

How to Replace a Roof: DIY Checklist

Evaluate Whether You Need a New Roof

- ☐ Roof is 20–25+ years old
- ☐ Shingles missing, cracked, or bald
- ☐ Water stains or sagging in attic
- ☐ Storm damage: lifted flashing or hail dents
- ☐ Frequent leaks or rusted fasteners

Review Safety and Risk Factors

- ☐ Wear harness, roof jacks, and safety ropes
- ☐ Set up ladder safely with 3-point contact
- ☐ Avoid work in bad weather or slick surfaces
- ☐ Acknowledge physical strain and stay alert
- ☐ Have emergency plan and don't work alone

Gather Essential Tools & Materials

- ☐ Roofing shingles or metal roofing
- ☐ Underlayment
- ☐ Ice & water shield
- ☐ Roof vents, ridge cap shingles, flashing
- ☐ Roofing paper, roofing nails, roofing cement
- ☐ Roofing shovel to remove old shingles
- ☐ Pry bar, utility knife with hook blades
- ☐ Nail gun + compressor, circular saw, tin snips
- ☐ Chalk line, safety harness, magnetic nail sweeper

Step 1: Obtain Roofing Permits

- ☐ Check local permit rules
- ☐ Submit application and get approval
- ☐ Schedule required inspections
- ☐ Review HOA restrictions (if any)

Step 2: Preparation and Safety Setup

- ☐ Pick 2–4 dry days
- ☐ Set up safety gear and roof jacks
- ☐ Tarp landscaping and walkways
- ☐ Rent or prep a dumpster
- ☐ Inform nearby neighbors

Step 3: Tear-Off and Deck Inspection

- ☐ Strip shingles, nails, and underlayment
- ☐ Check decking for rot or damage
- ☐ Replace soft or sagging sheathing
- ☐ Re-nail loose panels

Step 4: Install Underlayment and Flashing

- ☐ Add ice/water shield in key areas
- ☐ Install underlayment with proper overlap
- ☐ Place drip edge at eaves and rakes
- ☐ Flash chimneys, vents, and valleys

Step 5: Shingle Installation and Ventilation

- ☐ Lay starter strip on eaves and rakes
- ☐ Nail shingles in staggered rows
- ☐ Cut vents as needed
- ☐ Check attic airflow alignment

Step 6: Ridge Cap and Final Sealing

- ☐ Install ridge vent and cap shingles
- ☐ Check nails, flashing, and alignment
- ☐ Clear roof and gutters
- ☐ Sweep yard for stray nails

