

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

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

From: Technical Services Department

Subject: Visual Issues With Shingled Roofs



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What Are Visual Inconsistencies?

Visual issues with a shingle roof system **are usually noticeable only during certain lighting conditions**. The majority of visual inconsistencies is not detrimental to the roof's performance, but may raise some aesthetic issues. Some of the more common issues are **shading** and **telegraphing**.

What Is "Shading"?

As a roof is viewed from different angles and/or under varying light conditions, a phenomenon known as "shading" may occur. **Here are a few of the reasons shading occurs:**

- **Some shading results from slight variations in texture** and may occur during normal shingle production. The texture variation necessary to cause shading in black or dark colored shingles is so slight that it may not be detected during the manufacturing process.
- **Shading may occur during the installation process**, especially if color code numbers are mixed or if the racking method (straight up installation) of installing shingles is used.
- **If the shingles have been stacked too high on the pallet or if the shingles have been stored for a long period of time**, some minor staining may occur. Occasionally, the backing material which keeps the shingles from sticking together rubs off. Usually, normal weathering eliminates these causes of shading and color variations.

Note: Shading is a color visual problem and in no way affects the performance or durability of the shingles.

What Is "Telegraphing"?

Telegraphing is usually the result of an uneven substrate not related to the shingles and some telegraphing issues can be seen only during certain lighting conditions. **The reasons that telegraphing occurs include:**

1. **Often the felt underlayment has been installed with wrinkles** or was allowed to get wet and not allowed to dry before the shingles were applied. Wrinkles in the underlayment will hold the shingles "up". This creates an effect commonly known as "mole runs". While this condition is unsightly, it usually does not affect the longevity of the shingles.
2. **Telegraphing can also be related to decking issues**. The most common decking issue occurs when the plywood or other sheathing is installed without proper spacing. As the decking expands, it pushes the shingles "up", creating a grid like pattern which "telegraphs" thru the shingles. In most cases, it is an aesthetic issue; however, shingle ridging caused by the deck can denote a more serious decking problem and may affect the long term performance of the shingles.

When shingles are installed over an existing roof, any irregularities or unevenness in the old roof can telegraph through to the new shingles, creating a non-uniform appearance in the new roof.

How Does Shading Or Telegraphing Affect My Warranty?

GAF's warranty covers manufacturing defects of shingles, even if they are not installed properly and does not cover shading or telegraphing. It does not warrant the workmanship of the roofer who installs the shingles, or any problems with the shingles caused by substrates or underlayment.

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.