



## 2009 HURRICANE SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

Preparedness is the key to hurricane survival for your family and your property. A few precautions now can give you a major advantage when a hurricane is approaching. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Trim all large branches now—especially trees or large foliage within 10 feet of your house.
- 2) If you have an emergency generator, make sure you have fresh fuel. Give it a test run.
- 3) Re-stock your supply of non-perishable canned and bottled goods including juices and beverages.
- 4) Make sure you have plenty of emergency water for drinking and flushing, plus first aid supplies, emergency lighting, radios and/or tv, plus spare batteries for all of them. (Note: Many battery powered or portable TVs are not compatible with pending digital format.)
- 5) Inspect your window & door storm panels or coverings—make sure you have everything you need to properly close them or install them including clips, washers, tracks, etc. and check to be sure they are still accessible on short notice. In the case of accordion or roll shutters, now would be a good time to make sure tracks and mechanisms are clean and properly lubricated for easy operation.

## WHICH HOME IMPROVEMENTS WILL GIVE YOU THE BIGGEST BANG FOR YOUR REMODELING BUCK?

Masterpiece Builders and Masterpiece Home Services are heavily into the remodeling/renovation/addition business, so it's important for us to know which home improvements will benefit your lifestyle now and help your bottom line the most when you sell. Research tells us that the number one home re-do is the **kitchen**—the most active room in the house. From there, you can look at curb appeal to determine if new concrete fiber **siding** will give your home a value boost. Third, **bathrooms**. Like kitchens, bathrooms are sensitive to trends and should be updated periodically. If your home lacks an appropriate additional bath, you'll often get a substantial return on an additional bath. Fourth, Look at your **master suite**. His and hers vanities and closets have become a must. Often these can be configured or added for your convenience now and a return when you sell. Rounding out the top five is the issue of energy. **Windows** can be a big drain on a/c and heating. Thermal pane and storm impact windows can make a valuable improvement in energy costs, appearance, storm season stress—and usually can reduce insurance costs. Of utmost importance in planning remodeling and additions is the appropriateness of the new work to the style, theme and finish of the rest of the house. Make sure the new work doesn't clash with what's already there and stick out like a...well...an "addition."



## WHO'S WATCHING YOUR HOME WHEN YOU'RE AWAY?

Let **Masterpiece Home Services** be your home's best friend in your absence. We'll maintain all working systems, batten down for stormy weather and generally serve as your advocate to mitigate problems. Remember, too we are professionals when it comes to ✓General home maintenance & repairs, ✓Carpentry, ✓Minor water intrusion repair, ✓Pressure Cleaning, ✓Interior and exterior painting and more. We'll be happy to come out and give you an on-site assessment. Just give us a call at 283-2096 before you leave for the summer.



**Timber homes built to weather the storm.**

When Hurricane Rita blew through the southern Louisiana town of Grand Chenier, it flattened nearly everything with its 120 mph winds and 15 ft. tidal surge. This Heritage Timber Home remained intact and in the words of its owners, "Everything (inside) was just as we left it when we evacuated."

Masterpiece Homes is proud to now offer the innovative, attractive and earth-friendly homes engineered by **Heritage Timber Homes**. These incredibly sturdy structures include styles for Florida's coastal areas, rural settings and of course, the mountains. Call us for all the exciting facts and styles to consider for your next Florida home...or that vacation getaway in North Carolina or Tennessee. It's worth your time to look!