



RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

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COURTESY CUTS ON 3-TAB SHINGLES

Most manufacturers add slits, or “courtesy cuts” on the ends of 3-tab shingles. While all manufacturers recommend the use of chalk lines and using the tops of the shingle cutouts as a guide for the proper shingle exposure dimension, these slits are known as courtesy cuts because that is what they are – a courtesy or aid to help roofers speed up shingle application. However, if roofers rely only on courtesy cuts for shingle alignment, shingle courses will wander due to the unavoidable minor width differences in shingles. Only shingle cutouts (which are “die cut” and continually fixed in dimension) are the best guide for shingle exposure. Chalk lines will accurately control both horizontal and vertical alignment.

Recently, at some of our manufacturing plants, we removed the slits in an effort to encourage our customers to rely on the primary method of shingle alignment using the tops of the cutouts in combination with chalk lines. However, based on feedback from our contractor customers, we will be reinstalling the slits on our 3-tab shingles, effective immediately.

These courtesy slits should not be used as the sole or primary method for alignment of shingle courses. IKO will not be responsible for roof appearance concerns if the applicator has not followed all application recommendations.

For additional information on any of IKO’s products or application requirements, visit us on the web at www.iko.com, or contact us in Canada at 1-888-766-2468, or the United States at 1-888-456-7663.

