

# Hurricane Supply Checklist

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*By Tribune Staff of The Tampa Tribune*

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When there's a hurricane fast approaching, safety should be the first thing on your mind. Be prepared to act quickly by gathering everything your family might need ahead of time.

## **Food**

- One gallon of water per day for each person for drinking and food preparation, stored in plastic containers. Plan for three to seven days.
- A three- to seven-day supply of canned or nonperishable food that requires little or no preparation or heating. Include snacks and baby food or formula, if needed.
- Food and water for pets for three to seven days
- A manual can opener
- Paper plates, plastic utensils, plastic bags, plastic garbage bags, waterproof containers and foil
- Two coolers — one for food, one for ice
- Fuel for any nonelectric cooking source, such as charcoal or propane gas, and matches

## **Hygiene**

- Personal toiletries
- Diapers, if needed
- Antiseptic hand cleanser for each family member
- Chlorine bleach
- Detergent and cleaners

## **Electronics**

- A flashlight and spare batteries for each person
- A battery-powered radio and spare batteries
- A telephone that plugs directly into a wall jack. Portable phones won't work without electricity, and cellular service could be disrupted.

## **Health**

- A first-aid kit with bandages, gauze pads, tape, antibacterial ointment, antidiarrhea medication, pain medication, antacids, tweezers, scissors, soap and alcohol
- Mosquito repellent and sunscreen for each family member
- Prescription medication for two weeks. Check with your pharmacist about the shelf life of the medicine.

- Spare hearing aid batteries, and chargers and adaptors for medical equipment, if needed

## Home

- Plastic tarp
- Tool kit
- Camera and film
- Masking tape
- Extra gas for generator
- Zip-top plastic bags for storing supplies

## Hurricane Luxuries

Although food, water and medicines always top the supplies list, here are a few suggestions for those who might feel like going the extra mile this year.

### Bye-Bye Batteries

Don't feel like spending a ton on batteries for all those flashlights, cell phones and radios? If you usually splurge on these products, you won't have to. They're powered by the sun, hand cranks or, in one case, shaking.

- Self-Powered Dynamo Flashlight: This pocket-size flashlight is powered by a crank and provides about a minute of emergency cell phone power after about five minutes of cranking. It comes with cables that fit most cell phones, and the crank doubles as a handle for six screwdriver heads stored inside. Available at Sharper Image for \$29.95
- Hummer Shake Flashlight: A 30-second shaking gets this bad boy glowing for up to five minutes. Inspired and licensed by GM's Hummer, the flashlight is shock-proof, rubber-guarded, waterproof and floatable. Available at Sharper Image for \$24.95.
- Freeplay EyeMax Radio/Flashlight: Shed some light on things with this radio-flashlight combo, which can draw power from the sun, a hand crank or an AC adapter. Available at Sharper Image for \$39.95.
- Shortwave Emergency Radio: The American Red Cross and Eton teamed up to provide this AM/FM radio, which doubles as a cell phone charger and light source. The radio can be hand-powered, internal NiMH rechargeable battery pack, AC adapter or three AA batteries. Just 90 seconds of cranking generates enough juice for about an hour of power. Available at Sharper Image for \$59.95.

### Keep Your Cool

Dealing with a storm's aftermath can be twice as miserable with no power. Here are some cool options.

- ❑ **Hot+Cold Mini Fridge:** Plug this small wonder into your car to chill or heat beverages and food. It works without liquid refrigerants, noisy motors or messy condensation. Available at Sharper Image for \$99.95.
- ❑ **Coleman Cool Zephyr Ceiling Fan With Light:** Meant for use in a tent, this fan runs on four D batteries and could provide a bit of a break for those camping out at home. Available at Target for \$24.99.

### **Comforts Of Home**

Emergency shelters and other places of refuge are essential, but they're not always comfortable. Here are a couple of items that could make your stay more pleasant:

- ❑ **Greatland Self-Inflating Mat:** When you don't have room for an air mattress but don't want to sleep on the floor, this could be the way to go. Simply open the inflation valve, and the mat automatically fills with air. Available at Target for \$19.99.
- ❑ **Multifunction convertible rolling cooler and picnic table:** Roll it in, unload the goods, fold down the sides, and set up the chairs. This dining room on wheels goes from cooler to table and chairs in minutes. Available at Target for \$59.99.

### **Food For Thought**

For those of us who comfort ourselves with food, a can of lukewarm beans won't ease the stress of a hurricane. But being prepared might.

- ❑ **Coleman Peak Micro Backpack Stove:** So you don't have room to store a large grill year-round? This stove's compact design is perfect for apartment dwellers. It uses a Coleman 16.4-ounce propane cylinder. Available at Target for \$29.99.
- ❑ **Brikka 4-Cup Coffee Pot:** The stress of a hurricane is bad enough. It's even worse when you're going through coffee withdrawal. This aluminum pot sits on the stove top to heat up your brew. Available at Target for \$49.99.

### **Matters Of Hygiene**

The power's off. The water's not working. You've got bug spray in your eye, and you need to use the bathroom. Here's how to remedy the situation:

- ❑ **Reliance Wash 'n Go Sink:** Set this portable sink on a flat surface, fill it with water and clean until your heart's content. With a handy mirror built into the lid, the sink comes loaded with compartments to hold soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors and a cup. It drains through a spigot on the side. Available at Target for \$34.99.
- ❑ **Reliance Luggable Loo Portable Toilet:** Avoid bathroom woes by using this portable, lightweight toilet with a snap-on seat and cover. Line it with a toilet bag for no-mess cleanup. Available at Target for \$14.99.
- ❑ **Reliance Solar Spray Shower:** Made of black polyethylene, this portable shower's reservoir heats water to nearly 100 degrees after soaking in the sun for 2 1/2 hours. It holds 5 gallons (enough for about three showers) and collapses for easy packing. Available at Target for \$9.99.