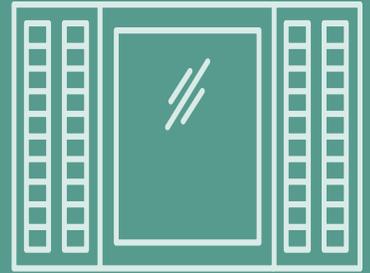


SHUTTERS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Keeping out wind and water is critical to the survival of your home during severe weather.



PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Protective barriers, such as shutters and impact-rated windows and doors, can go a long way in reducing the risk of home damage. Once a window breaks or a door or garage is breached, the inside of your home is exposed to both wind and wind-driven rain. Wind through an opening can cause a home to pressurize and create vast damage, like losing part or all of the roof or causing walls to blow out.

These protections should be installed well in advance of a storm. When possible, install permanent protection, such as impact-rated windows and doors or roll down shutters. If you are using temporary protection, still take proactive steps such as installing permanent fasteners on the building so that shutter panels can be put in place quickly when needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Scan the QR Code below



A NOTE ABOUT LEAVING WINDOWS OPEN

Never leave windows open, even slightly, during a storm. When wind is allowed to enter a building, the internal and external pressures can cause the structure to blow apart, which can result in the loss of the roof or exterior walls. Keep all openings closed and use shutters or other proven methods to prevent windows and doors from being broken or coming open.

TYPES OF SHUTTERS

There are many types of shutters available, such as traditional or colonial shutters. Make sure the shutters you choose have been tested to meet minimum storm requirements.

BAHAMA OR BERMUDA SHUTTERS

Permanent, decorative shutters are often made from aluminum and come in a variety of colors.

- These hinge from the top and are open at the bottom when not in use for storm protection.

LAHOUSE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

LaHouse, located on LSU's campus, features several different types of opening protection and serves as a great resource if you are in the process of selecting opening protections for your home.

Learn more at www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/family_home/home/lahouse

SHUTTERS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

ACCORDIAN SHUTTERS

- Permanent, easy to deploy option made with interconnected blades that operate between horizontal tracks.
- When not in use, the blades fold and are stored on either side of the opening.
- A benefit to this type of shutter is that they can be deployed from inside the home if the window is single- or double-hung.



ROLL-DOWN SHUTTERS

- Permanent, easy to deploy option.
- The shutter consists of a movable “curtain” of slats that is held in place by vertical tracks. When not in use, the shutter rolls up into a hood that is mounted above the window or door.
- This option can also help protect against wind-driven rain and comes in both electric and manual deployment styles.
- Another benefit is that they can be deployed at non-storm times for light control, insulation against heat and noise, or for privacy and security.

STORM PANELS

- Made from a range of material, including steel, aluminum, or polycarbonate.
- Installation options can vary, but many times include a track that is permanently installed above and below the opening.
- When needed, the storm panel can slip into the track and be secured using wing nuts.



PLYWOOD SHUTTERS

- One of the most common, least expensive options for windows.
- Plywood is available at almost every hardware store and offers good protection if properly installed.
- It is recommended to buy and prepare plywood with the recommended thickness of at least 5/8” well in advance of hurricane season, labeling each shutter for easier installation.

SHUTTERS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

- Disadvantages of plywood shutters:
 - Plywood can rot or warp if stored in a wet or warm area.
 - Plywood shutters are relatively heavy. You will need two people who can lift 30-40 pounds to install these shutters.
 - Installation of plywood shutters should not be attempted once the wind begins to blow. Hanging plywood in high winds is extremely dangerous.

A NOTE ABOUT WINDOW FILM AND TAPE

Aftermarket window film does not provide adequate opening protection and should not be considered for use when looking at window protection options. It is also a myth that tape will prevent windows from breaking when impacted by wind-borne debris. Do not rely on these methods to provide any reduction in damage during a wind event.

ENTRY AND GARAGE DOORS

One of the most important but overlooked openings in a home that requires protection is its doors — both the garage door and entry doors.

- When possible, use entry doors that are both wind- and impact-resistant. These often require professional installation due to the wind load that is put on the attachment points.
- The garage door is often a significant weakness during a hurricane due to its large area. Its failure can cause extensive damage.
 - Garage door options include replacement with a stronger door, horizontal bracing, vertical bracing, or other types of bracing kits.
- Replacing entry and garage doors with doors rated for wind and impact resistance can be cost-effective when compared to the cost of providing protection for the door.



RESOURCES

Preparing for Natural Hazards Factsheet Number 4

Visit our project website: www.laseagrant.org/resources/be-prepared

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