

BULLETIN

COASTAL HAZARDS

Guidelines for New Home Construction in Hurricane-prone Areas

1. Get a copy of the Southern Building Code Congress International's (SBCCI) document SS TD 10-99. This is their guide for building wind-resistant construction in hurricane prone regions and contains a lot of good information and details for your builder to use in constructing the building frame. The SBCCI's regional office in Greenville can be reached at 864-281-1006.
2. Window protection is a must. See the Sea Grant Extension Program Bulletin *Consumer Tips: Selecting Storm Shutters*.
3. The roof sheathing attachment (number and type of nails) should be increased from those required in the local code. We suggest nailing to code and then adding screws in between the nails. A number 8 screw 2 and 1/2 inches long gives 5 times the holding capacity of a comparable size nail.¹

There are now automatic feed screw guns available which allow the contractor to install the screws very quickly (Quick Drive makes one unit that can be purchased at local hardware stores; other brands may be available).

4. We are not convinced that there is any roof covering that is sufficiently wind resistant to trust without a back up. We are suggesting that after the sheathing is nailed and screwed, that the contractor apply a self adhesive flashing strip over all the seams between the plywood, then apply the tar paper and roof covering according to the manufacturers requirements. The plywood and flashing strips will provide a backup level of protection against water penetration if the roof covering does blow off.

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¹ Sutt, E., Muralidhar, K. and T. Reinhold, 1996. Roof sheathing uplift resistance for hurricanes. *Proceedings of the 1996 ASCE Structures Congress*, Chicago, IL.