Many coastal property owners have a hurricane plan for their family and home, but **yards, docks, boats, and construction sites** are often forgotten or overlooked. Unsecured boats, water toys, yard furniture, and construction equipment can be damaged - or even blown or washed away - during hurricane events. When unsecured objects enter our waterways, they become **marine debris** - which pollutes the water and harms marine life.

This hurricane season, do your part to help prevent marine debris accumulation in our local waterways. Before and during a hurricane event, monitor local and national news outlets to stay up to date on the storm. Have an evacuation plan and make sure your property will stay safe.

**What is marine debris?**

Marine debris is any man-made object that is found in our waterways. It can be small, like a tiny piece of a polystyrene dock float, or big, like a large sailboat that broke free of its mooring. **80% of the recovered marine debris following Hurricane Florence was lumber.**

**How is marine debris removed from our waterways?**

After a hurricane or other major storm, local crews come together with flat-bottom boats and ATVs and collect marine debris by hand. Following Hurricane Florence, 60 crew members collected over **3 million pounds of marine storm debris and over 100 abandoned vessels.**

**How can I prevent my property from becoming marine debris?**

Make sure that you follow all government recommendations and tightly secure all pieces of property. See the back of this flyer for a checklist to follow to make sure that you protect your property and local waterways from storm damage and marine debris.

Visit nccoast.org/docks for more information
Boat:
• If possible, remove your boat from the water.
• If leaving your boat in the water, choose a spot on your dock that is protected from wind and waves.
• Ensure the boat is sufficiently tied down at the bow, stern, and middle.
• When securing your boat, use long lines and leave slack to prevent damage from wave action.
• Remove all non-secured items from the boat (including biminis).
• Add extra fenders if available to protect your boat and dock.
• Drop an anchor if needed to keep your boat from floating away.
• Check insurance policy to see if there are specific preparation requirements.
• More information can be found here.

Dock:
• Inspect your dock and make sure it is securely attached to pilings. Repair and secure as needed prior to storm arrival.
• Tie down or remove all unused fenders.
• Close and lock all dock boxes.
• Remove all non-secured items from the dock (such as lounge chairs and coolers).
• Consider helix anchors and tie downs in high energy sites.

Yard:
• Place all non-secured items inside your house or garage.
• Commonly forgotten items: trash cans, bird feeders, lounge chair cushions, and outdoor decorations.
• Secure all objects that you cannot bring inside, such as heavy lawn furniture.

Construction site:
• Remove all equipment possible, including dumpsters and portable restrooms.
• Take a detailed inventory of all remaining equipment and supplies.
• Secure all objects that were not removed.
• Lumber should be tied together then secured to an immobile object, such as a piling.
• Take care to remove or secure any chemicals that may pollute the waterway of spilled.
• Evaluate the risk of wind damage to cranes and remove them if necessary.
• If needed, seal the building to prevent water and wind damage.
• Make a plan for water removal following the storm.

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