

What do you need in a hurricane kit?

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Extra batteries
- Portable cellphone chargers. Keep them charged. Be sure to have charging cords and wall chargers in case the power is working in your shelter or other safe place.
- Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
- Battery-operated radio
- NOAA emergency weather radio
- Toilet paper
- Matches (camping stores have waterproof matches)
- Scissors
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguisher
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns. Don't use candles and kerosene lanterns. They are fire hazards.
- List of phone numbers
- Copy of insurance policy

Food to put into your hurricane kit.

- **Water:** Enough for **1 gallon of drinking water per person per day**, for **one-week minimum**. Water for two weeks is ideal. (Also, figure another 1 gallon per person/per day of water for washing hands, flushing toilets and for pets.)
- Ice or dry ice
- Shelf-stable milk and juice boxes
- Canned and powdered milk
- Beverages (powdered or canned, fruit juices, instant coffee, tea)
- Raw vegetables that don't need refrigeration (will last only a few days)
- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Dried fruits
- Prepared foods (canned soups, beef, spaghetti, tuna, chicken, ham, corned beef hash, packaged pudding)
- Snacks (crackers, cookies, hard candy, unsalted nuts)
- Snack spreads (peanut butter, cheese spreads, jelly)
- Cereals
- Sugar, salt, pepper
- Bread
- Dry and canned pet food

Hardware to put into your hurricane kit

- **Hand tools:** hammer, screwdrivers, shovel, and pickax for after the storm

- Power screwdriver
- Quarter-inch machine screw sockets and screws
- Plastic sheeting to cover furniture.
- Rope
- Sturdy working gloves.
- Duct tape to waterproof items; masking tape isn't strong enough.
- Canvas tarps
- Sturdy nails
- Zip Ties

First-aid kit should be part of your hurricane preparedness.

Stores will be mobbed just before a storm and closed for days after. Keep a two-week supply of prescription drugs. Your first-aid kit should include:

- Medical supplies
- First-aid handbook
- Insect repellent sprays
- Citronella candles, insect bite lotion
- Petroleum jelly for relieving itching
- Ointments for burns, cuts
- Antiseptic solution
- Sunscreen
- Extra over-the-counter medicine (for colds, allergies, cough)
- Aspirin, acetaminophen, antacid
- Children's medicines
- Diarrhea medication
- Feminine hygiene items
- Incontinence supplies
- Rubbing alcohol
- Iodine
- Disinfectant
- Wet wipes
- Moist towelette packets
- Medic Alert tags
- Thermometer
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Sterile rolls
- Adhesive bandages
- Sterile gauze pads
- Roller bandages
- Tweezers
- Needles
- Adhesive tape
- Safety pins

- Latex gloves

Think about adding these kitchen supplies to your hurricane kit

- Waterless hand sanitizer
- Manual can opener
- Water purification tablets
- Bottle opener
- Matches in a plastic bag.
- Pocket knife
- Camp stove or other cooking device and plenty of fuel. (Use only canned fuel indoors — never charcoal or gas. Buy extra gas or charcoal to use in well-ventilated space after storm has passed.)
- Ice chests or coolers
- Paper plates, napkins
- Plastic cups, utensils
- Disposable pans for cooking
- Plastic bags, jugs or containers for water and ice

Keep your vehicle's gas tank filled.

Keep your gas tank full. Stations could be without power for weeks after a catastrophic storm or it may be difficult for tankers to reach the area.

Hurricane preparations to make if you have a baby.

- Disposable diapers
- Baby wipes
- Diaper-rash ointment
- Baby medicines
- Medicine dropper
- Extra formula, baby food

Have you thought about an emergency toilet when it comes to hurricane supplies?

- Garbage can with tight lid or bucket with lid.
- Plastic bags for liners
- Disinfectant or bleach
- Deodorizer
- Extra toilet paper

Follow these water tips when getting ready for hurricane season.

- **Basics:** Enough for 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day, for one-week minimum (a two-person household would need 14 gallons). Another 1 gallon per person/per day of water for washing hands, flushing toilets and for pets.
- **Special needs:** Without air conditioning, your body is susceptible to heat stroke and dehydration. Have extra water for infants, youngsters, nursing mothers and the elderly.
- **Water in bulk:** You can buy 5- and 10-gallon water bottles, but they're hard to move. Or sanitize a large garbage can with lid to store drinking water. Pour 1 cup of regular, unscented household bleach into 30 gallons of water; let stand overnight, drain and rinse well. Fill with tap water and replace the lid. Buy a long-handled ladle; keep paper cups nearby. Freezing jugs of water also helps keep foods frozen and provides chilled drinking water.
- **For household use,** sanitize bathtub by scrubbing well, rinsing with 1 cup bleach in tub of water. Let stand overnight; drain; refill. Use for flushing toilet, but, if necessary, for washing.
- **Keep water clean!** Contaminated water can cause diarrhea, leading to dehydration. If drinking water is compromised, use it for washing up or flushing toilets. After a storm, do not use tap water for drinking unless you boil it for 3 minutes first or use purifying methods.
- Wait until your utility or local government says water is safe to drink.

Ice tips to follow as hurricane season arrives.

- **Freezing water jugs:** Buy 1-gallon containers of drinking water (2½ gallons, if your freezer will accommodate them), drain out about a half cup to leave room for expansion, seal tightly and freeze.
- **Keep jugs in freezer** even after power goes out; they last longer than in coolers. Once thawed, water is drinkable. Put into smaller bottles to carry, or use it from the larger jugs, but keep it clean and uncontaminated.
- **Buy block ice if possible** (from ice companies, boat supply stores, some grocery stores). It lasts up to three times longer than bagged, cubed ice.
- **Make your own blocks.** When a storm approaches, clean the freezer, and fill it with stackable containers of water. Large mixing bowls or small buckets work. Freeze, and when frozen, transfer ice blocks to sealable bags.
- **Buy extra coolers.** Smaller areas are easier to chill. Once the power goes out, and foods begin to thaw or warm, pack them, tightly, into the bottom of coolers, then top with ice.
- **Try the bathtub.** If you're not using the bathtub for water, use it for ice. Buy huge blocks and load the tub. Cover it with a tarp. Or fill with cubed ice; cover with newspapers and heavy tarp, then layer of plastic to keep cold in. Use drainplug to save water for other uses.
- **Put food under ice,** not above it.

Important documents to keep with your hurricane preparations

Keep these documents in a waterproof, portable container:

- Important telephone numbers
- Record of bank account numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Record of credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Copy of will, insurance policies, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Medical records
- Passports, Social Security cards, immunization records
- Travelers checks

What is covered by the Florida disaster preparedness sales tax holiday?

House Bill 7063 makes the following items exempt from sales tax during the two 14-day periods: **May 27th – June 9th** and **Aug. 26th -- Sept. 8th**

- Self-powered lights of \$40 or less.
- Portable self-powered radio, two-way radio, or weather-band radio of \$50 or less.
- A tarpaulin or other flexible waterproof sheeting with a sales price of \$100 or less.
- An item normally sold as, or generally advertised as, a ground anchor system or tie-down kit with a sales price of \$100 or less.
- A gas or diesel fuel tank with a sales price of \$50 or less.
- A package of AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries, with a sales price of \$50 or less.
- A nonelectric food storage cooler with a sales price of \$60 or less.
- A portable generator used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage with a sales price of \$3,000 or less.
- Reusable ice with a sales price of \$20 or less.
- A portable power bank with a sales price of \$60 or less.
- A smoke detector or smoke alarm with a sales price of \$70 or less.
- A fire extinguisher with a sales price of \$70 or less.
- A carbon monoxide detector with a sales price of \$70 or less.

The tax holidays also include a number of items related to the safe evacuation of household pets. Exempted items include:

- Bags of dry dog food or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$100 or less per bag.
- Cans or pouches of wet dog food or cat food with a sales price of \$10 or less per can or pouch or the equivalent if sold in a box or case.
- Over-the-counter pet medications with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
- Portable kennels or pet carriers with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
- Manual can openers with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
- Leashes, collars, and muzzles with a sales price of \$20 or less per item.
- Collapsible or travel-sized food bowls or water bowls with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
- Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$25 or less per item.
- Cat litter pans with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
- Pet waste disposal bags with a sales price of \$15 or less per package.
- Pet pads with a sales price of \$20 or less per box or package.
- Hamster or rabbit substrate with a sales price of \$15 or less per package.
- Pet beds with a sales price of \$40 or less per item.

The bill says common household consumable items selling for \$30 or less will be exempt from sales taxes.

What are "common household consumable items"? Those include:

- Powder detergent; liquid detergent; or pod detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, stain removers, and bleach.
- Toilet paper.
- Paper towels.
- Paper napkins and tissues.
- Facial tissues.
- Hand soap, bar soap and body wash.
- Sunscreen and sunblock.
- Dish soap and detergents, including powder detergents, liquid detergents, or pod detergents or rinse agents that can be used in dishwashers.
- Cleaning or disinfecting wipes and sprays.
- Hand sanitizer.
- Trash bags.