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At this point in time, use of metal roofs in residential applications represents a fairly small portion of the roofing market. Consequently, we have limited experience with the performance of these products in hurricanes, particularly in hurricanes where local wind speeds at the homes with metal roofs exceeded 120 mph. Overall, metal roofs do seem to be performing reasonably well. However, we have certainly seen cases where one or more panels of a standing-seam roof have been lifted off and we have seen more frequent damage to ridge caps for all types of metal roofs. Aside from the types of metal roofs, such as the 5-V Crimp, where the fasteners are installed from the top through the metal we are not aware of any retrofits that can be taken to strengthen the roof covering connection. With the externally applied screws, it is possible to periodically check the fasteners to ensure that they are tight and that the metal is not rusting around them. Additional fasteners can be installed if the spacing is too large between the existing fasteners (see the manufacturer's installation instructions for your design wind speed) or existing fasteners can be replaced with larger ones if they become loose.

Preparation for Emergency Repairs:

While we all hope that a hurricane will not strike where we live, the chances of being struck are higher now that we are in a period of more frequent Atlantic hurricane activity. You may want to stock up on things that can be used to perform emergency repairs in case you do have damage. If a hurricane damages your roof, it is important to button it back up as quickly as possible to reduce the chances of additional interior damage to your house. After the hurricane strikes, building materials can be in short supply and tarps may be very hard to find for some time. Even if you will not be able to put the tarp up, having one may allow a neighbor, friend, relative or work crew to help you out.



Holes in metal roof caused by the impact of flying debris (clay tiles in this case)

(click image for larger version)

Tools and materials needed:

- a. Camera with film or available memory if it is a digital camera
- b. Tarps (large enough to cover at least one corner of roof from eave up and over ridge)
- c. 1x3 lumber and box of 2-inch long deck screws
- d. Battery Powered (fully charged) Drill for driving screws
- e. Rope and screw eyelets
- f. Duct tape and foam padding
- g. Foil backed tape
- h. Ladder

Directions: Start by taking photographs of the damage so that you have documentation for the insurance adjuster. If your damage is limited to holes as shown in the picture above, you may be able to make temporary repairs using the foil backed tape. If the damage is more extensive, you will need to put the tarp over the roof. Check for sharp edges on the metal and pad it with the foam padding and attach the foam to the roof using the duct tape. Then, stretch the tarp over the damaged area and extend it up and over the ridge. Anchor edges of the tarp with 1x3 lumber to the fascia and roof surface just beyond the damaged area. If the side of the roof beyond the ridge is undamaged, use ropes to tie off the tarp to screw eyes installed in the fascia or soffit at the bottom of that side of the roof. Anchoring the tarp in such a way that it adds holes in the roof cover on undamaged sides of the roof can substantially increase the cost of final repairs. If you have trees nearby that could fall on your roof, you may want to also store some pieces of plywood that can be used to bridge across any roof sheathing damage caused by a falling tree, once the tree is removed.



Temporary protection after storm damage to roof

(click image for larger version)



See [Ladder Safety Tips](#), and do not try to install a tarp in windy conditions. It may drag you and the ladder right off the side of the roof

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2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100
Voice: (850) 413-9816

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