

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

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

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: Shingle Offsets**



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## **What Are Shingle Offsets?**

Shingle offsets are the horizontal distances between joints (or end gaps) of shingles applied on one course in relation to joints on consecutive courses.

## **Why Are Offsets Important?**

Offsets insure that the joints between shingles will align over the headlap portion of the underlying shingle and not over another joint. Joints that are not offset or are not offset by more than 4" (102 mm) allow for the opportunity for the roof to leak in heavy rains or on lower slopes.

## **What Is The Minimum Acceptable Shingle Offset?**

The minimum acceptable offset recommended by GAF and the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association is 4" (102 mm) between joints on succeeding courses. The joint offset for a particular product may be greater than 4" (102 mm). Whether to avoid the potential for leaks or for the aesthetic appearance of the finished roof, the recommended minimum shingle joint offset should be followed for the product being installed.

For the best aesthetic appearance, and to insure that the joint offset is acceptable, GAF recommends that shingles be installed in accordance with the application instructions printed on the bundle wrappers.

## **What Else Should I Know About Joint Offsets?**

There are a few other things to understand about shingle offsets...

- Offsets are a measured distance between joints on succeeding courses...and are not measured from any specific reference point on the roof, such as an edge or valley
- To prevent joint offsets from aligning in leak-prone areas such as valleys or at roof penetrations, offsets must be adjusted to not less than 4" (102 mm) from the shingle joint on the course below. Additional adjustments may be necessary at roof penetrations to return to the consistent offset of the prior courses.
- Make sure that no end joint is within 2" (51 mm) from any nail in an underlying course.
- If the starter shingle is a different length than the shingle being installed, be sure to make adjustments as necessary to maintain a minimum 4" (102 mm) offset.

## **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.