

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 in this brochure 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 household chemicals & electronics to the Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center.
- Remove large pieces of yard debris.
- Prune trees and limbs.

Things to buy and 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



For Your Reference
Communication Information
Keep this brochure in a safe, dry place.

Web Sites

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

Evacuation Zone Information:

727-464-3800
727-453-3150 IVRS

Pinellas County Utilities Customer Service

727-464-4000

Solid Waste
727-464-7500

Conservation Resources

727-464-3896

Citizens Information Center (C.I.C.)

(This number is activated only when the C.I.C. is in operation.)

727-464-4333

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SURVIVING THE STORM

Preparing for a
HURRICANE

Water ■ Sewer ■ Solid Waste

Pinellas County
UTILITIES

Water

Water Storage

Store at least a 1 week supply of water for each member of your household (1 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 and wipe with bleach.
- Fill the tub to the upper drain.

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 3 minutes. Let the water cool before drinking.

As an alternative, use liquid chlorine bleach (household bleach) to kill microorganisms.

The disinfection procedure is usually written on the label, but if it's not given, read the percentage of available chlorine and use the guidelines below:

Available Chlorine	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.

Another alternative: use water purification tablets as directed.

Sewer

Waste Collection and Disposal Procedures

Keep 5-gallon buckets, with tight fitting lids, for use as emergency toilets.

- 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 1/4 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.
- Solid waste disposal will be made available by Pinellas County Utilities if sewer services are disrupted for an extended period of time.
- 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. 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 old household electronics & chemicals for proper recycling or disposal. The center is located at 2990 110th Avenue North, St. Petersburg.

Hours:

Mon., Tues. & Fri.: 6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed on Wednesdays
and all observed County holidays.

****Special hours will apply during natural disasters. Phone: 727-464-7500***

Acceptable and Non-Acceptable Items

Items accepted at the HEC₃ Center are: gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, fertilizers, fungicides, pesticides, herbicides, household chemicals and cleaners, oil-based and latex paints, paint thinners, paint removers, solvents, automotive fluids, wood preservatives, pool chemicals, household batteries, fluorescent bulbs and mercury-containing devices like thermometers and thermostats, televisions, computers and peripherals.

Items **not** accepted at the Center are: guns, ammunition, explosives, radioactive wastes, biological/infectious wastes, gas cylinders, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, used oil, automotive and marine batteries.*

*For more information on how to dispose of these items, see www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit