

## **How do I determine Project Useful Life?**

The project useful life is the estimated amount of time (in years) that the mitigation action will be effective. The Project Useful Life Summary Table located on the following page provides Standard Values and acceptable useful life limits for a variety of mitigation projects. If a value other than the Standard Value is used, documentation and justification are required.

Project Useful Life is important in calculating the net present value of future benefits, which represent the benefits in a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR).

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Useful Life (years) Standard Value</b>	<b>Useful Life (years) Accetable Limits (documentation required)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Acquisition/Relocation</b>			
All Structures	100	100	
<b>Elevation</b>			
Residential Building	30	30-50	
Non-Residential Building	25	25-50	
Public Buidling	50	50-100	
Historic Building	50	50-100	
<b>Building Project</b>			
Residential Building Retrofit	30	30	
Non-Residential Building Retrofit	25	25-50	
Public Building Retrofit	50	50-100	
Historic Building Retrofit	50	50-100	
Roof Diaphragm Retrofit	30	30	Roof hardening and roof clips
Tornado Safe Room - Residential	30	30	
Tornado Safe Room - Community	30	30-50	Retrofit or Small Community safe room ≤ 16 people (30 yr), New (50 yr)
Non-Structural Building Elements	30	30	Ceiling, electrical cabinets, generators, parapet walls, or chimneys
Non-Structural Major Equipment	15	15-30	Elevators, HVAC, Sprinklers
Non-Structural Minor Equipment	5	5-20	Generic contents, racks, shelves
<b>Infrastructure Project</b>			
Major Infrastructure (dams, levees)	50	35-100	

Concrete infrastructure, flood walls, roads, bridges, major drainagesystem	50	35-50	
Culverts (concrete, PVC, CMP, HDPE, etc.), with end treatment	30	25-50	Culvet <b>with</b> end treatment (i.e. wing walls, end sections, head walls. Etc.)
Culverts (concrete, PVC, CMP, HDPE, etc.), without end treatment	10	5-20	Culvet <b>without</b> end treatment (i.e. wing walls, end sections, head walls. Etc.)
Pump stations, substations, wastewater systems, or equipment such as generators (Structures)	50	50	Structures
Pump stations, substations, wastewater systems, or equipment such as generators (Equipment)	5	5-20	Equipment
Hurricane Storm Shutters	15	15-30	Depends on type of storm shutter
Utility Mitigation Projects, Major	50	50-100	Major (powerlines, cable, hardening gas, water, sewer lines, etc.)
Utility Mitigation Projects, Minor	5	5-30	Minor (backflow valves, downspout disconnect, etc.)
Projects			
Equipment Purchases, Small	2	2-10	Small, portable equipment (e.g., computer)
Equipment Purchases	30	5-30	Heavy equipment
Wildfire Mitigation Projects			
Defensible Space/Hazardous Fuels Reduction - Vegetation Management (Brush)	2	2-4	Brush - Depends on drought conditions

Defensible Space/Hazardous Fuels Reduction - Vegetation Management (Grass)	1	1	Grass- Depends on geographic location and precipitation
Defensible Space/Hazardous Fuels Reduction - Vegetation Management (Canopy)	20	3-20	Forest Canopy - Must be maintained every 3 years
Ignition Resistant Construction	10	10-30	Depends on type of construction and materials used