

Inspection Checklist

Start Your Inspection

While you may be keen to assess damage to your home immediately, it puts you at unnecessary risk. You are safer, and it is easier to do the full-walk-around inspection of your home and the entire yard during daylight; it will also make it easier to take photos of any damage. Grab a camera or phone to take pictures and to make any notes about damage to your property; this will be a huge help for any insurance claims. Don't forget to document any damage you find. Even a small issue could lead to significant problems in the coming months. It would be best to hold on to any receipts and invoices for work done to your home.



Obey Orders

Were you evacuated due to the severity of the storm? If so, it is imperative to wait until permitted to return home. Post-disaster conditions can be hazardous.



Do you smell gas?

If you suspect a leak at any point during the hail storm or while you are doing your inspection, leave your house immediately, keep a safe distance, and call your utility company.



Keep your fire extinguisher handy

If the power is out, avoid candles and use flashlights instead for safety's sake. If you have to use candles, keep them away from anything that can catch fire. Have your fire extinguisher close, and make sure your family knows how to use it.



Stay dry

Stay out of floodwater as much as possible, wear protective gear if you have it. Wash your hands thoroughly and anything else that may be contaminated.

Don't use a wet electrical device.



Inspection Checklist (cont.)



Drink safe water

After a severe storm, water pipes may be compromised. Pay close attention to boil water alerts or any other warnings against drinking the tap water or bathing. Ensure that bottled water is a part of your Emergency prep kit.



Eat safe food

Throw away food that may have come in contact with flood or stormwater. Unsafe food can make you sick even if it looks, smells, and tastes normal. Throw away perishable foods that have not been refrigerated properly due to power outages; also discard foods with an unusual odor, color, or texture. When in doubt, throw it out.



Pay close attention to your smoke and CO detectors

You can't smell or see carbon monoxide. Fuel-burning equipment is what creates carbon monoxide (CO). This includes equipment like furnaces, generators, some dryers, and water heaters. Keep a CO detector monitoring your home at all times and if you hear it start beeping, leave your home right away and call 911.



Mind the Zap

While walking the outside of your home and around your property, keep alert and stay away from downed power lines. Never touch a fallen power line. Call the power company to report fallen power lines. Do not drive through standing water if downed power lines are in the water. Report them and keep a safe distance.



Document the details

Don't forget to document all the additional damage you find during your inspection, including foundation, fences, windows, broken panels on the side of your A/C equipment, playground equipment, pool deck, etc.

