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Are you considering in replacing your windows and doors with Impact Resistant Products?

The following are key aspects that should consider when making this important investment.

- 1. Be sure to hire a licensed General Contractor or a specialized licensed Glass and Glazing Contractor.
- 2. By Law, the contractor must have Worker's Compensation Insurance and General Liability Insurance (minimum of \$300,000).
- 3. Your new windows and doors must have a valid Notice of Acceptance or NOA. This is the approval that Miami Dade County issues for each different product once it passes the test protocols required by the Florida Building Code. As per the Florida Building Code any windows that are replaced up to 30′-0″ in height *must* be LMI. Above 30′-0′ Small Missile Impact (SMI) products can be installed.
- 4. A permit must be obtained prior commencing work. Section 104.1.1 of the Florida Building Code states: "Any owner, authorized agent, or contractor who desires to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy or occupant content of a building or structure, or any outside area being used as part of the building's designated occupancy (single or mixed) or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the technical codes, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit for the work. Permits are required for replacement of windows and sliding glass doors, as well as screen enclosures, storage sheds and carports of canvas or metal. Only licensed contractors or owners/builders may obtain a permit".
- 5. By replacing your old windows and doors with new impact resistant products, you will be eligible for a discount in your Homeowner Insurance Policy. Once the windows and doors are replaced you can request a Mitigation Inspection from your insurance agent.
- 6. Once a quote is received be sure that it clearly outlines what are the inclusions and exclusion of such quote. Make sure that you are in agreement with these terms before signing the contract.
- 7. The resistance and performance of a product is measured by its "Design Pressure" capabilities of such product withstand. The higher the pressure, the higher the resistance of such product for Hurricane Winds and Water Infiltration. Be sure that the product's Design Pressures are clearly identified before making the purchase.



- 8. Be familiarized with the type of glass that the products use. Products glazed with laminated heat strengthened glass (HS) or tempered (TEMP) glass can be as 4 times as stronger than regular laminated annealed glass (ANN) which is commonly used by some manufacturers. Be sure to know what type of glass is included on the products you are quoting.
- 9. The hardware components and assembly screws should be stainless steel or have a highly resistant anticorrosive coating.
- 10. The success of a good installation goes hand-in-hand with the quality of the products that the contractor uses to perform such installation. Besides the window or door products, the contractor must use installation materials such as screws, anchors and sealants. Be sure that such installation supplies are clearly specified in your contract before signing it. Stainless steel anchors and screws and 100% neutral silicone sealant are recommended by the manufacturers for such applications.
- 11. Be sure that your contractor is well familiarized with the products to be installed. Ask your contractor for recommendations letters and/or references from the product's manufacturer.

If you have any questions regarding the above or if need further clarification, please do not hesitate in contacting our professional sales consultant.