

8 Weather-Related Roofing Issues You Should Know About

When it comes to your roof, weather can wreak havoc any time of year. Since a small repair is easier and much less expensive than a roof replacement, it's a good idea to perform an inspection, or hire a professional to do so, at least once or twice a year.

If you keep these 8 roofing issues in mind, all year long, you may be able to prevent serious damage or nip in in the bud.

1. Ice Damming

Melting and refreezing can be caused by poor insulation, venting or airflow issues in the attic space so heat is being trapped in the roof. It can also be caused by poorly placed gutters that don't allow the roof to drain properly. Ice dams can cause water to get up under your shingles and cause blockage in the gutters. Even without these concerns, a south-facing roof can mean normal melting and re-freezing. Fixing your indoor trapped heat issues and placing heat cables on your roof can help keep the ice at bay.

2. Snow Load

If heavy, wet snow sits on your roof for a while, it can collapse. A roof a cave-in might even cause flooding and water damage inside the home. This can be prevented by clearing snow off your roof regularly, particularly when your roof is flat or has a low slope. If balance and physical ability allow, use a snow rake, clearing snow evenly so trusses aren't stressed unequally.

3. Leaks

Heavy rain or storms can often result in leaks inside the house. These can be a result of preventable problems like improper sealing, absent flashing, missing shingles and exposed nail heads. A quick look around the roof, when the weather is good, can help you spot and repair these problems before damage occurs.

4. Blocked Eavestroughs

In the autumn, be sure to clean leaves, twigs and wasp nests from your gutters. If water can't flow, it will freeze, causing blockages or back-ups. This can result in water underneath your shingles or rotting fascia and soffit.

5. UV Damage

We often think about snow and rain hurting our roof, but the summer sun and heat can do damage too. UV rays can cause your roofing material to fade in colour and cause shingles to become dry and brittle. When you inspect, look for worn, dried out shingles or those that are missing their protective granules, and replace them as necessary.

6. Algae and Moss

Heavy rains and humidity can result in the growth of algae and moss. These can cause staining, wood rot and moisture damage to shingles, if not taken care of. Commercial products are available for cleaning but be careful as moss and algae can make your roof extremely slippery. Hire a professional when safety is a concern.

7. Storm Damage from Wind, Hail and Fallen Trees

Severe storms can result in obvious damage to roofing materials, eaves and gutters. Even if you can't see it outside, check for structural damage, like broken trusses or rafters, inside your attic space.

8. Humidity and Moisture Concerns

Improper ventilation on the inside of your roof can cause moisture build-up, condensation and mold, and could cause your shingles to deteriorate more quickly. Catch and repair these issues early, before moisture has a chance to spread.

At least yearly, look around for obvious damage, possible leak sites, worn caulking, missing shingles, fungal growth, debris in gutters, or other roofing concerns. Whether you do it yourself or hire a professional, you can prevent early roof replacement with regular maintenance and small repairs.