

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



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Largest Roofing Manufacturer!™

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, GAF Field Services

From: Technical Services Department

Subject: Deck Requirements For Field Assembled Deck Systems

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Why Is The Substrate So Important?

A shingle roof substrate is the foundation for your roofing system. The substrate provides the smooth, structural base on which asphalt shingles are installed. If the substrate is inferior, the integrity of the roofing system may be compromised.

What's Considered A "Standard Deck" For Shingles?

Standard decks include:

- **Plywood or OSB...** 3/8" (9 mm) minimum thickness, C-D Exposure 1 APA Rated, as recommended by APA – The Engineered Wood Association
- **Wood planking...** Nominal 1" (25 mm) thick (min.) x 6" (152 mm) wide (max.) wood planking, with a maximum 1/8" (3 mm) spacing at the ends and sides

Note: For existing older installations, if spacing is $> 1/8"$ (3 mm) $\leq 1/4"$ (6 mm), install a double layer of underlayment. If the spacing is greater than 1/4" (6 mm) install a layer of 3/8" (3 mm) minimum thickness, C-D Exposure 1 APA Rated, plywood or OSB over the wood planking.

What About Engineered And Specialty Decks?

GAF shingles can be installed over approved engineered and specialty decks including factory engineered vented and non-vented insulated decks. Contact GAF Technical Services for a list of approved specialty decks.

The substrate must be installed in accordance with the deck manufacturer's specifications. Roof deck installation instructions for specific deck types must be obtained from the respective deck manufacturer.

What About Field Assembled Specialty Decks?

GAF shingles are not approved for installation over new field-assembled insulated decks where the shingle nailing surface is secured through a layer of insulation to the structural deck.

Note: Do not install GAF shingles directly over any insulation or fiberboard.

What Are The Potential Problems With A Field Assembled Insulated Deck?

There are several problems that can occur with a field-fabricated insulated deck assembly, including:

- Movement of the roof deck surface and movement below the deck surface that can tear the shingles over the joints in the deck surface
- Compression of the insulation
- Structural instability in the deck
- Shingle performance problems misconstrued as manufacturing defects

What About Codes?

Roof decks must meet local codes... and approval from the local building department should be obtained to confirm the deck construction meets local code requirements.

Where Can I Get More Information?

GAF Technical Services Can Assist You... with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF Technical Services can be contacted at **800-ROOF-411** (800-766-3411). Also, the GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit www.gaf.com to find the latest information on our products and their installation.

Important: This document supersedes any prior GAF Technical Advisory Bulletins on this topic. Please always check www.gaf.com to make sure you have the most up to date information.