

## Spring Hail and Commercial Roof Performance

Severe weather is already active across the U.S. this spring, with hail a common part of many storm systems. By mid-April, more than 1,000 hail reports had been recorded in the U.S. Most hailstones range from 1 to 2 inches, while stronger storms can produce stones up to baseball size, and in some cases, 3.5 inches in diameter.

For commercial buildings, the roof often takes the first hit. Hail rarely arrives alone. It often comes with high winds and wind-driven rain, placing stress on roofing assemblies from multiple directions. A roof may look sound from the ground, even as damage develops at seams, flashing, penetrations, and edge conditions.

### What the Storm Can Leave Behind

Visible signs of hail damage are only part of the picture. Single-ply membranes can bruise or split, while built-up systems may lose their protective surfacing. Metal panels can dent, affecting coatings and increasing the risk of corrosion. Hail can also crack glazing, damage seals, and affect other exposed components throughout the building envelope.

Once wind-driven rain enters the system, small weaknesses can become entry points for water

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**“Hail damage to commercial roofs is not always obvious, and timely inspection helps identify hidden issues before they worsen.”**

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intrusion. This often starts at transitions, curbs, drains, and other areas where impact and water interact.

### Why Timing Counts

A roof inspection is most effective when performed soon after the storm, before cleanup or another weather event changes conditions. During periods of active weather, a roof can take multiple hits in a few days. Waiting too long makes it harder to separate recent damage from older wear.

A focused review should look closely at:

- Field membranes and associated seams
- Roof edges and flashing
- Penetrations and drainage points



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- Transitions between materials
- Roof-mounted equipment and accessories
- Substrate conditions for potential roof failure
- These areas are often where service issues begin and where leaks develop.

### The Summer Outlook and What to Do Next

Spring is not the end of the threat. Hail and severe storm risk can continue well into summer as storm tracks shift. A roof that performs well in one event may perform differently in the next.

For building owners and property managers, post-storm follow-up should not stop with a ground-level view. Damage often develops over time or appears first in isolated areas.

After a hail event, building teams should:

- Record the storm date, time, and any known hail size
- Take photos of visible roof conditions, rooftop equipment, and surrounding areas
- Check interior spaces for stains, damp spots, or new odors
- Clear debris from drains and drainage paths
- Avoid temporary fixes that could cover up damage before it is reviewed
- Schedule a roof inspection as soon as site conditions allow

### How Intertek Supports Post-Storm Roof Evaluation

Intertek provides roofing testing, inspection, and certification services for performance, condition, and code compliance. Following hail and other severe

weather events, Intertek can inspect roof systems in the field, document conditions, and evaluate how materials and details performed under storm exposure. Reviews may also cover flashing, attachment, drainage, and moisture conditions to identify where performance may have changed.

Through these roof evaluations, Intertek delivers more than an inspection. We provide a clear path forward. Our team helps clients develop customized, cost-effective maintenance plans to proactively address documented storm-related damage and extend the service life of roof systems.

When repairs or replacements are warranted, Intertek can provide expert recommendations, prepare detailed repair or replacement documentation, and collaborate directly with qualified local roofing contractors. We can also oversee and document the repair process to verify workmanship, ensuring all work is performed in accordance with manufacturer requirements and recognized industry standards, giving owners confidence, transparency, and long-term protection of their investment.

To learn more or discuss roofing inspection, testing, or certification requirements, contact **Intertek's Building and Construction team.**

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