

From Owens Corning™ Roofing

An EDUCATIONAL SERIES on the importance of installing a complete roofing system

It takes **more than shingles** to create a high-performance roof. It requires a system of materials and products working together. This report explains why products designed for the **starter course** of a roof are critical for maximizing the performance and beauty of your roof.



Getting Started



The first course of a roof is one of the most important and often overlooked parts of the total system. According to an article on roofingcontractor.com, leaving out the starter course is one of the most common mistakes in shingle application.



Reviewing this bulletin will help you:

- Understand how using a starter shingle can help protect your home against wind uplift and water damage.
- Understand the importance of the starter shingle in the overall roofing job

Without the first layer being adhered at the edge properly, a strong gust of wind may lift the first layer of shingles and push them back up the roof, potentially taking other layers with it. Additionally, cut roofing shingles can result in an uneven edge along the **eave** that can be unsightly if seen after the roofing shingles are installed.

Manufacturers offer solutions to these problems in the form of rolls, strips and special shingles designed specifically for the **starter course** of a roofing system. All of these options are easy to use, speed installation and ensure an effective seal along the eave and the first row of shingles. Starter rolls, strips and shingles provide a nice straight edge at the eave and along the **rake**.



Starter Course 101

Cut roofing shingles are commonly used to make a starter course for a roof. Unfortunately, cut shingles may not have the adhesive properly positioned to ensure adequate wind resistance at the edge of the roof.



The starter course protects your roof by filling in the spaces under the edges of the first row of exposed shingles. In other words, the starter course is a backing for the first visible row of shingles. The starter course helps keep water from getting through to the deck between any gaps in the first course of shingles by providing an area of double coverage and helps to ensure an even application.

Shingles made for a roof's starter course have properly positioned, factory-applied adhesive that will lock your shingles in place to help prevent blow-off along the eave of your roof. Longer widths are available that allow the nails from the first row of shingles to penetrate the starter course to ensure extra protection.



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Cut roofing shingles are commonly used to make a starter course for a roof. Some **starter shingles** are designed to eliminate cutting field shingles for the starter course and easily perforate into two convenient starter shingles, allowing the installer to finish the job faster.

Owens Corning™ Roofing offers a complete line of starter shingles that include both strip and roll styles available for all application preferences.

Key Questions to Ask Your Contractor for a Quality Roofing Job:

- What type of starter shingle are you applying to my eaves below the shingles?
- Do you recommend applying a starter along the rake for protection against high winds?



Using a starter shingle can help protect your home against wind uplift and water damage.

Glossary

Eave	The horizontal, lower edge of a sloped roof.
Rake	The sloped perimeter edge of a roof that runs from the eaves to the ridge.
Starter Course	The first course of roofing material installed along the down-slope edge.
Starter Shingles	Shingles made specifically for the first course of asphalt roofing that fill in the spaces under the cutouts and joints of the first row of shingles.

Symbol Key



Important



Approved Product



Expert Opinion



Warning

Do It Right

Replacing a new roof is something most homeowners do only a few times in their lives. Do it right, and you will add decades of beauty, comfort and energy efficiency to your home. If done wrong, you may end up multiplying your initial investment in repeated repair costs.

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