



We
protect
what
matters
most™

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, CARE
From: Residential Consumer Services
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Ensuring Maximum Protection Against Snow Infiltration With Ridge, Hip, or Off-Ridge Vents

Geographic Areas at Risk

Many geographic areas in North America commonly experience snowfall during the winter months. Typically, these areas are at the most risk for potential snow infiltration through unfiltered or unscreened roof vents. However, geographic “borderline” areas, where infrequent or unexpected snowfall can occur, are also at risk of snow infiltration.

Borderline Areas

Some Examples of Geographic “Borderline” Areas (others may exist)

- Virginia
- The Carolinas
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Higher elevation areas in warm climates

Potential Causes

Leading Causes for Snow Infiltration Through Vents

- Unfiltered/unscreened vents are installed
- Wind-driven snowfall occurs
- The vents are installed incorrectly (not following manufacturer's published instructions)
- Lack of a balanced attic ventilation system (consisting of equal intake and exhaust venting)
- Power attic vents are installed in conjunction with ridge or hip vents (the “short circuit” effect can potentially pull snow in through the ridge, hip, or off-ridge vents)

So, What's the Difference?

Most major manufacturers offer vents in both filtered & unfiltered versions.

Unfiltered/Unscreened Vents

- Work well in warm climates that do not experience snowfall
- Designed and tested to resist wind-driven rain
- Unfortunately, they offer reduced protection against snow infiltration

Filtered/Screened Vents

- Generally used in cold climates and those areas prone to snowfall
- Contain an internal filter/screen media which helps resist wind-driven snow from infiltrating attics
- Designed and tested to help resist wind-driven rain and snow
- Provide peace of mind against snow infiltration for property owners and contractors

Protecting What Matters Most!

For Maximum Protection GAF strongly recommends the use of properly installed filtered/screened vents, in a balanced attic ventilation system, in areas prone to regular snowfall, as well as those geographic “borderline” areas that can occasionally experience significant snowfall.

GAF’s Solution To Help Protection Against Snow Infiltration

GAF’s comprehensive line of filtered/screened vents offers maximum performance and protection in a variety of climates.

- **4’ Plastic Ridge with Internal SnowGuard™ Filter:**
 - Cobra® SnowCountry®, SnowCountry® Advanced & TimberSteel™ Ridge Vent
- **Mesh Roll Ridge Vents:**
 - Cobra® Exhaust Vent
- **Plastic Roll Ridge Vent with Internal WeatherFighter® Filter:**
 - Cobra® RidgeRunner®
- **4’ Plastic Hip Vent with Internal Dual WeatherFighter® Filter:**
 - Cobra® Hip Vent
- **Metal Super-Slant Back Roof Louver with Internal Screen:**
 - Master Flow™ SSB960

Note: GAF also offers Cobra® Rigid Vent 3™, an unfiltered ridge vent, for use in warmer climates and those areas that do not experience snowfall.

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. 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 document on this topic. Please always check www.gaf.com to make sure you have the most up to date information.