

# As You Rebuild

## Things you can try to do yourself as you rebuild:

- Install double entry doors that can be secured at the top and the bottom.
- Strengthen existing garage doors to improve the wind resistance, particularly double- wide garage doors.
- Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or one-half inch marine plywood that is pre-cut to fit your doors and windows.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts to prevent flooding and unnecessary pressure on the awnings.
- Select trees that are not as subject to uprooting to replace damaged ones. A landscaping professional can give you excellent advice.
- Identify a place to store lawn furniture, toys, gardening tools and trash cans that is away from stairs and exits to prevent them from being moved by high winds and becoming missiles.
- Strengthen existing garage doors to improve the wind resistance, particularly double-wide garage doors.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio to warn you of future severe storms.
- Hose down the inside of the home to remove health hazards from flood water and mud. Shovel out as much mud as possible. Quickly remove the water you use during this cleaning.
- If the flood water didn't get behind the walls, you can reduce the chances of mold and mildew by wiping down all surfaces that had gotten wet with a solution of one cup of liquid household bleach to a gallon of water.
  - Test painted, textured or wallpapered surfaces to ensure that the bleach solution will not discolor these surfaces. To conduct this test, wipe a small area of the surface with the bleach solution, and allow it to dry at least 24 hours.

## Ask a professional to:

- Ensure end gables are securely fastened to the rest of the roof.
- Fasten the roof to the walls with hurricane straps.
- Elevate your rebuilt home if it is near the coast and subject to flooding from storm surge.
- Look at common connections in wood frame buildings and add anchors, clips and straps that will provide more strength to your home.
- Reinforce masonry walls that provide structural support to your home.
- Permanently connect your manufactured home to its foundation to decrease the potential for damage from high winds.
- Check outlets before you use them.
- Relocate the fuse or circuit panel box above the level of anticipated flooding.
- Elevate the washer, dryer, furnace and water heater above the level of anticipated flooding.
- Install a backflow valve in your sewer system to prevent backflows.
- If flooding happens often, determine if your home can be relocated to higher ground.
- Prevent mold and mildew by ensuring your contractor installs waterproofing materials on exterior walls, and water-/mold-resistant products, such as green board drywall materials, if used in areas that have been flooded or may be damp or wet, such as basements and bathrooms. Consult with your building professional on additional products and applications available to help you reduce the growth of mold and mildew.
- Replace drywall and insulation that has been soaked by flood waters. Water-damaged drywall and insulation must be replaced. It cannot be dried out and maintain structural integrity, or resistance to mold and mildew.