

# Preparing your Air Conditioning System for Hurricanes

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has released its forecast for the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season which runs from June 1 through November 30 and they're predicting another above-average hurricane season, with 14 to 21 named storms and 3 to 6 major hurricanes.

Like most Floridians, you probably have a well-worn routine you break into whenever there's a storm on the horizon. You bring in plants and patio furniture, board up windows, and stock up on food, water and batteries. If preparing your Air Conditioning System isn't part of that ritual – it should be!

**These tips will keep you comfortable and your AC protected in the event of a hurricane:**

## Secure the Unit

Make sure your outdoor unit is properly secured to the concrete. Check the metal bolts and straps that hold your system in place for signs of rust or deterioration which could make the unit vulnerable to high winds.

## Clear and Cover

Prior to the storm, bring in any outdoor tables, chairs or other items that could become airborne and cause damage to the AC System. You can even cover the outside unit with a tarp in order to keep it free from flying leaves, dirt and other debris, but make sure to remove the covering before you turn the unit back on!

## Cool Down Your House

Before the threat of the storm is imminent, try cooling your house as much as possible so you are comfortable for a while after you turn off your AC System.

## Turn Off the Power

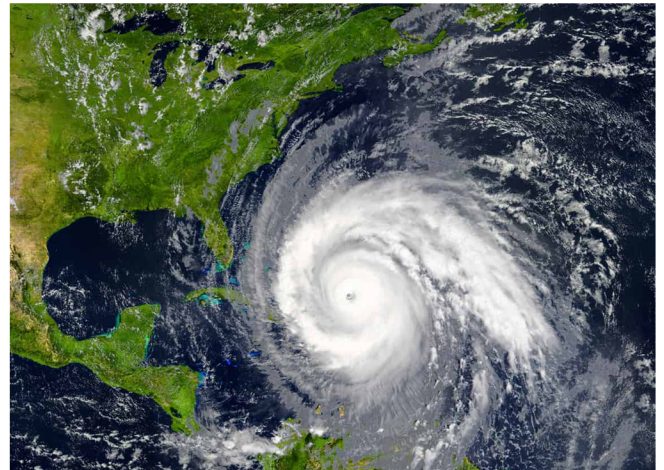
Nearly 90% of all electrical system damage occurs when the AC is left on during a thunderstorm or hurricane. You may have to tolerate a bit of heat and humidity when you turn off your AC but leaving it on could cost you thousands of dollars in repairs.

## Wait 20 Minutes

Keep the AC System turned off until the storm passes and don't be in a rush to turn it back on. In the event of flooding, do not restore the power to the equipment until the system is completely dry and you are certain that it is safe to do so.

Even if the unit looks unharmed and it is not flooded, wait at least 20 minutes after the power is restored to turn the AC System back on. Unstable or "dirty" power is common in the minutes after the power returns.

**Stay safe and don't forget to include your AC System in your Hurricane Preparedness Plan.**



**Sean McCutcheon's**  
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