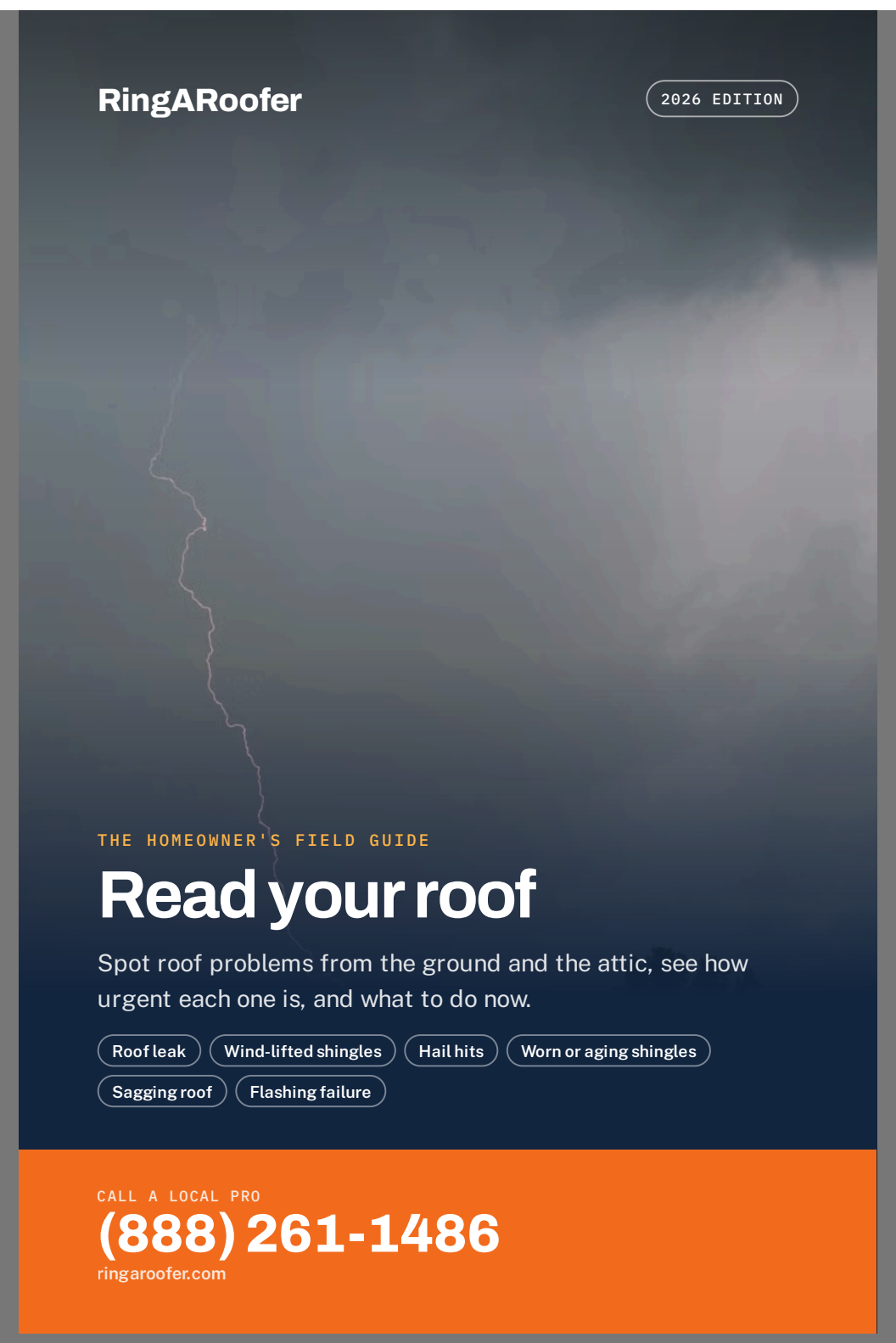
RingARoofer

2026 EDITION



THE HOMEOWNER'S FIELD GUIDE

Read your roof

Spot roof problems from the ground and the attic, see how urgent each one is, and what to do now.

Roof leak | Wind-lifted shingles | Hail hits | Worn or aging shingles | Sagging roof | Flashing failure

CALL A LOCAL PRO

(888) 261-1486

ringaroofer.com

WELCOME

Keep this guide where you can find it fast

Problems at home rarely wait for a good moment. This guide helps you recognize what's going on, decide how fast to act and know what to do in the first few minutes.

1. **Start with the sign.** The "Identify it by what you see" page matches what you see to the likely problem.
2. **Check the urgency.** Every problem carries a color: ● Call today, ● Call this week, ● Not urgent.
3. **Do the first steps.** Each problem lists what to do right now, while you call.

⚠ **Safety first.** General guidance only. Stay off the roof, and keep away from downed power lines after a storm.

ONE CALL CONNECTS YOU WITH AN INDEPENDENT LOCAL COMPANY
(888) 261-1486

INSIDE

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AT A GLANCE

How urgent is it?

A quick way to sort the problem in front of you.

Call today

- Roof leak
- Wind-lifted shingles
- Sagging roof

Call this week

- Hail hits
- Flashing failure
- Attic warning signs

Not urgent

- Worn or aging shingles
- Moss and algae

TALK TO A LOCAL PRO

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START HERE

Identify it by what you see

Most roof problems show up inside or on the ground before you'd spot it on the roof. Find your sign.

WHAT YOU NOTICE	MOST LIKELY	PAGE
Brown stain on the ceiling	**Roof leak**	6
Shingles in the yard after wind	**Wind-lifted shingles**	8
Dents on vents or the AC after hail	**Hail hits**	10
Gritty granules near downspouts	**Worn shingles**	12
A dip in the roofline	**Sagging roof**	14
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Dark streaks or moss	**Moss and algae**	20



01 CALL TODAY

PROBLEM 1 OF 8

Roof leak

SHOWS UP	OFTEN FAR FROM
Top-floor ceilings, attic	**The actual hole**

How to recognize it

Stains on top-floor ceilings, drips during rain, or wet insulation in the attic.

Prevent it next time

- Look at top-floor ceilings after heavy rain.
- Check the attic twice a year.
- Keep the roof clear of branches and debris.

Why it matters

Water travels along rafters, so the leak inside can be feet away from the opening on the roof.

Signs to look for

- Ceiling stains that grow after rain
- Drips during storms
- Wet attic insulation
- Peeling paint near the ceiling

Do this now

1. Bucket under the drip; move belongings.
2. Stay out from under sagging drywall.
3. Photograph inside and outside.

What the pro will do

1. Traces the leak from inside and outside.
2. Tarps the roof if rain is coming.
3. Repairs shingles, flashing or decking.

> Call today. Many roofers can tarp the roof to stop more water.

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02 CALL TODAY

PROBLEM 2 OF 8

Wind-lifted shingles

LOOK FOR
Missing or lifted shingles

ALSO CHECK
Edges and ridge

How to recognize it

Shingles in the yard, bare patches on the roof, or shingles lifted and creased along the edges and ridge.

Prevent it next time

- Trim branches that touch the roof.
- Check for lifted shingles after storms.
- Note the date of every big storm.

Why it matters

Exposed underlayment can't keep out rain for long.

Signs to look for

- Shingles on the ground
- Bare or dark patches on the roof
- Lifted or creased shingles
- Debris or branches on the roof

Do this now

1. Photograph the roof from the ground.
2. Stay off the roof.
3. Note the storm date for your records.

What the pro will do

1. Inspects edges, ridge and open areas.
2. Replaces missing or lifted shingles.
3. Checks the underlayment underneath.

Call today if shingles are missing.

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03 CALL THIS WEEK

PROBLEM 3 OF 8

Hail hits

CLUE	ON SHINGLES
Dents on vents, AC, mailbox	**Dark bruises, lost granules**

How to recognize it

Dents on soft metal like vents and the AC unit, dark spots where granules were knocked off, or cracked shingles.

Prevent it next time

- Photograph vents and the AC after hail.
- Write down storm dates.
- Get a roof check after big hail.

Why it matters

Hail bruises can be hard to see but shorten a roof's life and can lead to leaks.

Signs to look for

- Dented vents, flashing or AC fins
- Granules near downspouts
- Dark spots on shingles
- Cracked or split shingles

Do this now

1. Photograph dents on vents and the AC unit.
2. Write down the storm date.
3. Stay off the roof.

What the pro will do

1. Inspects shingles for bruises and cracks.
2. Checks vents, flashing and edges.
3. Explains repair or replacement.

> Call this week for an inspection, while the storm date is fresh.

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04 NOT URGENT

PROBLEM 4 OF 8

Worn or aging shingles

ASPHALT LIFE	SIGNS
About 20 to 30 years	Curling, cracking, bald spots

How to recognize it

Shingles curling at the edges, cracking, or losing granules, with patchy, bald spots.

Prevent it next time

- Look at the roof from the street each season.
- Check for granules near downspouts.
- Keep the attic well ventilated.

Why it matters

Worn shingles leak more easily and blow off in storms.

Signs to look for

- Curling or cupped shingles
- Granules collecting on the ground
- Cracked shingles
- Patchy color

Do this now

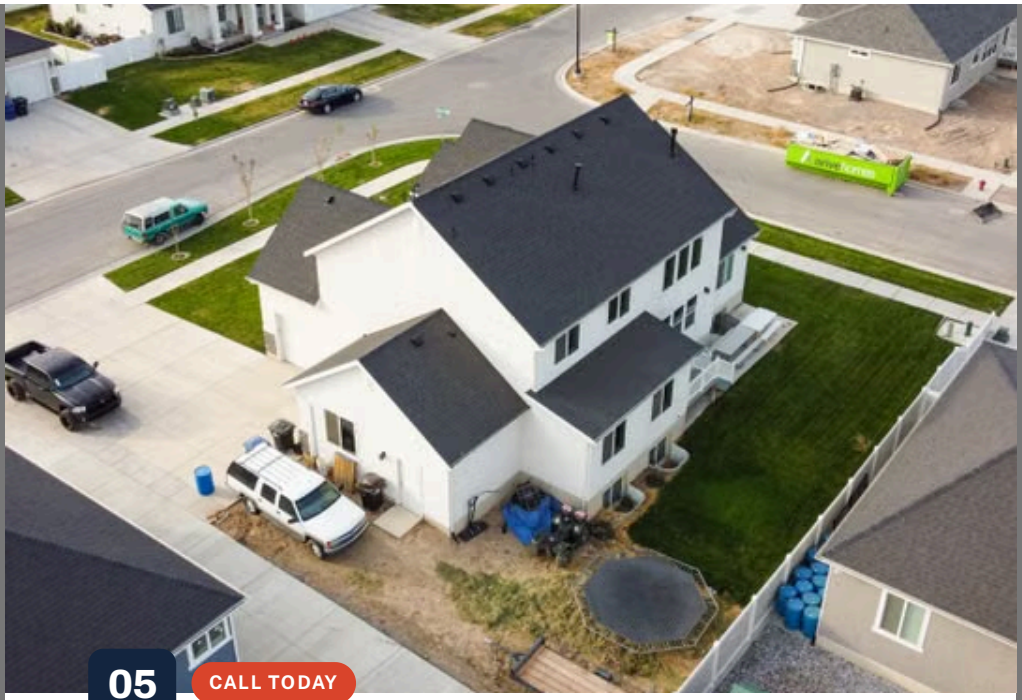
1. Look at the roof from across the street.
2. Check the attic for stains.
3. Note the roof's age if you know it.

What the pro will do

1. Inspects the whole roof and attic.
2. Replaces worn areas or plans a new roof.
3. Explains material choices for your climate.

> Not urgent. Plan an inspection before storm season.

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(888) 261-1486



05 CALL TODAY

PROBLEM 5 OF 8

Sagging roof

LOOK FOR	CAUSES
Dips in the roofline	**Water-rotted deck, heavy snow**

How to recognize it

A dip or wave in the roofline, or bowed rafters and boards in the attic.

Prevent it next time

- Clear heavy snow with a roof rake from the ground.
- Fix leaks before the deck rots.
- Check the attic for bowed boards.

Why it matters

Sagging can mean rotted decking or structural strain. It needs a prompt look.

Signs to look for

- Dips or waves in the roofline
- Bowed attic boards
- Cracks in top-floor ceilings
- Doors sticking upstairs

Do this now

1. Keep people out from under the area.
2. Clear heavy snow only from the ground with a roof rake.
3. Photograph the roofline.

What the pro will do

1. Inspects rafters and roof deck.
2. Shores up the area if needed.
3. Replaces rotted decking and reroofs.

> Call today.

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06 CALL THIS WEEK

PROBLEM 6 OF 8

Flashing failure

WHERE
Vent pipes, roof openings, wall joints

COMMON
Leading cause of leaks

How to recognize it

Leaks or stains near vent pipes or where the roof meets a wall; loose, rusted or bent metal.

Prevent it next time

- Look at vent pipes and wall joints after storms.
- Watch for stains below them inside.
- Check sealant every few years.

Why it matters

Flashing seals the joints where leaks start most often.

Signs to look for

- Stains near vent pipes
- Loose or rusted metal
- Cracked sealant
- Leaks only in driving rain

Do this now

1. Note exactly where the stain is inside.
2. Photograph vents and wall joints from the ground.
3. Bucket under any drip.

What the pro will do

1. Removes and replaces worn flashing.
2. Reseals around vent pipes.
3. Checks shingles around the joint.

> Call this week; today if it's actively leaking.

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07 CALL THIS WEEK

PROBLEM 7 OF 8

Attic warning signs

LOOK FOR
Daylight, stains, soft boards

ALSO
Wet or matted insulation

How to recognize it

Daylight through the boards, dark water stains, soft or delaminating sheathing, or damp insulation.

Prevent it next time

- Check the attic with a flashlight twice a year.
- Keep vents clear.
- Watch for damp insulation.

Why it matters

The attic shows roof problems early, before they reach your ceilings.

Signs to look for

- Daylight through boards
- Dark stains on rafters
- Soft or flaking sheathing
- Damp insulation

Do this now

1. Look with a flashlight, staying on the joists.
2. Photograph stains and light gaps.
3. Put a bucket under drips.

What the pro will do

1. Inspects decking from inside and out.
2. Replaces soft or stained boards.
3. Improves airflow if moisture builds up.

> Call this week.

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(888) 261-1486



08 NOT URGENT

PROBLEM 8 OF 8

Moss and algae

DARK STREAKS	MOSS
Usually algae, cosmetic	**Holds moisture, lifts shingles**

How to recognize it

Black streaks on shingles, or green clumps of moss on shaded parts of the roof.

Prevent it next time

- Trim branches to let in sun.
- Keep debris off the roof.
- Don't pressure-wash shingles.

Why it matters

Streaks are mostly cosmetic. Moss traps moisture and can lift shingles over time.

Signs to look for

- Black streaks
- Green clumps on shaded areas
- Shingles lifting near moss
- Debris piling up

Do this now

1. Don't pressure-wash shingles.
2. Trim overhanging branches if safe.
3. Photograph the affected areas.

What the pro will do

1. Cleans moss safely without harming shingles.
2. Checks for lifted shingles underneath.
3. Suggests ways to keep it from returning.

> Not urgent. Ask about cleaning when you schedule an inspection.

TALK TO A LOCAL PRO
(888) 261-1486

SIDE BY SIDE

Repair or replace?

A quick rule of thumb. A roofer's inspection makes the call.

Repair or replace?

	Usually a repair	Often a replacement
PROBLEM	A few shingles or one leak	Widespread wear or many leaks
AGE	Under 15 years	20 years or more
DECK	Solid	Soft or sagging
AFTER A STORM	Small area hit	Hail or wind hits across the roof

Still not sure? Describe what you see on the phone and a local pro can tell you which it is.

HOW TO

Before you call

Stay off the roof

Roofs are slippery and steep. Photos from the ground or a drone are enough.

Photograph everything

Inside and out, plus dents on vents and the AC after hail.

Note the storm date

Write down when the storm hit. It helps the roofer and your records.

Catch the water

Bucket under drips, belongings moved, and stay out from under sagging drywall.

Check the attic

A flashlight look for stains, light and damp insulation tells the roofer a lot.

Know your roof's age

Age and material help the roofer plan repair or replacement.

FILL THIS IN TODAY

My home at a glance

Five minutes now spares you a scramble later. Keep this page with the guide.

Roof type and color:

Year the roof was installed:

Last inspection date:

Storm dates we should remember:

Attic access is located:

Roofer we used before:

Notes:

THROUGH THE YEAR

Your roof through the year

A few minutes each season heads off the most common problems.

Winter

- Rake heavy snow from the ground.
- Watch for ice along the roof edge.
- Check top-floor ceilings.
- Stay off icy roofs.

Spring

- Look for lifted or missing shingles.
- Check the attic for stains.
- Clear debris from valleys.
- Book an inspection after hail.

Summer

- Check after every big storm.
- Trim branches near the roof.
- Look for granules on the ground.
- Keep attic vents clear.

Fall

- Clear leaves and debris.
- Look at vent pipe seals.
- Check for moss on shady areas.
- Plan repairs before winter.

QUESTIONS

Roof problem questions

How do I know if my roof is leaking?

Ceiling stains that grow after rain, drips during storms, peeling paint near the ceiling or damp attic insulation.

What do hail hits on a roof look like?

Dark bruises where granules were knocked off, cracked shingles, and dents on vents, flashing and the AC unit.

How do I know if wind lifted my shingles?

Shingles in the yard, bare patches on the roof, or lifted and creased shingles along the edges.

Why are there shingle granules on the ground?

Some loss is normal on new roofs. Heavy loss on an older roof, or after hail, means the shingles are wearing out.

Is a sagging roof dangerous?

It can be. It may mean rotted decking or structural strain. Keep people out from under it and call.

What is roof flashing?

Metal that seals the joints around vent pipes, roof openings and walls. It's one of the most common leak points.

Roof problem questions (continued)

Can I patch a roof leak myself?

It's safer to bucket the drip, take photos and call. Roofs are a common fall risk.

How long does an asphalt shingle roof last?

Often about 20 to 30 years, depending on climate, ventilation and the shingle type.

Is moss on my roof a problem?

Dark streaks are mostly cosmetic. Thick moss holds moisture and can lift shingles over time.

Should I get a roof inspection after a storm?

Yes, especially after hail or high winds, even if you don't see a leak yet.

Can a roofer tarp my roof?

Many do emergency tarping to stop water until a repair can be made.

Repair or replace my roof?

A small, isolated problem on a younger roof usually means repair. Widespread wear, many leaks or a soft deck often mean replacement.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

When something goes wrong

1. Leak inside? Put a bucket under it and move belongings.
2. Stay out from under sagging ceilings.
3. Stay off the roof.
4. Photograph the roof from the ground.
5. Write down the storm date.
6. Call a roofer. Many can tarp the roof to stop more water.

KEEP THIS NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE

(888) 261-1486

Scan for the online guide

with the 60-second problem finder and more answers.

ringaroofer.com/roof-problem-guide/

KEEP HANDY

Important numbers

Fill these in now, so you're not searching when something goes wrong.

Emergency: 911

Gas utility emergency line

Water utility

Electric utility

Plumber

Neighbor with a spare key

Policy number for your home

YOUR LOCAL PRO LINE

(888) 261-1486

Notes

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

RingARoofer

RingARoofer connects homeowners with independent local roofing companies for leaks, storm repairs, inspections and new roofs.

How we're paid

RingARoofer is a referral service. Homeowners don't pay us. Independent local companies in our network pay us when we connect them with homeowners who call. We don't perform the work, and any work, timing and terms are agreed directly between you and the company.

Important

This guide is general information, not advice for your specific home. Every home is different. In an emergency, or if anyone is in danger, call 911 first. Before you hire anyone, confirm they hold the credentials required for the work in your area. Same-day service is subject to availability. Calls may be recorded for quality purposes.

Photos

Photographs are stock images from Pexels and Unsplash, used under each site's terms, to illustrate common problems. They don't show specific companies, jobs or customers. Any people shown are models.

Read your roof
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RingARoofer

WHEN YOU NEED HELP

One call to a local pro

CALL

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Scan for the online guide

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