

## North Carolina Homeowner's Checklist for After a Hurricane

For many homeowners, the real work begins after the hurricane **has passed**. As **building professionals**, we've seen the damage hurricanes can do to coastal cities in North Carolina and the inland flooding that can occur throughout the state, reaching to Raleigh and Charlotte.

As you get ready to face the aftermath, this hurricane recovery checklist can help you understand **what steps** you should take to protect your home **immediately** after a natural disaster.

### 1. Check Utilities

Your utility systems can be the most dangerous property issue. Problems can cause risks to human life and lasting damage to your home.

#### Look for:

- A gas leak
- Damaged electrical wiring
- Unsecured propane tank

### 2. Address Any Water in Your House

Water is a top concern because a flooded basement can damage your foundation, and mold can start to grow on a damp surface within 24 to 48 hours.

#### What to do:

- Use your sump pump to quickly remove water.
- Schedule a free inspection with foundation professionals so you don't accidentally collapse the walls of a flooded basement.

### 3. Inspect Your Structure

High winds frequently cause structural issues that may not be an imminent threat. Preserve your investment by identifying problems.

#### Look for:

- Weakened or cracked walls
- Foundation damage
- Sagging floors
- Windows and doors that have shifted alignment

### 4. Prepare for Gross Stuff

In the aftermath of a hurricane, you could encounter unpleasant things.

#### Prepare for:

- Contaminated floodwaters
- Sewage backups
- Wildlife such as snakes or fire ants

Find out how **Tar Heel Basement Systems** can help you protect your property against flood damage with a free inspection and repair estimate from our basement and foundation experts.