

# Hints *For* Homeowners

## Preparing Your Roof For Harsh Weather

(NAPSA)—When it comes to keeping out winter's cold, rain and snow, your house is only as good as its roof.

That's why it's important to give your roof an inspection twice a year—in the spring, after severe weather, and then again before the worst of winter weather sets in. Keep an eye out for telltale signs of wear, such as loose or missing shingles and deteriorated flashing (the metal that seals bends and joints on skylights, chimneys, etc.). More than 90 percent of all roof damage occurs in these areas. Try these additional tips:

- Inspect the roof edge for damage caused by wind, driving rain and ice dams (where water freezes and backs up under the roofing system).

- Watch for discolorations on the roof, especially dark spots. They could be signs of moisture damage and algae or mold growth.

- Clean your gutters, leaders, window wells and drains of any debris. Leaves, sticks and other items can cause water to back up and flow under the roof. It's also important to make sure gutters are securely fastened to your house and to direct all downspouts away from your foundation.

### Maintaining Roof Health

If you spot damage, work with



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a professional roofing contractor who uses quality materials. Doing so can save you time and money and prolong the life of your roof. Plus, it can keep you from having to spring for costly repairs down the road.

A free service that helps homeowners find a qualified roofing contractor is available through GAF Materials Corporation, North America's largest roofing manufacturer. Call (888) LEAK-SOS or visit [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com).