



# PROJECT IMPACT MAKING AMERICA DISASTER RESISTANT TAKE ACTION NOW

## REDUCE HURRICANE DAMAGE

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*Through Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities – communities have already taken the responsibility to lessen the damage that they might have otherwise experienced. Homes and businesses may be damaged or destroyed by high winds. Debris can break windows and doors, allowing high winds and rain or hail inside the structure. The force of the wind alone, can cause weak places in your structure to fail. Take action to strengthen these four places in your structures: roofs, exterior doors, windows, and garage doors, and also clear debris from the area.*

**ROOF** Gabled roofs need additional truss bracing to make your roof system stronger. Truss bracing consists of 2x4s running the length of your roof and gable-end bracing consists of 2x4s in an X pattern. Learn more about protective measures from your local home improvement store. Hurricane straps can also keep your roof attached to your walls, but may be difficult for homeowners to install. Consult a professional.

**EXTERIOR DOORS** Most double-entry doors have an active and inactive door. Check to see if the fixed door is secure enough. Some door manufacturers provide reinforcing bolt kits or you can buy and install door bolt materials. Check with your local home improvement store.

**WINDOWS** There are many types of manufactured storm shutters or you can make your own plywood shutters. Check with your local home improvement store and call your local building official to determine if a permit is necessary. And remember to cover all exposed windows and glass, even French doors and sky-lights. Plywood shutters should be made of 5/8 inch exterior plywood and installed using bolts and masonry anchors.

**GARAGE DOORS** Two-car garage doors pose a problem because they wobble in high winds and can blow out of their tracks or collapse. Some garage doors can be strengthened with retrofit kits. Some garage doors can be reinforced by installing horizontal bracing on each panel. You may also need heavier hinges and stronger center supports. Also, check the strength of your garage door track.

**CLEAR DEBRIS** Clear debris away from structures, so they do not become airborne missiles. Check with your community officials about tree pruning and clearing.

**NOTE:** These actions can help strengthen your structure against typhoons, as well.

Attention Editors, a digital copy of this illustration can be obtained from Gretchen Gasowski by calling 202-737-2622, ext. 128. For Project Impact Information, contact Kim Fuller at 202-646-4117.