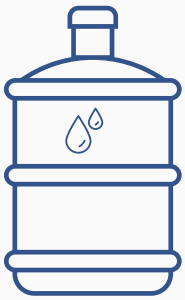


PASSIVE SURVIVABILITY

In an **emergency situation or natural disaster**, you might lose water, power, or sewer services, but your home could still provide **healthy indoor air quality, adequate natural light, sanitary indoor plumbing, a livable indoor temperature, and a water supply**. This is **passive survivability**.

Step 1: Consider what your home can do already



Do you have water?

- ★ Backup supply of water for drinking, cooking, and sanitary purposes?
- ★ A water well? Does it need electricity to provide clean water?



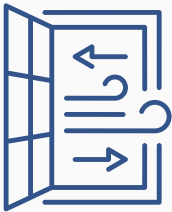
Where is the heat?

- ★ Where does the sun come into your home during the day?
- ★ Do some rooms stay cooler/ warmer than others?



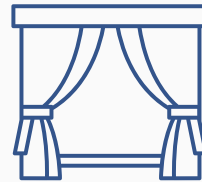
In summer, can you:

- ★ Open your windows to allow fresh air to circulate?
- ★ Use screens to keep out mosquitoes and other insects?



In winter, can you:

- ★ Open curtains/blinds?
- ★ Cover windows and doors with thermal curtains/blankets when not sunny?
- ★ Close doors and stay in the warmest room?



Is Passive Survivability Also Disaster Preparedness?

Disaster preparedness involves **making a plan** including **strategies to help withstand disaster**. Passive survivability strategies may not be adequate to stay in your home full-time after a disaster if members of your household have life-threatening health issues. Consider:



- generators or micro solar+storage
- **go bags**



- **emergency shelters**
- refrigeration for medicine



- electricity for assisted breathing devices

PASSIVE SURVIVABILITY

Step 2: Make Changes to Your Home

Depending on your living situation, you can implement low-cost solutions **Right Now (N)**, **During Renovations (R)**, or in **New Construction (C)**.



PLANTS

N

R

C



House plants improve air quality



Plant shade trees on the sunny side of the house



Utilize existing shade trees on property



RAINWATER



Know the location of your water shut-off valve



Use rain barrels to collect non-potable water



Position gutters to collect roof water in rain barrel



Install greywater system to use rainwater for non-potable uses



WINDOWS & DOORS



Thermal curtains to block sunlight and control heat



Awnings on windows to block direct sunlight



Window screens



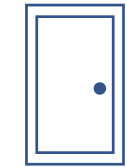
Weather stripping on windows and doors



Upgrade to triple glaze/high-solar-gain low-E coating windows



Place majority of windows on the cooler side of the building



WALLS & FLOORS



Insulate pipes



Increase insulation



Use mold-resistant flooring, insulation and wall materials



ICFs/Installation of Cement Walls



ROOF



Cool roof designs increase reflectance



Roof overhangs to shade windows



SOLAR



Solar panels on roof with smart inverter



Portable solar chargers for small electronics (cell phone)

Funding for Weatherization and Efficiency for Passive Survivability

Determine if you are eligible for assistance programs that pay for or reduce the cost of home upgrades, such as the [TDHCA Weatherization Assistance Program](#) or the assistance or energy efficiency programs offered by your energy provider.

