First Steps After a Hailstorm Damages Your Roof

Stop the damage from getting worse

A hailstorm can leave your roof looking like a dartboard. Even small hailstones can crack shingles, bruise softer roofing materials, and loosen the protective granules that keep the sun and rain at bay. The immediate risk is not the visible dents. It is the fact that every crack or lifted shingle creates a path for water. A roof that looks mostly intact may already be leaking into the attic or the insulation layers beneath the roof decking. Acting quickly can keep a small problem from turning into mold, rot, or extensive interior repairs.

Check for the most obvious signs of damage

Start from the ground. Walk around the house and look for missing shingles, especially along the ridge and the edges where wind uplift is strongest. Look for piles of granules in the gutters and on the ground. Granule loss is a clear indicator that the asphalt coating on composition shingles has been struck hard enough to shed its protective surface. When granules are gone, the underlying mat is exposed to UV and moisture, and the shingle will age fast. Also check the metal work: roof flashing around chimneys, vents, and skylights can be dented or knocked loose by large hailstones, and any gap here is a direct invitation for water intrusion.

If you can safely get a ladder, take a closer look at the roof decking from the eaves. Do not walk on a hail-damaged roof before you know its condition. A cracked shingle can be slippery, and a weakened deck might not hold your weight. Just a visual inspection from a stable spot can tell you a lot. Look for bare spots where the shingle surface has been hammered away, and note any areas where the roof covering looks disturbed or misaligned.



Document everything for your insurance claim

Before anyone touches the roof, take photos and video of every damaged area you can see from the ground and from a ladder. A clear record of the hailstorm damage is the backbone of a smooth insurance claim. Insurance adjusters rely on visual evidence to approve coverage for repairs or a full replacement. Photograph the dents in the gutters, the piles of granules, the cracked shingles, and any displaced flashing. If there is debris from trees or fences on the roof, document that too. Date-stamp your files if your phone or camera allows it.

View the location on Google Maps

Regenesis Roofing & Restoration LLC is also on Instagram.

Do not attempt temporary repairs that could hide the damage or be seen as an alteration before the adjuster arrives. Some policies allow you to cover a torn tarp over a leak to stop water intrusion, but check with your insurer first. The goal is to preserve the evidence while keeping the inside of the house dry.

Get a professional opinion early

You do not need to wait for the insurance adjuster to find out what the roof really needs. A local roofing contractor can give you a clear picture of the extent of the damage. In the days after a hailstorm, many reputable roofing companies offer a free roof inspection to homeowners who are worried about their roof's condition. This is a practical move because a trained eye can

spot subtle issues that a homeowner might miss, such as hail bruising that has not yet cracked the surface or wind uplift that has loosened the fasteners holding the shingles down. A free roof inspection gives you a written or photographic record that you can share with your insurance company, and it helps you decide whether a repair will be enough or if a full replacement is the smarter long-term choice.

When you call a contractor, ask whether the inspection includes checking the roof decking from the attic side. Water can travel along the underside of the decking for feet before it drips, so a leak in one spot may show up as a stain far from the actual breach. A thorough inspector will also check the condition of the underlayment and the attic insulation for signs of moisture.

Decide between repair and replacement

Not every hailstorm requires a new roof. If only a few shingles are cracked or missing, a simple repair often restores the roof's integrity. But when the damage is widespread, or when the granules have been stripped over a large area, the roof's remaining service life is dramatically shortened. A repair on a roof that has lost most of its granule coverage may only postpone the inevitable replacement. Also consider the age of the roof. A roof that is already near the end of its life may not be worth patching after a severe hailstorm. A replacement at this point is often the more cost-effective choice in the long run.



Another factor is the type of roofing material. Asphalt shingles, wood shakes, tile, and metal each react to hail differently. Metal roofs can dent, and the dents may create low spots where water can pool. Tile roofs can crack or shift, and the broken pieces can fall off and create a hazard. A roofing professional can evaluate the material and tell you whether the damage is cosmetic or structural.

Prevent further damage while you wait

If you have a leak that is actively dripping, place a bucket under it and move valuables out of the way. If the leak is large, a temporary tarp over the roof may be necessary, but only if your insurance company says it is allowed and only if you can do it safely. Never go onto a wet or

damaged roof alone. If you cannot reach the damaged area from a ladder, ask a roofer to do the tarping. The cost of a temporary patch is small compared to the cost of water damage to ceilings, walls, and floors.

Inside the house, check the attic for signs of moisture. Use a flashlight to look for wet insulation, dark spots on the wood, or water stains on the rafters. If you find any, mark the spot so you can show it to the inspector. Early detection of water intrusion can save you from mold growth, which can start within 24 to 48 hours in a warm attic.

When to call a professional

A hailstorm can be disorienting, and it is easy to underestimate the damage. A roof that looks fine from the street may have hidden issues that only become apparent after the next rain. That is why it pays to bring in a contractor who specializes in storm damage roofing. These professionals know what to look for: hail bruising, wind uplift at the edges, loose flashing, and compromised underlayment. They can also help you navigate the insurance claim process by providing detailed inspection reports and estimates.



In the Cedar Park and North Austin area, homeowners often turn to Regenesis Roofing & Restoration LLC, a local roofing contractor providing roof inspections, repairs, replacements, hail damage restoration, and storm-related roofing services in Cedar Park, Leander, and nearby North Austin communities. They are located at 2302 John Tee Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78613, USA, and can be reached at +1 512-674-5979. A timely inspection after a hailstorm can make the difference between a straightforward repair and a costly interior restoration down the road.