

You Know It's Time To Replace Your Roof When ...

Gaping holes and messy leaks are two obvious signs that a roof needs to be replaced. But, sometimes the signs are less obvious.

"Certainly if your roof is approaching the end of its life cycle -- which is usually 20 - 25 years for asphalt shingles -- it's time to think about a new roof," says Ray Rosewall with DaVinci Roofscapes. "However, a calendar shouldn't be the only way you determine if it's time to replace your roof."

According to Rosewall, you should seriously start thinking about replacing your roof with synthetic roofing tiles when ...

* Your neighbors have new roofs and you want to maintain the value of your home.

* Your neighbors have not added a new roof and you want to increase the resale value of your home.

* Your geographic area has seen an increase in severe weather conditions, (including hail or tornados) that require a stronger roofing material to handle the dramatic weather changes.

* Your existing roof is functional, but has staining that detracts from the look of your home.

* You want to switch to a low-maintenance roof that has a 50-year warranty.

* You don't want to worry about wood rot caused by wood shakes and termites.

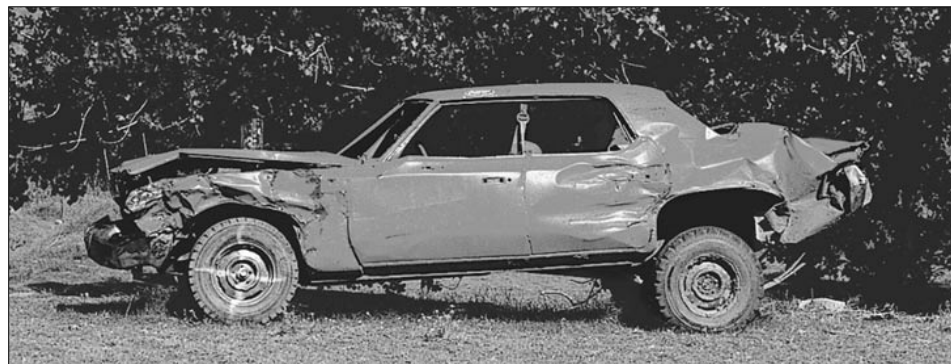
* Excessive snow in your area

has caused substantial damage to your roof.

"Too often, homeowners wait until their roofs are old and worn out before considering an upgrade," says Rosewall. "Certainly curling, splitting and missing shingles are all warning signs that a roof needs to be replaced. However, with the changing weather patterns in our country combined with the need for homeowners to add value to their properties, consumers should be vigilant about looking for signs of wear along with upgrading their roofs."

Rosewall recommends that, when researching new roof options, homeowners seriously consider low-maintenance synthetic slate and shake roof systems. "Roofing tiles made from 100 percent pure virgin resins have consistency throughout each tile," says Rosewall. "For our products, state-of-the-art UV stabilizers are embedded throughout the polymer to create a durable synthetic roofing tile which resists mold, algae, fungus, and insects, with virtually no curling, fading and cracking so they're headache-free."

All DaVinci synthetic roofing tiles are backed by a limited 50-year warranty, are Class A rated for fire retardance, Class 4 rated for impact resistant and have the highest ratings attainable for straight line wind testing at 110 mph.



Even that old clunker in the backyard can be restored with a little TLC and perhaps some professional help.

Give Your Old Car a New Look

America's growing obsession with appearance is not strictly limited to our bodies. In fact, many car owners are looking for ways to enhance the appearance of their automobiles as well. Four billion dollars were spent last year in the United States on enhancements to keep the interior and exterior of vehicles looking like new, according to the Car Care Council.

"As consumers spend more time in their vehicles and drive more miles each year, they are placing more importance on comfort, luxury and appearance," says Rich White, spokesperson for the Council.

Many consumers don't realize that just as they can buy new carpet for their home or refinish and repair furniture, they can also rejuvenate their automobiles. Automotive upholstery and interior repair shops, known as trim shops, can fix a drooping headliner, replace worn carpeting, repair torn upholstery and

replace a weathered convertible top.

"Homeowners don't sell their house because someone put a hole in the wall. But too often vehicle owners will trade in a vehicle that is paid off just to get a new look," says White. "Repair and restoration is a very cost-effective alternative to buying a new car and taking on a new car payment."

While leather is still the most popular upscale option for a vehicle's interior, innovative fabrics offer many more customization, repair and restoration options for the average car owner. Today's modern trim shop can replace original materials like seat or door panels to an imperceptible condition.

The Council advises those who want to preserve the new look and feel of a faithful car, truck, SUV or minivan, to search for trim and upholstery shops that specialize in repairing and enhancing interior as well as exterior features of automobiles.

Fight Moisture Problems in the Home

Moisture is a problem with which many homeowners must contend. If left untreated, even the smallest amount of condensation or leakage can lead to larger problems down the line. Here are areas around the home where one might experience moisture, and how to contend with the situation.

Problem area: Bathroom. **Symptoms:** Condensation on windows or toilet tank; mold between ceramic tiles; rotting window sills; damaged or bulging gypsum board under windows; peeling paint or wallpaper; curling floor tiles. **Treatment:** Turn on an exhaust fan or open a window. After you are done,

towel-dry surfaces of the bath or shower stall.

Problem area: Kitchen. **Symptoms:** Condensation on windows, ceilings and/or walls; peeling paint or curling tiles; moisture under sinks or kitchen counters. **Treatment:** Install and use a quiet kitchen exhaust fan vented to the outdoors when cooking or running the dishwasher. Vent the stove to the outside when possible. Cover liquids and foods when simmering or boiling. Open cupboards occasionally to let heat in.

Problem area: Basement. **Symptoms:** Wet or damp floors or walls; stains on carpet; condensation on windows; rotting windowsills. **Treatment:** Fix cracks and leaks in basement. Repair sump pump, making sure it has a tight-fitting cover. Avoid using the basement as a storage space or a place to hang dry wet clothing. Cover cold water pipes with insulation. Use a dehumidifier.



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