

If your home has been flooded and the roof, exterior walls, windows, or doors are damaged it's important to cover

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them with temporary weather barriers as soon as possible after the storm passes.

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Temporary weather barriers like tarps, plastic sheeting,

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and construction housewrap can prevent further damage from the elements.

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If the exterior damage is minimal, consider making immediate repairs.

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You may be able to use roofing cement or patch products to seal down loose shingles and flashing.

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Installing temporary weather barriers by yourself can be dangerous. Try to arrange for

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a professional installation, if possible. Contact your local emergency management office to find out

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about having tarps and other coverings installed through government disaster assistance programs.

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If you need to install temporary weather barriers yourself, work with a partner.

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When using a ladder: Make sure the ladder is on level or nearly level

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ground and secured at the base. Always keep 3 points of contact on the ladder as you climb.

Wear a hardhat or helmet

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Use a full body harness or other methods to work safely on steep slopes.

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To protect a damaged roof: Wait until it is dry and not raining.

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Clean off any debris. Locate the leak by looking for broken or missing shingles or panels. Unroll the tarp over the damaged area allowing

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at least a foot of it to overhang the peak. Wrap the tarp around a board and anchor them both to the roof with screws. Attach additional boards to the

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edges of the tarp to prevent the tarp from flying up during wind or rain

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On the other end of the tarp, wrap it around a 2x4 and then screw the wrapped board to the underside of the house. Watch your step after tarping.

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Skylights and other openings will be hidden if covered with the tarp

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To cover windows and doors: Use plastic sheeting that will block rain but allow light in. Cover the window or door

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completely with the sheeting. Fold the sheeting over the edges of the window and door. Tape and secure the edges to withstand wind.

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For severely damaged exterior siding: Use tear-resistant housewrap. Wrap it across the damaged wall in layers from the bottom to the top of the wall

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so the layers overlap shingle-fashion. Secure the housewrap with cap nails. Seal seams and edges with a compatible construction tape or nail

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down the seams and edges with plywood to prevent water from entering on the sides.

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For more information on disaster recovery visit epa.gov/flooded-homes