

# Ice Dams Can Mean The Beginning Of The End Of Your Roof

(NAPSA)—Homeowners can save themselves a lot of heartache and money down the road by making sure a few simple steps are taken during roof installation to prevent ice dams. Stopping ice dams before they start is key to avoiding expensive damage.

Ice dams are nasty build-ups of ice on the gutters. However, as the ice dams get larger, they start going up the roof and under the shingles. When the ice melts, the ice under the shingles melts into the house.

What can you do to prevent ice dams from occurring when installing a new roof?

First, make sure your roof is properly ventilated. A good ventilation system keeps your roof cool enough (below 30 degrees) in the winter to prevent the snow melt that leads to the ice dam problem. A ridge vent equipped with an external baffle along the entire length of the roof is a highly effective option for most every home. The soffit allows cool air in to help cool the attic. The ridge vent then draws the warm air out the attic. The air in the attic doesn't get diluted.

Insulation is another piece of the puzzle to effectively keep your attic cool and when combined with the ridge vent, helps keep attic temperatures below 30 degrees. An attic insulated to today's energy standards with CertainTeed fiber glass insulation, for example, minimizes heat escape through the ceiling and into the



**Where there is water and fluctuating temperatures, ice dams are common.**

attic, reducing the possibility of snow melting and re-freezing at the base of your roof.

Equally important to the life of your roof, is the right choice of shingles. Experts recommend asphalt shingles that are thick and offer many layers of protection for your roof. Also, an underlayment called WinterGuard by CertainTeed is added protection against leaks caused by ice dams or wind driven rain. It is installed at the eaves and should ice dams or wind driven rain occur on your roof, water will not be able to penetrate this membrane, even where it is nailed into the roof deck, because it seals around the nail.

All of these pieces...insulation, WinterGuard, shingles, ridge-vent...are part of an overall system—pieces working together to help prevent expensive damage to your home. If you are unsure or suspect a problem, call a professional to check things out.

For more information, visit [www.certainteed.com](http://www.certainteed.com).