

The Beauty of Basements

With the start of hurricane season, a room in the house that is rarely addressed can end up saving a life—the basement. While it is good to board up windows and remove dead, weak trees, nothing can protect you and your family from rapid winds quite like a basement.

The unique thing about basements is that the very factor that makes them safe during hurricanes also makes them desirable in your home. The insulation that is provided due to the four walls being underground provides you with a cool escape during the summer, and a warm haven during the winter. Basements are also beneficial because the extra space can be used to provide you with your individual needs; they can be turned into a recreation room, home theater, additional bedroom etc.

Financially, basements provide a lot of opportunity for future profit. After the kitchen and bathroom, basements are the next in line for providing the most return on investment for home owners (www.eplans.com). Even if you are not ready to fully commit to a finished basement having an unfinished basement leaves open the possibility of creating extra space should you need it in the future.

Worried about the maintenance costs that come with maintaining a basement so that you do not end up with a wet basement? Worry no more. Rich Binsacca wrote in his book, *The Home Building Process*, that waterproof crews can now come to your home and apply 0.6 millimeter waterproof membranes that will help protect you from this problem. These waterproof membranes can even be added at a later date, for those of you who may be interested in waterproofing your existing basement.

You almost can not go wrong with a room that not only has a vast number of options, but can protect you and your family during inclement weather.