# 10 TRICKS TO PREVENT ROOF DAMAGE

Preventing roof damage and keeping your family safe and warm all winter long is easier than it looks
(most of these helpful tips don't even require you to crawl up on the roof)!

**1.** **Clean and repair your gutters.** Ensuring proper drainage not only protects your roof, but also your home's foundation. When water can't properly drain, you risk mold & mildew buildup as well as cracking of both the gutters and foundation.

**2.** **Remove debris.** Even the smallest of objects can catch in the wind and crack or dislodge shingles. Wet leaves lead to mold, and nuts or berries can lead to pests. If you feel you cannot safely remove these items, hire a local contractor to help.

**3.** **Treat mildew and mold.** Mold, moss, algae, and mildew can damage your shingles and sheathing underneath as well as produce a terrible odor in your home. Your local roofer can help suggest the most effective products for removing any growth.

**4.** **Schedule a professional inspection.** Walking around on the roof can lead to unintended roof damage. Most professionals use drones to take measurements, scout for new damage and inspect existing damage without putting your home at risk.

**5.** **Patch broken or missing shingles.** Replacing broken or missing shingles helps prevent extra moisture from getting into your attic and damaging the rest of your house.

**6.** **Reseal around piping, skylights and other fixtures.** Over time, seals and other roof mounts can break down, introducing the potential for water to enter your home. Regular touchups and replacements help ensure no moisture enters unintendedly.

**7.** **Practice sensible pest control.** Ensuring all entry points are sufficiently covered or repaired will help safeguard your home from unwanted visitors. Pests can destroy insulation, wiring, cause moisture damage, create foul smells and bad bacteria. Damage from pests is commonly excluded by most home insurance policies.

**8.** **Trim the trees over and near your roof.** Branches falling from overhead trees can damage shingles, gutters, trim and other areas of your roof. Overhanging branches can also cause moss and algae buildup.

**9.** **Improve interior insulation.** Occasionally, roofs are damaged from the inside rather than the outside. Condensation from inside your attic can cause beams and supports to rot, creating weak spots in your roof. Having proper insulation can help maintain proper moisture levels inside your attic.

**10.** **Check your siding for signs of damage.** Problems with your siding can affect the structural integrity of your roof, and vice versa. Make sure panels and soffits are securely in place, and cracked or missing siding is replaced.