

Deck and Patio TuneUp Identifies Post-Storm Deck Checks After Hurricane Activity Peaks

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WILMINGTON, NC - October 30, 2026 -
The Atlantic hurricane season has passed its usual September peak, but it continues through November 30. Wilmington-area deck owners can use this time to plan what to check after severe weather actually reaches their property. Deck and Patio TuneUp offers inspections and repairs. The first step after a storm is safe access, followed by a record of visible changes and a closer review of the deck.

The National Hurricane Center identifies September 10 as the historical peak of Atlantic storm activity. It says most activity falls between mid-August and mid-October. Those are Atlantic-wide averages, not a report of local damage. On October 27, the National Weather Service's Wilmington office discussed minor coastal flooding and rough marine conditions, but little rain over land. The advisory describes an area-wide hazard. A deck check concerns what happened at the owner's own address.

After a damaging storm, the National Weather Service advises people to wait for officials to clear their return. It also warns of downed lines, floodwater, and damage outside the home. Approach a deck with the same

care. If the ground beneath it is flooded, a support has shifted, or a railing moves, stay off it. Boards that look intact can hide a damaged connection below.

From a safe spot, an owner can look for more than debris. Leaves and branches may cover loose boards or slick surfaces. Shifted stairs, leaning posts, and gaps at the house deserve closer attention. The North American Deck and Railing Association's checklist covers railings, stairs, fasteners, house connections, and decay. It says this homeowner check is not a formal code inspection and recommends a professional evaluation.

After a specific storm, note what changed and when. From a safe location, an owner can photograph a shifted stair, a new gap, or a fallen branch. That record helps a builder compare new concerns with older wear. An inspection can then cover the supports and connections below the boards. If floodwater remains, the closer examination must wait until access is safe.

The type of event helps focus the first conversation. Strong wind may bring down limbs or leave a railing out of line. Flooding may leave ground around supports too wet to approach. Heavy rain can wash debris against a stair or block the view beneath a deck. Owners can explain what happened at their address and which parts appear to have changed. The builder can decide what needs a hands-on check when access is safe.

Photos taken before cleanup can help record what was visible, but safety comes first. Loose debris near a power line or floodwater should be left alone. Once the site is clear, the inspection can look beyond the first obvious mark. A damaged stair may have affected its connection to the deck, and a shifted post may change how a railing feels. Those findings help define the repair scope.

Deck and Patio TuneUp offers inspection, resurfacing, board replacement, frame work, and railing repair. Worn boards over a sound frame differ from a loose house connection or unstable stair. The assessment can start with the supports and connections, then cover boards and railings. If the frame cannot be kept, the next discussion may be about rebuilding rather than a surface fix.

Fall also allows planning beyond an immediate repair. Before adding a porch or replacing a deck, owners can find out what the old structure can safely support. An inspection may show whether a new concern affects one part or the wider deck. The later project depends on the site, the findings, and any approvals it needs.

The seasonal peak has passed, but storm readiness remains relevant through November. Owners can follow current alerts and keep people off a deck with signs of movement or damage after a storm. Deck and Patio TuneUp provides inspection and repair services for Wilmington-area homeowners, with assessments

informed by the type of weather event, the property's conditions, and any visible changes to the structure.

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