

Hurricane-Proof Windows: What You Should Know

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Hurricane-Proof Windows: What You Should Know

Now that you're on your way to finding a [window replacement contractor](#) to help you further protect your home, ensure its present sturdiness, and subsequently increase its long-term value, it's a good idea to understand the critical role windows play in the infrastructure of your home.

Hurricanes leave both to the cheer and dismay of the people living in the cities they ravage. Though the storm is past, the ordeal of repairing its damages has just begun. And while the consequences of hurricanes can be tragic, they're almost always certain to be very, very expensive.

"We have very recent reminders that these storms can be catastrophic," reads a March 2019 report from [online science news site Phys.org](#). Here are some of the total damages in dollars from the last decade, according to data from [the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#):

- 2005's Hurricane Katrina, \$161 billion
- 2017's Hurricane Maria, \$90 billion
- 2017's Hurricane Harvey, \$125 billion
- 2012's Hurricane Sandy, \$71 billion

"Urban coastal areas are under a major threat ... The amount of damage a hurricane creates depends on the intensity and characteristics of the storm, combined with the physical and social setting of the coastal area that it hits," the reports explains.

“Cities face a high risk of hurricane-related disasters since they contain higher populations and more infrastructure.”

Understanding your windows’ ability to handle winds and various elements inherent in hurricane weather is crucial to protecting you, your family, your property, and of course your home. An experienced contractor will not only assess the quality of your windows but also contrast it with knowledge about the local weather conditions.



At Modernize, we frequently speak to homeowners about their home improvement projects. In our recent interviews, 90 percent of homeowners requested a checklist to help them find and vet contractors for window replacement projects. Modernize now offers homeowners a free, digital [Contractor Checklist](#) as a simple, step-by-step guide to assist with your window replacement or upgrade project.

[FIND LOCAL WINDOW CONTRACTORS TODAY](#)

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What Are Impact-Resistant Windows?

As their name implies, impact-resistant windows are designed to withstand the impact of various elements. The window is constructed of impact-resistant glass mounted within a heavy-duty frame, which is then securely anchored within the window's interior frame.

Common options include:

- [Vinyl frames](#)
- [Wood frames](#)
- Metal or a blending of these materials

What Are the Types of Shatter-Resistant Glazing?

A common feature of impact-resistant windows is their glaze.

Laminated glass is made with [double-paned glass](#), which is comprised of an inner impact-resistant membrane situated between the panes. The glazing film is available in assorted tint styles that also work to regulate UV rays and lessen fading due to the sun. If stray debris strikes the window, it should be able to withstand the trauma. And while the glass itself may shatter, the reinforced frame is designed to hold the shattered pieces together.

An **impact-resistant film** could also be placed over each pane of glass. While not as sturdy as the inner membrane of the laminate, it similarly helps keep shards of broken glass in place should the window shatter. How well the window film functions depends on the stability of the window glazing and the [window frame](#).

What Type of Impact-Resistant Windows Are Best For Me?

When you're seeking to [replace your windows](#), it's important you study [each window manufacturer](#) to get a solid understanding of how its windows will react to harsh weather conditions, whether impact-resistant or not.

You can study guidelines for safe window construction in hurricane regions in [this report from the Federal Emergency Management Agency](#).

"In coastal environments, numerous post-disaster investigations conducted by FEMA have shown that windows and glazed portions of doors are vulnerable to impact from windborne debris," it reads. "Debris from the natural environment (e.g., tree limbs) and from the built environment (e.g., roofing material, siding material, sawn lumber, etc.) can become windborne debris and break window and door glazing. Once broken, windows and glazed portions of doors can allow wind, windborne debris, and rain into the interior of the building."

A trustworthy contractor will consult you on the right window to go with, and answer any questions you might have about the recommendation or your own preferred companies. No matter what, remember this window replacement project is for your home — you decide what's good enough.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT IMPACT-RESISTANT WINDOWS](#)

How Much Do Impact-Resistant Windows Cost?

Along with facing higher regulations like the ones cited above, and naturally comprising heavier and more durable materials, windows are more expensive than traditional by design.

Replacing your windows for the correct, climate-appropriate style is a costly, but worthwhile, investment. Calculating exact costs is complex, but final estimates will include considerations that include:

- [Window brand](#)
- Window material

- Window glazing
- Where you live
- The size of your existing windows
- The number of windows you will need
- And of course the cost of installing the windows and completing the window replacement project.

Generally, impact-resistant windows with laminated glazing for standard-sized window frames can average anywhere from \$400 to \$800 per window. Labor and installation costs could average between \$1,000 and \$3,000.

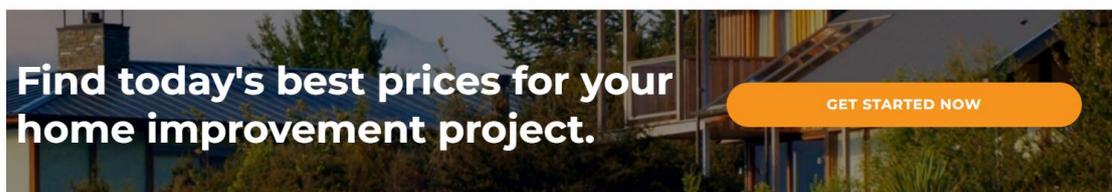
Rebates and Tax Incentives

Like other safety and home improvement investments, the government might subsidize some of the costs of replacing your windows to high-performance, hurricane-resistant windows.

They may qualify for certain rebates and tax incentives due to their increased [energy savings](#).

Search the incentives and rebates in your state using the national [Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency](#). But also rely on your contractor to list out and explain your options to you. Part of that contractor's value proposition is expertise in local law, regulation, and incentivization regarding your project. Be confident in both your project and the contractor doing it.

To find the best window replacement contractor today, [learn more about what companies like Modernize can do for you](#).



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