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Technical Advisory Bulletin

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE
From: Technical Services
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Full-Deck Coverage with Leak Barrier

Full Deck Coverage!

Full-deck coverage with a leak barrier under fiberglass asphalt shingles... provides an advantage in protecting the roof and building in severe wind and hail events.

Pros!

Fewer Leaks... Since self-adhering leak barriers are solidly adhered to the roof deck and seal around nails, leak vulnerability is reduced.

Cons!

Leak barriers are vapor retarders... They prevent the migration of moisture-laden air that reaches the attic from traveling through the otherwise permeable roof system. Full-deck coverage may result in moisture related problems within an attic if certain, critical precautions are not taken.

What Precautions Need To Be Taken?

Proper ventilation is the key... In designing a proper moisture control system, many factors including building use and moisture sources, as well as expected interior and exterior temperatures and relative humidity must be taken into consideration. A design professional must address the potential for moisture entrapment, excessive moisture build-up and condensation.

Why Is Proper Ventilation So Important?

Allowing the moist air to have an escape route from the attic is crucial... to a properly installed roof system, especially one that has a leak barrier installed over the entire roof deck. A balanced ventilation system will not allow that moist air to build-up and cause potentially significant damage to the roof deck, structural supports or insulation.

Other Product Considerations!

There are new synthetic products on the market... that are advertised as shingle underlayment (replacing #15 & #30 felts) that are considered to be a vapor barrier as well. These products are generally impermeable and, as such, must be installed with the same ventilation considerations as other leak barriers. If you are considering a synthetic underlayment, be sure to check for one that is breathable and always check with local building code for product compliance.

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 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.