



GET YOUR CLAIM PAID
STEP BY STEP

Homeowners are not always aware of the destructive power that a hurricane can cause. In the event of this devastation, it is very easy for an insured to be overwhelmed with the damages caused to their property and to be able to deal with the stress of their insurance company. Undervaluing hurricane damage claims is not new to most insurance companies and has become the new normal, even at the expense of unwitting policyholders.

CALL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY ASAP
REPORT THE CLAIM,
BEGIN THE INSURANCE CLAIMS PROCESS.
KNOW YOUR POLICY!

DOCUMENT YOUR DAMAGES
Be certain that before you make any changes to your home that you have documented proof of all the damage that the hurricane caused, and that you have given your insurance company adequate time to inspect the damages as well. Do so by taking pictures of all areas around the property, as well as video, and making a list of the things damaged and items lost. This includes personal property inside the home as well as damage to structures.

To ensure that your hurricane insurance claims are processed quickly it is important to make sure that you contact your insurance company immediately. Even if you don't know all the damages or what repairs will cost, call your insurance agent or company directly to make sure your claim has been filed.

Protect your Home
One of the most important things moving forward with your claim is to ensure that your home is protected against any further damage. Your insurance company will not bar you from making basic repairs to your home such as setting a tarp on your roof or starting mitigation. Mitigation is essential in preventing the damages from getting worse than they already are. Failure to protect your property can potentially limit claims for any additional damages.

PREPARE FOR PACKOUT AND MITIGATION
Now is the time to schedule your pack-out to store all your undamaged belonging and start mitigating your home. Gulfstream Restoration will be there to guide you through this process.

KEEP YOUR CLAIM ON TRACK
Once a claim is submitted, the insurance company has 30 days to process the claim. Insurance companies have a reputation for delaying claims by requesting documentation multiple times and transferring your claim to multiple adjusters. Federal and state insurance regulations require that insurance companies pay valid claims quickly. Unnecessary delays could cause financial hardship for homeowners already dealing with damage to their house and other expensive issues.
If you have reason to believe your insurance company has undervalued your claim, you have options!

INSURANCE CLAIM CHECK DISPURSMENT

CONTRACTOR HAS RECEIVED CLAIM CHECK FOR SETTLEMENT

Congratulations!
Your claim is paid!

CONTRACTOR HAS RECEIVED PARTIAL PAYMENT

INSURED HAS RECEIVED PARTIAL/FULL PAYMENT

MORTGAGE COMPANY HAS RECEIVED PARTIAL/FULL INSURANCE CLAIM CHECK



KNOW WHEN IT IS SAFE TO SIGN A RELEASE

A Release of Liability, or 'Hold Harmless Agreement', is a legal document that indemnifies an individual or business entity from legal and/or financial responsibility. Many times, your Insurance companies and/or Mortgage company will request you to sign a hold harmless agreement in order for them to release you a claim check. Just know, it broadly releases the insurance company from all future claims and liability arising out of your hurricane claim you filed. Verify that your claim is not undervalued before you sign a release.



CONTRACTOR HAS RECEIVED PARTIAL PAYMENT

INSURED HAS RECEIVED PARTIAL/FULL PAYMENT

MORTGAGE COMPANY HAS RECEIVED PARTIAL/FULL INSURANCE CLAIM CHECK

Appraisal

Do you have reason to believe your insurance company has undervalued your hurricane claim? Is your insurance company still not agreeing to a negotiated settlement with your contractor? You may have an option in your insurance policy to invoke what is called the appraisal clause. While appraisal might not be for everyone, it is an alternative dispute resolution method that could expedite the settlement of your claim. The average appraisal takes between 60 and 120 days, from start to finish, whereas a lawsuit can be dragged out for months or years before it is finally settled. That means you get the settlement money in a matter of weeks, and then the claim is settled, and you can rebuild and move on.

GSR will work directly with your insurance provider for payment. We do everything we can to make the process as stress free for the insured as possible.

Insurance companies don't always follow the contractual agreement and will release payments directly to the homeowner. Make sure you request a scope of payment to insure all your contractors are paid appropriately. Insurance companies take advantage of the insured's lack of knowledge when it comes to what the payment is for. IF the payments are not used appropriately the insurance companies and contractors will hold the homeowner responsible.

DENIED

NO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT CLAIM UNDERVALUED

DEALING WITH MORTGAGE COMPANIES

Unfortunately claim checks will be disbursed with the mortgage company listed as a signee. This will be yet another delay in processing your claim. Our teams will work closely with you and your mortgage company to get the appropriate documents needed for claim check disbursement. Educate yourself on the documents needed in the event a claim check will be assigned to your mortgage company. Stay in communication weekly with your claims check mortgage processing, if they are missing documentation, they will not call you, you will need to check with them routinely.

CONTACT AN ATTORNEY FOR REPRESENTATION ON BAD FAITH

Unreasonable delays in approving a claim or unfairly low settlement offers that fall far short of the amount of coverage you pay for and the cost of repairing the damage to your home could be examples of bad faith insurance practices. Homeowners that struggling to get an insurance company to fulfill its obligations to them may need to take legal action against the company to get the coverage they paid for and deserve.