

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

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

From: Technical Services Department

Subject: Snow Removal



Quality You Can Trust...
From North America's
Largest Roofing Manufacturer!™

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What Is The Concern?

Under normal winter conditions... snow and ice does not generally need to be removed from GAF Asphalt Fiberglass Shingles unless:

- The weight of the snow and ice puts the building under severe load
- The melt/runoff creates severe leakage
- The ice at the eaves creates a danger to foot or vehicular traffic below

Evaluate The Situation...

Evaluate the situation carefully... and ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the water coming in creating extensive damage?
- Is the weight significant enough to harm the structure or significantly damage the interior?
- Will falling ice or snow hurt someone or damage something?
- Do I possess the necessary skills to remove the ice and snow without hurting myself or damaging the roof and making the situation worse?

What Should I Do If Any Of The Above Apply?

To prevent personal injury or damage... do as little as possible.

- The greatest chance of injury or extensive damage comes from trying to clear too much.
- Often times, clearing the overhangs, sidewall areas, valleys or other drainage ways will eliminate the situation.
- Call a roofing professional trained in the proper removal of snow and ice.

What Should I Not Do?

GAF does not recommend:

- Climbing on a steep slope, especially if you are unsure of your abilities and lack proper fall/safety equipment.
- Using hammers, chainsaws, axes, picks or other similar tools which can damage the roof.
- Using chemical de-icers which can damage the roofing materials, siding, vegetation or yourself if not handled properly.

What Can I Do To Prevent A Chance Of Leakage Or Heavy Burden On The Roof?

The following options exist:

- Install electric heat tape or engineered electric roof ice melt systems in problem areas, such as eaves, sidewalls or dormers to melt snow and ice before it can become a problem. Follow the electric heating equipment manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.
- Install ice and snow guards to prevent slippage of large blocks of snow or ice off of the roof.
- Clear valleys or drain ways of debris, such as leaves, prior to snow fall or ice storm.
- Install GAF WeatherWatch® or StormGuard® in critical areas to prevent leakage.
- Ensure structure is properly designed for the snow and ice load in your area.

Is My Warranty Affected If I Remove Ice And Snow?

No, the GAF Limited Warranty for the shingles will remain in effect. However, any damage such as cracking, punctures, foot damage or tearing is the responsibility of the owner and is excluded from GAF's responsibility under the terms of our Limited Warranty.

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 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 to make sure you have the most up to date information.