



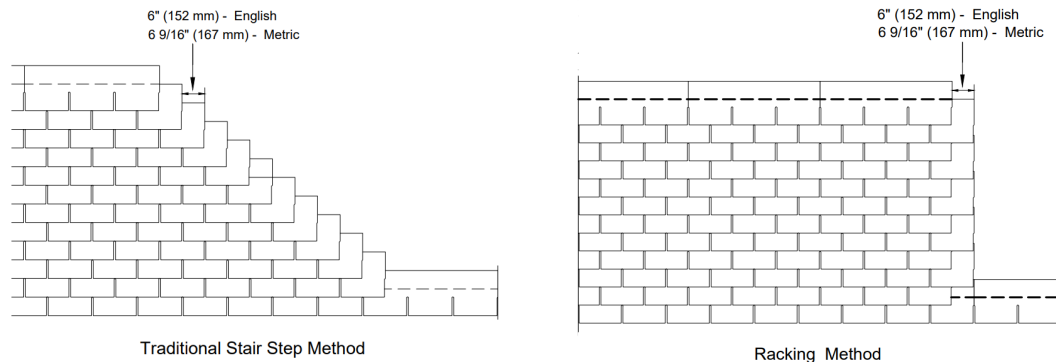
We protect what matters most™

**To:** GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE  
**From:** Technical Services  
**No:** TAB-R-123

## *Racking of Shingles*

### *What Is Racking of Shingles?*

**Racking...** is when shingles are installed straight up the roof rather than being installed using the traditional stair step method.



### *Does GAF Approve Of The Racking Method?*

**For Three Tab Shingles...** the racking method is **acceptable**, however, it is not the preferred method of installation because of the possible installation problems and damage if proper precautions are not followed.

**All other shingles** (laminated or designer shingles)... the racking method is **NOT acceptable**. The application method and specific offsets shown in the application instructions for each type of shingle must be followed to achieve the best appearance, good wind performance, and to avoid damage to the shingles from over-bending these heavy shingles during application.

### *Possible Types Of Installation Problems And Damages?*

**Improper Nailing...** often results when shingles are racked due to the last nail (the blind nail) of every other course of shingles being left out to allow the insertion of the next shingle. Shingles left un-nailed at the first pass can mistakenly be left un-nailed when the next shingle is installed. Missing nails will result in **reduced wind resistance** of the roof.

**Stress Cracks...** can be caused when the shingles are bent to install the "blind nail." These stress cracks may not be immediately visible but can result in **premature failure** of the shingle.

**Incorrect Color Blends...** may be caused when installing shingles straight up the roof creating up and down color lines on a roof, or color "shading."

*If You Do Rack  
Three Tab  
Shingles...*

- **Ensure proper and adequate nailing...** making certain the correct number of nails are installed in each shingle.
  - **High nailing** or leaving nails out can leave **unattractive** patterns as well as **reduce wind resistance** of the shingles.
- **Keep a close eye on the color blend...** to be sure that racking lines are not apparent. During installation, **rack only single columns** of shingles (no double columns) and **mix shingles** from 2 or 3 bundles to minimize unattractive color patterning.
- **Beware of over-bending shingles...** when installing the “blind nail” to **prevent cracking** damage to the shingles that may not be immediately visible and can result in premature shingle failure. The **lower** the ambient **temperature**, the **greater** the **chance** that bending the shingle to install the “blind nail” will cause damage to the shingles.

*Will It Void my  
Warranty?*

**No.** The GAF Limited Warranty against manufacturing defects remains in effect whether the shingles are installed either in the traditional stair step method or alternate racking method. **However, the GAF Limited Warranty does not cover failure to seal, blow-off or wind damage when shingles are not installed in strict accordance with our current application instructions.**

*Questions?*

**GAF Technical Services Can Assist You...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. Technical Support Services can be contacted at 800-766-3411. 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](http://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](http://www.gaf.com) to make sure you have the most up to date information.