

Batten Down The Hatches



Whether it's wintry conditions or spring storms, extreme wind can create situations that threaten your church and cause severe damage in a matter of minutes if you are not adequately prepared. Wind events occur in all areas of the country and it is not something you can prevent; however, you can prepare. Since high winds may strike at any time, we recommend conducting periodic checks to ensure your church is prepared to weather a storm.

Protect your roof

Contract with a roofing professional to ensure:

- The materials installed meet or exceed the local building code and are rated high for wind and impact resistance
- The fasteners used to attach the sheathing and roofing system are strong enough to resist the force of strong winds
- For metal roofs, the metal roofing does not have any missing or loose fasteners, rust or damage from past storms
- For asphalt or rubber roofs, the flashing and coping are securely fastened to the building
- Routinely inspect HVAC units, skylights and pipes to verify they are securely fastened to the roof and won't be blown off during high winds

Protect your vehicles

- If possible, move all church vehicles inside a garage/storage building
- If you leave vehicles outside, park them where they will not be subjected to damage from falling tree branches, power lines, or other objects

Protect the building's exterior

- Walk around the exterior and make sure the building is well sealed to prevent wind from getting in cracks and crevices
- Check weather stripping on doors and windows
- Entry doors should be secured by locks for maximum wind protection
- Stained glass windows should be protected with a covering that prevents damage
- Walk around the exterior to ensure the grounds are safe
- Storage sheds and other small structures should be securely fastened
- All items stored/installed outside should be securely anchored or moved inside (e.g. garbage cans, decorations, equipment, etc.)
- All dumpsters should be secured, and their lids should be closed
- Church signage should be tightly anchored to its base
- Trees and large plants should be pruned