Possessions and Documents

- Keep these records in a waterproof, portable container:
  - Will, insurance policies, contracts deeds, stocks and bonds
  - Passports, social security cards, immunization records
  - Bank account numbers
  - Credit card account numbers and companies

- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supplies kit in the trunk of your car.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags.
- Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh.
- Replace your stored food every six months.
- Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.
Make sure your flood insurance is up to date with proper coverage.
If your home isn’t located in a flood zone, that doesn’t mean you don’t need to have the proper precautions in place, including flood insurance — especially in Florida. Hurricanes are unpredictable and dangerous, and the water they produce is more deadly than the wind. It’s important to remember that water doesn’t stop at a line on a map.

Get bug spray for the entire family, including your pets.
In addition to the waves of both water and frustration a hurricane brings, there are tides of mosquitoes to contend with. Those nasty ‘skeeters are annoying and could spread disease, so protect your family with an EPA-registered insect repellent. And don’t forget about your furry family members — the DEET often found in human repellents can harm your pets, so make sure they have their own animal-friendly product!

Chlorine bleach can be your best friend when it comes to keeping clean through a hurricane.
Bleach can be used to disinfect a wide variety of things, but the most important one is water. The FDA advises using \( \frac{1}{8} \) teaspoon of bleach per 1 gallon of water – it’ll be safe to drink in just half an hour!

Laminate copies of important documents for extra protection.
Keeping essential documents in waterproof bags might do the trick – but if you want the ultimate peace of mind, make copies of your identification and important documents and then laminate them. Don’t forget to print out a contact information sheet so you’ll have the names and numbers you need in case your phone dies and you’re unable to connect to power.

Keep a list of what’s in your fridge!
With an inventory of your refrigerator’s contents, you’ll know exactly what’s inside – minimizing how many times you open the door out of boredom, wondering what there is to eat. Take it a step further by mapping out where each product is – you’ll be able to grab exactly what you need in a matter of seconds, preserving the precious cold air that’s keeping your food from spoiling.

Keep yourself cool with a battery-powered fan.
Once the A/C is out, the notorious Florida humidity will start creeping up in no time. Stay comfortable with a battery-powered fan, and don’t forget those extra batteries! If the power goes out during a colder time of the year, have some hand warmers ready to go.