

## Hiring the right contractor is key.

The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) and the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) recommend these tips:

- Check for a permanent place of business, telephone number, tax ID number, and — where required — a business license.
- Request verification of professional liability insurance.
- Ask for — and check — client references and request a list of completed projects.
- Verify whether the contractor is properly licensed or bonded.
- Insist on a written proposal. It should include complete descriptions of the work and specifications, including approximate start and completion dates and payment procedures.
- Check to see if the contractor is a member of any regional or national industry associations, such as NRCA.
- Call your local Better Business Bureau to check for any complaints that have been filed.
- Have the contractor explain his project supervision and quality control procedures.
- Carefully read and make sure you understand any roofing warranty offered; watch for provisions that would void the warranty.

## For more information...

Visit [www.DisasterSafety.org](http://www.DisasterSafety.org) for additional tips on:

- Hiring a roofing professional
- Ensuring a well-anchored roof deck by re-nailing the roof deck
- Installing a wind- and water-resistant underlayment (sealed roof deck)
- Choosing and installing a high wind-resistant roof covering

### Sources:

INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS & HOME SAFETY  
[www.DisasterSafety.org](http://www.DisasterSafety.org)

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
[www.NRCA.net](http://www.NRCA.net)

## your home

Replace your roof the right way.



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*When it's time to replace your roof due to damage or wear and tear, the information in this brochure may help improve the long-term performance of your new roof. When you're ready to get started, find a qualified roofing contractor. Take the time to check the contractor's references and insurance coverage (or "professional liability insurance") and talk to the contractor about your expectations.*



## When replacing your roof, your contractor should consider following these steps.

### **Remove the old roof cover**

This allows strengthening of the roof deck connection to the roof structure and provides the solid, smooth surface needed to help ensure that the new roof cover achieves its full strength.

### **Inspect for damage**

Check the roof deck for rotting, delaminating, warping or other signs it may be structurally unsound. If found, replace the damaged sections with similar materials of the same thickness.

### **Re-nail the roof deck**

This will provide a wind-resistant connection to the roof framing.

### **Anchor gable end outlookers**

Outlookers are roof framing members that are sometimes used to support the roof overhang at the gable end of a house. They start at the second truss or rafter back from the gable end wall and extend out over the gable wall framing to support the edge of the roof.

### **Seal the roof deck against water intrusion**

This will help keep water out of the house if the roof cover blows off. Large amounts of wind-driven water can pour into the attic through unsealed gaps between pieces of roof sheathing.

### **Install flashing**

Flashing is necessary at all penetrations (i.e., pipes and vents that create openings in the roof deck); where the roof intersects with vertical surfaces; in roof valleys; at any location where the roof changes slope; and at eaves and gable rakes.

### **Apply roof cover**

Apply a building-code approved, wind-resistant roof cover. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions for high-wind areas or local code requirements, if they are more restrictive.

### **Install roof vents**

All roof vents should be high-wind rated and properly installed.

### **Install soffits**

Retrofit or replace vulnerable soffits. Make sure they are installed according to manufacturer's instructions.

