

Protect Your Home from Extreme Weather

Natural disasters are on the rise across the U.S. If you're a new homeowner, here are some tips to help protect your property during extreme weather events and make it more resilient to climate hazards.

WILDFIRES

- ✓ **Clear a space of at least 100 feet around your home** and remove dead or dry vegetation and other flammable materials.
- ✓ **Install tempered glass windows** which are more resistant to breaking during a wildfire.
- ✓ **Cover vents and windows with metal mesh screens** to prevent embers from entering.
- ✓ Ensure that your **homeowners insurance covers damage from wildfires**.

FLOODS

- ✓ **Consider elevating the home's foundation** if it's in a flood-prone area.
- ✓ **Install backflow valves on all pipes** to prevent sewage backup during a flood.
- ✓ **Install a sump pump** to prevent water from seeping into your basement or crawlspace.
- ✓ **Purchase flood insurance.**

DROUGHT

- ✓ **Use drought-resistant plants** and landscaping.
- ✓ **Use a drip irrigation system** instead of sprinklers to conserve water.
- ✓ **Install low-flow fixtures and appliances** to reduce water usage.
- ✓ **Collect rainwater in a barrel** to use for watering plants.

SEVERE STORMS AND HURRICANES

- ✓ **Install impact-resistant tempered windows, doors, or storm shutters** to protect against high winds and flying debris.
- ✓ **Keep your trees trimmed to remove weak branches** that may fall on your house.
- ✓ **Have a backup power source**, such as a generator, in case of power outages.
- ✓ **Review your insurance coverage** and make sure it covers wind and storm damage.

EXTREME HEAT

- ✓ **Install a high-efficiency air conditioning system** to reduce energy usage and costs.
- ✓ **Plant shade trees or install shading devices** such as awnings or shutters to block direct sunlight from entering your home.
- ✓ **Seal air leaks around windows, doors, and ductwork** to prevent hot air from entering.
- ✓ **Use a programmable thermostat** to control the temperature and save energy.

Even with these precautions in place, there is no guarantee that a home will make it through an extreme weather event unharmed. However, these steps can reduce the impact of property damage. Consult with a professional to determine the best strategies for your situation. ★