



Identifying Shingle Damage Guide

Recognize warning signs without putting yourself on the roof.

Look safely. Leave testing to a professional.

Use binoculars or camera zoom from the ground. Do not climb, lift tabs, press suspected bruises, scrape granules or break sealant bonds. Inspection can damage shingles if done incorrectly.

What you notice	What it may indicate / what to do
Missing, torn or creased shingles	Wind, debris or other damage may have interrupted the roof covering. Request prompt inspection and temporary protection if needed.
Dark spots or bare patches	Granule loss can have several causes. Ask for close-up documentation and comparison with surrounding shingles.
Curling, widespread cracks or brittle edges	May reflect aging or other roof conditions. These signs alone do not establish a recent storm loss.
Dark streaks or surface growth	Algae, moss or lichen can change appearance. Staining alone is not proof of hail damage or a need for replacement.
New interior stain or dripping	A roof, flashing, plumbing or other leak needs diagnosis. Photograph it and arrange help; the stain may be away from the entry point.



Ask for evidence, not just circles on shingles

Hail and common look-alikes

A hail bruise involves damaged reinforcement, not simply a dark color. Blister pits, general weathering, scuffs from foot traffic and mechanical marks can resemble impact damage. A qualified inspector should evaluate the pattern, material condition and other exposed surfaces before assigning a cause.

What a useful inspection report includes

Ask for roof-wide views, photos locating each area, close-ups with a scale, and notes on the shingle type and condition. Findings should separate observed damage from suspected cause, identify areas that could not be accessed and explain any further evaluation needed.

Your ground-level checklist

- ☐ Photograph all sides of the home and visible roof slopes.
- ☐ Note missing shingles, debris and changes at gutters or flashing.
- ☐ Photograph interior stains and record whether they are new.
- ☐ Share prior repair dates and earlier photos, if available.
- ☐ Ask which findings require immediate protection.

Inside the home: Stay out of unsafe attic spaces and away from wet electrical equipment. Do not stand under a bulging ceiling. In Pennsylvania winter conditions, do not walk on an icy roof or chip ice from shingles; arrange a safe assessment.

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)

GAF: [How to identify roof damage](#)

GAF TAB-R-143: [Damage caused by wind events](#)

Haag: [Protocol for Assessment of Hail-Damaged Roofing](#)