



RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MANUAL SEALING OF ASPHALT SHINGLES

Occasionally it may be necessary for asphalt shingles to be manually sealed after installation on the roof. Some homeowners are curious as to which adhesives are permitted for use, and which ones should be used in various applications.

1. In areas with high winds, or when the shingles are applied to steep slopes (>21:12), or when shingles are applied in cold winter weather, wind safety should be ensured by sealing down each tab of a three-tab shingle with asphalt plastic cement. One spot, about 1" (25 mm) in diameter is all that is needed, under each tab. For laminated shingles, just space the three spots equally along the shingle length. Any good quality brand of asphalt plastic cement will work, and can be applied from a can or caulking tube. Never apply more than a small spot of adhesive, as excess solvents in the cement may soften the shingle coating, resulting in the formation of blisters. Butyl rubber, silicone, and neoprene-based adhesives should not be used to seal shingles together, although these materials may be used on top of shingles to cover exposed nail heads or for other minor surface caulking/sealing purposes.
2. Manually sealing asphalt shingles with hot melt adhesive has been widely used in the roofing industry for many years. Normally hot melt adhesives are used when the shingles do not lay flat, due to roof deck imperfections, buckles or fishmouthing. In these cases, asphalt plastic cement does not bond quickly enough to restrain the shingle distortion. The hot melt adhesive accomplishes this very well, and is completely compatible with the asphalt shingle composition. Although the adhesive is hot, the shingles are not damaged by the procedure.
3. Regardless of the manual sealing procedure, the shingles should be sealed during temperate weather. If it is too cold (below approximately 50°F (10°C)), the shingles are stiffer, and may be damaged when lifted. In extremely hot weather (above approximately 80°F (26°C)), the shingles are soft, and may be scuffed from roof traffic. Shingles can be sealed in cool or hot weather, but extra care is required.

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.

