If your power goes out, and you want to preserve your cell phone battery, change your voicemail to give updates to people who might be checking in and tell them that you will update every couple hours or so to keep them informed.
62. If you can, park cars on higher ground.
63. If there is a gap in your door, duct tape straws in the gap.
64. Use washing machine as a cooler by adding ice, that way when the ice melted it drains.
65. Blow up any air mattresses that you need beforehand because the pump needs electricity.
66. Line clean black garbage cans with construction bags, filled them with hose water, tied the bag and duck taped down the lids, and secure in a safe place in the sun. Without power and water service, you'll have no hot/warm water for washing up, the water in the cans get quite warm.
67. Don't add bleach to any "washing" can until you know how you will use the water as you can use it to water plants if you don't need it, no waste.
68. Don't fill up tub and sinks, as we will need them for use and may have to get in the tub for tornado protection.
69. If sewer isn't working, you can't drain them so, keep a small container with a lid, and frozen water with a quarter on top, in your freezer. If not staying home, put all frozen food in garbage bags, then back in the freezer. Makes it easier to throw out if the quarter is not on top of the ice in the container. It also helps with cleaning out the frig and freezer upon returning home.
70. If you have yard lights that are solar, use those. Once out, stick them back outside for a new charge.
71. Another great water source is your pool water!! You can use it for water to flush your toilet with!!  
BONUS: Use water from a flooded ditch, too.
72. Can wash empty soda plastic bottles, fill with water and freeze them. If you lose power put a few in the frig to keep it cooler there. Or freeze storage bowls with water, too.
73. Use saran wrap to cover the bathtub drain cap because you may notice the water slowly drains out.
74. Take half of your bottled water supply and stick in the freezer to freeze now. Take all "Yeti/Stanley/Tervis" type containers with lids and fill the with water. Put them in fridge for at least 24 hours ahead so they chill. They will keep the fridge cooler, and you will have water to drink.

75. After the storm, if you were hit and have no power, remember you can charge your phone in the car. We had chargers for both cars.

76. Turn off sprinklers

77. Be patient!

\*\*\*\*And Denis Phillips' rule #7: "Don't freak out unless I'm freaking out..we're fine". Whatever comes our way, we've got this as long as we stay informed and prepared.