

# Hurricane Season Appliance Prep for Sarasota Homeowners: A 2026 Checklist

*Quick reference guide by Max Appliance Repair Sarasota*

## Pre-storm 72 hours

Set fridge/freezer coldest. Fill freezer empty space with sealed water bags. Charge ice packs. Run dishwasher empty.

## Pre-storm 24 hours

Shut off washer/dishwasher/ice maker/fridge water valves. Run washer empty. Unplug all small appliances. Pre-cool home to 68F.

## Surge protection rule

With whole-home surge: leave fridge plugged in. Without: unplug at breaker, rely on cold mass for 24-48 hours.

## Evacuation prep

Unplug fridge/freezer, empty, prop doors open with rolled towel. Shut main water at meter. Unplug everything. HVAC to 80F or off.

## Cold mass timing

Closed full freezer: ~48 hours safe. Half-full freezer: ~24 hours. Refrigerator: ~4 hours. Do not open during storm.

## Post-storm walk-through

Look for water near washer/dishwasher/fridge/HVAC. Inspect dryer vent for debris. Check coils. Do not plug in if any water visible.

## Surge damage check

Have tech inspect control boards on fridge/washer/dryer/oven if no surge protection. Surge damage can run intermittently for weeks before failing.

## Food safety 4-hour rule

Perishables safe 4 hours in closed fridge. Frozen food safe to refreeze if still has ice crystals or 40F or below. When in doubt, throw out.

## **Snowbird prep**

Unplug everything except fridge (if surge-protected) and HVAC (80F). Hire local property manager for storm checklist if you are away.

## **Generator rules**

Min 2,000 running watts. Use transfer switch or direct extension cord. Never backfeed wall outlet. Cycle fridge 4 hours on, 4 hours off.

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