

The Homeowner's Roof Maintenance Guide

Simple seasonal steps to extend the life of your roof & siding in Maryland's climate

Your roof is your home's first line of defense — and a little maintenance goes a long way. Maryland's mix of humid summers, freeze-thaw winters, and strong storms puts real stress on your exterior. This guide walks you through simple, safe steps to protect your investment and catch small issues before they become expensive ones. **Always stay safe: inspect from the ground and leave the roof to professionals.**

Spring (After Winter Thaw)

- Look for shingles loosened or cracked by winter freeze-thaw cycles.
- Clean gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris so spring rains drain freely.
- Check for granules in gutters — a sign your shingles may be aging.
- Inspect flashing around chimneys and vents for winter damage.

Summer (Storm Season)

- After each major storm, do a ground-level check for wind or hail damage.
- Trim overhanging tree branches that could fall or scrape shingles.
- Ensure attic ventilation is clear — trapped heat shortens shingle life.
- Watch for interior signs of leaks: ceiling stains, damp attic spots.

Fall (Prepare for Winter)

- Clean gutters again after leaves drop to prevent ice dams.
- Check that all shingles are secure before winter winds arrive.
- Inspect siding for cracks or gaps that could let moisture in.
- Confirm downspouts direct water away from your foundation.

Winter (Cold-Weather Watch)

- Watch for ice dams forming at the roof edge — they force water under shingles.
 - Check the attic for proper insulation and ventilation to reduce ice dams.
 - After heavy snow, look for sagging or excessive load (call a pro if concerned).
 - Keep an eye out for interior leaks during thaws.
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When to Call a Professional

Most roofs last 20–30 years, but Maryland storms can shorten that fast. Call Force Roofing & Siding for a free inspection if your roof is 15+ years old, you've been through a major storm, or you spot any warning signs from this guide. We install premium CertainTeed and James Hardie systems with CertainTeed-certified crews, and we'll give you honest advice — repair when that's right, replace only when it's necessary.

Questions about your roof? Call or text (443) 838-3796 for a free inspection.