Hurricane checklist for sliding doors

Your sliding glass door is the biggest opening in your home. Tick each step as you go.

3 days before

- [ ] Clean the track and clear the weep holes.
- [ ] Close and lock the door. Make sure the latch catches firmly.
- [ ] Check the weatherstrip and replace any that is torn or flat.
- [ ] Find your shutters or panels and all their hardware. Test-fit one.
- [ ] Photograph your doors and windows now, for insurance.
- [ ] Book repairs early. Pros fill up fast before a storm.

1 day before

- [ ] Put up shutters or storm panels over the sliding door.
- [ ] Bring in patio furniture, plants, grills and anything loose.
- [ ] Close and lock every panel of the door.
- [ ] Lay rolled towels along the inside of the bottom track.
- [ ] Move rugs, electronics and furniture away from the door.
- [ ] Do not tape the glass. Tape does not stop it from breaking.

During

- [ ] Stay away from the sliding door and all windows.
- [ ] Keep the door closed and locked. Never open it to "equalize pressure".
- [ ] Shelter in an interior room, closet or hallway.
- [ ] If glass breaks, leave the room and close the interior door behind you.
- [ ] Do not go outside to fix anything until the storm has fully passed.

After

- [ ] Photograph any damage and water before you clean or move anything.
- [ ] Clear debris from the track before you slide the door.
- [ ] Do not force a door that sticks. It may be off its track.
- [ ] Dry the track, the floor and the wall around the frame.
- [ ] Make temporary repairs to stop more damage, and keep the receipts.
- [ ] Send us a photo for a free check before you pay for a repair.

Do not

- [ ] Tape the glass. Tape does not stop it from breaking.
- [ ] Open a door or window to "equalize pressure".
- [ ] Go outside to fix anything until the storm has fully passed.

Follow your local emergency officials. If you are told to evacuate, go.