

Home Tips Everyone Can Use

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When Showers Bring More Than May Flowers

You'll need more than a smile for an umbrella if your roof springs a leak in wet and rainy weather. How can you be sure of the condition of your roof and what are some important maintenance techniques that can help extend the life of your roof?

Roof leaks can be small and barely noticeable. But you may have experienced the other kind - ceiling bubbles that blow up like balloons and then burst, showering your room with water. Or you may have seen a roof leaking in a public building and watched employees race around with empty buckets, attempting to strategically catch the falling water.

Some other warning signs that may indicate a roof is in need of repairs includes a dark or dirty looking area which may indicate mold, algae, or an aging roof. Missing, cracked or curling shingles probably means shingles need to be replaced due to age and condition. Leaking in the attic may signal deteriorating shingles or flashing.



Stains on interior ceilings/walls or mold and mildew growth inside the home may be due to faulty shingle underlayment, allowing moisture to seep into the ceiling and walls.

Potential areas of concern include valleys or dips in the roof, skylights, chimneys, plumbing vents and furnace vents. If you suspect you might have a roof leak, here are some approaches you can take:

First, relocate any equipment or furnishings affected by the leak. If you can't move equipment or other property quickly, use a plastic tarp to protect the area.

Next, try to trace the leak to its source in order to properly evaluate the scope of the problem. It's always possible that a roof leak indicates nothing more than shingles that have been damaged or blown away by wind or storms. In the best case scenario, replacement of the missing shingles will quickly eliminate the problem. In the case of a more complicated cause, a roofing professional may need to evaluate your roof and help you determine the proper method for repairing or replacing your roof.



Periodic roof inspections and timely maintenance will definitely help extend the life of your roof and save you time and money in the long run. If your roof needs repairs but you delay tending to the damage, moisture can become trapped in walls causing insulation to deteriorate. As more time goes by, your roof repairs become more complicated and expensive. Building experts suggest a semi-annual inspection and maintenance program.

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