



RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

March 2000
REV. – NOVEMBER 2004

No. R-16

RAISED NAILS

Occasionally on roofs applied with IKO asphalt shingles, the nails may lift the shingles creating small bumps in the finished roof appearance. In extreme cases, the nails might actually “poke through” the shingles, allowing for leaks in the roof system. The nails may be lifting out of the wooden deck for a variety of reasons, some of which are listed below:

1. It could be that the raised nail was never seated properly to begin with. Nails should be driven flush with, and not cutting into, the shingle surface.
2. Barbed shanked nails should be used to “grab” the deck substrate. If smooth shanked nails are used, it is possible that they can back out of the wood more easily.
3. The nails should be of sufficient length to go at least 3/4” into solid wood decks or completely through plywood decks. If the nails are too short, it is possible for the wooden substrate to push it upwards.
4. The plywood may have been wet during roofing and has subsequently dried out, or reached a moisture equilibrium. In these cases the wood essentially shrinks very slightly, allowing the nail to loosen slightly in its socket.
5. Along with wet decks, it could be that the plywood roof deck is too thin or not specifically treated/rated for exterior applications.
6. In rare instances, if the deck is not properly supported on appropriately spaced trusses, wind vibrations can act upon the roofing system to slowly loosen the shingle nails.

If you have raised nails on your asphalt shingle roof, replacement of the shingles may not be necessary. While it is not recommended to merely lift the shingle and hammer the nail down (it is likely to just back up out of the deck again), the raised nail can be removed, and refastened an inch to the left or right of its original location. The old nail hole should be sealed with a spot of asphalt plastic cement. A small dab of cement should also be used to adhere the shingle tab that was lifted for the repair.

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.

