Shut The Doors During Windstorms

Following rigorous scientific wind testing on a full-scale, 1,400 square foot single story home in its laboratory, the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety has important new guidance for all homeowners preparing for a major wind storm, such as tropical storms and hurricanes: CLOSE ALL INTERIOR DOORS.

High winds place homes under intense pressure. Wind entering the home through an open or broken window, can create strong upwards pressure on the roof. Closing interior doors helps compartmentalize the pressure inside the home into smaller areas reducing the overall force on the roof structure, which gives the roof a better chance of staying intact.

The pressure in your home can build like air in a balloon, eventually causing the roof to fail and apart.

IBHS offers additional hurricane preparedness at https://disastersafety.org

Removal of Mold after Water Damage

Mold can start to grow within two to three days after your home has received storm water. After the water has receded you must take steps to get things clean and dry. Remove all wet carpeting and pads, as well as wet draperies and upholstery. Cut into wallboard and remove all wet and damp insulation, even if wallboard appears dry. Wet insulation will stay wet far too long, leading to the growth of hidden unhealthy mold and decay fungi inside the walls.

Clean with nonphosphate detergents because any phosphate residue is mold food. You can disinfect after you clean. Disinfect with a solution of 1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water. Do all you can to speed the drying of subfloors, slabs, wall framing before replacing insulation, wallboard and flooring. If mold returns, repeat cleaning. Mold re-growth may signal that the material was not dry enough or should be removed.