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**To:** GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, CARE  
**From:** Residential Consumer Services  
**No:** TAB-R-180  
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## ***Installing Synthetic Underlayments Without Plastic Cap Nails Or Staples***

### ***What Is The Concern?***

Installing synthetic underlayments without plastic cap nails or staples can impact the performance, safety, and code compliance of the underlayment.

### ***Are Plastic Caps Required?***

While GAF does specify the use of nails or staples with plastic caps, it may be acceptable to omit the plastic caps in limited situations, provided specific conditions are met.

### ***Factors To Consider***

Before installing a synthetic underlayment without plastic cap nails or staples, the following should be considered:

- Compliance with all applicable building codes
- Roof Pitch/Slope
- Weather conditions

### ***How Can It Affect My Roof?***

Installing a synthetic underlayment without plastic cap nails or staples may increase the likelihood of the following:

- Pull-through failures
- Increased slip hazards
- Stretching, wrinkling, or sliding of the underlayment
- Leaks or tear-off if exposed to weather
- Telegraphing of wrinkled or bunched underlayment

### ***What Should You Do?***

While GAF continues to specify and strongly encourage the use of plastic cap nails or staples, installation with uncapped nails or staples is acceptable when ALL of the following conditions are met:

1. The installation fully complies with all applicable building code requirements;
2. The roof covering (i.e. shingles) is installed on the same day as the underlayment;
3. No rain, high winds, or adverse weather conditions are expected prior to the roof covering installation; and
4. The roof slope is less than 6/12"

*What Precautions  
Need to be Taken?*

The following precautions should be taken when installing a synthetic underlayment without plastic cap nails or staples:

- Limit foot traffic
- Ensure nails or staples are properly driven
- Carefully monitor weather conditions
- Correct any tears, wrinkling, or shifting

*Questions?*

**GAF Residential Consumer Services Can Assist You** with these and other questions you may have. Residential Consumer Services can be contacted at 877-423-7663 or [TechnicalQuestions@gaf.com](mailto:TechnicalQuestions@gaf.com). The GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit [gaf.com](http://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 [gaf.com](http://gaf.com) to make sure you have the most up to date information.