Brad Hays

SBC Roof Series: Wood Shake Roof Inspection

WALKING ON A WOOD ROOF:

When walking on a wood shake roof, it's important to take certain precautions to avoid damaging the roof. Here are some tips for walking on a wood shake roof:

1. Use Proper Footwear:
   - Wear soft-soled shoes with good traction to help prevent damage to the wood shakes and provide secure footing.

2. Step Carefully:
   - Walk deliberately and place your feet on the shakes, avoiding stepping between them to minimize the risk of breakage.

3. Distribute Weight:
   - Distribute your weight evenly as you move across the roof, and avoid placing excessive pressure on individual shakes.

4. Avoid Walking in Extreme Weather:
   - Refrain from walking on a wood shake roof in extremely hot or cold temperatures, as this can make the shakes more susceptible to damage.

5. Use Caution on Wet or Moss-Covered Roofs:
   - Exercise extra caution when walking on a wet or moss-covered roof, as these conditions can make the surface slippery and hazardous.

6. Hire a Professional:
   - If inspections or maintenance require extensive work on the roof, consider hiring a professional roofer who is experienced in working with wood shake roofs.

* Check with a licensed roofing contractor for additional information.

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INSPECTING A WOOD ROOF:

Here is a typical inspection checklist for a wood shake roof:

1. Overall Condition:
   - Inspect the entire wood shake roof for signs of damage, such as cracked, split, or broken shakes.
2. Loose or Missing Shakes:
   - Check for any loose or missing shakes that may need to be repaired or replaced.
3. Flashing Inspection:
   - Inspect all flashings, including drip edge, valley, chimney, skylight, and vent pipe flashings, for signs of damage or deterioration.
4. Ridge Caps:
   - Check the condition of the ridge caps, ensuring they are securely in place and not damaged.
5. Decking:
   - Inspect the roof decking for any signs of rot, water damage, or structural issues.
6. Underlayment:
   - Verify the integrity of the underlayment, ensuring it provides a proper barrier against moisture.
7. Ventilation System:
   - Check the intake and exhaust vents for obstruction and ensure they are functioning properly.
8. Gutter System:
   - Inspect the gutters and downspouts for debris and blockages that may impede proper drainage.
9. Moss and Debris:
   - Look for any accumulation of moss, leaves, or other debris on the roof that may hinder water drainage.
10. Interior Inspection:
    - Check the interior of the attic or ceiling for signs of water penetration, such as water stains or mold growth.

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11. Structural Integrity:
    - Assess the overall structural integrity of the wood shake roof, including support beams and trusses.

12. Safety Concerns:
    - Identify any safety concerns, such as loose or unstable areas that may pose a risk to occupants or maintenance personnel.

It's important to conduct regular inspections and maintenance to ensure the long-term performance and durability of a wood shake roof. If any issues are identified during the inspection, it's recommended to consult with a qualified roofing professional for necessary repairs or maintenance.

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HAIL INSPECTION:

When inspecting a wood shake roof for hail damage, it's important to be thorough and systematic. Here is a typical inspection checklist specifically for assessing hail damage on a wood shake roof:

1. Initial Assessment:
   - Evaluate the size and severity of the recent hailstorm in the area to determine potential impact on the roof.

2. Exterior Inspection:
   - Perform a visual inspection of the wood shakes from the ground, looking for visible signs of impact such as dents, pockmarks, or displaced shakes.

3. Observe Downspout and Gutters:
   - Check for indications of granules or dislodged wood fragments in the gutters and downspouts, which can be a sign of hail damage.

4. Attic Inspection:
   - Examine the underside of the roof deck in the attic for signs of water damage, including leaks or wet spots, which may result from hail-related roof penetration.

5. Indirect Indicators:
   - Look for collateral clues, such as damage to nearby structures, vehicles, or outdoor fixtures, that may indicate the presence of significant hail impact.

6. Document Findings:
   - Take clear photographs of any observed hail damage as part of the documentation process.

7. Professional Inspection:
   - Consider engaging a qualified roofing professional for a more detailed assessment of hail damage and an informed opinion on repair or replacement needs.

By following this checklist, you can conduct an assessment of a wood shake roof following a hailstorm, aiding in the identification of potential damage and the necessary steps for repair or replacement.

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WIND INSPECTION:

Here is a typical wind damage inspection checklist for a wood shake roof:

1. Initial Assessment:
   - Examine local weather reports to understand the severity and direction of recent wind events in the area.

2. Visual Exterior Inspection:
   - Conduct a visual inspection from the ground, looking for signs of displaced or missing wood shakes, particularly along the windward side of the roof.

3. Check Flashings and Trims:
   - Inspect flashings, including drip edges, valley flashings, and any metal trims, for signs of lifting, bending, or damage due to high winds.

4. Gutter and Downspout Assessment:
   - Examine gutters and downspouts for any debris, displaced shakes, or signs of damage such as dents or loosened fasteners.

5. Trim and Soffit Examination:
   - Inspect the fascia, soffit, and any trim work for signs of displacement, lifting, or damage caused by the force of the wind.

6. Attic Inspection:
   - Assess the underside of the roof deck in the attic for any signs of water intrusion, such as leaks or wet spots, which may result from wind-related roof damage.

7. Document Findings:
   - Take clear photographs of any observed wind damage as part of the documentation process.

8. Professional Inspection:
   - Consider engaging a qualified roofing professional to conduct a detailed assessment of wind damage and provide recommendations for necessary repairs or replacements.

* Check with a licensed roofing contractor for additional information.