The first morning of a roof replacement is louder than you expect. Crews arrive, tarps go down, and within an hour the sound of pry bars and falling shingles is coming through your ceiling. A little preparation turns that day from chaotic into manageable, and it protects both your belongings and your landscaping.

This checklist is written with Huntington-area homes in mind, from tight village lots near the harbor to wooded properties in Dix Hills and Greenlawn.

Two Weeks Before: Handle the Logistics

Confirm the Schedule and the Weather Plan

Ask your contractor for the expected start date, how many days the job should take, and what happens if rain or a nor'easter moves in. A reliable crew will have a plan to dry in the roof each day so that an overnight storm does not soak your attic.

Check the Permit

Replacement typically requires a permit. In unincorporated hamlets like Huntington Station or Greenlawn, that is generally the Town of Huntington Building Department. Incorporated villages such as Northport, Lloyd Harbor, and Huntington Bay have their own offices. Confirm with the correct one and ask **roofing contractor Huntington NY** your contractor who is pulling it.

Talk to Your Neighbors

Give adjacent homeowners a heads-up. Dumpsters, trucks, and debris falling near property lines are easier to manage when nobody is surprised. If you share a driveway, agree on parking.

One Week Before: Clear the Perimeter

Move Vehicles and Outdoor Items

Park cars away from the house. Falling nails and shingle fragments can damage paint and tires. Move the following away from the house:

- Patio furniture, grills, and planters.
- Children's toys and play sets.
- Bikes, kayaks, and boats stored along the side of the house.
- Decorative items such as statuary and wind chimes.

Protect Landscaping

Tear-off debris lands in gardens. Ask the crew whether they will lay tarps or plywood over beds and shrubs, and do not assume it is included. Consider:

- Wrapping delicate shrubs and small ornamental trees in burlap or tarps.
- Cutting back overhanging branches that would block access, if appropriate.
- Moving potted plants well away from the foundation.

Mature trees are an asset on the North Shore, so avoid heavy pruning without an arborist's advice.

Think About the Dumpster and Truck Location

A roll-off dumpster needs a flat, accessible spot, usually close to the house. Put down plywood under it if your driveway is asphalt or pavers, which can be marked by the weight. Make sure overhead wires and low branches will not interfere with loading.

Day Before: Prepare the Inside of the House

Vibration is the part homeowners forget. Hammering and tear-off shake the whole structure.

Secure Fragile and Wall-Hung Items

Take down:

- Mirrors, framed art, and wall clocks, especially on top-floor walls.
- Shelves of glassware, collectibles, and china.
- Light fixtures that are loosely mounted, if advised by your contractor.

Protect the Attic

Dust and debris can sift through the deck during tear-off. In the attic:

- Cover stored boxes, furniture, and clothing with plastic sheeting or old sheets.
- Move valuables out entirely if you can.
- Make sure the contractor can get to attic access points if they need to check from below.

Cover Large Furnishings

Upstairs bedrooms and finished attics are hit hardest. Throw old sheets over beds and dressers. It is cheap insurance against fine grit.

Plan for People and Pets

Noise, nails, and heavy foot traffic are not safe or calm for everyone in the house.

Household Member Preparation Tip Young children Arrange to be out of the house or well away from the work area Pets Board them or keep them in a quiet room far from the noise Remote workers Plan to work elsewhere on tear-off day Elderly or noise-sensitive family members Consider a temporary stay with relatives or friends Nighttime workers or infants Expect daytime sleeping to be disrupted

Approximate timing for a typical single-family home often runs from one to a few days, depending on size, complexity, and weather, but your own schedule may differ.

Discuss Access and Utilities

Before the crew arrives, confirm:

- Where they can plug in tools, or whether they use generators.
- Whether they need access to a restroom or a portable unit will be provided.
- Where gates, side doors, and driveways should stay unlocked.
- Whether security cameras, sprinklers, or invisible pet fences need adjusting.

Know What Is Normal

Even a careful crew creates some mess. Expect:

- Shingle bits and granules in the yard that magnets and rakes will gather up.
- Nails showing up in surprising places, which is why a magnetic sweep matters.
- Temporary tarps over certain areas while work continues.
- Some dust inside, particularly in attics and top-floor closets.

It is reasonable to ask in advance how the crew handles cleanup and whether a final magnetic sweep of lawn and driveway is included.

Before You Hire, Ask the Right Prep Questions

When you speak with a trusted provider of *Long Island Exterior Co.* , ask exactly how they protect landscaping, siding, and windows, how many people will be on site, and who will supervise. The answers say a lot about how organized the job will be.

On the Day

- Walk the property with the crew leader and point out sensitive areas.
- Share a cell number where you can be reached.
- Keep kids and pets away from the work zone.
- Take dated photos of the property before work starts.

After the Tear-Off

Once the old roofing is off, the decking is exposed and rotten sections may be found. Your contract should say how that is priced and approved. Ask to see photos of any damaged areas, and keep a copy of any change order.

A Short Checklist

1. Confirm date, weather plan, and permit.
2. Notify neighbors.
3. Move cars, furniture, and planters away.
4. Protect shrubs and gardens.
5. Clear walls of fragile items.
6. Cover attic contents.
7. Arrange for pets and children.
8. Photograph the property.

About the Author

Elena K. is a home-improvement writer with a background in residential roofing and exterior renovation projects. She writes practical checklists that help homeowners feel ready before the crew pulls into the

driveway.