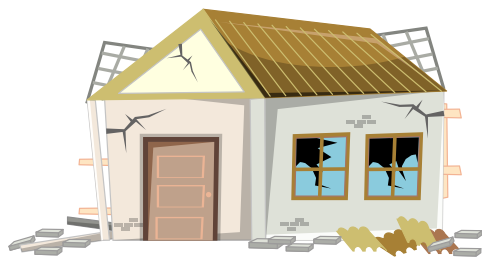


How to Spot Roof Damage After a Storm: A Homeowner's Checklist



Storms can cause significant damage to your roof, sometimes in ways that aren't immediately visible. Use this checklist to assess potential damage safely and determine if you need professional repairs.

Exterior Inspection



Check for Missing or Damaged Shingles:

Walk around your property and look up at your roof. Shingles that are missing, cracked, curled, or lifted may indicate wind damage. If shingles are displaced, your roof may be vulnerable to leaks and further damage.



Inspect for Granule Loss:

Look in your gutters and at the base of your downspouts for an accumulation of granules. These granules protect your shingles from the sun and weather. A significant loss could mean that your shingles are aging prematurely or have suffered damage from hail or wind.



Look for Dents or Cracks:

Inspect your shingles, flashing, and vents for signs of impact damage. Hail and falling debris can cause noticeable dents or cracks, which may allow moisture to seep into your home.



Examine Flashing and Seals:

Check the areas around chimneys, vents, skylights, and other roof protrusions. Loose or damaged flashing can lead to leaks, so ensure all seals are intact and undamaged.



Assess Gutters and Downspouts:

Look for bent, detached, or clogged gutters. If your gutters have been damaged, they may not properly direct water away from your roof and foundation, increasing the risk of water damage.



Scan for Tree or Debris Damage:

If tree branches or other debris have fallen onto your roof, they may have punctured or weakened the structure. Even small debris can cause damage if left unchecked.

Interior Inspection



Check for Water Stains on Ceilings and Walls:

Look for dark spots, yellowing, or bubbling paint, which could indicate a roof leak. Water damage may not always be immediately visible, so inspect rooms thoroughly.



Inspect the Attic for Leaks or Moisture:

Enter your attic and check for signs of moisture, mold growth, or damp insulation. Also, look for any light shining through the roof boards, as this could indicate gaps or damage.



Assess Structural Integrity:

If you notice sagging ceilings or warped drywall, these could be signs of prolonged water exposure and structural weakening. Address these issues immediately to prevent further deterioration.



Ground-Level Check



Look for Shingle Pieces or Debris:

Examine your yard, driveway, and surrounding areas for fallen roofing materials. Pieces of shingles or flashing on the ground are strong indicators of roof damage.



Inspect Outdoor Structures:

If you have sheds, porches, or detached garages, check their roofs for similar storm damage. If these structures are affected, your primary roof may also have sustained damage.

When to Call a Professional



If you notice significant damage or are unsure about the severity, consider hiring a professional roofer for a thorough inspection. Delaying repairs can lead to more extensive issues, including water damage and mold growth.

Safety First:

Always prioritize safety when inspecting your roof. Avoid climbing on the roof yourself; use binoculars or a drone for a closer view if needed.

Checklist for Choosing a Professional Roofing Company

When hiring a professional to inspect or repair your roof, look for the following:



Proper Licensing and Insurance:

Ensure the company is licensed to operate in your state and carries both liability insurance and worker's compensation.



Experience and Reputation:

Choose a roofer with a solid track record and positive customer reviews. Ask for references and check online ratings.



Written Estimates and Contracts:

Avoid verbal agreements. A professional company should provide a detailed, written estimate and contract outlining the scope of work, materials, and costs.



Warranty on Workmanship and Materials:

Ensure they offer a warranty on both their workmanship and the materials they use.



Local Presence and Stability:

Opt for a local roofing company with an established presence in the community. This helps ensure they will be available if future issues arise.



No High-Pressure Sales Tactics:

Avoid contractors who push for immediate commitments or ask for full payment upfront. A reputable company will allow you time to review your options.



Knowledge of Insurance Claims:

If you need to file a claim, choose a roofer familiar with insurance procedures who can assist you through the process.

By following this expanded checklist, homeowners can quickly identify roof damage and ensure they choose a reliable professional for necessary repairs.

