Texas Home Preparedness & Preventative Maintenance

Royal Roofing Construction · Serving Austin and the Rio Grande Valley

Five practical checklists help Texas homeowners and renters prepare for freeze, flood, heat and outages, reduce common risks, and recognize when a task stops being DIY. Do the Monthly list every month and the season list before each season. Keep the Emergency list current all year.

Stop now: If you smell gas, hear hissing, smell burning from an outlet or panel, or see water near live electrical, leave first, then call the gas utility or 911 from outside. Do not touch switches.

How to use these lists

List	When	What it covers
Spring Ready	Mar–May	Hail, flash floods, severe storms, drainage
Summer Ready	Jun–Sep	100°F+ heat, AC failure, grid strain and outages, drought soil
Winter Ready	Nov–Feb	Hard freezes, burst pipes, ice storms, outages
Emergency Ready	All year	Hurricanes (Rio Grande Valley, Jun–Nov), tornadoes, floods, multi-day outages
Monthly Home Care	Every month	Fire, leaks, energy waste, small problems that grow

Levels **DIY**: Safe for most people at ground level with basic tools. No panels, no gas lines, no climbing onto a roof. **Handyman**: A handyman visit: caulk and seal work, hard-to-reach cleaning, minor repairs, loose rails and gates. Royal RC can handle these. **Specialist**: Licensed or specialty trade work such as roofing, electrical, HVAC, plumbing inside walls, foundation and large trees. If a job is outside what Royal RC does, we will tell you so.

Tasks tagged with two levels (for example DIY / Handyman) start as DIY and move to the second level when the notes say so.

If a task means opening a panel, cutting into a wall, climbing onto a roof, or touching a gas line, stop. Photograph it, write down the date, and call for help.

RRC HOMEREADY

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Spring Ready

Flood, hail, storms, drainage · March–May

Texas spring brings hail, flash floods and fast-moving storms. Do this list in March, then re-check after every major storm.

Water and drainage

	Task	Level	What to look for / when to escalate
☐	Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris	**DIY (ground level) Handyman (second story or roof edge)**	Water should run freely. Crushed or disconnected downspouts: handyman repair.
☐	Make sure downspouts empty at least 6 feet from the foundation	**DIY**	Add a flexible extension if water pools by the wall.
☐	Clear yard drains, French drains, window wells and low spots	**DIY**	Critical before heavy rain, especially near creeks and in low lots.
☐	Check that soil slopes away from the house (about 6 inches of drop over the first 10 feet)	**DIY Specialist (grading or foundation)**	Add compacted soil for small settling. Regrading more than a few inches: call a grading or foundation specialist.
☐	Test the sump pump if you have one: pour a bucket of water into the pit	**DIY Specialist (plumber)**	Pump should start and empty the pit. Humming without pumping: call a plumber. A battery backup is recommended in flood-prone areas.
☐	Look at the foundation perimeter and seal hairline cracks	**DIY (hairline) Specialist (widening, stair-step or horizontal cracks)**	Photograph any crack with a coin or ruler for scale. Doors or windows that start sticking can mean soil movement.
☐	Check for white mineral deposits, stains or damp spots on garage and slab-edge walls	**DIY (look) Specialist (waterproofing)**	Active seepage: call a waterproofing specialist.

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Hail, wind and roof

	Task	Level	What to look for / when to escalate
☐	Photograph the roof, gutters, AC fins, siding and fence from the ground, with the date, before storm season	**DIY**	Dated photos give you a record of what your roof and exterior looked like before any storm.
☐	Check the roof from the ground or with binoculars: missing or lifted shingles, exposed nails, bent flashing, dented vents	**DIY (look only) Specialist (any repair)**	Do not climb on the roof. Missing shingles or daylight in the attic: call a roofer.
☐	After hail or high wind: walk the property and photograph damage, note the date, then call your insurer	**DIY**	Check gutters, AC fins, siding, window screens, vehicles and fences.
☐	Trim limbs away from the roof and power lines	**DIY (small) Specialist (large trees or near lines)**	Never trim near power lines yourself. Call the utility.
☐	Check exterior caulk around windows, doors, pipes and trim; re-caulk gaps	**DIY (small gaps) Handyman (gaps wider than ¼ inch or soft wood)**	Texas heat cycles crack caulk every few years.
☐	Check the attic and ceilings for brown stains, damp insulation or daylight	**DIY (look from the attic hatch only) Specialist (roofer)**	Active drip or spreading stains: call a roofer.

Interior and systems

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	Task	Level	What to look for / when to escalate
☐	Schedule an AC tune-up before the summer rush	**Specialist (HVAC)**	If the AC does not cool within 15 minutes of first startup, call for service.
☐	Clean the dryer duct and bathroom exhaust fan covers	**DIY** **Handyman (full duct cleaning)**	Lint and moisture buildup are fire and mold risks.
☐	Repair or replace torn window and door screens	**DIY (patch)** **Handyman (full rescreen)**	Keeps insects out as the weather warms.
☐	Check decks, fences and railings for cracked boards, loose rails or rotted posts	**DIY (look)** **Handyman (repair)**	Push on rails. Any movement is a safety repair.
☐	Look for termite mud tubes, wood damage or swarms after heavy rains	**DIY (look)** **Specialist (pest control)**	Photograph and call a pest control company.
☐	Sign up for flash flood and severe weather alerts (county emergency alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, phone alerts)	**DIY**	Know your flood risk: homeowners insurance usually does not cover flood.

After a hail or storm event

Photograph damage first, then cover openings with a tarp if it is safe. Take your time and get more than one written estimate before signing anything with a door-knocking contractor. Texas law does not allow a contractor to waive, absorb or rebate your insurance deductible.

For questions about your insurance policy or a claim, contact your carrier or a licensed professional. This guide helps you document your own property; it does not advise on claims.

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When to call a pro

Situation	What to do now	Who
Gas smell or hissing	Leave the home, do not touch switches, call the gas utility from outside	**Emergency**
Burning smell, hot or buzzing outlet, scorch marks	Stop using it, switch off the breaker if safe, call a licensed electrician	**Specialist (electrician)**
GFCI will not reset, dead outlet or switch, flickering fixture	Do not use it; photograph it and have a qualified electrician look at it	**Specialist (electrician)**
Breaker trips repeatedly	Unplug devices on that circuit; do not keep resetting	**Specialist (electrician)**
Active drip from a ceiling or wall	Shut off water at the main, photograph, place a bucket	**Handyman Specialist (plumber)**
Sump pump hums but does not move water	Check the discharge line; call for service	**Specialist (plumber)**
Missing shingles, roof leak or hail damage	Photograph from the ground; tarp only if safe; call for a roof estimate	**Specialist (roofer)**
Foundation crack wider than a hairline, or horizontal	Photograph with a ruler, mark the date	**Specialist (foundation)**
AC iced up, not cooling after 15 minutes	Turn it off, thaw it, call an HVAC technician	**Specialist (HVAC)**
Burst or frozen pipe	Shut off the main, open faucets, photograph, call a plumber	**Specialist (plumber)**
Generator will not start or backfeeds into the panel	Stop; never connect to the panel yourself	**Specialist (electrician)**

Quick reference (write it in)

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Water shut-off: _____
Gas shut-off: _____
Electrical panel: _____
HVAC filter size: _____
Local utility numbers: _____
Insurance agent: _____
Kit last updated: _____

Request help from Royal RC

Royal RC handles handyman-level repairs and roofing. If something on your list needs a licensed specialist outside our scope, we will tell you so. Tell us what you found on the checklist and we will follow up.

Call 512-348-7663 · RoyalRCInc@outlook.com · rrcestimate.com https://rrcestimate.com/homeready

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