Short answer: In Florida, a hurricane deductible is generally applied on a calendar-year basis—not separately to every hurricane. That can help if more than one hurricane damages your home in the same year. But the exact result miamiweekly.com depends on your policy's wording, the type of loss, and how much of the deductible has already been met. Check your **Florida policy details** rather than relying on a neighbor's policy or a general rule.

The other important point is that hurricane deductibles are usually percentage-based. A percentage can translate into thousands—or tens of thousands—of dollars you must cover before insurance pays for covered hurricane damage. After a storm, that bill can arrive when banks are reviewing new lending, contractors are busy, and cash is needed for temporary housing and repairs.

How Florida's hurricane deductible generally works

A standard homeowners deductible is often a fixed dollar amount, such as $1,000. A hurricane deductible is different: it is commonly calculated as a percentage of the home's insured dwelling limit, sometimes called Coverage A. The percentage is applied to that limit, not to the amount of damage.

Florida law generally provides for a hurricane deductible to be applied on an annual basis to hurricane losses during a calendar year. In practical terms, if you have a covered hurricane loss and later experience another covered hurricane loss in the same calendar year, your insurer generally does not simply charge a fresh full hurricane deductible for each storm. The policy and applicable law determine how the losses and deductible are handled, so ask your insurer to explain the calculation in writing.

"Once per calendar year" does not mean the deductible disappears after the first storm. If the first covered loss is smaller than the deductible, you may still have some or all of the deductible left to satisfy. A later covered hurricane loss in that same year may be considered along with the earlier loss, subject to your policy's terms and the insurer's adjustment.

Nor does the rule mean every wind or water loss is subject to the hurricane deductible. The policy's definition of a hurricane and the cause of damage matter. A wind-driven loss during the policy-defined hurricane period may be treated differently from flooding caused by rising water, which is generally handled under a separate flood policy, if you have one.

Common hurricane deductible options: 2%, 5%, 10%

Common hurricane deductible options: 2%, 5%, 10%. The dollar amount depends on the insured dwelling limit. Here is how those percentages look on a home insured for $500,000:

Hurricane deductible Calculation Deductible amount 2% $500,000 × 0.02 $10,000 5% $500,000 × 0.05 $25,000 10% $500,000 × 0.10 $50,000

That is the deductible—not the maximum you could spend. You may also face costs that are not covered, are above policy limits, or are disputed. And a percentage deductible can rise in dollar terms if your dwelling limit increases at renewal.

Example: two storms in one calendar year

Suppose your home has a $500,000 dwelling limit and a 2% hurricane deductible, or $10,000. One client recently told me wished they had known this beforehand.. A hurricane causes $8,000 in covered damage in June. If the

covered loss is below the deductible, you may receive no payment for that claim. A second hurricane causes $20,000 in covered damage in September.

Because hurricane deductibles are generally applied on a calendar-year basis, the insurer may evaluate the covered hurricane losses together rather than automatically applying a new $10,000 deductible to each storm. In a simplified example, $28,000 in total covered damage less a $10,000 deductible could leave $18,000 before other policy terms, limits, depreciation, or exclusions are considered. Your actual settlement may differ; do not treat this illustration as a promise of payment.

Now change the deductible to 5%. The deductible would be $25,000. The same $28,000 in combined covered damage could leave only $3,000 before other adjustments. That is why a seemingly small percentage choice can create a five-figure cash gap.

What counts as a hurricane loss?

For a claim to be handled under the hurricane deductible, the insurer typically considers the policy's definition of "hurricane," when damage occurred, and what caused it. Policy definitions may refer to a period tied to official hurricane watches or warnings and a specified time after those notices end. The exact language varies.

Cause matters because one storm can create several different kinds of damage. Wind damage to a roof may be covered under a homeowners policy, subject to its terms and deductible. Flooding from storm surge or rising water is generally excluded from a standard homeowners policy and may require separate flood insurance. A wind-driven rain claim can raise questions about whether the building envelope was damaged and what exclusions apply.

Keep records that help establish both the damage and timing:

- Photograph and video damage before making permanent repairs, if it is safe to do so.
- Save receipts for emergency work, tarps, lodging, and other claim-related expenses.
- Record dates of each loss and keep communications from the insurer and contractors.
- Ask the adjuster how the hurricane deductible is being applied to each claim and to the calendar year.
- Review separate windstorm, flood, and other deductibles in your declarations and endorsements.

Why the deductible can become a cash-flow problem

A deductible is a household expense that has to be financed somehow. After a major storm, that need often arrives alongside higher prices, limited contractor availability, temporary housing costs, and uncertainty about when an insurance payment will come. Contractors may require deposits or payment for materials before work begins. Banks may be coping with thousands of customers at once.

That makes the question more practical than "How much is my deductible?" Ask instead: "Could I access that amount quickly if a storm hit this month?" A $25,000 deductible is not an abstract line on a declarations page if you need to protect the roof, remove wet materials, or keep a damaged home secure.

Some families consider a home equity line of credit (HELOC) or other credit as a backup. But a HELOC application can take time, and lenders may tighten underwriting after a disaster. New credit may be delayed or paused in affected areas, or a lender may be unable to approve an application once property damage has occurred. Do not assume you can open a credit line after a hurricane and use it to cover the deductible.

Plan liquidity before hurricane season

Start with the deductible printed in your policy documents, then check whether it is a percentage of the dwelling limit and whether it applies to all hurricane losses or only certain coverages. Ask your agent to show the dollar amount at your current insured limit. If you are comparing deductible options, weigh the premium savings against the extra cash you would need after a loss.

Build a storm reserve that matches your likely out-of-pocket exposure. Keep it accessible, but separate from routine spending if that helps you avoid using it. Make a short list of expenses that may be due before an insurance settlement: emergency repairs, hotel or rental costs, food, transportation, and deductibles for other policies.

Review the rest of your financial picture, too. A financial professional at a firm such as Morgan Stanley may help a household think through broader cash reserves and investment priorities, but investment accounts are not the same as ready cash, and selling assets can have tax or market consequences. Keep the storm plan grounded in funds you can actually access on the timeline you need.

Can personal property be used to raise emergency funds?

Some owners consider using valuable personal property to bridge a short-term cash gap. For example, a **collateral loan (watch held as security)** may let an owner borrow against an eligible watch rather than sell it outright. Companies such as Diamond Banc offer watch-backed lending services, but loan terms, fees, valuation, and repayment deadlines vary. Compare the total cost with other options, and understand what happens if you cannot repay on time.

Before making decisions based on a watch's resale value, check current market information. **Secondary market pricing trackers (WatchCharts)** can help you follow price trends, but a tracker is not an appraisal or a guaranteed offer. A lender or buyer may value the watch differently based on model, condition, documentation, demand, and the terms of the transaction.

These are possible tools, not a substitute for insurance or a reason to borrow without a repayment plan. A reserve fund is usually simpler. If you do use a loan, compare its cost and timing with the alternatives, and avoid assuming that any asset can be converted to cash immediately after a regional disaster.

Questions to ask about your Florida policy details

Before storm season, contact your agent or insurer and get clear answers to these questions:

1. What is my hurricane deductible in dollars at today's dwelling limit?
2. Is it applied once per calendar year, and how are multiple hurricane losses in that year combined?
3. What does my policy define as a hurricane, and what dates or notices trigger the deductible?
4. Do I have separate windstorm, named-storm, or flood deductibles?
5. What losses are excluded or subject to sublimits, including water intrusion, mold, or temporary living expenses?
6. Can you provide a sample calculation for two covered hurricane losses in one calendar year?

Keep the response with your policy documents. If an actual claim occurs, ask the adjuster to show how the deductible was calculated and how any earlier hurricane loss in the same calendar year was treated. If the explanation does not match your policy, ask for clarification and consider getting help from a qualified insurance professional or Florida consumer resource.

The bottom line

In Florida, the hurricane deductible is generally applied once per calendar year, not automatically once per storm. But that does not mean every later storm is free of deductible impact, or that the insurer will pay simply because the calendar-year threshold has been reached. The deductible's percentage, the amount of covered damage, the policy's hurricane definition, and the treatment of multiple claims all matter.. But here's the catch:

Review your **hurricane deductible rules** before a storm, calculate the dollar exposure, and arrange realistic access to cash ahead of time. After landfall, credit and contractors may be harder to secure just when you need them most. Knowing the number—and having a plan to pay it—is part of preparing your home.