



What is Ice Damming and how do I Prevent it?

Ice damming is one of the most common causes of weather-related damage to homes in winter. It occurs when snow sitting on the roof melts (often caused by heat from an inadequately ventilated attic) and then refreezes near the roof edge or at the eaves trough, creating a barrier that blocks other water from running off. Instead, that water can sometimes make its way under shingles and flashing and into the home.

How do I prevent it?

- **Remove snow buildup:** If there is a buildup of snow on your rooftop, it is always best to have a qualified company remove it. Don't try to do it yourself.
- **Check your seals:** Check flashing on your exterior walls where it meets with roofing to ensure it is sealed tight.
- **Aging property:** Remember that older shingles may crack and fail as a result of repeated freezing and thawing – this can lead to water coming in through your roof.
- **Breathe right:** Ensure you have proper attic ventilation and insulation to prevent heat from escaping from your home into the attic and melting snow on the roof.

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