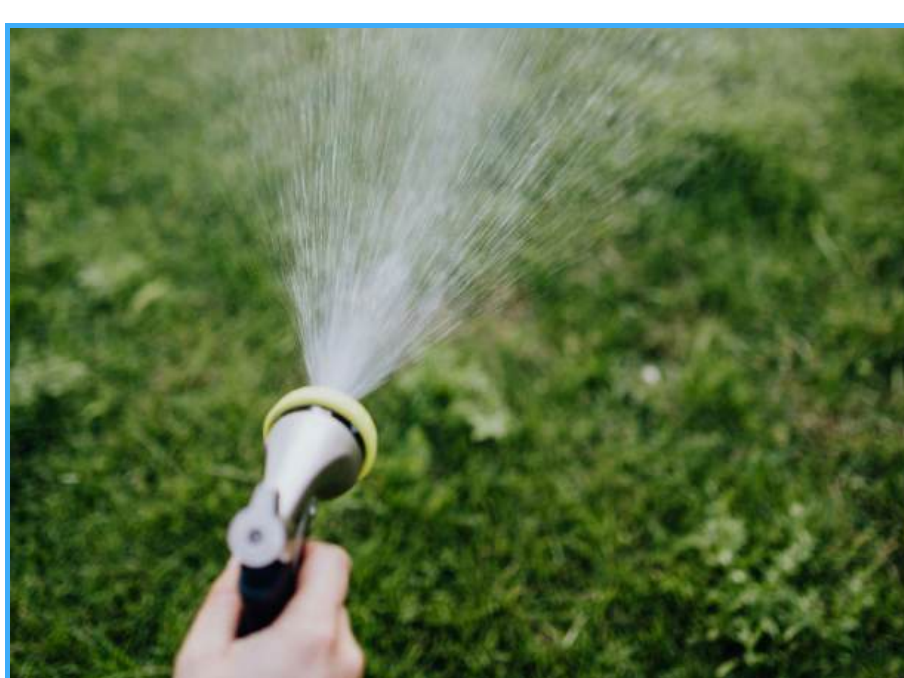


Tips for Spotting Roof Leaks

1. Make Your Own Rainstorm

Water doesn't always show up when you expect it. To catch leaks in a more controlled way, simulate your own mini storm: use a garden hose to soak sections of your roof, starting low and moving up, and have someone inside the attic ready to spot signs of water as soon as they appear.

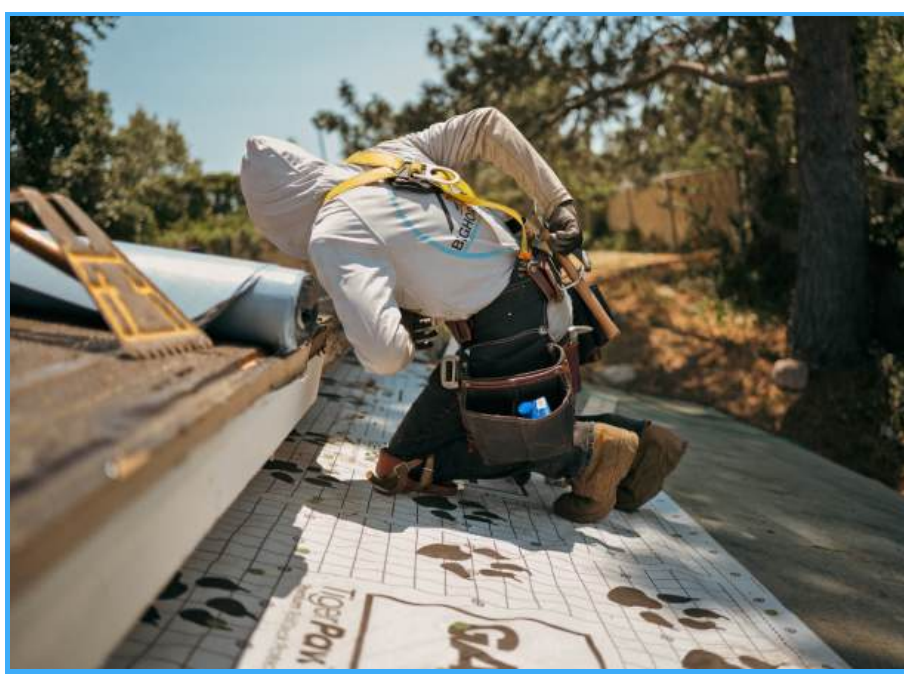


2. Inspect from the Inside Out

Climbing onto the roof might feel like the obvious choice, but your first clue is often indoors. Head to the attic or top-floor crawl space with a flashlight and check for signs of trouble. If you notice dark or discolored wood, damp insulation, mold, or the musty smell of mildew, you've got a problem.

3. Check Around Roof Penetrations

Anywhere something breaks the surface of your roof is a potential leak point. These potential problem areas include vents, chimneys, skylights, and satellite dishes. These areas may look fine from a distance, but take a closer look for: lifted or cracked flashing, dried or missing sealant and rust or visible gaps.

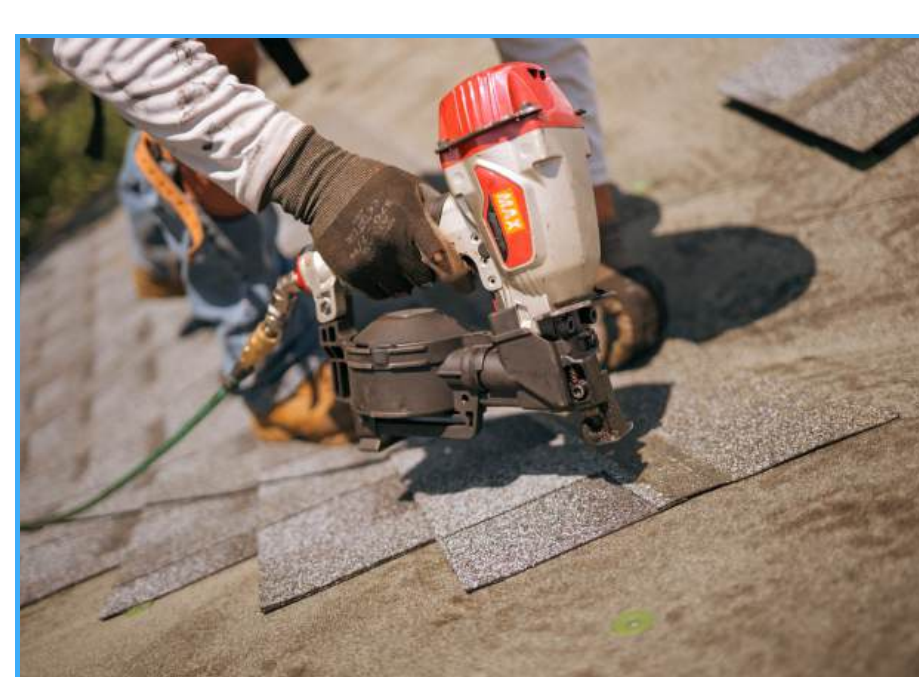


4. Evaluate Slope, Drainage, and Gutters

After a storm, walk around your home and visually inspect your gutters and roof edges for signs of blockage. Keep an eye on low-slope sections and check for soft spots or discoloration that might indicate water has been sitting where it shouldn't. Standing water will eventually find a way inside if given the chance.

5. Use Moisture Detection Tools

For homeowners who love gadgets or want peace of mind, moisture meters and infrared tools are helpful. Roofing professionals often use these to detect hidden water without opening walls or pulling up shingles. But you can rent or buy similar tools for home use.

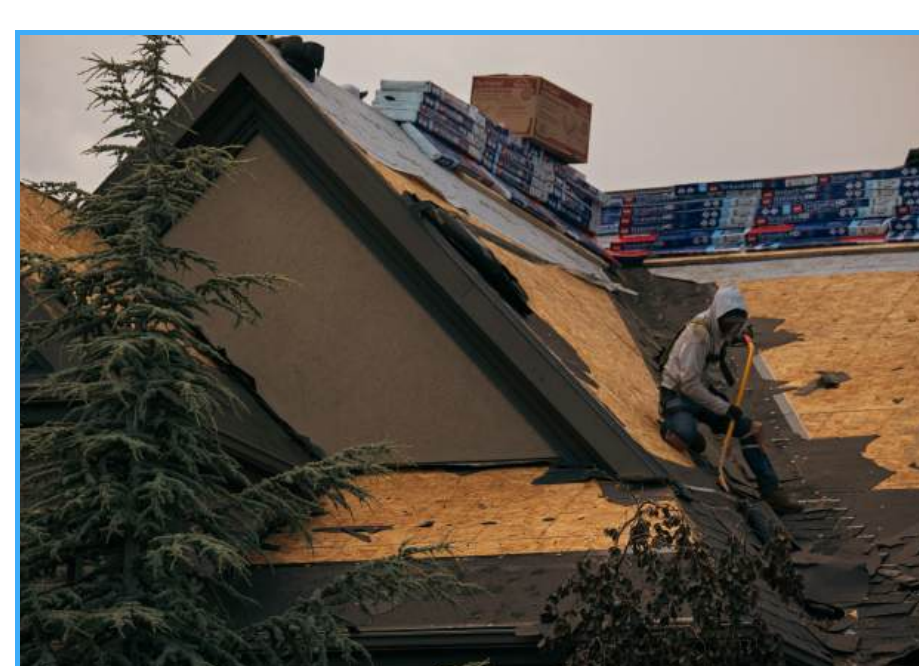


6. Know What Those Ceiling Stains Are Telling You

Water stains aren't just cosmetic. They're warning signs. If you see a brown mark on your ceiling or wall, try this: use a pencil to outline the stain's edges. Check back in a few days to see if it's expanded. Note the shape. Is it round? Spreading spots often signal active leaks.

7. Be Mindful of Your Roof's Age

Roofing materials break down over time. If your shingles are approaching the 20-year mark or you have an older metal roof, small cracks and gaps may start to form. These tiny vulnerabilities might only leak under certain conditions, like wind-driven rain or heavy snowmelt.



8. Watch for Exterior Clues

Take a few minutes to walk around your home and scan the roofline closely. As you look, watch for curling, missing, or cracked shingles. These often indicate wear that can let water in. Rusted or bent flashing is another concern, especially around chimneys or vents where leaks frequently start.

9. When in Doubt, Bring in the Pros

If you've checked the common trouble spots and still can't find the source, or if you want the peace of mind that comes from a professional inspection, reach out to a roofing contractor. A reputable roofing contractor has the gear and the know-how to pinpoint leaks and provide lasting repairs without the guesswork.

