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# Technical Advisory Bulletin

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE  
From: Technical Services  
No: TAB-R-139

## *Deck Requirements for Existing Deck Boards*

### *Why Is The Substrate So Important?*

A shingle roof substrate is like 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 the 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  $> 1/8'' (3 \text{ mm}) \leq 1/4'' (6 \text{ mm})$ , install a double layer of underlayment. If the spacing is greater than 1/4” (6 mm) install a layer of 3/8” (9 mm) minimum thickness, C-D Exposure 1 APA Rated, plywood or OSB over the wood planking.

### *What Are The Requirements For An Existing Deck?*

#### **When roofing over an existing deck, the following requirements must be met:**

- The deck boards must have been in place for a minimum of 5 years.
- The deck must provide a smooth and sound substrate. If there are distortions in the deck, that is, warping, shrinkage, or inconsistencies so that the deck is not smooth and sound, an approved deck must be installed over the deck boards.
- There should be no gaps or spaces between the deck boards greater than 1/4” (6 mm). If there are gaps or spaces between the deck boards greater than 1/4” (6 mm), an approved deck must be installed over the deck boards.
- GAF does not recommend the installation over existing spaced or skip sheathing and does not recommend the application method of filling in between existing spaced or skip sheathing.

**Note:** GAF shingles are not approved for applications directly over any insulation or fiberboard.

### *What About Codes?*

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

*Is The Substrate  
Covered Under  
GAF's Warranties?*

**No. 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 manufacturer. GAF does not warrant the installation method, the performance of the decking or problems with the shingles caused by the deck or substrate.

*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.