

Mitigation Inspection and Homeowners Insurance Savings

Florida insurance companies are required to provide credits on Homeowners and Wind policies for dwellings that meet specific windstorm safety features. These credits are substantial and can result in premium savings of up to 50%.

To receive these credits, most homeowners need to obtain a State approved Mitigation Inspection. By law, this inspection must be completed by a General Contractor, Architect or licensed Engineer. Typically the cost of the inspection is \$150.00.

Mitigation Inspections are unique to The Sunshine State! They are an outgrowth of Florida's Insurance crises and a vital element in reducing homeowner's insurance premiums.

The State of Florida's position is to encourage and motivate homeowners to 'hurricane proof' their homes. This goal is supported by legislative action mandating premium reductions for homes that meet building codes, or have protective measures.

Following are the major Windstorm Safety features certified by a Mitigation Inspection:

- Protection (Hurricane Shutters or Impact Glass) of *all* openings including Skylights [Film does not qualify]
- Doors and Garage Doors must be protected or hurricane rated.
- Roof shape and design
- Roof construction and attachment to building.

In addition to providing immediate premium credits, a Mitigation Inspection may verify that an "older" home meets or exceeds current building codes. This may qualify the home for additional insurance programs and an opportunity for greater savings.

Mitigation credits and eligibility vary between insurance companies. Most insurance companies provide credits without an inspection for homes built after 2002 because these homes meet current building codes.

We recommend that a Mitigation Inspection be obtained for homes built prior to 2003. However, please realize that an inspection does not guarantee a premium reduction. Most inspection companies offer a refund if savings do not meet the inspection cost. The cost of the inspection is an investment which normally pays an excellent dividend.

This article is a service of Burke, Bogart & Brownell, Inc., a 35 year old independent insurance agency in Boca Raton, Fl. Burke, Bogart & Brownell, Inc. is committed to increasing Public Awareness and Consumer Education in the areas of Insurance and Risk Management.

For a list of Mitigation Inspection companies in South Florida please call Burke Bogart & Brownell at 561-392-8888 or email pmcnamara@bbbins.com.