

panel. A good way to check for a proper seal is to wash your aircraft. Look for signs of interior leaking immediately after a good dousing with a hose.

Although a distant cousin of rain, hail is altogether a different entity. Beyond seeking shelter for your aircraft, there's not much you can do to prevent hail damage. Some aircraft can be outfitted with custom wing or cockpit covers, which may offer some protection in light hail. Keep in mind that wind speed can enhance the damaging power of hail, so even pebble-size hail can have destructive consequences.

After the Storm Has Passed

You've done all you can do to ward off storm damage. Now, it's time to inspect. Follow your aircraft's preflight checklist to make sure you cover all areas, including draining samples from the fuel sumps. Look for structural damage around control hinges, and inspect the aircraft skin for signs of dimpling or tearing. Also, inspect the landing gear in case the aircraft was lifted and dropped. Consult with a mechanic if you're unsure of anything that you suspect may affect airworthiness.

Don't wait until a bad storm is bearing down on your airport to learn the proper way to secure your aircraft. Take time to read through your pilot operating handbook (POH) or consult with the manufacturer for specifics on tiedown procedures. Getting into a routine of properly securing your aircraft will not only protect you on those "dark and stormy" nights in the forecast, but also when a gale-force wind or storm cell comes along without warning.

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For More Information

FAA Advisory Circular 20-35C, Tiedown Sense

http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/22573

Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook, FAA-H-8083-30

http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/aircraft/amt_handbook/media/FAA-8083-30_FrontPages.pdf



AMT Code of Conduct

First released in July 2009, the Aviation Maintenance Technician Model Code of Conduct (AMTMCC) has fast become a key reference tool in advancing safety, responsibility, and professionalism within the aviation maintenance profession. The document contains seven sections, each highlighting different core principles and recommended practices that support an overall vision of excellence for AMTs. The sections include:

- AMT General Responsibilities
- Third-Party Safety
- Training and Proficiency
- Security
- Environmental Issues
- Use of Technology
- Advancement and Promotion of Aviation Maintenance

Some examples of recommended practices in the AMTMCC that emphasize safety and responsibility are:

- Maintain each aircraft as if you own it and your family will be flying in it.
- Make personal wellness and an honest self-evaluation of your fitness a precondition of starting each work shift or task.

The Code of Conduct is a living document, periodically updated to reflect changes. To access the AMTMCC, along with similar Codes of Conduct (e.g., Aviators Model and Student Pilots Model), go to www.secureav.com.