

What factors are considered in establishing my premium?

Your location:

The closer you are to the coast, the more vulnerable you are to damage caused by hurricane winds and this makes your hurricane-wind premium higher than similar homes in other areas of the state.

Your policy:

Your insurance policy is divided into two premiums: one for damage caused by hurricane force winds (hurricane-wind) and one for all other damage (all perils), such as fire.

Your deductible: Under the law, you are allowed to choose a \$500, 2%, 5% or 10% deductible depending on the actual value of your home. The larger your deductible, the lower your hurricane-wind premium, however, if you select a higher deductible your out-of-pocket expenses in the event of a hurricane claim will be higher.

Improvements to your home:

The state requires insurance companies to offer discounts for protecting your home against damage caused by hurricane winds. Securing your roof so it doesn't blow off and protecting your windows from flying debris are the two most cost effective measures you can take to safeguard your home and reduce your hurricane-wind premium. Discounts apply only to the hurricane-wind portion of your policy.

Your maximum discount:

Discounts are not calculated cumulatively. The total discount is not the sum of the individual discounts. Instead, when one discount is applied, other discounts are reduced until you reach your maximum discount of 100%.

How can I take advantage of the discounts?

Most homeowners will need a licensed or certified professional (general, residential or building contractor, building inspector, a registered architect, engineer or certified building code official) to inspect the home to identify potential mitigation measures and legally verify improvements. There may be other inspection professionals available, for a listing of Individuals and/or Inspection Companies meeting these qualifications contact your Insurance Agent.

Eligible homeowners can also apply for a free inspection through the new My Safe Florida Home Program by visiting www.mysafefloridahome.com or calling toll-free 1-866-513-6734. To be eligible, Floridians must live in single-family, site-built homes.

How much do these improvements cost?

The costs of the improvement projects vary. Homeowners should contact a licensed contractor for an estimate. You can find a Certified Business Contractor in your area by visiting the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation online at www.myfloridalicense.com.

Homeowners may be eligible for a matching grant up to \$5,000 through the My Safe Florida Home Program if they live at least 6 months out of the year in a single-family detached, site-built home that meets the following criteria:

- was built before March 1, 2002;
- has an insured value of \$300,000 or less;
- has a valid homestead exemption;
- is located in the wind-borne debris region; and
- has undergone a wind inspection.

Grant funds must be used for opening protections, which includes windows, skylights, gable vents, doors and garage doors, and the bracing of gable ends. To be eligible for a grant for opening protection, you must protect all openings identified by your wind inspection report as needing hurricane protection.