How to Spot Hail Damage on Your Roof After a Severe Storm

When a severe storm passes through Cedar Park, Leander, or nearby North Austin communities, hailstones can leave a roof looking battered and bruised. Hail damage is not always obvious from the ground, and what looks like a small dent can hide bigger trouble underneath. Knowing where to look and what to check helps you act quickly, protect your home, and handle the insurance claim process without unnecessary delays.

Hailstones vary in size from small pebbles to golf balls or larger. The bigger the hail, the more force it carries when it hits. But even smaller hailstones can cause problems if the wind drives them at an angle or they strike vulnerable spots. Wind uplift can also loosen shingles or flashing, creating entry points for water later. A careful inspection from the roof surface to the edges and valleys is the only way to gauge the full picture.

Start with a Ground-Level Look

Before climbing onto the roof, stand back and scan the entire roof from the ground. Use binoculars if you have them. Look for missing shingles, pieces that look out of place, or areas where the roofing material appears disturbed. Check along ridges, hips, and valleys because these are common spots for hail to concentrate. Also look at gutters and downspouts for piles of granules that have washed off the shingles. Granule loss exposes the asphalt layer underneath, which accelerates aging and leads to leaks.

If you see a lot of granules in the gutters, that is a sign the hail struck the roof with enough force to knock the protective coating loose. While granules collect naturally over time, a sudden surge after a storm points to impact damage.

View the location on Google Maps

Check the Roof Decking and Attic

Go inside the attic or crawl space with a flashlight. Look for daylight coming through the roof sheathing. Any beam of light means the hail or wind has created a hole or separated the shingles. Also check for water stains, soft wood, or mold growth on the underside of the roof decking. Water intrusion may not show on the ceiling for days or weeks, so catching it early in the attic can save you from costly interior repairs.



Pay attention to areas where the roof decking meets walls or chimneys. Those joints are sealed with roof flashing, which can be torn loose by wind or dented by hail. Damaged flashing lets water run behind the siding or into the wall cavity, a problem that is hard to fix once the water spreads.

Inspect the Shingles and Tiles Up Close

If it is safe to get on the roof, do so on a dry day with steady footing. Walk slowly and look for circular dents or dimples in asphalt shingles. When hailstones hit, they compress the fiberglass mat beneath the surface. The dent may feel soft or spongy underfoot. That means the shingle has lost its structural integrity and needs replacing. For clay or concrete tiles, look for cracks, chips, or pieces that have slid out of place. A cracked tile may still shed water for a while, but it will eventually fail.

On metal roofs, look for small dimples or punctures. Hail can dent metal panels enough to break the protective coating, leading to rust. On flat roofs with built-up or modified bitumen, look for gouges or tears in the membrane. Even a small puncture can let water soak into the insulation below, which is expensive to dry out.

Examine the Roof Flashing and Edges

Roof flashing is the metal or rubber material used at valleys, vents, skylights, and around chimneys. Hail can dent or tear flashing, and wind can peel it back. If the flashing is loose,

water can run underneath and rot the wood decking. Check the sealant around flashing joints. If it is cracked or missing, reseal it before the next rain.

Also look at the drip edge or rake edge where the roof meets the fascia board. Hail can knock the edge loose, which then allows water to run down the walls instead of into the gutters.

Document Everything for Your Insurance Claim

Take clear photographs of every sign of damage you find. Get close-up shots of dents, missing granules, cracks, and displaced shingles. Also take wide-angle photos to show the overall condition of the roof. If you find water stains in the attic, photograph those too. Good documentation makes the insurance claim process smoother and gives the adjuster a complete record. Keep notes on the date of the storm, the estimated size of the hailstones based on local reports, and what you observed during your inspection.



Do not attempt temporary repairs that hide the damage before the adjuster sees it. If you need to cover a leak to prevent interior damage, use a tarp and photograph the area first. The adjuster needs to see the original damage to approve the full scope of repairs.

When to Call a Professional

Some damage is hard to spot from the ground, and some roofs are steep or slippery. If you are not comfortable walking on the roof, or if the damage appears widespread, it is wise to bring in an expert. A professional roofer can identify subtle problems that an untrained eye might miss,

like granule loss that is not yet severe enough to cause a leak but will shorten the roof's life. They can also assess the condition of the roof decking and underlayment, which you cannot see from above.

In Cedar Park and the surrounding areas, many homeowners rely on professional help after hailstorms to get a thorough inspection and a detailed report for their insurance company. A roofer who specializes in storm restoration knows exactly where hail damage hides and how to document it properly. That expertise can make the difference between a claim that covers the full repair and one that leaves you paying out of pocket for hidden damage.

If you decide to wait, keep an eye on the roof during the next heavy rain. Watch for drips, stains, or damp spots in the attic. Sometimes damage does not show up until the first real rain after the storm. By then, the wood decking may already be wet, which can lead to rot and mold. Catching it early is always better.

Preventive Measures for Next Time

While you cannot stop hail, you can reduce future risk. Impact-resistant shingles and metal panels are available that meet higher hail-resistance ratings. If you are replacing a roof, consider materials rated for Class 3 or Class 4 impact resistance, which handle larger hailstones better. Also make sure the underlayment is a high-quality synthetic material, not old-style felt, because it provides a second line of defense if the outer layer is punctured.



Regular maintenance, like sealing flashing and replacing loose shingles before a storm, also reduces the chance of major damage. But after a severe hailstorm, a professional inspection is the most reliable way to know your roof's condition.

Regenesis Roofing & Restoration LLC, based at 2302 John Tee Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78613, USA, and reachable at +1 512-674-5979, provides roof inspections, repairs, replacements, hail damage restoration, and storm-related roofing services in Cedar Park, Leander, and nearby North Austin communities. Whether you need a full roof replacement or a targeted repair after a storm, professional help after hailstorms can give you peace of mind and protect your home for years to come.

Regenesis Roofing & Restoration LLC is also on Facebook.