

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Did Your Roof Survive The Winter?

(NAPSA)—Winter months can be cruel to your roof, since it's the first line of defense against high winds, heavy rains, sleet and snow. And if a roof fails, it can mean hefty repair bills and a lot of wasted time.

So now that the weather is better, it's a good idea to perform a quick checkup—to ensure that your home is protected.

Leaking roof systems can result from several sources. The most common leak sources include cracks in flashing around the chimney and vents, worn out or missing shingles, or condensation from inadequate attic ventilation. Here are some suggested warning signals that your roof system may be wasting money and leaving your property vulnerable that you can identify yourself, according to Dave Harrison, senior vice president of GAF Materials Corporation, North America's largest roofing system manufacturer:

1. Ceiling spots—A warning sign that your roof system needs leak repair.

2. Missing shingles—These should be replaced quickly to avoid structural damage to your roof deck and the interior of your home.

3. Cracked flashing—Should always be replaced.

4. Buckled or curled shingles—Indicates old age or a problem with the shingle underlayment (i.e., the felt underneath the shingles).

5. Blistered shingles—Typically occurs due to inadequate roof ventilation or application over a wet deck.

6. Granules in the gutter—If



Each spring, it's a good idea to make sure your roof survived the winter.

excessive, it may indicate aging shingles that should be replaced.

7. Peeling of interior or exterior paint/wallpaper—A sign of possibly inadequate attic ventilation.

8. Excessive energy bills—Especially air conditioning in the summer, can be a sign of inadequate attic ventilation.

If you have issues with your roof system, consider utilizing the services of a professional roofing contractor. Most people think roofing is simple, and are therefore willing to hire a “fly by night” contractor to perform their roofing services, often at a lower cost. That probably explains why roofing is one of the top reasons for complaint calls to the Better Business Bureau.

A free service that helps homeowners find a qualified roofing contractor is available through GAF Materials Corporation. Simply call 1-888-LEAK-SOS or check www.gaf.com. The site contains a great deal of information about roofing problems and solutions, and offers a free video on how to avoid roofing disasters.