



It is our goal at Cousino Harris Disaster Kleenup to keep you informed on issues that may affect you or your clients.

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Asphalt Shingles

Asphalt Shingle Damage - A Short Study



Many times inspection leaves some doubt as to how to determine what damages, if any, are due to storms or just natural non-storm related issues.

Non-storm related issues

Algae - (Left) This is usually blue-green in color with a streaking pattern, facing a warm and humid area and favors shaded areas. Most often this is, at best, cosmetic and although it is not pleasing in appearance it does not cause harm to shingles. Hail storms can appear to harm these areas but most of the time hail actually cleans away the algae revealing the original color

of the shingle, thus giving the appearance of damage.

Moss - (Right) Moss is more of a concern than algae. As moss is removed forcefully or mechanically by ice, snow, or scrubbing it prematurely deteriorates the granules exposing the mat of the shingle. Although they are strikingly similar the presence of green moss growth needs to be determined to evaluate whether the roof was damaged due to moss or storm damage. This can appear to the untrained eye to be storm related but in fact is not. Don't be surprised if most shingle issues are moss related.

It is important to know how the algae or moss is maintained or removed. Power washing and brush scrubbing are not good for the roof as they erode the granules.

Animal damage - Look for tabs on the edge of shingles where the granules are removed in an upward tearing pattern or 'cutout' pattern. Animal damage affects the overlying shingles.

Storm related repair or replacement

There is so much to know concerning the science of hail and wind that we can only touch on things to look for.

- Roofs are designed to withstand short bursts of wind (2-3 seconds).
- Were the shingles installed correctly (properly nailed and sealed)?
- Did hail damage the underlying layer? If so replacement is necessary.

If the underlying layer is not affected check first to see if it could be moss, algae, or animal related. (Left Hail Damage)

The Underwriters' Laboratory defines damage to the roof as: "Evidence of tearing, fracturing, cracking, splitting, rupture, crazing, or other evidence of opening of the roof covering layer." The question to be determined is, does the roof lose its ability to shed water or affect the expected life? Also keep in mind that hail does not fall on all roofs the same (wind, size of hail and pitch of roof affect the impact).

For more details on how to contain moss or algae, or general roof damage questions, contact Donan Engineering. The above information is presented in a comprehensive seminar by J. Lyle Donan, president of Donan Engineering Co. Inc. He can be reached at (502) 267-6936.

If you have of topic you would like discussed in an upcoming newsletter, email me at skonk@cousinoharris.com or call me at (419) 931-2054.

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