

Closing Your Florida Home Guidelines

The University of Florida IFAS Extension has designated the following list to assist you in preparing to close your home for the season.

- Have your air conditioning system serviced (this should be done annually).
- Have an air conditioning service professional calibrate the humidistat.
- Air Conditioner should run **at least** two hours out of every 24.
- Vacuum upholstered furnishings and leave cushions upright.
- Clean with fungicidal products (i.e. chlorinated phenols) to remove existing spores.
- Empty and thoroughly clean freezer and refrigerator.
- With the exception of an optional box of baking soda, leave refrigerator empty.
- Disconnect refrigerator and leave door ajar.
- Empty dishwasher and leave door unlatched.
- Run 1 dozen ice cubs and 2 or 3 tablespoons of baking soda in garbage disposal to clean blades.
- Dispose of cereals, crackers, and pastas to avoid household pests.
- Unopened jars and cans of food can be left on the shelves.
- Flour, sugars and salt should be stored in tightly sealed containers.
- Clean cabinet interiors and exteriors.
- Clean oven, broiler and drip trays under the surface units of the range.
- Clean portable appliances.
- Disconnect all electrical appliances, computers and televisions.
- Leave only clean cloths in closets and allow space between garments.
- Do not leave items on the floor.
- Do not wrap garments or other items in plastic (unless the air can be removed from the bag). This may increase mildew.
- Leave all closet doors open to permit air circulation.
- Clean all bathroom surfaces and fixtures.
- Cover toilet **and** tank with plastic and secure with duct tape. (You may want to pour a few drops of bleach in the bowl water).
- Put stoppers in all drains and cover all drains with duct tape.
- Bring in outdoor furniture, grills and anything that may cause damage if a storm occurs. (This includes hanging objects, potted plants, lawn ornaments, garden hoses from spigots).
- Screened enclosures are not considered indoors; a garage is suitable storage.
- Turn off the water from outside your unit.
- Water valves on toilets and washing machines can also be turned off.
- Turn off electric water heater.
- Turn off power to garage door opener.
- Close hurricane shutters.
- Discontinue mail and newspaper delivery.
- Lock doors and take security precautions.
- Ensure a responsible person has your contact information in the event of a problem or situation that affects your property.

With any luck it will be a quiet hurricane season.
Enjoy your summer.