



EL NIÑO PREP SERIES • STORM SEASON 2026-27

81% isn't a weather forecast. It's a deadline.

NOAA puts the odds of a very strong El Niño this fall at 81% — an event that would rank among the largest since 1950. This is the ten-point walkthrough we use on a house before the first storm — written so you can do it yourself, from the ground, in about thirty minutes.

01 • THE WINDOW

Why October through December decides your winter, and what each month costs you.

02 • THE TEN POINTS

What to look at, what a finding means, and when it stops being a repair.

03 • THE TEAR-OFF

One page to print, clip to a board, and mark up as you walk.

81%

Odds of a very strong
El Niño, October–
December 2026.

97%

Odds El Niño
conditions hold into
early spring 2027.

OCT

When the window
opens — and starts
closing.

THE METHOD IS THE DIFFERENCE

Orange County • Los Angeles County • Inland Empire
San Diego County • Ventura County

Source: NOAA Climate Prediction Center, ENSO Diagnostic

SECTION ONE

The peak isn't deep winter. It starts ten weeks from now.

In an El Niño year the subtropical jet drops south and parks over Southern California from October through December. The rain arrives in bands, back to back, with days of saturation between them instead of hours. Roofs here are not built for duration — they are built for the twenty-minute cloudburst. A detail that shrugs off a short storm gives up in the third day of a wet week.

Repair is measured in days. Restoration in weeks. Replacement in months. The calendar decides which one is still available to you.

WHAT CHANGES IN AN EL NIÑO YEAR

More storms in sequence, longer saturation, and wind-driven rain that pushes water sideways under laps instead of down over them. Total inches matter less than how long the assembly stays wet.

WHY THE CALENDAR MATTERS

Material lead times, city permits, and cure windows all run on dry weather. Nothing coats or seals in a wet week. Every week you wait removes an option from the list, and the cheapest options go first.

DO THIS SAFELY

Stay on the ground. Binoculars, a phone camera on zoom, and fifteen minutes in the attic will tell you eight of the ten points below. **Do not walk a wet slope, a tile roof, or anything above one story.** That part is ours — call us and we will walk it, photograph it, and hand you the file.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

01 Walk it

Print page six. Take one lap of the house, then one pass through the attic.

02 Mark it

Pass, Watch, or Fix on every row. Photograph anything you mark Fix.

03 Send it

Text us the page and the photos. We will tell you what is urgent and what can wait.

SECTION TWO

The ten points

DRAINAGE, DETAILS, AND THE FIELD

01

Gutters and downspouts



Look for —

Standing water or a silt line inside the trough, granules packed at the outlet, seams weeping rust, downspouts that end within a foot of the foundation, and any section pulling away from the fascia.

Why it matters —

A blocked gutter backs water up under the first course of shingles and into the fascia. It is the cheapest thing on this list to fix and the most common cause of the leaks we open in January.

02

Valleys



Look for —

Debris dammed in the center line, exposed or dented metal, shingles cut short of the valley or overrunning it, and dark staining that fans out below the valley's bottom end.

Why it matters —

Valleys carry the volume of two planes through one channel. In a long storm that channel runs full, and full channels find every fastener and every short cut.

03

Flashings at every penetration



Look for —

Cracked or bubbled sealant, lifted metal edges, mastic used as a substitute for flashing, and rust at the fastener heads on skylights, vents, and chimney counter-flashing.

Why it matters —

Roofs rarely fail in the field. They fail where the field is interrupted. Sealant is a five-year answer to a thirty-year problem, and it fails quietly.

04

Pipe boots and vent collars



Look for —

Rubber collars that have gone chalky, split, or pulled back from the pipe; loose storm collars; and daylight visible around a pipe when you look up at it from the attic.

Why it matters —

A boot is a rubber part on a roof in Southern California sun. It has a shorter life than everything around it, and it sits directly above finished ceilings.

05

The shingle or tile field



Look for —

Bald patches where granules have washed off, curled or cupped edges, slipped or cracked tiles, and any repair that is a different color or profile from the field around it.

Why it matters —

Granules are the roof's sunscreen. Once they are gone the mat ages fast, and a field that is nearly done cannot be patched into another decade — the honest options narrow to restoration or replacement.

The ten points, continued

EDGES, INSIDE, AND AROUND THE HOUSE

06

Ridge and hip lines



Look for —

Ridge caps that are lifted, cracked, or missing; ridge vent that has separated from the line; and any dip or wave along a ridge that used to read straight.

Why it matters —

Wind gets under a lifted cap and works it loose across a whole run. A sagging ridge is not a roofing finding at all — it is a structural one, and it needs eyes on it before the load of a wet winter.

07

Wall and chimney transitions



Look for —

Stucco that stops short of the roof line, missing kick-out flashing where a roof edge meets a wall, staining on the wall below that junction, and a chimney with no cricket behind it.

Why it matters —

A missing kick-out sends a whole roof plane's runoff into the wall cavity instead of the gutter. The roof stays dry, the wall does not, and the damage shows up as a stain on the inside a year later.

08

The attic and the underside



Look for —

Dark rings on the sheathing, rusted nail points, compressed or stained insulation, daylight at the eaves where there should be none, and a musty smell on a dry day.

Why it matters —

The attic is the only place you can read the roof's history from the inside. Old stains that are dry tell you what already happened; anything damp in October tells you what is about to.

09

Trees and overhanging limbs



Look for —

Limbs within six feet of the roof plane, needle or leaf litter collected in valleys and behind chimneys, scuff marks on the field where a branch has been rubbing, and moss on the north slope.

Why it matters —

Wet debris holds moisture against the surface for days and feeds growth that lifts edges. Trimming back is the one item on this list that a homeowner can finish in an afternoon.

10

Grading and drainage away from the house



Look for —

Soil or hardscape that slopes back toward the foundation, splash erosion under every downspout, planters holding water against the wall, and area drains full of last year's leaves.

Why it matters —

Everything the roof sheds has to go somewhere. In a long storm the ground saturates, and water that cannot leave the house finds the slab, the crawlspace, and the garage.

SECTION THREE

If you only fix three things before the rain, fix these.

Ranked by what we actually open up in January — not by what costs the most. Each of these is inexpensive in October and expensive in February, and the difference is entirely a matter of when you look.

NO. 1

Clear the drainage path end to end

Gutters, valleys, downspout outlets, and the area drains they empty into. Treat it as one system, because water does. This is the highest-return hour anyone can spend on a house this month.

DO THIS NOW

Flush every downspout and watch where the water lands.

Clear the valley centers and behind the chimney.

Open the area drains before the first storm.

COST OF WAITING

Rotted fascia and a wet ceiling instead of a clean-out.

NO. 2

Replace tired pipe boots and re-detail flashings

Every penetration on the roof is a joint, and joints are where storms get in. Boots and collars are inexpensive parts with a short life, sitting directly above finished rooms.

DO THIS NOW

Replace any collar that has gone chalky or split.

Reset lifted metal instead of sealing over it.

Photograph every penetration while it is dry.

COST OF WAITING

Drywall, insulation, and paint on top of the same small part.

NO. 3

Decide about an aging field now, not mid-storm

If the field is bald, brittle, or already patched in three places, get it documented in October. Restoration is often still on the table — but only while the roof is dry and the schedule is open.

DO THIS NOW

Book the evaluation while the roof is still dry.

Ask which sections are genuinely still restorable.

Get the answer in writing before October ends.

COST OF WAITING

An emergency tarp in the rain, then a full replacement anyway.

Restore before you replace. On a low-slope or flat section with a sound deck, a silicone restoration can add years for a fraction of a tear-off. We will tell you which side of that line your roof is on, in writing, either way.

Ten-point roof checklist

PROPERTY		DATE		WALKED BY	
#	CHECKPOINT	PASS	WATCH	FIX	NOTES
01	Gutters and downspouts clear	☐	☐	☐	
02	Valleys free of debris, metal sound	☐	☐	☐	
03	Flashings intact, no mastic patches	☐	☐	☐	
04	Pipe boots and collars not split	☐	☐	☐	
05	Field: granules, curling, slipped tile	☐	☐	☐	
06	Ridge and hip caps secure, line straight	☐	☐	☐	
07	Wall and chimney transitions, kick-outs	☐	☐	☐	
08	Attic dry: no stains, rust, damp insulation	☐	☐	☐	
09	Limbs trimmed back, debris cleared	☐	☐	☐	
10	Ground drains water away from the house	☐	☐	☐	

STOP AND CALL — DO NOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT DRY DAY

☐ Active drip or wet ceiling
anywhere inside the house.

☐ A sagging or wavy ridge — a
structural finding, not a roofing
one.

☐ Daylight through the roof deck
seen from inside the attic.

These are not the three from page five. These three mean stop.

OBSERVATIONS

Marked something Fix? Photograph it and text the page to us.

949-866-3011

SECTION FOUR

Your roof deserves a documented plan.

Send us the page you marked up, or let us walk it for you. Either way you get findings in writing, photographs you keep, and a straight answer about repair, restoration, or replacement — before the first storm sets the schedule for you.

Request an Evaluation

Free evaluation. Honest findings. No obligation and no hard sell.



SCAN TO BOOK
METHODROOFINGGROUP.COM

CALL OR TEXT

949-866-3011

EMAIL

info@methodroofinggroup.com

ONLINE

methodroofinggroup.com

WHAT A DOCUMENTED EVALUATION INCLUDES

Core samples

Where it is warranted, we cut and read the assembly instead of guessing at it.

Moisture scan

We map what is already wet under the surface, not only what shows from the ground.

Photo log you keep

Every finding photographed and labeled. Yours to keep, whoever does the work.

Prefer to send photos first? Text them to **949-866-3011** and we will tell you what we can see from the pictures before anyone comes out.