Tools and Supplies

- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- Emergency preparedness manual
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cash and/or change
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife
- Fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type
- Tube tent
- Pliers
- Tape
- Compass
- Lighter or matches in a waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil
- Needles, thread
- Medicine dropper
- Shut-off wrench to turn off household gas and water
- Whistle
- Plastic sheeting
- List of local shelters
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 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.