

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND
MOTOR VEHICLES
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
BUREAU OF MOBILE HOME AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE CONSTRUCTION**



**THE BENEFITS
OF CURRENT ENHANCED
MOBILE HOME
INSTALLATION STANDARDS**

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Florida's Installer Licensing Program

In 1996, the bureau implemented the Mobile Home Licensed Installer's program in accordance with Section 320.8249, Florida Statutes. This program includes the testing, licensing and sanctioning of individuals who install mobile homes. The bureau provides individuals with a required eight hour pre-licensure course on Florida rules pertaining to mobile home installation and contracts with a testing vendor to provide the exam which must be passed prior to licensure. The bureau issues a license after the individual completes the course, passes the exam and meets bond and insurance requirements. Licenses are renewed on an annual basis. The bureau, when necessary, issues sanctions in accordance with statute and rule. Licensed installers are required to purchase an installation decal for each home they install. This decal indicates that the home was installed by a Florida licensed installer.

A major function of this program is training county and city building officials on how to inspect the set-up of a mobile home to ensure it meets the department rules. Staff in this program train officials on an ongoing basis in an effort to ensure homes are properly set-up before the consumer moves into the home. In addition to this training responsibility, staff also investigates complaints relating to improper installation of homes.

Summary of Changes to Mobile Home Installation Standards

Any mobile home installed in Florida must be installed by a licensed mobile home installer in accordance with Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Rule Chapters 15C-1 and 15C-2, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which govern mobile home installation. These administrative rules provide standards for mobile home foundations, anchoring straps and the anchors used to secure the home to the ground. These administrative rules were revised in 1999 to strengthen mobile home installation standards. This was in response to the damage caused by tornadoes in Central Florida in 1998. Key changes to these administrative rules included the requirement that all anchors must be galvanized, sidewall and frame ties 5 feet 4 inches on center, two longitudinal anchors per I-beam per end, galvanized straps, and required soil tests by the installer to determine soil density.

The assessments of mobile home damage caused by the 2004 hurricanes found that homes installed by licensed mobile home installers according to the new installation standards did not move from their foundations. Unfortunately, older homes that were not installed in accordance with Rule Chapters 5C-1 and 15C-2 often had tie-down straps and anchors that had rusted away to the point of providing no protection against movement of the home.

**Photos of Mobile/Manufactured Homes That
Were Damaged Due, In Part Due to
Improper Installation**



This is an anchor installed too shallow which popped out due to high winds in Hurricane Ivan. This was a pre-1999 installation.



This is a non-galvanized anchor that has rusted through and broke due to high winds in Hurricane Ivan. This was a pre-1999 installation.



This home was overturned because of non-galvanized anchors and tie-down straps that had rusted through and broke due to high winds in Hurricane Ivan. This was a pre-1999 installation.



This is an anchor that was installed too shallow which came up due to high winds in Hurricane Ivan which caused the mobile home to move from its foundation. This was a pre-1999 installation.



This mobile home was overturned because the non-galvanized anchors and straps were rusted through and broke due to high winds from Hurricane Charley. This was a pre-1999 installation.



This is a non-galvanized anchor that rusted through and broke due to high winds in Hurricane Ivan. This was a pre-1999 installation.

**Photos of Mobile/Manufactured Homes That
Were Saved From Serious Damage
Due to Proper Installation**



This mobile home received siding damage and damage to a carport, however, it did not receive significant damage to the main structure nor did it move from its foundation due to proper installation. This was a post-1999 installation.



This is an example of a properly installed mobile home whose tie-down straps and anchors prevented the home from being moved from its foundation during Hurricane Jeanne. The external carport was destroyed, however, the home received no significant damage. This was a post-1999 installation.



This is a mobile home with proper installation where the skirting was swept away by Hurricane Charley while the mobile home remained firm to its foundation. This was a post-1999 installation.



This is another mobile home whose skirting was blown away by Hurricane Charley while the home was not moved from its foundation due to proper installation. This was a post-1999 installation.