

Austin Roofing Insights: Roof Replacement Costs, Storm Damage, and Insurance Claims as Seen on KXAN

Understanding Your Roof After a Texas Storm

Living in Austin means you get used to the weather. A sunny morning can turn into a hailstorm by lunch, and before you know it, you are dealing with water stains on your ceiling or a missing shingle. I have been in the roofing business long enough to see how these storms affect homeowners and business owners alike. The questions are always the same: How much will this cost? Will insurance cover it? Who can I trust to fix it right? These are the very topics we discuss regularly on local TV, and our advice has been featured as seen on KXAN Studio 512. The goal is always to give people straight talk so they can make informed decisions.

Replacing a roof is one of the bigger expenses a homeowner faces. In Texas, with our mix of blistering heat, sudden freezes, and hail, the roof takes a beating. I have seen roofs that looked fine after a storm but actually had hidden granule loss on asphalt shingles. That loss shortens the life of the roof by years. A roof inspection after any major storm is not just a good idea - it is essential. You want to catch problems early, before a small leak turns into rot or mold inside your attic.

Roof Replacement Costs: What to Expect

When I talk with homeowners about roof replacement costs, the first thing I tell them is that price depends on more than just square footage. The pitch of the roof, the number of penetrations like vents and chimneys, and the material you choose all play a role. For a typical residential roofing job in Austin, you might look at several thousand dollars for a basic asphalt shingle roof, but the range can go higher for premium materials like metal roofing or certain tile profiles.

Material costs have been climbing too. Brands like GAF, Owens Corning, CertainTeed, and TAMKO all produce quality shingle types, but each has its own price point and warranty structure. I have installed all of them over the years, and I can tell you that paying a little more for a better shingle often saves money down the road. A cheap shingle might last fifteen years in our climate. A good architectural shingle from a reputable manufacturer can go twenty-five or thirty. That difference matters when you are financing the roof out of your own pocket or working with homeowners insurance.

For commercial roofing, the calculus shifts. Flat or low-slope roofs require different materials and techniques. A commercial roof might be a built-up system or a single-ply membrane. The

costs per square foot are often lower than a steep residential roof, but the total area is larger. Business owners need to factor in downtime and potential disruption to operations. I have seen a warehouse roof replacement cost more in lost inventory protection than in the actual roofing labor. That is why planning matters.

Storm Damage and Insurance Claims

After a big hailstorm, my phone rings off the hook. Hail damage is the most common storm damage I see in Central Texas. It can fracture shingles, dent metal roofing, and clog gutters with debris. The first step is always a roof inspection. I walk the roof and document everything. Pictures, measurements, notes. That documentation is what you need for a solid insurance claim.

Filing insurance claims can feel overwhelming, but it does not have to be. Your homeowners insurance policy may cover storm damage, but the devil is in the details. Some policies pay actual cash value, meaning they deduct depreciation. Others offer replacement cost value, which covers a new roof of similar quality. I always advise people to read their policy or ask their agent before a storm hits. That way, there are no surprises. I once worked with a family whose policy had a separate hail deductible that was higher than their standard deductible. They did not know until after the claim. That is tough.

The Austin Roofing Company team has walked hundreds of homeowners through this process. We help with estimates and provide the paperwork insurers need. Our approach has been covered on CBS Austin's We Are Austin and [as seen on KXAN](#) Studio 512, where we break down the steps so viewers know what to expect. The key is to be thorough. Do not rush the claim. Make sure every piece of damage is listed. A second opinion from a trusted roofer can catch things an adjuster might miss.

Choosing the Right Roofer in Austin

Not all roofing companies are the same. I have seen good work and bad work. A roof replacement is a big investment, and the contractor you choose matters. Look for a company that has been around, has local references, and uses quality materials. Ask about the brands they install. GAF, Owens Corning, CertainTeed, and TAMKO all have certified installers. That certification means the crew has been trained to install the product correctly. It also often extends the manufacturer's warranty.

I also recommend getting at least three estimates. But do not just compare the bottom line. Look at the scope of work. Does the estimate include new underlayment? Flashing? Ventilation? A cheap bid might omit these, and you will pay for them later in repairs. A thorough

roofer will explain what is included and why. We do that on every job, whether residential roofing or commercial roofing. It builds trust.

Practical Advice for Homeowners

If you are in Austin and thinking about a new roof, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Schedule a roof inspection after every severe storm, even if you do not see damage from the ground.
- Know your homeowners insurance policy details before you file a claim. Understand your deductible and whether you have replacement cost coverage.
- Choose materials suited to Texas weather. Metal roofing holds up well to hail but can be noisy. Asphalt shingles are quieter but wear faster in heat.
- Work with a roofer who uses established brands like GAF, Owens Corning, CertainTeed, or TAMKO. Their warranties matter.
- Get everything in writing. Scope, timeline, payment schedule. Verbal agreements lead to misunderstandings.

These tips come from real experience. I have seen people save thousands by catching a small leak early. I have also seen people lose their insurance coverage because they waited too long to file a claim. Roof repair is not something to put off.

Why Local Media Coverage Matters

When a local station like CBS Austin or KXAN covers roofing topics, it helps the whole community. The segments we have done on We Are Austin and as seen on KXAN Studio 512 focus on practical knowledge. We talk about roof replacement costs, how to spot storm damage, and how to handle insurance claims without getting taken advantage of. It is not about promoting one company. It is about educating homeowners so they can ask the right questions. I have had people come to me after seeing those segments and say, "I never knew I needed a permit for a roof replacement." That is exactly why we do it.

Roofing is a trade that touches every part of your home. It keeps the rain out, the heat at bay, and your property value up. Whether you need a simple roof repair or a full replacement, taking the time to understand your options pays off. And if you ever have questions, there are resources out there - from your insurance agent to local media segments to a trusted roofing contractor. You do not have to figure it out alone.

In the end, a good roof is about peace of mind. Knowing it was installed right, with quality materials, and backed by a solid warranty lets you sleep through a thunderstorm. That is something every Austin homeowner deserves.