

# 4 WAYS TO STOP A FLAT ROOF LEAK

Whether a bad storm recently damaged your flat roof or you've just been dealing with the typical hassles of an older roof, there's nothing more frustrating than ruined ceilings and indoor puddles. Replacing a roof can be a big commitment, but there are a few things you can do on your own before you take that next big step.

If you're not ready for a full roof replacement just yet, here are a few steps to help stop those pesky roof leaks and prolong the life of your roof.

*Remember, your safety is our highest priority, and being on a roof is dangerous. If you're not comfortable, don't get on your roof and call a professional instead.*

## 1. IDENTIFY THE SOURCE

It's critical to find where the leak is coming from and what might be causing it. Common culprits of flat roof leaks include ponding or pooling water, a damaged roof membrane, or leaks around structures (such as plumbing vents, gas lines, or pipes) that rise through the roof's surface.

### Inside the building:

- Go to the spot inside of the building where you observe the leak occurring.
- Measure the distance from where you spot the leak to the nearest two walls.
- Use that measurement to locate where the leak could be coming from on the roof.

### Outside the building:

- Look for possible leak spots slightly above where you identified the water coming through inside the building. Most flat rooftops have a slight slope, meaning that even if water is leaking inside through one place, it can travel there from another spot on the outside of the roof.
- Examine any previous roof patching spots to make sure they're still secure.
- Check pipes and drainage areas to make sure excess water can flow freely.
- Look for dips or low spots that could cause water ponding.

## 2. PREPARE AREA FOR REPAIR

Once you've identified where the leak is coming from, it's time to tackle the leak!

- Protect furniture, property, or anything else in the building that could be damaged while repairing the leak.
- Remove extra debris that might be preventing drainage on the roof.
- Squeegee or mop off any excess water that's on your roof.
- Dry the roof area completely.

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## 3. SEAL THE LEAK

Clean the area that needs to be repaired thoroughly (this is the most important step that most people skip). If it's not clean, the repair will not work. After you've prepared the area for repair, use a patching material to seal the leak.

**Here are our top quick-fix solutions:**

- For punctures or flashings, use a [polyurethane sealant](#).
- For tears or linear damage, use a roof repair tape like [EternaBond](#).
- On rolled asphalt roofing, apply roof cement on the affected area.

## 4. CALL THE PROFESSIONALS

Ultimately, these DIY strategies are just a temporary fix for a much larger problem—and you never know which storm is going to be the one to bring expensive, catastrophic damage. It's critical to call an expert to make sure your leak isn't getting worse. Even if you don't need a whole roof replacement, a professional can help you identify how severe your leak is and offer solutions that can give you peace of mind when the next storm hits.

**Don't put off that roof repair any longer—call Hopkins Roofing today, and get roofing that's Done For Good!**

CALL NOW

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