

Signs, Signs, Everywhere a Sign

In a way, the Five Man Electrical Band had it right! Everywhere you turn there are signs – big signs, little signs, signs for driving, signs for caution, signs with information – the possibilities are endless. But what if you can't read the "signs"? If you know what to look for, you can spot the signs of an aging roof before you face total roof loss. Here are some things to look for:

Discoloration: Discoloration on your roof could be a sign of two things: algae growth and/or missing granules. Algae growth alone does not really affect the service life of the roof; however excessive granule loss can be a sign of impending shingle failure and could mean the need for replacement.

Curling: Shingle curling is typically caused by inadequate ventilation for the roof or an inadequate number of fasteners.

Blistering: This is caused by excessive moisture in the roof system. This will manifest in a "blister" type bubble on the roof.

Buckling: Several things contribute to warped shingles. Improperly applied felt, lack of ventilation, and/or movement of the roof decking can all cause shingle displacement. Similarly, on commercial applications, buckling ceiling tiles is a sign of a roof leak and should be looked at by a licensed roofing professional immediately.

Water Spots or Peeling Paint: Probably one of the most noticeable signs of an aging roof is the appearance of water spots on a ceiling or wall or peeling paint on both interior and exterior walls. These discolored spots are the cause of a roof leak, and the need to have a licensed roofing professional check for leaks in the attic, missing shingles, missing or damaged flashings is immediate. Only a licensed roofing professional will be able to spot and diagnose the source of the leak and recommend the best course of action to resolve the issue.

If you spot any of these warning signs, all is not lost yet. Perhaps you were able to spot something early on, before it could develop into a serious expensive issue. The only way to tell if you are truly on the offensive side of this game is to enlist the regular help of a Licensed Roofing Professional near you.

Most reputable roofing contractors offer Service and Maintenance Programs. These comprehensive programs are tailored specifically to you and your building's needs. Whether you choose to have a bi-annual, quarterly, or even a monthly roof check, your Licensed Roofing Professional will get to know your roof while being able to keep an eye on its potential pitfalls. Their checklist should highlight any warning signs noticed and the

cause of the concern and should outline a suggestive course of action to optimize the continued peak performance of your roof system.

There's one more very important sign you need to read with all of this though. That's the License for the roofing professional you choose to work with. In Illinois, roofing is a licensed industry. The only way you can ensure you are working with a professional at the top of their craft is to make sure you are working with a Licensed Roofing Contractor. This group of highly trained professionals is most likely to be at the forefront of industry trends, new materials, new techniques, and innovative applications to help keep your roof operating at its best and working to maximize the life of your roof.

Signs, signs, everywhere a sign! Can you read the signs?



by Bruce Diederich, President,
Waukegan Roofing Co., Inc.



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You Covered!**

**Bruce Diederich
President**

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