



An Economic Comparison of Plywood and Hurricane Fabric Protection

A study was conducted to compare the cost of protecting a “typical” Florida home with either Plywood sheets or Hurricane Fabric. The house was a 2400 sq. ft., masonry residence with 15 glazed openings consisting of one double entry door, one single entry door, two sliding glass doors and eleven windows of various sizes. The total area of protective material was 432 sq. ft.

Hurricane Fabric costs were based on typical material and installation costs experienced in our Florida market. Plywood costs were based on estimates derived from a Florida State Certified Contractor, Certified Mitigation Inspector and familiar with all types of protective devices.

The assumptions for the installation of Plywood conforms to general recommendations from the Florida Building code (FBC 2007 Table 1609.1.2) and Insurance Industry standards (Uniform Mitigation Verification Inspection Form, OIR-B1-1802 Rev. 01/12).

All costs are for the fabrication and preparation of materials and hardware ready for delivery to the homeowner, but not installed on the structure. The results are as follows;

Protection cost using standard Plywood Panels - \$1008.00

Protection cost using Marine grade Plywood Panels - \$1890.00

Protection cost for Hurricane Fabric Materials at Dealer pricing - \$1665.00

The premium for using Hurricane Fabric has the following advantages for the homeowner;

- 1 - Storage requirements are drastically reduced as the Hurricane Fabric Panels are placed in bags and can be stored on a shelf, a closet or in the attic.
- 2 – Hurricane Fabric is lightweight, and can be deployed in a fraction of the time it takes to stage and install Plywood Panels.
- 3 – Hurricane Fabric can be used repeatedly, and does not warp and degrade from exposure to Hurricane conditions. Even painted Plywood will deform under extreme rain conditions.
- 4 – Hurricane Fabric is translucent, allowing light to penetrate through glazed openings.
- 5 – Hurricane Fabric is approved by all Insurance Carriers for Mitigation discounts. Investment “payback” time is short.

Of particular interest to Builders and Contractors, is the upcoming changes in Carolina and Florida Building Codes, which include restricting Plywood protected opening sizes to 42” x 90”. Any larger opening will not be able to use Plywood. If the coming guidelines are used, only 4 of the 15 openings could use Plywood equating to only 13% of the total protected area.

A copy of the study and all assumptions is available by request to info@hurricanefabric.com.