



How to Know if Hail is Coming

- Severe thunderstorm warnings can sometimes indicate that hail is imminent. There are three factors the National Weather Services looks for before classifying a storm as a severe thunderstorm: Wind that exceed 58 miles per hour, hail that is at least 3/4" in diameter, or tornadoes.

Hail or Sleet?

- Hail is larger than sleet, and unlike sleet, it is formed during thunderstorms.
- When rain becomes frozen on its journey to the ground, sleet is formed.
- The formation of hail is a bit more complicated. Updrafts from a thunderstorm force raindrops towards the upper atmosphere, where they freeze. These updrafts are strong enough to keep ice particles aloft. The hailstone grows larger as particles of supercooled water freeze to it. Eventually the hailstone becomes too heavy for the thunderstorm updraft, and falls to the ground.

During a Hail Storm

- Remain indoors during the hail storm to avoid injury. Hail has caused fatalities in the past, so staying indoors is important.
- Be sure to bring family pets indoors. The deadliest recorded hailstorm claimed the lives of 1,600 domesticated animals.
- Move automobiles into garages or carports.
- Stay away from windows that are being struck with hail to avoid injury.
- Do not use electronics. Often hail is part of a severe storm which likely includes lightning.
- The weather conditions that cause hail can also cause tornadoes. Although they do not always occur together, the possibility exists.

After a Hail Storm

- Document and report damages to your home and property.
- Some damages you may see can be caused by the high winds associated with these types of storms. High winds can knock down trees or damage power lines.

Hail Statistics

- In 2008, hailstorms caused nearly \$2 billion in damages in the US (Insurance Information Institute).
- The largest recorded hailstone in the US had a diameter of 7-inches (Insurance Information Institute).



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