



SURVIVING THE STORM

Preparing for a Hurricane

Water Sewer Solid Waste

Be Prepared!

In the event of an approaching hurricane, plan for its arrival as well as the aftermath.

Your water, sewer and solid waste services will most likely be disrupted for a period of time. You need to be prepared for this.

The information provided here can help you prepare for a water, sewer and/or solid waste service emergency.



Preparedness Checklist

Things to do

- Sterilize bathtub, jugs, bottles, and other containers for water storage.
- Freeze water in plastic jugs.
- Take unused and hazardous household chemicals and electronics to the Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center.
- Remove large pieces of yard debris.
- Prune trees and limbs.

Things to buy & keep on hand

- 5-gallon buckets with tight fitting lids
- Household chlorine bleach (*pure, unscented, liquid*)
- Heavy duty plastic trash bags
- Deodorizer (e.g. *carpet deodorizer*)
- Water purification tablets



Communication Information

Pinellas County Utilities

Customer Service
(727) 464-4000

Pinellas County Utilities

Solid Waste
(727) 464-7500

Website Information

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency
www.pinellascounty.org/utilities

Evacuation Zone Information

(727) 464-3800
(727) 453-3150 *Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)*

Citizens Information Center (C.I.C.)

• *This number is activated only during an emergency.*
(727) 464-4333

KNOW YOUR ZONE!

Visit <http://gis.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone> to check your evacuation zone on the new 2010 maps.





Water

Water Storage (1-2-3)

Store at least a **one week supply of water** for each member of your household (*one gallon per person per day*).

Store water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal **containers**.

You can also store water in your **bathtub**. Thoroughly clean, rinse, wipe with bleach then fill the tub.

Your **hot water heater** is another source of usable water.

- Before the storm, turn off the water inlet valve and the power to the water heater.
- Open the drain valve at the bottom to allow sediment to drain out until the water runs clear.
- Close the drain valve at the bottom, and turn on the water inlet valve to refill the water heater.

Purifying Water

Boiling is the safest way to purify water. Bring the water to a rolling boil for three minutes. Let the water cool before drinking.

As an alternative, use water purification tablets as directed or use liquid chlorine bleach (*household bleach*) to kill microorganisms. The disinfection procedure for liquid chlorine bleach is usually written on the label. If it is not given, read the percentage of available chlorine and use the guidelines below:

Available Chlorine (see container label)	Drops per Quart of Clear Water
1%	10
4-6%	2
7-10%	1

Do not use scented bleach, color safe bleach, or bleach with added cleaners. Mix the water thoroughly, and allow it to stand for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If it does not, the disinfecting process should be repeated.



Sewer

Waste Collection and Disposal

For use as emergency toilets, keep 5-gallon buckets with tight fitting lids:

- Line each bucket with a thick plastic trash bag liner.
- Add a disinfectant and/or deodorizer to the bucket to prevent microorganism growth and odor.
- Do not allow the bucket to become more than ¼ full before removing and replacing with a new liner and deodorizer. An overfilled liner may break during removal. Seal the used liners and store in another lined 5-gallon bucket with a lid or a lined trash can with a lid. It is a good idea to place a liner in these storage containers in case of leakage.
- Keep the storage container in a cool, dark place until proper disposal service is available.
- After disposal of the waste, clean and disinfect the bucket and storage container with a mixture of household bleach water (*1 part bleach to 10 parts water*).
- If indoor toilet facilities become available, they may be used in much the same way as the 5-gallon bucket. Turn off the water to the toilet, drain the water from the bowl, and use a trash bag as a liner.
- If sanitary sewer services are disrupted for an extended period of time, Pinellas County Utilities will provide alternate collection and disposal methods.
- Portable toilets may be distributed countywide if sewer services are disrupted for an extended period of time.



Solid Waste

Solid Waste Disposal

Clean out your refrigerator and garage before a hurricane hits. If evacuating, pack frozen goods and perishables in ice and take with you, or dispose of these items before you leave your home. Also, large items can cause unnecessary damage in hurricane force winds. Remove and dispose of large outdoor items such as discarded refrigerators, furniture and yard debris.

Household Electronics & Chemical Waste Disposal

The Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center (HEC3) accepts unwanted household electronics & chemicals for proper recycling or disposal. The center is located at 2855 109th Avenue North, St. Petersburg.

Hours

Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Sunday and all observed county holidays.

Special hours will apply during natural disasters.

Phone: (727) 464-7500

Acceptable and Non-Acceptable Items

What to bring: Automotive fluids, batteries (*household & vehicle*), cleaners, cooking oil, electronics, fertilizers, flares, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices, fuel (*gasoline, kerosene, diesel*), fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, motor oil, paint (*latex or oil*), paint remover, paint thinner, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents, smoke detectors, wood preservatives.

What NOT to bring: Appliances, biological or infectious waste, empty paint cans, explosives, fire extinguishers, garbage, medicines, propane tanks, radioactive waste.

For more information on how to properly dispose of items, visit the online **A to Z Guide for Recycling and Disposal** at www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit.