Volume 1 Issue 7 | A Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of Gardens on the Bay Miami Beach Condominium | May 2025

GARDENS ON THE BAY
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Hurricane Season is Fast Approaching. ARE YOU PREPARED?

Hurricane Season is June 1 to November 30
Hurricane preparedness is a natural part of living in South Florida. Below are some key tips to include in your personal hurricane plan. Make sure everyone in your household knows what they are supposed to do.

Have disaster supplies on hand.
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards

Check your insurance coverage and be sure it includes replacement coverage, especially for renters.

Evacuation Plans:
- **Rehearse your evacuation plan** with your household and leave extra time for traffic.
- If you live in an evacuation zone, make plans to move inland to a friend or family member's home.
- If you are electrically dependent you should evacuate for any category of tropical storm or hurricane.
- **Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program.** Residents who may need assistance evacuating from disaster should register for the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program by calling the Office of Emergency Management at (305) 513-7700 to receive an application. Applications are available in Creole, English and Spanish and can be downloaded from the OEM website.

Communications:
- Assign someone in your home the job of a checking the weather everyday during Hurricane Season.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact."

Pets:
- Evacuation Centers will only accept service animals for people with disabilities. Make plans to board your pets with friends or pet shelter.
- Make sure you store adequate food, water, & medicines, for your pets.

Water Is Life:
- The most important part of your hurricane kit is water. Have 1 gallon per person per day.
- Your water heater can store several gallons of fresh water to use if there is no water pressure, especially in high-rise buildings.

SUNSCREEN EXPIRATION

Since a vast majority of Florida residents and visitors probably use some form of sunscreen protection, the question arises, does sunscreen products expire over time. Testers have recently revealed that sunscreen lotions do expire usually after three years from date of purchase, depending upon how the product is stored.

Using sunscreens which are old or degraded will not protect the user from the damaging sun rays of South Florida. One should look for an expiration date on the packaging of the sunscreen product. But beware that the US Food and Drug Administration does not require the expiration date be on the label. It is strongly recommended that if your sunscreen is out of date that it not be used and should be thrown out.

Users may test it by applying a sample on your hand. Look for signs of separation of the lotion into watery or dry flaky consistency. If there are signs of mold, change in color or texture, unpleasant odor or white fuzzy or dark spots, throw it away.

The method and place of storage of sunscreen products may hasten its demise. Bottles or plastic containers should not be exposed to the heat of sunlight. They should not be left in hot cars or in beach bags nor near a sunny window since the product will deteriorate more quickly. But a container kept inside a cabinet should be safe for use even if three years old.

When purchasing sunscreen products check for expiration dates and also mark the container with the date of purchase. As a precaution do pretest the product if it is approaching the three-year mark or has been stored exposed to sun light.

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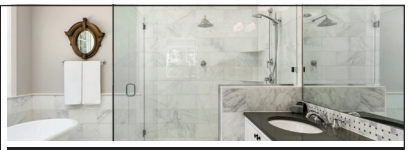

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