



We  
protect  
what  
matters  
most™

# Technical Advisory Bulletin

**To:** GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE  
**From:** Technical Services  
**No:** TAB-R-130

## ***Snow Removal***

### *What Is The Concern?*

**Under normal winter conditions...** snow and ice does not generally need to be removed from GAF Asphalt Fiberglass Shingles unless:

- The weight of the snow and ice puts the building under severe load
- The melt/runoff creates severe leakage
- The ice at the eaves creates a danger to foot or vehicular traffic below

### *Evaluate The Situation...*

**Evaluate the situation carefully...** and ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the water coming in creating extensive damage?
- Is the weight significant enough to harm the structure or significantly damage the interior?
- Will falling ice or snow hurt someone or damage something?
- Do I possess the necessary skills to remove the ice and snow without hurting myself or damaging the roof and making the situation worse?

### *What Should I Do If Any Of The Above Apply?*

**To prevent personal injury or damage...** do as little as possible.

- The greatest chance of injury or extensive damage comes from trying to clear too much.
- Oftentimes, clearing the overhangs, sidewall areas, valleys or other drainage ways will eliminate the situation.
- Call a roofing professional trained in the proper removal of snow and ice.

### *What Should I Not Do?*

**GAF does not recommend:**

- Climbing on a steep slope, especially if you are unsure of your abilities and lack proper fall/safety equipment.
- Using hammers, chainsaws, axes, picks or other similar tools which can damage the roof.
- Using chemical deicers which can damage the roofing materials, siding, vegetation or yourself if not handled properly.

### *What Can I Do To Prevent A Chance Of Leakage Or Heavy Burden On The Roof?*

**The following options exist:**

- Install electric heat tape or engineered electric roof ice melt systems in problem areas, such as eaves, sidewalls or dormers to melt snow and ice before it can become a problem. Follow the electric heating equipment manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

- Install ice and snow guards to prevent slippage of large blocks of snow or ice off of the roof.
- Clear valleys or drain ways of debris, such as leaves, prior to snow fall or ice storm.
- Install GAF WeatherWatch® or StormGuard® in critical areas to prevent leakage.
- Ensure structure is properly designed for the snow and ice load in your area.

*Is My Warranty  
Affected If I  
Remove Ice And  
Snow?*

**No, the GAF Limited Warranty for the shingles will remain in effect.** However, any damage such as cracking, punctures, foot damage or tearing is the responsibility of the owner and is excluded from GAF's responsibility under the terms of our Limited Warranty.

*Questions?*

**GAF Technical Services Can Assist You...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. Technical Support Services can be contacted at 800-766-3411. The GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) to find the latest information on our products and their installation.

**Important:** This document supersedes any prior GAF Technical Advisory Bulletins on this topic. Please always check [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) to make sure you have the most up to date information.