

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

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

From: Technical Services Department

Subject: "Tobacco Juicing"



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From North America's
Largest Roofing Manufacturer!™

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What Is "Tobacco Juicing"?

"Tobacco Juicing" is a naturally occurring phenomenon and refers to a brown sticky substance that may appear on asphaltic roofs and surrounding areas under certain climactic conditions. Tobacco juicing is not due to either a manufacturing defect or a problem with the asphalt. It generally occurs when a roof is exposed to intense sun combined with excessive night moisture but a prolonged lack of rain.

The Specifics:

The tobacco juicing substance is a result of water soluble leaching from the oxidized surface of exposed asphalt and may be seen on all asphalt-based products such as cements, coatings, shingles as well as (low-slope) base and cap sheets.

- A phenomenon similar in appearance to tobacco juicing can occur under the same climatic conditions in smog areas where pollution (particulate matter) from the air settles out and accumulates on the roof surface. In fact, similar brown residues have been found on other non-asphaltic materials – indicating that the phenomenon is environmental in nature and not wholly attributable to asphalt roofing. An investigation of this phenomenon concluded that environmental contamination or pollutant deposition was the major contributor to "tobacco-juicing".
- Factors commonly present with "tobacco-juicing" are excessive air pollution accompanied by nighttime dew conditions and prolonged lack of rain. Air pollutants can collect on roof surfaces with the formation of dew and subsequently run down onto lower roof surfaces, fascia, and other finish surfaces. For steep slope applications, such as asphalt shingled roofs, "tobacco juicing" may drip off of the shingles and stain the siding. This accumulation of residue can continue until the surfaces are washed or significant rainfall occurs. The residue typically will not affect the performance of the roof and should not be considered a performance problem.

Where And Why Does It Occur?

Generally, the Southwest and West has the most reported cases of tobacco juicing occurrences. The intense sunlight, heat, air pollution, and lack of rain are key contributors. However, it can occur in any region especially when the conditions are right.

What GAF Shingles Are Affected?

All GAF shingles can be affected. Tobacco juicing is an asphaltic and environmental phenomenon, not a manufacturing by-product. As such, all shingles, whether GAF shingles or another manufacturer's, can show signs of it.

Is There A Remedy?

If an objectionable amount of residue does appear, an effective method to combat it is to simply hose down the roof during prolonged dry periods.

Does My Warranty Remain In Effect?

Yes...tobacco juicing is a cosmetic condition only and is generally temporary. As such, the GAF Shingle Limited Warranty against manufacturing defects remains in full force and effect per its terms and conditions. Tobacco juicing does not affect the water-tightness of the roof system or its longevity.

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.