

A Simple Storm-Damage Checklist

A homeowner's guide to what to do after a tornado, high-wind event, hailstorm, or other severe weather.

SAFETY FIRST

Do not climb onto your roof or enter areas that appear unsafe. Inspect your home from the ground when conditions are safe, and have a qualified professional take a closer look if something seems wrong.

1. Make Sure Everyone Is Safe

- Stay away from downed power lines and damaged utility equipment.
- Watch for unstable trees, branches, structures, broken glass, and debris.
- Do not enter areas of your home that appear structurally compromised. Do not climb onto your roof.

2. Walk Around the Exterior

- Inspect the property from the ground when it is safe.
- Look for shingles, siding, branches, or other materials in the yard.
- Look for visible holes, openings, or signs of water intrusion.
- Check for fallen trees or large branches.

3. Check the Roof From the Ground

- Missing, lifted, or displaced shingles
- Exposed areas of roofing
- Damaged vents or flashing
- Branches or debris on the roof
- Roofing materials or shingles in the yard

4. Check Siding

- Missing, cracked, broken, or loose panels
- Holes, punctures, or visible impact marks
- Shifted panels
- Damaged trim around windows and doors

5. Check Windows & Doors

- Cracked or broken glass
- Damaged frames or exterior trim
- Doors that no longer close or latch properly
- Signs of water intrusion
- Damage from branches or flying debris

6. Check Gutters & Downspouts

- Gutters pulled away from the fascia
- Bent or crushed gutter sections
- Detached or damaged downspouts
- Damaged hangers



- Debris or damage around the gutter system

7. Check Decks & Porches

- Loose or damaged decking boards
- Damaged railings or balusters
- Shifted structural components
- Damaged stairs or loose connections
- Visible movement or instability

8. Document What You Find

- Take wide photos of the front, back, and sides of the home.
- Photograph visible damage and debris from a safe location.
- Document damage to the roof, siding, windows, doors, gutters, and deck.
- Photograph any visible interior water damage.
- Keep copies of photos and any inspection documentation.

9. Contact Your Insurance Company

- Ask about the next steps under your specific policy.
- Remember: your insurance company determines coverage.
- Keep copies of photographs, inspection reports, estimates, and other relevant documents.

10. Don't Rush Permanent Repairs

- Document damage before cleanup or permanent repairs when safely possible.
- Understand what was damaged and what needs to be repaired or replaced.
- Make sure you understand the proposed scope of work before signing a contract.
- Use safe temporary measures when necessary to help prevent additional damage.

NEED A CLOSER LOOK?

Pro Exteriors offers free storm-damage inspections for homeowners in Kent County and the surrounding Delaware area.

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