



SHINGLE STAINING – TOBACCO JUICE

‘Tobacco Juice’ – so named for the brown stain, is a dry residue that may accumulate on roofs under certain weather conditions and stain the roofing material.

The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association (ARMA) explains Tobacco Juice as a potential **normal** result of the weathering of **all** asphalt-based products, regardless of their manufacturer. The residue **will not affect the performance** of the roof and should not be considered a performance problem.

The conditions necessary for the formation of this type of stain are: 1) Intensive sun exposure, 2) Heavy collection of night moisture (dew), and 3) Prolonged lack of rain. Typically, all three conditions must have occurred. Tobacco Juice generally appears only during the first weathering cycle of the roof, and rarely re-occurs after the first year or rainy season.

There is a different type of discoloration that can sometimes occur with shingles. This other type of shingle staining is caused by diffusion of light oils from the asphalt on the bottom side of the shingles onto the colored granule top surface. This type of staining generally is the result of prolonged storage of the shingles prior to application. Tobacco Juice results in a similar appearance, but is caused by a different mechanism altogether. Tobacco Juice residue can be washed off, while shingle staining from light-oils can take months of exposure to break down enough to wash off.

The stain is more visible on light colored roofs. In some instances on steep slopes this residue, because it is water soluble, may trickle down off the roof and stain fascia and wall surfaces. This Tobacco Juice phenomenon does not affect the performance of the roofing material. Industry research has failed to find any ingredient or procedure that would eliminate the occurrence of Tobacco Juice. Although the residue formation cannot be prevented, gently hosing down any affected surface at regular intervals during long, dry periods of the roof’s first summer after installation can minimize any discoloration associated with Tobacco Juice.