

Storm Damage Action Plan: Protecting Your Roof After a Storm

By RGB Construction – Your Trusted South Jersey Roofing Experts

Introduction: Why Quick Action is Essential After a Storm

Storms can wreak havoc on your roof, leading to leaks, structural damage, and other costly repairs if not addressed promptly. This action plan will guide you through the steps to take immediately after a storm to protect your home and ensure you're prepared for any repairs or insurance claims.

1. Immediate Steps to Take After the Storm

Once the storm has passed, safety is your top priority. Here's what to do immediately:

- **Ensure Safety First:** Avoid going near downed power lines, large debris, or unstable structures.
 - **Visually Inspect Your Roof:** From the ground, check for visible damage such as missing shingles, fallen branches, or bent flashing.
 - **Check for Leaks Inside:** Look for water stains, wet spots, or drips in the attic, ceilings, or walls, as these are signs of roof damage.
 - **Document the Damage:** Take clear photos of any visible damage to your roof, both outside and inside, to provide documentation for insurance claims and repairs.
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2. Assessing the Damage: What to Look For

After the storm, it's important to assess the condition of your roof carefully. Here are some of the most common issues:

- **Missing or Broken Shingles:** High winds can tear shingles from your roof, leaving it vulnerable to leaks.
 - **Damaged Flashing:** Flashing, which protects seams and edges, can become bent or detached, allowing water to seep in.
 - **Gutter Damage:** Broken or clogged gutters can lead to water pooling on your roof, causing long-term damage.
 - **Tree Damage:** Fallen branches can puncture your roof or damage shingles, leaving the structure exposed.
 - **Signs of Water Damage:** Check for water stains or damp spots inside your home, which could indicate a leak.
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3. Emergency Repairs: Minimizing Further Damage

If your roof is severely damaged and rain is still in the forecast, you may need temporary repairs until a professional can inspect it:

- **Tarp the Roof:** Use a heavy-duty tarp to cover any exposed areas of the roof to prevent additional water from entering your home.
 - **Clear Gutters and Downspouts:** Remove any debris blocking gutters to allow rainwater to flow away from your roof.
 - **Board Up Broken Windows or Skylights:** If windows or skylights are damaged, board them up to prevent water and debris from entering your home.
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4. Filing an Insurance Claim for Storm Damage

If the damage is extensive, you may need to file an insurance claim to cover the costs of repairs. Here's how to get started:

- **Contact Your Insurance Company:** Notify your insurer as soon as possible. Provide details of the storm and the damage.
- **Provide Documentation:** Share the photos and videos you took after the storm, as well as any other evidence of damage.
- **Schedule an Inspection:** Your insurance company may send an adjuster to assess the damage and determine coverage.

- **Understand Your Coverage:** Review your homeowner's policy to understand what storm-related damage is covered and what your deductible is.
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5. Hiring a Professional Roofing Contractor

Once you've documented the damage and contacted your insurance, the next step is to hire a professional roofing contractor to repair your roof. Here's what to look for:

- **Licensed and Insured:** Make sure the contractor is fully licensed and insured in your area to avoid liability.
 - **GAF Master Elite Certified:** Choose a contractor with top industry certifications like **GAF Master Elite**, ensuring high-quality repairs and access to extended warranties.
 - **Experience with Storm Damage:** Look for a contractor who has experience handling storm damage repairs and is familiar with working alongside insurance companies.
 - **24/7 Emergency Services:** If your home is severely damaged, hire a contractor like **RGB Construction**, which offers 24/7 emergency services to minimize further issues.
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6. Preventative Measures to Protect Your Roof in the Future

While you can't prevent storms, there are steps you can take to minimize roof damage in the future:

- **Regular Roof Inspections:** Schedule an annual roof inspection to catch potential issues before they become big problems.
- **Trim Overhanging Branches:** Prevent tree limbs from falling on your roof by trimming back overhanging branches.
- **Maintain Your Gutters:** Keep your gutters clear of debris to allow water to flow away from your roof, especially before storm season.
- **Install Impact-Resistant Shingles:** Consider upgrading to **impact-resistant shingles** that can withstand hail and strong winds.

Conclusion: Protect Your Home with RGB Construction

Storm damage can be stressful, but taking quick action can prevent further issues. Trust **RGB Construction**, South Jersey's leading roofing experts, to provide fast, reliable storm damage repairs. With our **GAF Master Elite** certification and years of experience, we'll ensure your home is fully protected. Contact us today for a free estimate or emergency repairs.

Call us: 856-264-9093

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