



GLOBAL DISASTER SOLUTIONS



POST-HURRICANE RECOVERY CHECKLIST

A GUIDE FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

CottonGDS.com

877.900.8030

POST-HURRICANE RECOVERY CHECKLIST

What to do after the storm + when to call in the professionals.

Since 1996, Cotton Global Disaster Solutions (Cotton GDS) has been a trusted partner in helping businesses recover from hurricanes, tropical storms and other catastrophic weather events. With decades of experience in disaster recovery and business continuity, we've helped minimize downtime, restore critical infrastructure and accelerate the path back to normal operations. We know disasters don't take days off, but neither do we.

Don't Delay Recovery

Storm damage doesn't end when the weather clears. Every hour that passes, moisture migrates deeper, mold risk increases and restoration costs rise. This checklist is designed to help you take immediate action — and to know when to engage Cotton GDS for professional restoration the moment it's safe to re-enter your property.

STEP 1 - IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE STORM (0-24 HOURS)

SAFETY FIRST

Do not re-enter the property until local authorities confirm it is safe.

Do not enter any structurally damaged or partially collapsed areas.

If standing or flood water is present inside, do not enter — water may be contaminated with sewage or hazardous compounds.

Watch for gas leaks — if you smell gas, do not enter and contact utilities immediately.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Walk the exterior perimeter.

Document all visible damage with photos and video before touching anything.

Note roof damage, broken windows, structural cracks and any displaced equipment.

Check for water intrusion points: roof, windows, doors, foundation.

Contact Cotton GDS to initiate a professional damage assessment.

IMMEDIATE PROTECTION (EMERGENCY SERVICES)

Board up broken windows and damaged entry points to prevent further intrusion.

Apply emergency roof tarping over any exposed or damaged roof sections.

Begin water extraction immediately if interior flooding is present.

Remove debris from drains, gutters and access points.

Engage generator installation if power is out and critical systems need support.

STEP 2 - DAYS 2-7: DAMAGE CONTROL & STABILIZATION

MOISTURE & STRUCTURAL DRYING

Conduct moisture mapping throughout the affected structure.

Deploy structural drying equipment and dehumidifiers in all wet areas.

Remove saturated drywall, insulation and flooring materials.

Monitor moisture levels daily and adjust equipment as needed.

Document all materials removed for insurance records

CONTENTS & DOCUMENTATION

Photograph and inventory all damaged contents before moving.

Separate salvageable from non-salvageable items.

Pack out and store salvageable contents offsite if restoration is ongoing.

Begin document restoration and content drying for critical records.

Notify your insurance carrier and provide initial damage documentation.

STEP 3 - WEEKS 2-6: FULL RESTORATION

STRUCTURAL & SYSTEMS RESTORATION

Complete mold assessment — test air quality if drying was delayed.

Engage licensed mold remediation if colonies are identified.

Inspect all roof sections and initiate permanent repairs or replacement.

Assess and repair structural elements — walls, floors, load-bearing components.

Restore electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems with licensed contractors.

Rebuild interior finishes: drywall, flooring, ceilings

INSURANCE & REOPENING

Coordinate with insurance adjuster on full scope and settlement.

Submit final inventory of damaged and lost contents.

Confirm Certificate of Occupancy requirements with local authorities.

Test all systems before reopening: fire alarm, CO detectors, generators.

Conduct a final walk-through with your restoration team.

Communicate reopening timeline to staff, tenants and stakeholders.





TURNKEY RECOVERY SERVICES

Industries Served: Hospitality | Multifamily
Education | Healthcare | Government | Retail

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

EMERGENCY
BOARD-UP

ROOF TARPING

GENERATOR
INSTALLATION

WATER EXTRACTION

DEBRIS REMOVAL &
CLEANUP

DAMAGE
ASSESSMENT

RESTORATION

MOISTURE MAPPING

STRUCTURAL
DRYING &
DEHUMIDIFICATION

DOCUMENT
& CONTENT
RESTORATION

MOLD REMEDIATION

ROOF REPAIRS &
REPLACEMENT

STRUCTURAL
REPAIRS &
RECONSTRUCTION

SUPPORT SERVICES

MOBILE CREW CAMPS
& LODGING

RESTROOM &
SHOWER TRAILERS

MOBILE OFFICES &
FABRIC STRUCTURES

MOBILE KITCHENS &
REMOTE CATERING

CONTAINMENT &
SPILL REMEDIATION

ON-SITE HSE
PERSONNEL

With 30 years of deep experience, **Cotton GDS** has been providing safe, efficient and customized business recovery solutions for clients all over the nation and beyond.

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES:

[HURRICANE RESOURCE HUB](#)

[BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING CHECKLIST](#)

[HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST](#)

[HURRICANE TERMS GLOSSARY](#)

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