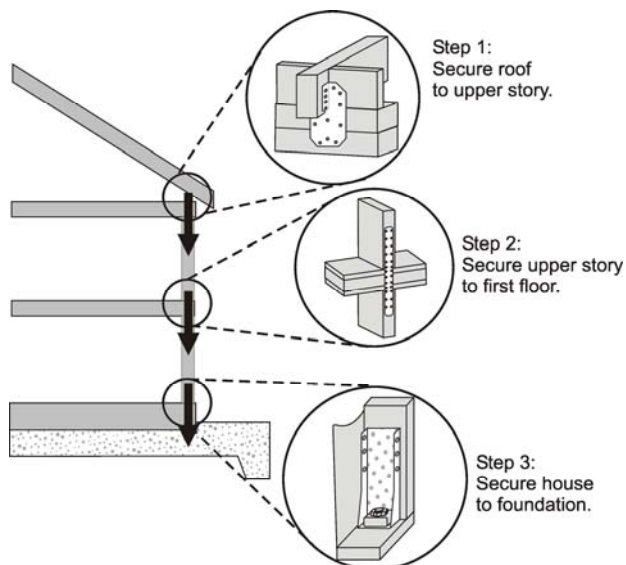

Create a Continuous Load Path

A house is a system of connected parts. If there is one weak link in the system, the whole house can be damaged. This is why it is important to create a continuous load path between the ground and the top of your house. This unifies the vertical structure of your house and resists the uplift forces of hurricane winds.

A continuous load path requires that you anchor the house roof to the walls, the second floor to the first floor, and the walls to the foundation. This can be done using hurricane straps for the roof-to-wall and floor-to-floor connections, and anchor bolts for the wall-to-foundation connections.



There are many hurricane straps and other anchoring devices available. Be sure to choose a product approved for use by the Miami-Dade County Building Code. Always use the manufacturer's specifications for installation.

Proper Sheathing & Shingle Attachment

When installed improperly or with substandard materials, roof shingles, siding, and other exterior materials can be torn from a house. This allows wind and water inside, damaging the house. Also, these materials can become dangerous flying—or “wind-borne”—debris during a storm. Proper fastening techniques

can prevent materials from being torn off a home during severe storms.

Connect roof sheathing to the roof framing with ten-penny weight common or eight-penny weight ring shank nails. Space them four inches apart along the edges, and six inches apart in the middle, of the plywood sheathing. Use wood adhesive underneath the sheathing along the connecting joint with the roof trusses.

Ring shank nails provide increased holding power as a result of their threaded rings. These rings bite into the sheathing and framing and resist higher uplift forces.

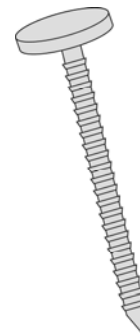


Diagram of a ring shank nail.

Other Resources

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes

www.flash.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency |
Disaster Prevention & Preparation Library

www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm

Florida Division of Emergency Management |
Information Page

www.floridadisaster.org/DEMinformation.htm

Institute for Business and Home Safety

www.ibhs.org

University of Florida | Disaster Handbook

<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/>