



**ADVANCED
FIBER TECHNOLOGY**

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Ice Dams

What are Ice Dams?

Ice Dams at the eaves can result in severe problems. In most cases, ice dams begin inside a building when heated air leaks up into an unheated attic. The warm air causes the snow on the exterior of the roof to melt. The melting snow moves down the roof slope until it reaches the cold overhang, where it refreezes. This process continues, causing ice buildup along the eaves and form a dam.

Dammed water can get under the shingles and through the roof deck.

It can drip on the ceiling insulation or run down the underside of the deck to the connection between the roof and the walls. It then makes its way into the building in the form of damaging leaks.

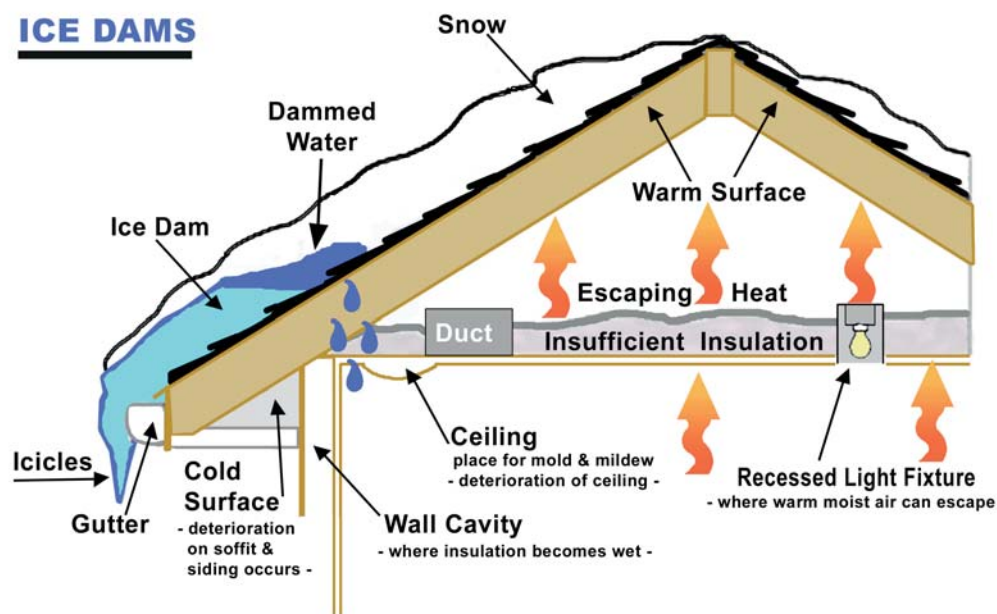
Melting water under the un-melted snow can decrease the friction between the snow and the roof and cause a snow slide, like an avalanche. Melted water often refreezes as icicles hanging from the gutters or edge of the roof. These icicles eventually break off when they get too heavy. Both snow slides and falling icicles endanger passersby.

Ice dams are best cured BEFORE they occur by increasing the amount of insulation in your attic and making sure you have proper ventilation. Energy efficient attics minimize problems with ice dams because they keep the entire roof cold. When there is little temperature difference between the part of the roof inside the perimeter of the outside walls and the part covering the overhangs, melting and refreezing is minimized.

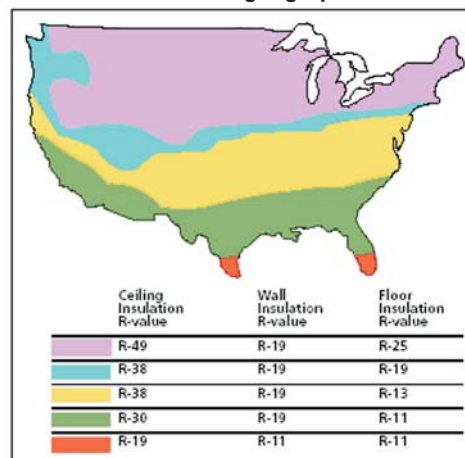
Improper Ventilation

Improper ventilation can also result in ice build-up when water vapor caused by indoor activities freezes in the attic space. The result may look like a leak but it isn't. During the summer, high attic temperatures are harmful to your shingles causing them to curl up on the ends. This can also cause dry rotting of your roofing decking.

ICE DAMS



Minimum recommended levels of insulation based on geographic location



Information Source: US Department of Energy