



We  
protect  
what  
matters  
most™

# Technical Advisory Bulletin

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE  
From: Technical Services  
No: TAB-R-106

## ***Clear Plastic Release Film... Leave On Or Take Off?***

*What Is That Shiny  
Plastic Film Strip  
On Shingles?*

**Sealant protection...** GAF adds a thin plastic film to keep the sealant from activating while in storage and shipping. This film is protecting the shingles from sealing together while in storage but does not align with the sealant adhesive when the shingles are installed.

*Are There Any  
Myths About  
Release Film?*

**There are abundant explanations...** as to what that filmstrip does, and why it should or should not be removed. We have heard: "it's biodegradable", "it will dissolve away", or "it should be removed because it interferes with the shingles ability to properly seal".  
**None of these are true.**

*Do I Need To  
Remove That Strip?*

**No.** The GAF shingle application instructions for our entire product line specifically state that that film does not need to be removed.

**Note:** The film strips on the back of each shingle are to prevent sticking together of the shingles while in the bundle. Their removal is **NOT** required during application.

*How Can I See For  
Myself?*

**The alignment of the filmstrip can be seen...** when the shingles are still in the bundle. If the ends of a bundle wrapper were to be opened, and the shingles (while still stacked) were slightly separated, the alignment of this filmstrip could be seen and its purpose will become more apparent.

Asphalt shingles utilize aggressive asphalt sealant bars or strips to adhere or seal the shingle courses to each other, thereby enhancing wind resistance. During installation, each row of shingles is offset from the prior one and the one above it, which results in the release film being offset. Unlike in the bundle, the release film is no longer positioned over the shingle's sealant bars or strips.

*What NOT to do!*

**There is no need to remove this film.** It should not be removed. **DO NOT** attempt to torch it off or melt it in any way.

*Does Removing  
This Film Affect My  
Warranty?*

**No. GAF's warranty covers manufacturing defects of even improperly installed shingles.** So if you don't follow our recommendations, our limited warranty for manufacturing defects does remain in place. It does not warrant the workmanship of the roofer who installs the shingles, or any problems with the shingles caused by substrates or underlayments, or any other problems associated with the installation.

*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.