Storm Shelters and Safe Rooms

The devastating tornadoes that have hit Missouri in recent years have caused many Missourians to take a closer look at their vulnerability to nature’s wrath and to make better preparations for surviving future storms. Having a shelter or a safe room built into or near the home can help protect your family from injury or death caused by the dangerous forces of extreme winds.

Missouri is a high-risk state for high wind and tornadoes

All of Missouri is in Wind Zone IV, meaning wind gusts from severe storms can exceed 250 mph. The number of recorded tornadoes is 5 to 15 per 2,470 square miles for much of the state. Combined, these factors place the entire state at a high-risk level that warrants a shelter as the preferred method of protection.

Basic features of a shelter or safe room

In selecting a shelter or safe room, consider the following three factors.

- **Durability** — Is it strong enough that the walls, roof and door will withstand 250-mph winds and resist penetration by 100-mph wind-borne flying debris? Is it well-anchored to resist overturning and uplift? Does it have three dead-bolt locks, or the equivalent, on the access door?

- **Proximity** — Is it close to or inside your residence or place of work so you can quickly get to it? It should be readily accessible from all parts of the dwelling. Do you want it in-ground or above-ground? If in-ground, will the soils and drainage accommodate it and be in a flood-free area?

- **Accessibility** — Can you easily get into and out of it? Does it need to be wheelchair accessible? Does the door open outward or inward? Your shelter or safe room should be free of clutter.

You will need to decide between reinforced concrete, fabricated steel, Kevlar, or plywood and sheet steel. Commonly used house construction techniques are based on minimum building codes and generally don’t provide adequate protection. Most Missouri counties do not have even these minimum building codes.

Resources for planning and building a shelter or safe room

To help homeowners and builders design and build shelters that withstand extreme wind speeds, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has a 46-page booklet titled FEMA 320, Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room For Your Home or Small Business, which includes 18 pages of construction plans and cost estimates. You can get a free copy by:

- calling FEMA, toll-free, 1-888-565-3896, or

Also, USDA Plan #6209, Storm Cellar, is a one-page working drawing for building two sizes of inground concrete storm cellars (8 feet x 16 feet and 5 feet x 10 feet). The drawing is available through the University of Missouri’s Agricultural Engineering Department by calling, toll-free, 1-800-995-8503, or online: [http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/aben-plans/6209.pdf](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/aben-plans/6209.pdf).

Whether you build a shelter or not, you can take these important steps to protect your family.

1. Prepare an emergency plan for dealing with disaster situations.
2. Put together an emergency supply kit for home, business and each vehicle.

More resources and information

- Pages 2 through 4 of this guide list storm shelter and safe room manufacturers serving Missouri. It is not intended to be a complete list of manufacturers, and University of Missouri Extension does not imply endorsement by listing a firm.
- Texas Tech University’s Wind Science and Engineering Research Center offers information on protection from extreme wind. The website also has information on building an in-home shelter or safe room: [http://www.depts.ttu.edu/weweb/Shelters/Shelters.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/weweb/Shelters/Shelters.php).
- The FEMA website has extensive information on safe rooms and shelters: [http://www.fema.gov/safe-rooms/residential-safe-rooms](http://www.fema.gov/safe-rooms/residential-safe-rooms).
- More information on emergency preparedness and disaster recovery is available at the MU Extension website: [http://extension.missouri.edu/emergencymanagement.htm](http://extension.missouri.edu/emergencymanagement.htm).

Written by Robert A. Schultheis, Natural Resource Engineering Specialist, University of Missouri Extension in Webster County
Partial List of Storm Shelter and Safe Room Manufacturers
Serving Missouri

For informational purposes only; no endorsement is implied by their mention.

**Missouri**

**Atlas Safe Rooms**
101 N. Rangeline Road
Joplin, MO 64801
Email: jessica@atlassaferooms.com
Web: [http://www.atlassaferooms.com](http://www.atlassaferooms.com)

**Earth Storm Shelters, Earth Manufacturing, LLC**
7627 Cherokee Road
Norwood, MO 65717
Phone: 417-746-0043
Email: info@earthwoodfurnace.com
Web: [http://www.earthstormshelters.com](http://www.earthstormshelters.com)

**FamilySAFE**
3230-C S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807
Phone: 417-693-7504 or 417-887-7469
Email: rrayl@varsityfs.com or jwherley@varsityfs.com
Web: [http://www.familysafemo.com](http://www.familysafemo.com)

**Life Shelter**
166 Stevens Drive
Marshfield, MO 65706
Phone: 417-859-5911 or 417-425-5350
Email: norm@lifeshelter.biz
Web: [http://www.lifeshelter.biz](http://www.lifeshelter.biz)

**Missouri Storm Shelters, Inc.**
1839 N. Commerce Drive
Nixa, MO 65714
Phone: 417-725-0055
Web: [http://www.missouristormshelters.com](http://www.missouristormshelters.com)

**Northwest Missouri Shelters**
Savannah, MO 64485
Phone: 816-432-4358
Email: info@nwmissourishelters.us
Web: [http://www.nwmissourishelters.us/](http://www.nwmissourishelters.us/)

**Ozark Wilbert Concrete Products**
1451 N. Farmer Branch Road
Ozark, MO 65721
Phone: 888-262-7383 or 417-581-3060
Web: [http://www.siprecast.com](http://www.siprecast.com)

**Ozark Wilbert Vault Co.**
2850 E. Barton St.
Springfield, MO 65804
Phone: 417-883-2355
Email: rlnoris@centurylink.net
Web: [http://www.siprecast.com](http://www.siprecast.com)

**Ozark Wilbert Vault Co.**
310 Spruce St.
Cabool, MO 65689
Phone: 417-962-3126
Web: [http://www.siprecast.com](http://www.siprecast.com)

**Calus Precast Concrete**
211 E. 20th St.
Mountain Grove, MO 65711
Phone: 417-926-6000

**Reliable Storm Shelters**
Carthage, MO 64836
Phone: 417-850-5562 or 417-861-7178
Web: [http://www.reliablenorthwestmissourishelters.com](http://www.reliablenorthwestmissourishelters.com)

**Ron Norris**
7911 County Road 5090
West Plains, MO 65775
Phone: 417-274-8774
Email: rlnoris@centurylink.net
(Builds poured-in-place concrete safe rooms within 100-mile radius of West Plains)

**The Concrete Works, LLC**
One Concrete Way
H.C.R. 72, Box 374
Souder, MO 65773
Phone: 417-265-3504
Email: info@theconcreteworks.com
Web: [http://www.theconcreteworks.com](http://www.theconcreteworks.com)

**Tornado Guard**
21205 N. Ponderosa Road
Clark, MO 65243
Phone: 866-303-8575 or 573-687-3253
Fax: 573-687-3255
Email: info@tornadoguard.com
Web: [http://tornadoguard.com](http://tornadoguard.com)

**TwisterSafe, LLC**
7661 Highway P
Neosho, MO 64850
Phone: 888-782-1039 or 417-782-1039
Email: sales@twistersafe.com
Web: [http://www.twistersafe.com](http://www.twistersafe.com)
## Outside Missouri

### Kansas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Canton Enterprises     | 701 W. Railroad
P.O. Box 135
Canton, KS 67428 | 888-323-3123 | info@stormshelters.biz | [http://www.stormshelters.biz/](http://www.stormshelters.biz/) |
| Mauzy Construction     | 4393 252nd Road
Arkansas City, KS 67005 | 620-442-8698 | info@mauzeyconstruction.com | [http://www.mauzeyconstruction.com](http://www.mauzeyconstruction.com) |

### Arkansas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Arkansas Storm Shelters| 605 A Reasoner Lane
Russellville, AR 72801 | 877-766-8873 or 501-766-8873 | info@arkansasstormshelters.us | [http://www.arkansasstormshelters.com](http://www.arkansasstormshelters.com) |
| Cozy Caverns Storm Shelters | P.O. Box 1590
Cabot, AR. 72023 | 501-920-7460 | jhg@cozycaverns.com | [http://www.cozycaverns.com](http://www.cozycaverns.com) |
| DuPont StormRoom       | 207 Caddie St.
Berryville, AR 72616 | 888-578-6769 | info@stormsolutions.us | [http://www.stormsolutions.us](http://www.stormsolutions.us) |
| Ground Zero Storm Shelters | 4600 Independence
Perry, OK 73077 | 877-880-1351 or 405-627-2245 | richard@groundzeroshelter.com | [http://www.groundzeroshelters.com](http://www.groundzeroshelters.com) |
| NEA Shelters           | 3132 CC Road
Pocahontas, AR 72455 | 870-892-0257 or 870-926-3002 |                          | [http://neastormshelters.com](http://neastormshelters.com) |

### Oklahoma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Hausner’s Inc.         | 505 N. Griffith
P.O. Box 32
Drumright, OK 74030 | 800-533-9509 or 918-352-3479 | bausnersprecast@earthlink.net | [http://www.bausners.com](http://www.bausners.com) |
| New Day Tornado Shelters | 9265 Mockingbird Lane
Talala, OK 74080 | 918-277-3758 | dirkderose@aol.com | [http://www.newdaytornadoshelters.com](http://www.newdaytornadoshelters.com) |
| Storm Safe Rooms       | 13614 N. Old Highway 169
Collinsville, OK 74021 | 800-324-9322 or 918-519-0576 | info@stormsaferoom.com | [http://www.stormsaferoom.com](http://www.stormsaferoom.com) |

### Illinois

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Lifesaver Storm Shelters | 450 E. Illinois Ave.
Benton, IL 62812 | 618-435-3833 | info@sheltersonline.com | [http://www.sheltersonline.com/dealer/Missouri.html](http://www.sheltersonline.com/dealer/Missouri.html) |
| SafeSheds, Inc.        | 7029 Parrill Road
Alma, IL 62807 | 888-556-1531 |                          | [http://www.safesheds.com](http://www.safesheds.com) |

### Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fiberglass Creations Inc. | P.O. Box 2042
1601 Hamlett St.
Henderson, TX 75653 | 877-957-6616 or 903-657-6616 | fibercreate@tyler.net | [http://www.fiberglasscreations.com](http://www.fiberglasscreations.com) |
Jarrell Storm Shelters
911 N. First St.
Jarrell, TX 76537
Phone: 866-817-0293 or 512-746-4272
Email: sbelters@jarrellstormshelters.com
Web: http://jarrellstormshelters.com

U.S. Storm Shelters
443 P.R. 4215
Decatur, TX 76234
Phone: 800-868-5799 or 800-379-9712
Email: info@usstormshelters.com
Web: http://www.usstormshelters.com

Tennessee

Providence Safe Rooms, Inc.
14919 Lebanon Road, “B”
Old Hickory, TN 37138
Email: cindi@providencesaferooms.com
Web: http://www.providencesaferooms.com

RemagenSafeRooms
P.O. Box 585
Monteagle, TN 37356
Phone: 888-397-7142
Email: info@remagensaferooms.com
Web: http://www.remagensaferooms.com

StormX Shelters, LLC
4496 Highway 78
Dyersburg, TN 38024
Phone: 877-903-7233 or 731-589-1955
Email: stormxsbelters@aol.com
Web: http://www.stormxsbelters.com

TornadoSafeRoom
Distributed by Floyd Arnold
P.O. Box 10238
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: 1-877-723-7666
Email: floydarnold@comcast.net
Web: http://www.tornadosaferoom.com/

Ohio

The Perfect Storm Shelter
SMP Welding, LLC
8171 Tyler Blvd.
Mentor, OH 44060
Phone: 440-946-0577
Email: diedre@smpwelding.com
Web: http://www.theperfectstormshelters.com

There may be other local companies not listed here that make concrete storm shelters. They are usually listed in the Yellow Pages as the same companies that sell septic tanks.

ALSO FROM MU EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

EMW1001 Disaster Recovery Resources for Missouri Families
EMW1011 Family Disaster Plan
EMW1012 Disaster Supplies Kit
EMW1024 Replacing Important Papers
MP904 Resources for Your Flooded Home

extension.missouri.edu | 800-292-0969