



# EVERYBODY NEEDS A ROOF

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## Roof assessment guide

An inspection of your roof system in the fall and spring will help diagnose potential problems.

NRCA recommends you hire a professional roofing contractor to assist you with checking your roof.

However, NRCA realizes many homeowners prefer to perform an initial inspection themselves. If you prefer to go that route, following are some important tips to get you started.

### When inspecting your roof system or cleaning your gutters, remember these important ladder safety tips:

- Inspect the ladder, rungs and rails for damage.
- Make sure the ladder is on solid, level ground.
- Extend the ladder at least 3 feet beyond the gutter, and angle it 1 foot back from the house for every 4 feet in eave height.
- Secure the ladder at the top with a bungee cord or something similar to prevent the ladder from falling.
- Always use both hands when climbing the ladder.

### Once on the ladder, you should note the following:

- Shingles that are buckling, curling or blistering; this indicates the end of the shingles' life expectancy.
- Damage around chimneys, pipes and other penetrations.
- Excessive amounts of shingle granules in your gutters; granules give shingles added weight and protect them from ultraviolet rays.

**[Click here for a form to record your findings.](#)**

**If you diagnose a problem, [click here to find out how to hire a professional roofing contractor.](#)**



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