

# Pests Can Leave Your Roof Damaged

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It is common to find damage to your roof after extreme weather conditions in Utah like a heavy rainstorm, high winds, and even snow accumulation. What you may not know is that **pests can also cause costly roof damage**. Nesting and burrowing from **birds, bats, rodents, and termites can wreak havoc on the integrity of your roof**, putting you and your family at risk for pricey roof repairs and even serious illness.

If you **suspect roof damage from pesky little critters, do not hesitate to contact a trusted certified roofing contractor** to perform a full inspection of your roof, let you know the extent of the destruction and restore your roof to prevent further damage.

## What Kind of Pests Can Damage My Roof?

To **protect the lifespan of your roof and prevent further damage**, be sure to call a trained and certified professional roofer in Utah **at the first sign of an infestation from any of the following vermin** that are known to vandalize both residential and commercial roofing systems here in the Beehive State:

- **Birds** - Utah is home to hundreds of bird species, and aside from **potential damage to your roofing system from nests blocking gutters or causing a fire** when built in chimneys or ventilation systems - **bird droppings can cause serious damage to shingles**. Highly acidic bird droppings can break down shingles and roof sheathing over time. This type of **damage will leave your roof at risk for leaks** that may result in serious structural water damage. The professionals at Vertex Roofing suggest a **bi-annual roof inspection to make sure your roof is in good repair** and not exposed to the destruction caused by nesting birds.
- **Bats** - Eighteen different species of bats can be found throughout the state of Utah

and have been ***known to roost in structural voids, chimneys, attics and the eaves of your roof.*** They have the amazing ability to squeeze into very small spaces (as small as 3/8") to make your home their home! While single nesting bats may not cause damage to your roof, a colony can ***pose a serious risk to your roof and pose the following health risks to you and your family:***

- **Histoplasmosis** - Bat feces, or guano, is a carrier of a ***microscopic fungus called Histoplasma capsulatum*** that when airborne can cause a life-threatening lung infection called ***histoplasmosis.***
- **Rabies** - While bat droppings pose the biggest threat to your family's health, rabies is another ***serious disease that can be transmitted to humans through a bite*** from an infected bat.

Because ***Utah law protects all species of bats***, property owners are encouraged to follow conflict prevention and ***call local animal control*** to have the bat(s) safely removed.

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- **Rodents** - Mice, rats, and squirrels can squeeze through very small openings and become a big problem causing ***gradual damage to your roof, electrical wiring and yard.*** Because rodents have the potential to cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage, do not hesitate to use remediation or call a professional to halt further damage to your home if you suspect an infestation. ***Common roof-damaging rodents found in Utah:***
  - **Rats** - While rats are not synonymous with the Wasatch Front; Southern Utah residents and business owners are aware of potential rat infestations due to the mild temperatures in the South. Across the state, ***rats seem to come in cycles and are attracted to your home and yard by bird feeders and pet food bowls.*** Known for burrowing through the roof of homes and businesses, ***rats can cause serious damage by gnawing on your shingles and lead sheathing.*** They also pose a threat by chewing through electrical wires which can cause a fire.
  - **Mice** - Mice can also gain ***access to your home through small spaces or gnaw their way through roofing*** and walls. These holes can leave your home susceptible to moisture damage and loss of energy efficiency. Like rats, mice can also chew through electrical wiring posing a fire hazard. ***Mouse droppings can also pose a serious health risk to you and your family*** from the deadly hantavirus.
  - **Squirrels** - Squirrels are destructive! A member of the rodent family, ***squirrels will gnaw on shingles and lead sheathing.*** Once they gain access to your home, they will usually move right in and make themselves at home. ***Squirrel urine, aside from the pungent smell, can also cause roof and ceiling deterioration.***
- **Termites** - Termites love to eat wood; wood in your roof decking, wood beams, trusses, and rafters. When left unchecked, ***termites can cause major damage costing property owners big money for remediation and repairs.*** A bi-annual ***roof inspection will help keep your home protected*** with early detection. As ***Utah's premier roofing professionals, Vertex Roofing Contractors*** have been providing residents and business owners in Salt Lake City, West Jordan, South

Jordan, Taylorsville, Sandy, Millcreek, Cottonwood Heights, West Valley City and Midvale with **roof inspections, maintenance, repair and new roof installation** for over 15 years.

## Roof Inspection and Repair in Utah

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If you suspect a rodent may be causing damage to your roof, call **Vertex Roofing Contractors** at 801-438-6722 to **request a free estimate** or **[CLICK HERE](#)** for our **24-hour quick quote service**. Our team of **reliable experts will ensure your roof is in good repair** to protect your home and your family. We proudly serve all property owners throughout the Beehive State.