

Illinois Hail 2026: The Roofs Have Had Enough

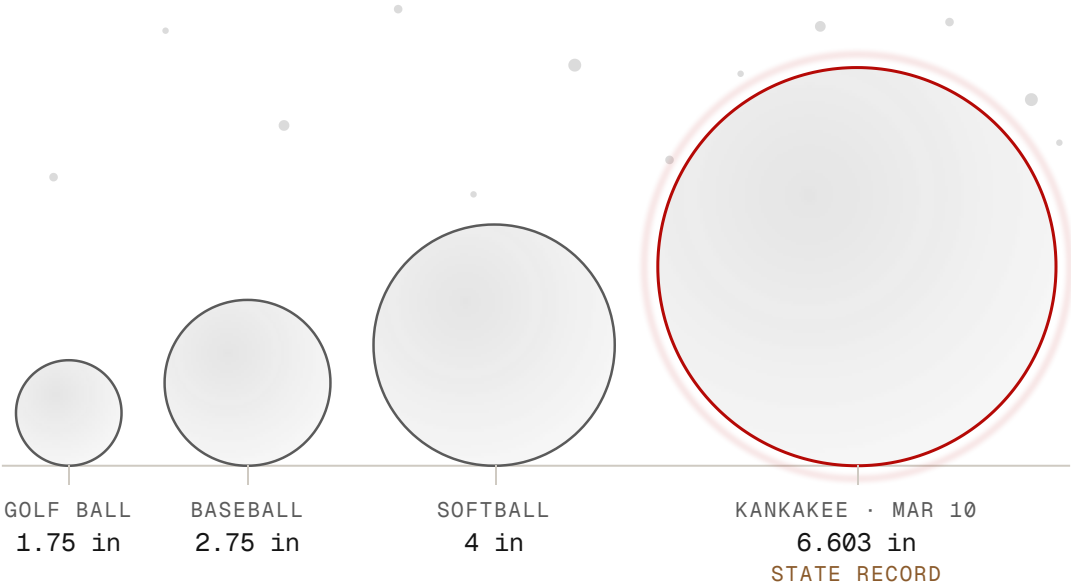
The major storms, the neighborhoods worth revisiting, and what residential roofers should have on their fall and spring work plan.



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HAIL SIZE · TO SCALE



Size references follow the National Weather Service hail chart. The record stone is drawn to the same scale.

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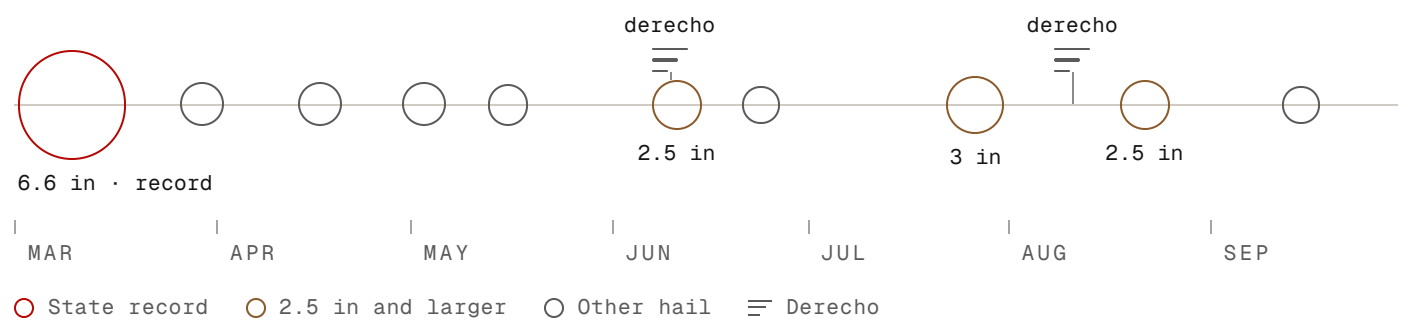
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Illinois did not ease into hail season. On March 10, a Kankakee hailstone measured 6.603 inches across and weighed about 1.23 pounds, setting a state record. Darien reported 4.8-inch hail; Downers Grove and Westmont reported 4 inches. Spring had barely started. 1 · 2

More hail and damaging wind followed through summer and into September. For residential roofing contractors, that leaves a practical fall assignment: revisit affected neighborhoods, speak with homeowners who still have unresolved roof concerns, and turn those conversations into inspections and a well-planned repair schedule.

Spring: giant hail, then more hail

Selected significant events through September 2026. Hail sizes refer to specific reports within each area; dates use the local calendar day.



Hail and wind events at a glance, March to September 2026. Circle size follows the largest hail reported that day; wind marks are the two derechos.

DATE	AREA	REPORTED HAIL AND STORM IMPACTS
March 10	Kankakee / Livingston; western Chicago suburbs	6.603-inch state record in Kankakee; 4.8 inches in Darien; 4 inches in Downers Grove and Westmont. 1 · 2
March 30-31	Near-west suburbs; Will County	2 inches in Berwyn; 1.5-1.75 inches in parts of the western suburbs. Another round brought 1.75-inch reports near Rockdale and New Lenox. 3
April 17	West-central Illinois, including Ipava	2-inch hail in Ipava. NWS describes wind-driven hail damaging house siding and breaking windows along the afternoon storm's path. 4
May 3	Alton / Godfrey / Bethalto	Up to 2 inches west of Alton, with 1.5-1.75-inch reports elsewhere in the corridor. 5 · 27
May 16	Highway 37 near Dix	1.75-inch hail, with roof and vehicle damage in a republished storm report. 6 · 7

Summer did not give roofs a break

The summer record includes both hailstorms and major wind events. For a residential roofer, that means looking for impact damage alongside displaced shingles, damaged flashings and other signs of wind-related problems.

DATE	AREA	REPORTED HAIL AND STORM IMPACTS
June 10	Northern Illinois	Derecho with 80-85 mph gusts and widespread wind damage. 8
June 11	Northern and central Illinois	2.5-inch hail at Wenona and 1.75 inches near Toluca. NWS Chicago lists 24 tornadoes in its forecast area. 9 · 10
June 24	Huntley area	1.5-inch hail east of Huntley, during an event that also produced wind and tornado damage. 11
July 27	Western / southern Chicago suburbs; Shorewood	3-inch hail near Shorewood, 2.5 inches near Westmont and 2 inches in several nearby suburbs; seven confirmed tornadoes. 12
August 11	South / southwest Chicago suburbs into Indiana	Major derecho with widespread wind damage. Updated NWS surveys list eight tornadoes in the Chicago forecast area. 13
August 22	Highland / Grantfork / Aviston	2.5-inch hail at Highland and 2 inches at Aviston in republished NWS/SPC reports; 1.75 inches near Grantfork in a separate compilation. 14 · 28 · 29
September 15	Alta / Dunlap and Delavan	1.5-inch hail near Alta and 1 inch in Delavan. 15 · 16

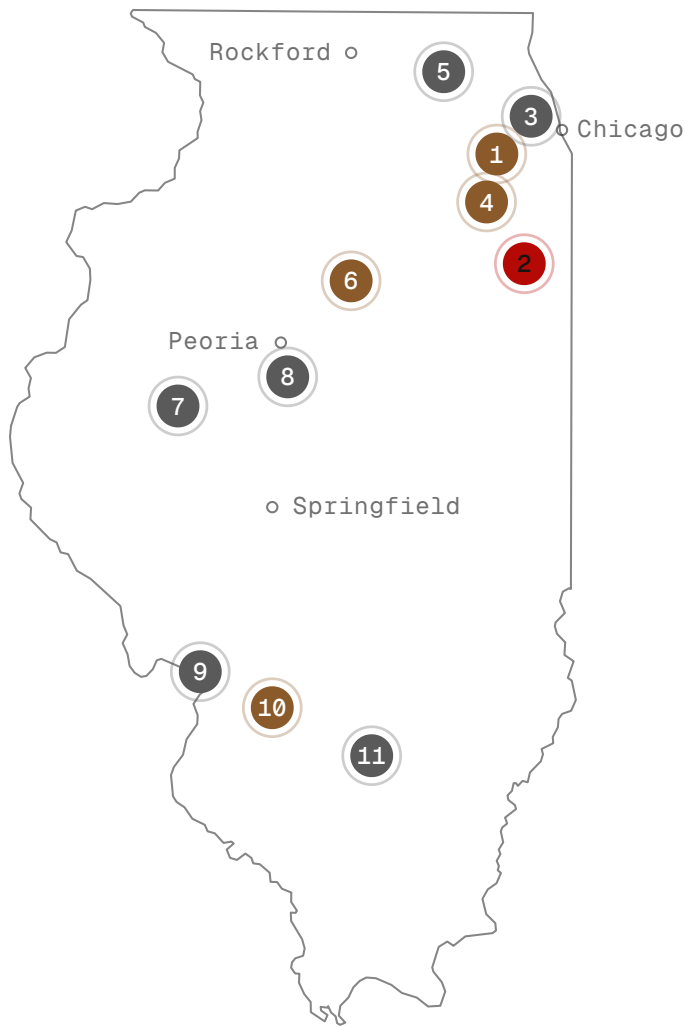
Why an older storm still deserves a call

A March date does not tell you whether the homeowner has had an inspection, completed repairs or replaced the roof. Ask. The same goes for the July and August storms: find out what has already been done and what still needs attention before booking the visit.

The opportunity is in that follow-up. A homeowner with an unresolved concern can benefit from a clear assessment, photographs and a practical next step, even after the storm has disappeared from the news.

Where residential roofers should look

These areas make a useful starting list for inspections and homeowner outreach. Work outward from the reported storm locations, then narrow the route by your service area, roof condition and available inspection slots.



- 1

Darien · Downers Grove · Westmont

March 10: 4 to 4.8 in; July 27: 2.5 in near Westmont

2

Kankakee · Bradley · Buckingham/Campus

March 10: 6.603-in state record; 5 to 5.5 in nearby

3

Berwyn (near-west Cook County)

March 30: 2 in

4

Shorewood · Rockdale · New Lenox (Will County)

March 31: 1.75 in; July 27: 3 in near Shorewood

5

Huntley

June 24: 1.5 in

6

Wenona · Toluca

June 11: 2.5 in and 1.75 in

7

Ipava

April 17: 2 in

8

Alta · Delavan (near Peoria)

September 15: 1.5 in and 1 in

9

Alton · Godfrey · Bethalto

May 3: up to 2 in

10

Highland · Grantfork · Aviston

August 22: 2.5 in, 2 in and 1.75 in

11

Highway 37 near Dix

May 16: 1.75 in

Wind: the June 10 derecho (northern Illinois, 80-85 mph gusts) and the August 11 derecho (south and southwest suburbs) brought widespread wind damage.

- STATE RECORD
 ● 2.5 IN AND LARGER
 ● OTHER HAIL

Reported hail by area, March to September 2026. Marker color follows the largest hail reported in that area. Source links are in the tables above and in the Sources list.

Darien, Downers Grove, Westmont and nearby suburbs

The March 10 giant-hail event and July 27 storms put this corridor high on the follow-up list. March 30 brought a smaller round, with 1.5-1.75-inch reports in parts of the western suburbs. Think two major hail episodes plus a smaller one across the region, with the history of each property checked individually.

[2](#) · [3](#) · [12](#)

For homeowners who have already had work done, ask when and what was repaired. A replacement after March and before July changes the inspection history. For those who have not had the roof checked, offer a documented assessment of its current condition.

Kankakee and northeastern Livingston County

March 10 brought exceptionally large hail to this area. Reports included 5-5.5 inches around Buckingham in Kankakee County and Campus in Livingston County. Bradley also reported window-breaking hail, with a 2-inch report there. [1](#) · [2](#)

Make the roof and exterior part of the same inspection: shingles, vents, flashings, gutters, siding and skylights. Where the storm caused severe impacts, check whether the damage extends beyond the roof covering before preparing the scope.

Near-west Cook County and Will County

Berwyn's March 30 2-inch report, the March 31 reports near Rockdale and New Lenox, and July's 3-inch hail near Shorewood give crews several specific places to investigate. Add wind-damage follow-up in southern suburbs affected by the July and August storms. [3](#) · [12](#) · [13](#)

Central Illinois and the Metro East

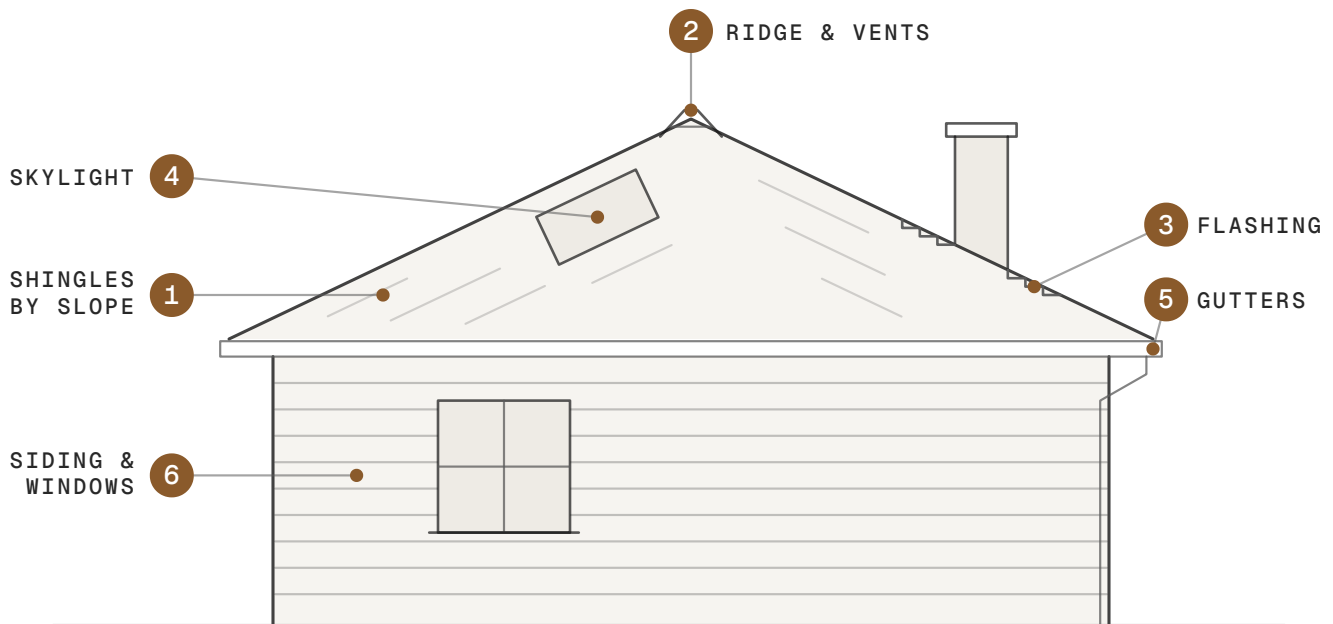
Build smaller, focused routes around Ipava, Wenona and Toluca; the Alton-Godfrey-Bethalto corridor; Highway 37 near Dix; and Highland, Grantfork and Aviston. Near Peoria, the September 15 Alta and Delavan reports give contractors a later-season starting point. [4](#) · [5](#) · [6](#) · [7](#) · [10](#) · [14](#) · [15](#) · [16](#) · [28](#)

Keep the drive manageable. A cluster of residential inspections that your team can attend and follow up on is a better operating plan than scattering appointments across half the state.

What to look for on residential roofs

Hail damage can be easy to spot on a vent and much less obvious on the shingles around it. Inspect the roof by slope, identify the material and record the condition before deciding whether the work calls for a repair or replacement. Product age, construction and condition all affect how a roof responds.

17 · 19 · 21



Inspect by slope and record each component: shingles, ridge and vents, flashing, skylights, gutters, siding and windows.

ROOF OR COMPONENT	WHAT TO EXAMINE	WHY IT MATTERS
Older three-tab shingles	Impact bruising, splits or tears in the mat, broken tabs and displaced shingles.	Existing wear and storm damage may occur together. Document their extent and assess whether a lasting repair is practical. 19 · 22
Architectural shingles	Impacts across each slope, cracks, tears and the condition of seals and fasteners.	A thicker-looking shingle still needs a close inspection. Hail size alone does not decide the repair scope. 17 · 18 · 22
Impact-resistant shingles	The actual product, its age and condition, plus the same damage checks used on other asphalt roofs.	Class 4 is a laboratory rating. Products can perform differently in the field and as they age. 17 · 18 · 19
Residential metal roofing	Panel impacts, seams, fasteners, coatings and flashings.	Separate cosmetic dents from damage affecting the roof's function, then check the policy where insurance is involved. 17 · 23
Gutters, vents, siding and skylights	Dents, breaks, cracks and other damage, photographed by component and location.	Exterior damage helps tell the storm's story and identifies additional repairs the homeowner may need. 4 · 21

Class 4 is a rating. Unfortunately, it is not a force field.

When replacement is warranted, discuss impact-resistant options and the complete roof system. IBHS ratings can help compare shingle performance. Some insurers offer eligible roofing discounts in Illinois; have the homeowner confirm the specific product and discount with their carrier. [17 · 18 · 26](#)

Your fall-to-spring work plan

Fall 2026: inspect, document and schedule

Contact homeowners in the affected areas and ask about inspections, repairs and any remaining concerns. Prioritize active leaks or visible damage for prompt assessment. Use suitable weather windows for appropriate repairs and replacements, following the product's installation requirements.

Give the homeowner a photo report that shows the roof by slope, close-ups of significant findings, relevant exterior damage and your recommended next step. Record roof age when known, previous

work and the owner's account of what happened.

● **Winter: keep the conversation moving**

Follow up on open estimates, check whether owners need more information and confirm which projects are ready for scheduling. If a homeowner reports a leak, investigate its cause. Hail-related cracks and tears can allow water entry, but the date a stain appears is not necessarily the date the roof was damaged. 20

● **Spring 2027: start with work already assessed**

Use completed inspections, accepted estimates and confirmed project timing to plan crew days and material orders. Recheck a roof when new weather or changed conditions warrant it. A fall inspection can lay the groundwork for a spring project, provided urgent repairs are handled and the homeowner's timing is clear.

Keep insurance and paperwork clear

Have homeowners check their actual policy requirements promptly. Notice, proof-of-loss, repair and legal-action deadlines can differ. Actual cash value and replacement-cost coverage can also leave different out-of-pocket costs. Explain the estimate clearly and let the insurer determine coverage under the policy. 23

Use current Illinois contract forms. For applicable insurance-funded work, the cancellation cutoff is the earlier of five business days after written notice of a full or partial coverage denial, or thirty business days after the insurer receives a properly executed proof of loss. Include the required notices and forms, along with any other applicable cancellation rights. 24 · 25

Where residential roofing leads fit

Storm reports help you choose where to work. Qualified roofing appointments help you get in front of homeowners in those areas who want their roof inspected. The value comes from connecting a relevant property, a homeowner expecting the visit and a contractor with time to do the work properly.

Build the campaign around a useful inspection

Use the storm locations above to choose neighborhoods within your service radius. Combine homeowner calls with local search pages, referrals and neighborhood outreach where appropriate. Lead with the inspection: what the homeowner will receive, who is coming and when.

Before an appointment reaches the calendar, establish the property address, ownership, known roof age, the homeowner's concerns, any recent repairs or replacement, and their interest in an inspection. Match the booking to the contractor's service criteria and confirm a time the homeowner can attend.

Make each appointment worth the drive

Review the appointment notes and call recording before the visit. Group nearby inspections, arrive when expected and give the homeowner a clear follow-up. Track attended appointments, estimates, signed work and acquisition cost so you know which areas are producing worthwhile jobs.

That is how residential roofing leads can support the fall and spring plan: a steady schedule of relevant homeowner conversations while the roofing team handles inspections, estimates and production.

RavenPoint's role

At RavenPoint Leads, our agents speak with homeowners, qualify their interest and book exclusive residential roofing inspection appointments. Each appointment comes with the call recording, so your team can hear what was discussed before arriving. 30

Share the Illinois ZIP codes or storm-affected neighborhoods you want to serve, along with your qualification criteria and inspection capacity. We can confirm territory availability and shape the campaign around the homes your team is equipped to handle.

Sources

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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Walid Ragab runs RavenPoint Leads, a roofing lead-generation company that books confirmed, exclusive roof inspections for contractors across the United States. He spent four years inside roofing storm restoration, first on the phones with hail-hit homeowners and then running operations for a lead-generation call center, before building RavenPoint from a handful of agents into a fast-growing lead provider in the roofing industry. He writes from the side of the business most contractors never see: the data, the dialers and the conversations that decide whether an inspection actually gets booked.

[About RavenPoint Leads →](#)