

Publications, Contacts, and
Preparations for Survivors

How Can Mitigation Help You Recover?



**LEARN
MORE**



FEMA

What is Mitigation?

Mitigation involves repairing or building back in ways that will break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage.

Mitigation solutions can be small, low-cost actions like trimming trees or could be long-term solutions like installing safe rooms.

SMART INVESTING MITIGATION SAVES



Repairing and Rebuilding: Resources for Tornado and Wind

Before making repairs and/or rebuilding, talk to your local building officials and Floodplain Manager. Building permits may be required.

- [Protect Your Property from Severe Winds](#)
- [Wind Retrofit Guide for Residential Buildings](#)
- [Improving Windstorm and Tornado Resilience: Residential Structures](#)
- [Protecting Manufactured Homes](#)
- [Taking Shelter from the Storm](#)
 - [Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes;](#)
 - [Safe Room Doors](#)
 - [Flood Hazard Siting and Elevation](#)
 - [Foundation and Anchoring Criteria](#)
 - [Choosing the Right Safe Room](#)
- [Tornado Checklist](#)
- [Additional Building Science Publications](#)



Hiring a Contractor for Home Repair

We suggest the following steps to protect your investment as you repair or rebuild your disaster-damaged home. Ensure all work complies with local residential or commercial building codes.



Plan Your Project

Take time to detail what you want done, as your project may require a specially licensed contractor.



Get 2-3 Estimates

Be sure to review a contractor's estimate in its totality (cost of materials, timetable of payments, timeline for completion, etc.), as there is more to an estimate than simply the bottom-line cost.



Verify the Contractor's License and Insurance

Only work with contractors who are licensed, registered, and have insurance so any potential accidents on your property are covered.



Don't Make a Down Payment & Make Final Payment When Job is Complete

Beware of contractors who ask for large payments up front to purchase materials.

Before making the final payment make sure you are satisfied with the completed work.

Checklist to Ask Your General Contractor

Find / Verify a Licensed Professional or Business (i.e., electrician, plumber, contractor) on ohio.gov.

During construction if you feel that something is not right, call the Ohio Attorney General at 800-282-0515 or the FEMA Fraud Hotline at 866-223-0814

Special Flood Hazard Areas

Obtaining a development/building permit is required for those whose homes or businesses are located within a floodplain (Special Flood Hazard Area).

Building permits are based on current local codes, floodplain management ordinances, and applicable Ohio building codes that are enforced locally, not by FEMA.



To learn if a structure is in the Special Flood Hazard Area, contact your local building or permit official.

- [Residential Building Code Department](#)
- [Commercial Building Code Department](#)

If the local permit or building official is unknown, contact the local town or city hall.

You may also visit msc.fema.gov/portal/home and search by address.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Know what your flood risks are. [FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange \(FMIX\)](#) can help you with questions about flood maps and insurance. You can call 877-336-2627, email FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov, or visit the [FEMA Flood Map Service](#)



If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent about the NFIP, and visit www.floodsmart.gov.

- [Why Do I Need Flood Insurance?](#) (Spanish)
- [Climate Change's Impact on Flood Risk](#)
- [Flood Insurance for Renters](#) (Spanish)
- [Map Changes & Flood Insurance: What Property Owners Need to Know](#) (Spanish)
- [Flood Insurance Isn't Just For Coastal Cities](#) (Spanish)

Additional Ways to Stay Safe

✓ Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness



Download the FEMA App Today!



Personalize your app.

Get preparedness information, alerts, sheltering and assistance information specifically tailored to your location.



Access your disaster toolkit.

The FEMA resources you need are always in your hands.

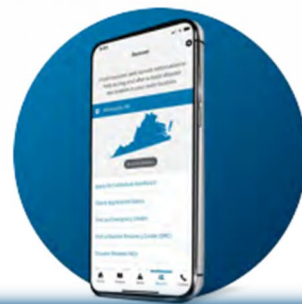


Stay safe.

The FEMA App looks out for you 24/7 alerting you to weather events in your area.

Get Access to:

- Weather Alerts
- Disaster Resources
- Preparedness Tips



- Be Prepared for a Tornado
- Tornado Protection: Selecting Refuge Areas in Buildings
 - Shelter in Place Guidance
- Know who is knocking on your door.
- Learn safety skills including how to shut off utilities.

Family Preparedness Resources



DISASTERS DON'T
PLAN AHEAD.

YOU CAN.

- [Make a Plan](#)
- [Build a Kit](#)
- [Financial Preparedness](#)
- [Low and No Cost Preparedness](#)

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for more information including preparedness for [older adults](#), [people with disabilities](#), and [pets](#).



- [“My Rain Garden” Coloring Book](#)
- [Prepare with Pedro Disaster Preparedness Activity Book \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Prepare Your Family](#)
- [Helping Children Cope](#)

Visit [Ready Kids](https://www.readykids.gov) for more children’s activities!

Contact Us

To apply for or follow up on your claim for FEMA Individual Assistance, call 800-621-FEMA (800-621-3362), download the FEMA app or login to www.disasterassistance.gov

To speak to a Mitigation Specialist, call 833-FEMA-4-US (833-336-2487) or email FEMA-OHMIT@fema.dhs.gov

- If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service

[Subscribe here for FEMA Mitigation updates via email!](#)



Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Reasonable accommodations, including translation and American Sign Language interpreters via Video Relay Service will be available to ensure effective communication with applicants with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and access and functional needs. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.

FEMA collects and maintains personally identifiable information (PII) of individuals with inquiries about Hazard Mitigation and NFIP Programs. If you provide any PII in contacting us, we will only use it for the purpose of responding to your inquiry in accordance with the [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\) PIA](#), [DHS/FEMA/PIA-011\(a\) National Flood Insurance Program PIA](#), [Privacy Act of 1974](#), the [E-Government Act of 2002](#) and the [Federal Records Act](#).

Additional Federal Resources

- **Small Business Administration** – providing home loans for those impacted by disaster. Loans may also include up to 20% for mitigation measures. Dial 800-659-2955, email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or visit sba.gov
- **National Flood Insurance Program** – for additional flood insurance information, call 877-336-2627 or visit floodsmart.gov
 - To locate flood insurance agents in your area, visit floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance-provider or call 800-427-2419 or 800-427-5593.
 - **FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX)** can help you with questions about flood maps and insurance. You can call 877-336-2627, email FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov, or visit the **FEMA Flood Map Service**
- **Safe room funding options** - call or visit your local city hall, contact the FEMA helpline at 866-927-2104 or email saferoom@fema.dhs.gov.
 - You may also sign up for Ohio's Safe Room Rebate Program funding updates at ema.ohio.gov.



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Additional State and Local Resources

- **Ohio Emergency Management Agency** – providing disaster resources for preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Visit ema.ohio.gov
 - Sign up for Ohio’s Safe Room Rebate Program funding updates at ema.ohio.gov.
- **Find a Licensed Professional or Business** (i.e., electrician, plumber, contractor) or **Building Code Officials** on ohio.gov
 - Locate your local Commercial or Residential Building Code Officials.
 - During construction if you feel that something is not right, call the Ohio Attorney General at 800-282-0515 or the FEMA Fraud Hotline at 866-223-0814



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