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How to Check for Roof Damage After a Storm

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A strong storm can leave your roof looking fine from the ground while hiding damage underneath. High winds, hail, heavy rain, and falling branches can crack shingles, loosen flashing, or create openings where water can get inside. Knowing how to check for roof damage after a storm can help you catch problems early and prevent more expensive repairs.

What Should You Do Before Checking Your Roof?

Your safety should come first after any major storm. Wait until the rain, strong winds, lightning, and other dangerous conditions have completely passed before checking your property. Also, watch for downed power lines, broken branches, standing water, and other hazards around your home.

You don't need to climb onto the roof to look for obvious damage. In fact, walking on a wet or damaged roof can lead to a serious fall or make existing damage worse. Start with a ground-level inspection, then check your attic and ceilings for signs that water may have entered your home.

Look Around Your Property First

Walk around your home and look for roofing materials that may have blown into the yard. Missing shingles, loose flashing, broken gutters, and fallen branches can all point to storm damage. Take photos of anything unusual so you have a record before cleanup begins.

How to Check Your Roof From the Ground

The safest way to inspect your roof is from the ground using your eyes or a pair of binoculars. Look for shingles that are missing, cracked, curled, lifted, or sitting unevenly on the roof. You should also pay close attention to roof edges and areas around chimneys, vents, skylights, and other openings.

Storm damage isn't always easy to spot, especially from a distance. Still, changes in the roof's appearance can give you a good reason to have a professional take a closer look. If you see exposed areas, loose materials, or large sections that look different, don't ignore them just because there's no leak yet.

Check for Missing or Damaged Shingles

Look for shingles that are completely missing or appear to have been lifted by strong winds. Cracks, creases, curled edges, and loose sections can also indicate damage that needs attention. If you find pieces of shingles on the ground after the storm, check the roof carefully from a safe location.

Inspect Gutters, Flashing, and Roof Fixtures

Gutters and downspouts can show signs of impact, especially after hail or falling branches. Check for dents, loose sections, damaged flashing, or roofing granules collecting around the gutters. You should also look at vents, skylights, chimneys, and pipes because these areas can become weak points during severe weather.

How to Check for Hail and Wind Damage

Hail can leave small dents or bruised areas on shingles that aren't always obvious at first. Look for dark spots, cracked surfaces, missing granules, or areas where the shingles appear rough or damaged. Hail can also dent gutters, siding, window screens, and other outdoor surfaces, which may be another clue that your roof was hit.

Wind damage often looks different from hail damage. Strong winds can lift, loosen, crease, or completely remove shingles, especially around the roof's edges. If several shingles look out of place or you notice exposed roofing underneath, it's a good idea to arrange a professional inspection.

Look for Signs of Water Damage

A roof can have damage even if you don't see a hole from the outside. Check your ceilings and walls for new brown stains, bubbling paint, peeling surfaces, or damp areas after the storm. A musty smell can also point to moisture that has gotten into places you can't easily see.

Check Your Attic for Hidden Damage

Your attic can tell you a lot about what happened to your roof during a storm. Use a flashlight to look for water stains, damp insulation, dark spots, or moisture on the underside of the roof deck. If you can safely see daylight coming through the roof, there may be an opening that needs prompt attention.

Don't enter an attic if it appears unsafe or has signs of electrical damage. Water near wiring, light fixtures, or electrical equipment can create a serious hazard. When you're unsure about what you're seeing, it's better to leave the area alone and have a qualified professional inspect it.

Check for Leaks After Heavy Rain

Some roof leaks only become noticeable during or after heavy rainfall. Look around ceilings, upper walls, and attic spaces for fresh water stains or dripping water. If you find an active leak, move furniture and other belongings away from the area and document the damage.

What Should You Do If You Find Roof Damage?

Start by taking clear photos and videos of everything you can safely see. Photograph damaged shingles, gutters, flashing, fallen branches, interior stains, and any other affected areas. Keeping

these records can make it easier to explain the damage to your insurance company or restoration professional.

Don't make major roof repairs yourself unless you're qualified to do the work safely. A **professional emergency storm damage restoration** company can determine whether the problem is limited to the shingles or if water has affected the roof deck, insulation, drywall, or other parts of the home. Acting quickly can help limit further water damage and reduce the chance of mold growth.

Conclusion

Checking your roof after a storm doesn't mean climbing a ladder and walking across the shingles. Start safely from the ground, look for obvious exterior damage, and check your attic, ceilings, and walls for signs of hidden moisture. If something doesn't look right, honestly, it's better to have it inspected now than discover a much bigger problem later.

If your home has water intrusion or other storm-related damage, Spartan Restoration Inc. can help assess the situation and guide you through the next steps. Getting professional help quickly can protect your home from additional damage and help you get back to normal sooner.

Photo: GOWTHAM AGM via Pexels

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