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Hurricane shutter track covers

Picture: NOAA/NESDIS Hurricane Florence is expected to make landfall along the Atlantic coast as soon as this coming Thursday. While the coast of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina is expected to be the hardest blow, anyone living along the eastern coast should keep a close eye on the storm's progress. As of this morning, Florence has been upgraded to a Category 4 storm, with strong winds and heavy rain forecast to begin Wednesday night or Thursday morning. For the National Hurricane Center, people in South Carolina up to the Mid-Atlantic region should have a hurricane plan in place and be willing to follow the advice of local officials. If your region might be affected by the storm, be informed with any of these resources: As always, local meteorologists and news outlets are the best source for last-minute forecasts and evacuation protocols, so be sure to check them out when making storm preparation plans. Photo: Flickr

There are a growing number of businesses in coastal areas selling and installing storm shutters. Because all blinds are not the same, it is essential to get the product best suited to your needs and equally important to make sure the blinds are installed properly. The following are some tips to help guide you.

- Storm shutters offer two types of protection. They can be designed to protect against wind pressure, debris impacts, or both. It's important to know what kind of protection you're getting.
- If the shutter is designed to withstand the impact of debris, look for the standard Dade County, FL. It's a very tough standard developed for extreme wind conditions found in South Florida. It is also appropriate for use elsewhere along the southeastern and Gulf coasts on barrier islands, other highly exposed sites, or sites with particularly high potential for airborne debris. Blinds designed at a lower level can be enough for locations without these high-risk factors and be a more cost-effective alternative.
- Blinds must be attached to the structural framing of the house and to window or door frames. Window and door frames may be inappropriately attached to structural framing to withstand extreme pressures caused by severe winds.
- Make sure all exposed metal fittings (including screws, Embedded anchors, etc.) are resistant to weather and corrosion.
- For do-it-yourselfers, design and installation guidelines for plywood storm shutters are available. These blinds provide some level of protection and usually the least expensive option. However, they often require a significant amount of time to assemble, and the process can be difficult and even dangerous. Plywood blinds are heavy, probably requiring at least two people to assemble, and for the windows on the top floor require the use of a staircase. Even moderate winds exacerbate the danger of working with heavy plywood on a staircase.
- Per Per Reasons, plywood storm shutters are better suited to ground-floor windows.
- Homeowners with garages, especially attached garages, should also ask their shutter distributor about remodeling their garage doors for high winds. If a garage door fails due to strong winds, it can cause the interior of the house to be pressurized and increase the chances of losing all or part of the deck. While properly selected and installed blinds should be added to the performance of a home with high winds, it is important to note that nothing is hurricane-proof. Also remember that each home is unique and there are no general recommendations that are universally applicable to all households. For specific advice on hazard retrofit recommendations for existing homes or risk mitigation techniques for new construction, homeowners are urged to contact a licensed engineer and consultant in their area. These tips were developed by the So Sea Grant Extension Program in consultation with faculty at the Wind Load Testing Facility of Clemson University's Department of Civil Engineering. This place is not available in your country

It's hurricane season, and that means frightening weather even thousands of miles from the eye of a storm. Trace back the undulating effects of hurricanes, and you'll find much more than rainy days. A few degrees from Katrina and Jimena there are stories about humanity: displacement, re-invention, evolution, art and even bureaucracy. Here is a trail of web breadcrumbs that has been billowed in with the storms. The east coast is watching the sun after a wave of rains pushed by tropical depression Danny, but another hurricane is boiling behind it. Hurricane Jimena is heading toward the mainland with winds exceeding 135 mph and heading straight for Mexico's Cabo San Lucas, ready to ruin beach-goers' vacations and provide much-needed rain to an area so parched that livestock are dying. But in Maine, locals are still in mourning over the death of a 7-year-old girl who was sucked into the sea after a wave of Hurricane Bill slammed into an ocean vision platform in Acadia National Park (seen below, via NYTimes.com). To the south, Gulf residents remember their own tragedy: the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. As President Obama vows to accelerate residual and delayed efforts to rebuild (video below), the stories of displaced residents are beginning to show the ripple effects radiating across the country. The Dallas Morning News tells a story of a New Orleans resident who fled to North Texas with 66,000 more refugees, and was seen affected by the scale of loss that started a soup van to help feed the poor in the area, serving Cajun chicken noodles at five or six hundred mouths a day. A story in the Miami Herald tracks the fate of more than 1,500 cats and dogs who were rescued from Katrina areas and adopted by families member states. But towns and villages that suffered mass evacuation are facing a census crisis in 2010. Area officials are pressing Congress to pay particular attention to the way it catalogues people in the Southeast, so censuses distinguish between residents of those states and refugees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. If hurricane-hit regions do not register enough residents, they stand to lose parts of \$300 billion in federal money that will be paid out this year by roads, schools and hospitals. The chronicle of the whole mess – from the landing to the diaspora of the new Orleans, and their fates – is a graphic novel about the victims of Hurricane Katrina called Riders of the Storm. Each month, creator Josh Neufeld adds chapters to the book, updating the progress of his subjects. But what is a hurricane, anyway? They are created when a storm moves across the ocean sucking up hot air and pushing fresh air over the top, with time breathing its way up into a stronger and stronger gap. While category four hurricanes like Jimena can produce winds as fast as 200 mph, they are nothing compared to hypercanes, prehistoric storm events the size of the continental U.S. that were created by large volcanic eruptions or other catastrophic natural events. In fact, it is said that the extinction of dinosaurs may have been thanks in part to a wave of hypercans unscathed by the impact of an asteroid with Earth. While hypercans may have sealed the fate of prehistoric animals, researchers in Montreal may be bringing them back from oblivion. A Canadian paleontologist plans to design embryo chickens to develop as dinosaurs, hoping that humanity will eventually be able to get a look at a phenotype we've never seen. Although the paleontologist says it will be a long time before his lab can hatch prehistoric creatures, the dinosaur's resurrection is enough to make any human curious about his own prehistoric ancestors. According to evolutionary scientist Elaine Morgan, these primate ancestors did not live on the plains, as we once suspected, but in water. If new climate change research turns out to be correct, the temperature increase of varying degrees over the next 100 years could displace hundreds of millions of the world's residents due to flooding. Coastal cities like New York, Miami and New Orleans will be underwater – and no amount of waterborne ancestry or hurricane reconstruction will be able to save them. Hurricane Harvey is going down on the Texas coast and people are fighting their hatches, looking for batteries and storage supplies. If you want to track the hurricane, these apps are your best bet: Hurricane Pro. One of the first hurricane tracking apps created, remains one of the best. It's good weather with satellite images and NOAA reports, has Twitter integration may be the best real-time intel source during a storm), historical storm data, and includes push notifications. \$2.99 hurricane tracker. The sole purpose of this application is to track hurricanes, so it was designed with work in thinking. It offers detailed storm and threat level maps, information from the National Hurricane Center, real-time updates and push alerts. WSVN hurricane tracker of \$3.99. This app from a local Miami news channel (which knows a thing or two about hurricanes) provides hurricane tracking information as well as updated evacuation orders, shelter information, and lists stores and offices that are open or closed. It's free so it can't hurt to try this out. NOAA Hurricane Center. Get your news directly from the source. This data-filled app offers localized push notifications (you, in the green Camaro on Lincoln Ave.-run!) and the best weather data around. It's \$1.99 While you're downloading stuff, grab NOAA Now, which isn't hurricane-specific, but full of useful information whatever the weather. My radar. This app integrates NOAA weather data, HIGH DEFINITION Doppler radar, animated radar predictions, and more. It is easy to use and very accessible. Free. Max Mayfield's hurricane tracker. Max Mayfield may seem like an affable golfer who wears khaki, but he's all that and more. Mayfield is the former director of the National Hurricane Center and has seen things, which makes his application very useful. Lots of information with interactive maps. Free. iHurricane. This hurricane and typhoo monitoring app is available for iOS or Android. These are more than 22,000 weather stations around the world to provide tracking information, satellite images, models and more. \$1.99 hurricane dog. This Android app uses Google Maps to track the storm, includes National Weather Service forecasting information, satellite imagery, public advisories, and points out areas the National Weather Service is seeing. Red Cross hurricane. Fast Company readers suggested this app in 2012, when a Frankenstorm was bearing down the east coast. The app doesn't have the best weather data, but it can be a literal lifesaver by keeping communication going even when power is out and letting people know it's safe or really needs help. A word of caution: Reviews of the latest update aren't great. Maybe download the app and a backup application and an extra gallon of milk while you're at it. If you prefer to use time on the web, insiders tell us that the Space City Weather site is the preferred place to hurricane for residents of the Texas Gulf Coast. Residents. Residents.

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