



# Evaluating Wood Roofs



# Is my roof damaged by hail?

The information in this brochure covers some of the more common types of damage to wood roofs. It shows what hail damage typically looks like, and also what other types of damage look like.

## Did you know?

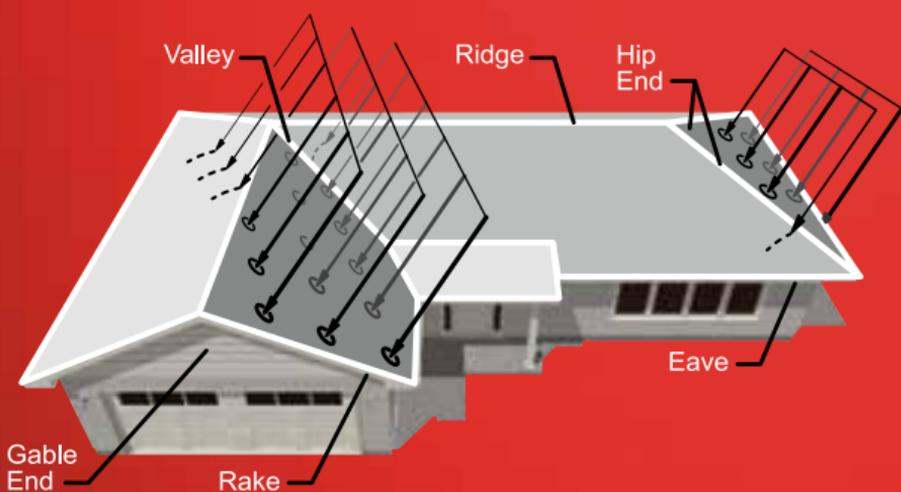
As wood shingles/shakes age, they shrink and form gaps. They may also become brittle and offer less protection from the elements.

The extent of roof shingles/shakes weathering varies, in part according to the grade of the product, slope direction and attic space ventilation. Poor attic ventilation will greatly reduce the service life of roofing shingles/shakes.

Shingles/shakes facing southerly directions typically deteriorate more quickly than those on other slopes due to the more direct angle of solar radiation.

During a hail storm, depending on the direction and velocity of the wind, some slopes may be more susceptible to hail damage while other slopes may have minimal or no damage.

## Directionality of Hail





**Hail hits** – Random hail hits to wood shingles/shakes.



**Impact split** – Splits in wood shingles associated with impact marks, having sharp edges and a fresh wood color (light orange).



**Directional hail** – The number, size and hardness of the hailstones can vary tremendously within a small locality. Velocity and direction of the wind are also factors.



**Spatter marks** – Random hail which removes the weathered look to shingles/shakes, but doesn't damage the roof.



**Gouge** – A dent in a shingle/shake which may or may not be caused by hail.



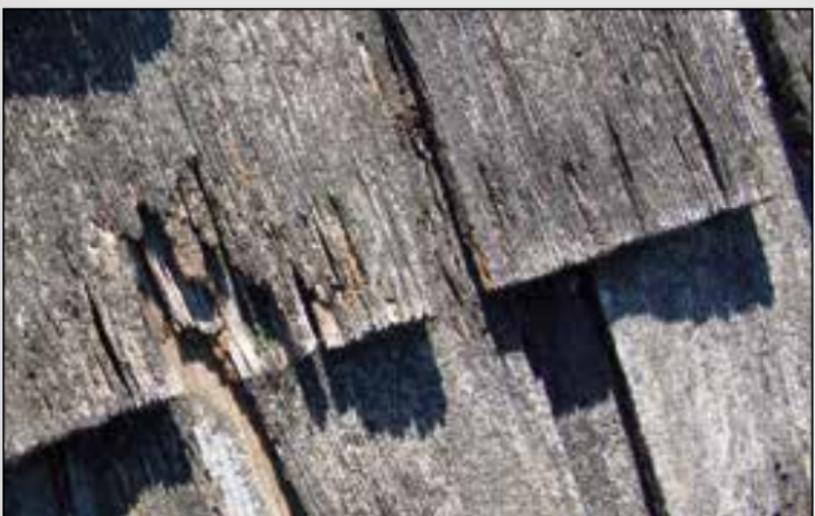
**Weathered split** – A split in wood caused by exposure to natural weathering. Such splits have rounded edges and a gray or dull orange interior.



**Cupping and curling** – A natural aging process of the wood roof where a portion of the shingle/shake is distorted and is curled upward.



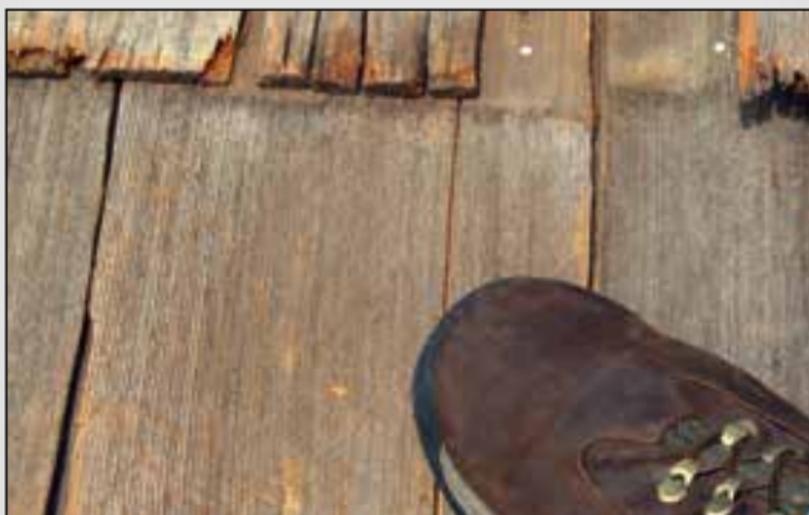
**Moss/algae/lichen** – Microorganisms that grow on damp organic surfaces.



**Bottom edge rot** – Deterioration of the thick ends of shingles/shakes characterized by fraying.



**Surface nailing** – Improperly installed fastening through the weathering surface of the shingle or shake instead of covering the fastenings with the overlying shingles.



**Foot fall** – A split resulting from walking on the shingles/shakes.



**Cedar roof repair** – Example of spot repair to wood roof.

## Commonly Asked Questions

### Are all houses in a neighborhood affected the same way?

State Farm® evaluates each roof individually. The number, size and hardness of the hailstones can vary tremendously within a small locality. Velocity and direction of the wind are also factors. Other factors are roof pitch, age and condition.

### My wood shingles have spatter marks on them; are they damaged?

The “spatter” marks that you are seeing are normal after a hail storm. Your roof has darkened over time since its installation as a result of algae growth and natural weathering. When the hailstones contact the roof, the darker mark is removed, leaving a lighter colored mark. In time, these marks will fade as algae growth and natural weathering continues on your roof.

### What causes my roof's shingles/shakes to split and crack?

Wood shingles/shakes split and crack naturally; it's part of their aging process. There are many causes for this splitting; the primary reason is shrinking and swelling caused by moisture and subsequent drying.

### Can wood roofs be repaired?

Yes. A reputable roofing contractor can remove individual roofing shingles/shakes and replace with new shingles/shakes.

### What size hail is damaging to roofing?

This depends on several variables; size, shape, hardness, density, wind velocity as well as the type of roof that you have. In general, pea and marble-sized hail will not damage wood roofs in good condition.

### How do I select a roofing contractor?

Look for an established, licensed or bonded roofer and request references. Ask to see certificates of insurance for liability and workers compensation insurance coverage. Insist on a detailed, written estimate, showing material needed, labor charges and approximate starting and completion dates. Contact your local Better Business Bureau to check for complaints filed against the contractor.

## Additional Information

Additional information is available on  
[statefarm.com](http://statefarm.com)<sup>®</sup>.



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