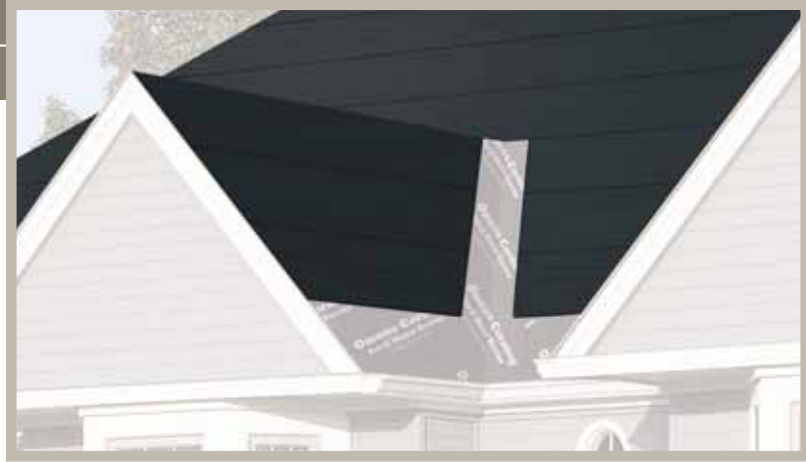


From Owens Corning™ Roofing

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 **underlayment** is critical for maximizing the performance and beauty of your roof.

What's Under Your Shingles?



A common mistake in the installation of asphalt shingles is the practice of not using **underlayment**. This is a big mistake for several reasons:

- Underlayment helps protect your wooden **deck** from moisture until the shingles are applied, and if the shingles are blown off at a later time
- After installation, wind-driven rain can get under shingles and damage the inside of your home; underlayment provides another layer of protection
- Underlayment is generally needed to maintain a Class A Fire Rating for your roof assembly
- Your insurance company may require shingles to be installed according to manufacturer's specifications, which usually call for underlayment
- Underlayment protects shingles from resins that can be released by the wood decking
- Underlayment can help bridge irregularities in decking to make your roof look better

For all of these reasons and more, underlayment is a critical part of a complete roofing system.

Reviewing this bulletin will help you:

- Understand the importance of underlayment in your roofing system
- Understand the variety of roofing underlayments available to you

Underlayment 101

Your roof is a system designed to shed water. Rain and snowmelt travel down the slopes of your roof to the gutters that collect it or carry it away. Shingles rely on the slope of the roof and gravity to move the water and keep it from entering your house.

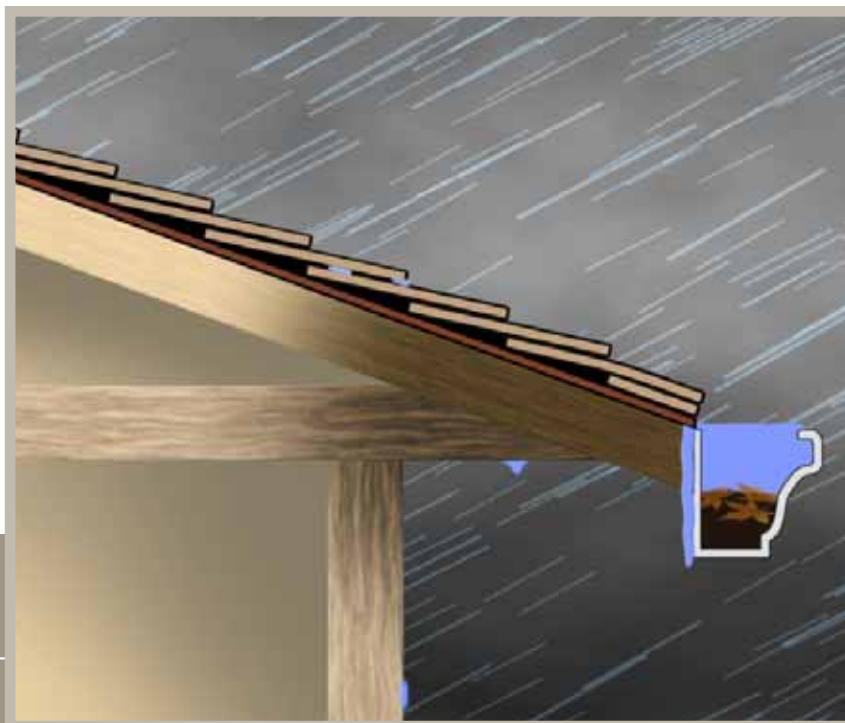
While this process works well most of the time, it is possible for wind-driven rain to get under your shingles or enter along valleys where water flows. Without underlayment, you have nothing to prevent a leak from occurring. With underlayment, your home has a second line of defense to keep water channeled down the slope and away from your home.

Also known as roofing felt or tar paper, underlayment has for decades been made with an **organic**, paper-based “felt” that is **saturated** with roofing asphalt. The material is sometimes called 15- or 30-pound felt because a **square** of the product originally weighed 15 or 30 pounds. Asphalt-saturated felt is water resistant; therefore it provides a temporary barrier against the elements.

On **low slope** roofs, building codes typically require that underlayment be doubled to protect the roof sheathing and structure from moisture penetration. Additional leak protection can be added by applying a layer of self adhering waterproofing underlayment.

Advances in roofing systems and underlayments have led to stronger, longer-lasting products that can hold up better against the worst that nature has to offer. These products should be considered for additional protection to your home.

It's possible for wind-driven rain to get under your shingles. Underlayment provides a second line of defense to keep water away from your home.



The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association recommends using laboratory-tested asphalt shingle underlayment products complying with ASTM standards D4869, D226, or D6757, which may be required by the shingle manufacturer and/or the building code.



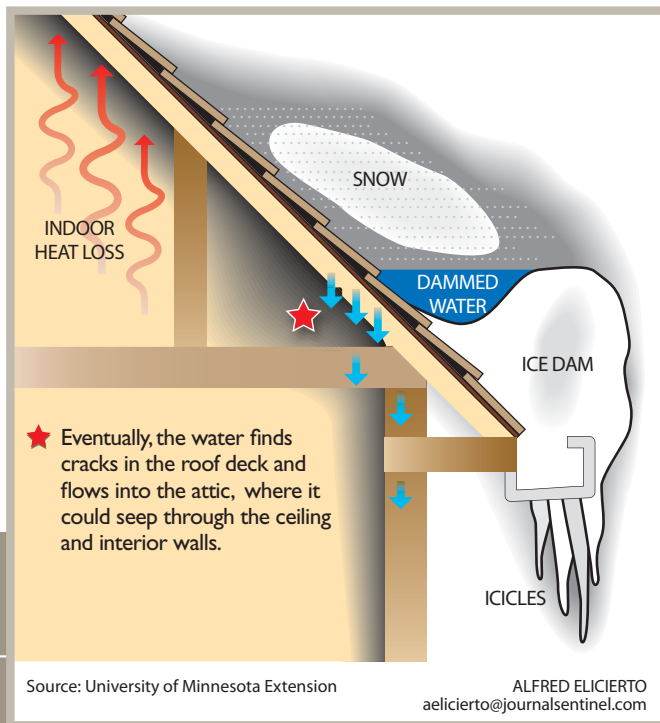
Owens Corning™ Fiberglas-Reinforced Felt Underlayment has been developed to resist water, wrinkling and buckling, and lie flatter under shingles. The surface of this advanced underlayment can provide a consistent surface, reducing slipping, sticking and scuffing and can be as much as 40 percent lighter than organic felt products, making it safer and easier for your contractor to load, carry and install.

Synthetic underlayments have recently been introduced in the roofing industry. They are typically constructed with a polymer fabric to provide a temporary waterproof barrier before the shingles are installed. The advantage of these underlayments is that they can be left exposed for many months, when installed properly, before the shingles are installed, helping protect your roof deck from moisture damage.

To learn more about the underlayment available from Owens Corning™ Roofing, visit www.Roofing.OwensCorning.com.

A Key Question to Ask Your Contractor for a Quality Roofing Job:

- What underlayment are you applying with my shingles and why?



Glossary

Deck	Surface installed over the framing on which shingles are installed, typically oriented strand board (OSB) or plywood.
Low Slope	Roof slopes that rise between two and four inches per foot.
Organic Felt	Asphalt roofing base material manufactured from cellulose fibers.
Saturated Felt	Asphalt-impregnated organic felt used as underlayment; also referred to as tar paper or roofing felt.
Square	100 square feet of roof area.
Underlayment	Asphalt-saturated organic, fiberglass or synthetic material used beneath roofing to provide additional protection for the deck.

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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OWENS CORNING ROOFING AND ASPHALT, LLC

ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY
TOLEDO, OHIO, USA 43659

1-800-GET-PINK®
www.roofing.owenscorning.com

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