

# STEPS TO SECURE A VULNERABLE PROPERTY BEFORE THE NEXT STORM



This time of year can often bring back to back weather events that leave properties vulnerable to further damage. If you or your property has been affected by a recent storm, please make sure the area is safe and secure before accessing it. Also, as impending storms arise, it is advisable to follow all evacuation protocols. Property can be restored; the safety of you and others should be the priority.

The guide below has been created to help you navigate ensuing conditions that may cause loss.

## KEY STEPS TO SECURE YOUR PROPERTY:

**Assess Damage:** Conduct a thorough inspection of your property to identify the most vulnerable areas (roofs, windows, doors, etc.).

**Prioritize Repairs:** Focus on securing the most critical issues, such as exposed roofs or broken windows.

**Use Heavy-Duty Tarps:** If your roof is damaged, cover exposed areas with waterproof tarps to prevent further water intrusion.

**Seal Windows & Doors:** Use plywood or storm shutters to protect broken or weak windows and doors.

**Remove Loose Debris:** Clear your surrounding areas of any fallen branches, debris, and loose objects that could become dangerous projectiles in high winds.

**Trim Trees & Shrubs:** Cut back overhanging limbs that could potentially fall and cause more damage to your building.

**Secure Make-Shift Fixes:** Strengthen any temporary repairs you've made since the last storm, ensuring they can withstand the incoming winds and rain.

**Check Sandbags or Barriers:** If you've placed sandbags or flood barriers, make sure they are still in place and add more if necessary.

**Document Everything:** Take photos of your property's current state and any repairs you've made, which may be crucial for insurance claims.

**Contact Your Insurance:** Reach out to your insurance provider to report any new or worsening damage and ensure you're covered for additional losses.

**Seek Immediate Assistance:** If the damage is too extensive or you're unsure how to secure your home properly, contact a licensed property restoration service.

**24/7 Emergency Response:** Many restoration companies offer immediate services to help protect your property before the storm hits.