

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



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Largest Roofing Manufacturer!™

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, GAF Field Services

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: Damage To Shingles Caused By Extraordinary Wind Events**

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## **What Type Of Damage Can Occur?**

**Damage caused by extraordinary wind events, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and microbursts...** can include wind blow-off of a large number of shingles, wind uplift of individual tabs or shingles, shingle loss, broken sealant bonds, granule loss, and punctures caused by flying debris.

## **How Can I Tell if The Roof Was Damaged?**

Generally, **damage from an extraordinary wind event is apparent**, however, small amounts of damage can harm the surface of the shingle and lead to deterioration of the shingles months or years later. Evaluating damage from extraordinary wind events is subjective at best and often everyone involved offers a different assessment of damage.

## **Specific Damage To Be Aware Of...**

**Granule Loss...** extraordinary wind exposure can result in varying degrees of granule loss. They can loosen the granules, potentially allowing the granules to separate from the asphalt coating and wash off of the roof. The extent of granule loss resulting from exposure is influenced by:

- Age of the product
- Force and duration of the winds and wind driven rain
- Type and amount of wind borne debris
- Orientation and slope of the roof deck in relation to the wind direction
- Amount of foot traffic on the roof

**Broken Sealant Bonds...** winds from extraordinary wind events can break the sealant bond which seals the shingles together. When sealant bonds are broken, it is not likely that the shingles will re-seal without hand-sealing. The subsequent strength of re-sealing is influenced by:

- Age of the product
- Time of year and amount of exposure to higher ambient temperatures
- Length of time before shingles are exposed to subsequent high winds
- Stress and strain on the shingles due to exposure to sustained high winds and/or deck movement
- Contamination of the sealant by dirt, debris, or other foreign substances
- Ability for shingles to lay flat

**If sealant bonds have been broken due to exposure to extraordinary winds and have sustained no other damage**, GAF recommends hand-sealing of the shingles. Hand-sealing will help to insure adequate sealing of the shingles rather than depending on the shingles to re-seal themselves.

## **Warranty Coverage?**

**GAF limited warranties may cover shingle blow-offs that fall within the wind speed coverage specified for such shingles in the applicable limited warranty.** Refer to the applicable limited warranty for complete coverage and restrictions. However, blow-offs caused by winds in excess of the wind speed coverage, and other types of shingle failure (either immediate or the result of latent damage), are beyond the scope of the GAF Shingle Limited Warranty, and are neither the responsibility of GAF nor evidence of a manufacturing defect.

*Damage caused by hail, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, fire, lightning, etc. is specifically excluded from the GAF Shingle Limited Warranty. These catastrophic conditions, or the flying debris that may accompany storms, may cause latent damage to the shingles and therefore cause the shingles to deteriorate prematurely.*

***Where Can I Get More Information?***

**GAF Technical Services Can Assist You...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF Technical Services can be contacted **at 800-ROOF-411** (800-766-3411). Also, 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.