



RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INSTALLING SHINGLES IN COLD WEATHER

Although shingle applications typically occur in mild weather months, it is possible to shingle year-round. However, if installed in cold weather, extra care must be taken in order to ensure a functional, watershedding roof.

As with most materials, asphalt shingles can become more brittle in cold weather (10°C (50°F, and below). Thus, extra precaution should be taken when unloading shingles and applying them. Never bend, drop or throw bundles of shingles in cold weather. To circumvent this problem, some contractors bring the shingles into a heated or semi-heated area for a few hours before application. This gives the shingles time to “warm-up”, increasing flexibility. In very cold weather, it is possible for the shingle within the bundle to be frozen together, especially if the product has been stored outside.

When nailing, make sure that the shingles are flat on the roof deck, as the nail may break through the cool shingle's surface. Nails must be driven straight and flush into the shingle. (See also IKO Bulletin #61).

A major concern during cold weather installation is the shingle's ability to self-seal. Depending on the specific environmental circumstances (i.e. temperature, sun exposure, site conditions etc.) it might take up to several weeks for shingles to seal together. If there is a possibility that the shingles will not be given adequate time to seal before the winter, manual sealing of the shingles with a good quality asphalt plastic cement is recommended. Generally, this is done by placing a dab of plastic cement, approximately the size and thickness of a quarter, under each of the shingle tabs for a three-tab shingle, and at three evenly spaced spot along the shingle's length for other shingles. It is necessary to apply a moderate amount of plastic cement as too much can cause the shingle to blister. Please refer to the bundle wrapper for specific info on placement and quantity of plastic cement. The application of plastic cement serves two purposes. First, it allows immediate sealing of the shingles. Shingles that do not seal together have a higher propensity for blow-off which could result in roof leaks. Second, by sealing the shingles together during installation, dirt and other foreign materials are prevented from accumulating around the factory-applied shingle sealant. Dirt and other foreign material on the factory-applied sealant can affect the shingle's ability to self-seal in the future.

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.