

Mitigation for Buildings against Storm Damage

Several actions can be taken to minimize the damage to property in storms:

- Install tie downs on mobile homes. These are most effective against the relatively common straight-line winds. They are ineffective against winds exceeding 50 mph.
- Install truss bracing (2-by-4-inch lumber) along the length of the inside of the roof. These should be 18 inches from the ridge and spaced every 8 to 10 feet.
- Install gable end braces by constructing a large X of lumber on the inside of the roof span.

Use “hurricane straps,” which are metal strips that are nailed over the joint of the truss and support lumber.

- Install double-entry doors to prevent pressure buildup inside the house. The inactive door should be bolted shut when not in use.
- Reinforce double-door garages with 2-by-4-inch horizontal bracing lumber or install a storm-resistant door and track system.
- Fit storm shutters, which may require a building permit in some areas, or store plywood panels to fit over the windows and doors. These should have small holes in their centers to allow the pressure to equilibrate. Panels should be 8 to 10 inches wider than the window or door and fitted with screws or bolts (not nails). If the panels are not wide enough to cover the entire window or door, the double panel should be reinforced with a horizontal brace.