



Hail Size vs. Typical Damage Summary

A practical reference for deciding when to document and inspect.

Size is context, not a damage test

Hail hardness, wind, impact angle, roof support, age and condition all affect the outcome. Smaller hail can damage vulnerable materials; larger hail does not mean every shingle is damaged.

Approx. diameter	What it can mean for your home
1/4-3/4 inch Pea to penny	Check exposed finishes and vulnerable components. Healthy asphalt shingles may show no damage; deteriorated or poorly supported shingles can be more susceptible.
1 inch Quarter	NWS severe-hail size criterion. This is a weather classification, not an insurance or roof-replacement threshold. Document conditions.
1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches Half dollar to ping-pong ball	Concern for shingle impacts increases. Arrange an inspection when damage is suspected; check the roof and associated exterior components.
1-3/4 inches and larger Golf ball and above	Greater potential for substantial roof and exterior damage. Check safely for leaks and arrange prompt professional assessment.

Size comparisons: National Weather Service. Damage descriptions are general inspection guidance, not a prediction for a specific roof. Objects and hailstones vary in shape.



What matters beyond the hailstone

Why nearby homes may look different

Hail can vary across a short distance. Shingle construction, weathering, roof orientation and shelter from trees change the exposure. Dents on a gutter or vent can support evidence of hail, but do not prove damage to the shingles.

Research context, with limits

Haag's 2026 position paper describes approximate damage thresholds around 1 inch for three-tab and 1-1/4 inches for laminated shingles in midlife or better condition. It also notes that older, deteriorated and unsupported shingles can bruise at about 3/4 inch. These are condition-dependent observations, not universal cutoffs.

Record useful evidence after the storm

From a safe location, photograph hail beside a ruler before it melts; do not go outside during hail to collect it. Record the time and address. Photograph dents, broken siding or screens, and interior water staining. Keep original photos and distinguish your observations from neighborhood reports.

Choose the next action

Active leak or exposed roof: arrange safe temporary protection promptly.

Visible damage or concerning hail: request an inspection.

No obvious damage: observe safely after rain; a ground check cannot rule out hidden damage.

A clear next step for your roof

Request a roof inspection and written findings from The Helping Company.

610-234-2210 | thcexteriors.com

Your contact / appointment: _____

Educational guidance only; not a roof diagnosis, policy interpretation, public-adjusting service, or legal advice. Coverage, scope and payment depend on your policy, loss facts and insurer review. No coverage or full-roof replacement is guaranteed.

Sources & further reading (links; reviewed September 22, 2026)

National Weather Service: Hail size glossary

Haag: Effects of Sub-Severe Hail on Asphalt Shingles (2026)