

Severe Weather Watch

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY, HOME AND PROPERTY

Creating Durable Finishes To Weather A Storm

(NAPSA)—The costliest U.S. hurricane on record was 1992's Andrew, a category 4 storm that caused \$26.5 billion in damage to the southeastern part of the country. But if the damage from older hurricanes was adjusted for inflation and population growth, the cyclone with the biggest price tag would be the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926. All told, that storm would have done about \$80 billion in damage if it had struck in the 1990s.

Ultimately, there is little that anyone can do about these natural phenomena. The best we can hope for is to be prepared, so we are able to "weather the storm." Tips for doing so include:

- Stocking emergency supplies, including canned foods, batteries, candles and drinking water;
- Staying informed of the latest weather announcements (have a battery-powered radio on hand); and
- Making arrangements for alternate shelter, in case your home becomes unsafe.

But being prepared means more than having supplies on hand; it means making sure homes and property can stand up to the torrential downpours and heavy winds that hurricanes can bring.

One way many homeowners and communities are doing this is with tough, durable powder coating. During the coating process, tiny particles of powder are given



Powder coating makes many products more resistant to damage from severe weather.

an electric charge, which causes them to stick to the item being coated. The powder is then baked on to form a strong and attractive finish, which helps prevent metal parts from corroding, even when exposed to heavy rain.

Powder coating protects such metal structures as:

- doors, windows, shutters, mailboxes, satellite dishes, lamp posts and fences;
- gutters, downspouts and irrigation pipes; and
- structural steel.

In addition to standing up to the effects of hurricanes, powder-coated items are also more resistant to damage from floods and winter blizzards.

To find out more about powder coating and to receive a free Consumer Buying Guide for Home and Garden, visit The Powder Coating Institute web site at www.powdercoating.org.