

RV Roof Emergency Repair Checklist

What To Do In The First 24 Hours To Stop Damage And Avoid Costly Mistakes

Important Notice

This guide is informational only and does not replace professional inspection or insurance advice. It is designed to help you act quickly, reduce damage, and make better decisions during an RV roof emergency.

How To Use This Checklist

- Read once from start to finish
 - Then follow the checklist sections in order
 - Use it during an active leak or immediately afterward
 - Save a copy on your phone and print one if possible
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SECTION 1

Emergency Assessment (First 10 Minutes)

- ☐ Is water actively leaking inside the RV right now?
- ☐ Is rain ongoing or expected soon?
- ☐ Are ceiling panels, lights, vents, or seams wet?
- ☐ Is water pooling on the roof surface?

If water is actively leaking:

- Move items away from the leak immediately
- Place towels, containers, or absorbent materials under the drip
- Do NOT ignore small drips. Even slow leaks cause hidden damage

Important

If electrical fixtures are wet:

- Turn off shore power
 - Avoid touching exposed wiring
 - Safety comes first
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SECTION 2

Stop The Damage Immediately

Your goal here is **damage control**, not a permanent repair.

☐ Protect the interior

- Remove wet bedding, cushions, and rugs
- Increase airflow using fans if available
- Open windows when weather allows

☐ Reduce water entry

- Identify the general leak area (vents, seams, skylights are common)
- Use a tarp if rain is ongoing
- Secure tarp tightly to prevent wind lift

☐ Temporary sealing (only if safe and dry enough)

- Use emergency tape or sealant rated for RV roofs
- Apply only to clean, dry areas
- Never mix incompatible products

Warning

Temporary fixes are NOT permanent repairs.

They are meant to slow or stop water until proper repair is done.

SECTION 3

Identify Your RV Roof Type (Before Doing Anything Else)

Using the wrong product can damage your roof or void coverage.

Common RV Roof Types

☐ EPDM (Rubber)

- Usually white
- Slightly chalky feel
- Common on many RVs

☐ TPO

- White or light-colored
- Smooth, plastic-like feel
- Increasingly common on newer RVs

☐ Fiberglass

- Hard surface
- Often molded or glossy
- Found on some higher-end RVs

If you are unsure:

- Check your RV manual
 - Contact the manufacturer
 - Do NOT guess
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SECTION 4

Temporary Fix vs Permanent Repair

Temporary Fixes Are Appropriate When:

- ☐ You are traveling
- ☐ Weather prevents full repair
- ☐ You need to stop active leaking

Temporary Fixes Are NOT Appropriate When:

- ☐ Roof feels soft or spongy
- ☐ Ceiling panels are sagging
- ☐ Mold smell is present
- ☐ Delamination or bubbling exists

These signs indicate deeper damage.

SECTION 5

Insurance & Warranty Quick Check

Before removing damaged materials, document everything.

☐ Take clear photos of:

- Interior damage
- Roof surface
- Leak entry points

☐ Write down:

- Date leak was discovered
- Weather conditions
- Any recent storms

Insurance May Apply If:

- Damage is sudden (storm, hail, fallen debris)
- Roof failure was not due to neglect

Insurance Usually Does NOT Apply If:

- Damage developed slowly over time
- Poor maintenance is evident

☐ Do NOT permanently repair before checking coverage
Permanent repairs may affect claim eligibility.

SECTION 6

Getting Ready for Professional Repair

If you plan to call a repair service, prepare first.

☐ Ask these questions:

- Do you specialize in my roof type?
- Is this repair temporary or permanent?
- Will damaged material be removed and replaced?
- What warranty is included?

☐ Red flags:

- Pressure to approve immediately
- No explanation of repair steps
- Refusal to document damage

☐ Get estimates when possible

Emergency repairs cost more, but transparency matters.

SECTION 7

Pre-Travel Safety Check

Before driving the RV again:

- ☐ No active dripping
- ☐ Interior surfaces drying
- ☐ Temporary fix secure
- ☐ No sagging ceiling panels
- ☐ No electrical hazards

If any are unresolved, delay travel if possible.

BONUS SECTION

Used RV Roof Inspection Snapshot

(15-Minute Walk-Through)

Use this when inspecting a used RV or reassessing damage.

- ☐ Walk the roof slowly
 - Soft spots indicate rot
 - Bubbles may indicate delamination

- ☐ Check all seams and penetrations
 - Vents
 - Skylights
 - AC units

☐ Inside inspection

- Look for ceiling stains
- Smell for musty odors
- Press gently on ceiling panels

☐ If damage is found:

- Factor repair cost into price
- Do NOT rely on verbal assurances
- Walk away if repairs are unclear

Final Notes

Roof leaks are stressful, but rushed decisions cost money.

This checklist is designed to:

- Help you act quickly
- Prevent unnecessary damage
- Avoid common and expensive mistakes

Take control of the situation, one step at a time.

