

FAST FACTS



VENTILATION

**Asphalt Roofing
Manufacturers Association**

Why is Ventilation Important?

Proper ventilation reduces moisture build-up in your home

- The average family of four generates approximately 2 to 4 gallons of water vapor each day through activities such as breathing/ perspiration, showers, cooking, dishwashing.
- When moisture vapor remains in a colder/dryer attic, it can potentially condense damaging your roof deck and insulation.
 - In cold weather climates, **Ice Damms** can form along your eave edge increasing the chance of a roof leak and damage to your gutters.
 - Excess moisture may also lead to moisture build up in your insulation, which can lessen the insulating value over time, and even lead to mold build-up in your attic.

Properly ventilated spaces reduce the **Stack Effect** by pushing warm moist air out of the attic space. In addition to moisture build up, proper ventilation also reduces heat build-up in your attic.

- **Improper ventilation** can lead to premature deterioration of you shingles and roof deck
- Proper ventilation means your attic stays cooler, reducing load on your air conditioning units. The less your AC unit works, the longer it will last, and you will most likely see lower cooling bills, also.

How much ventilation do I need?

A [balanced ventilation system](#) is best. A balanced system is where intake ventilation at the eave areas is equaled at or near the ridge area

- Minimum ventilation requirements are 1 sq foot unobstructed or [free area](#) of ventilation for every 300 sq feet of attic space
- The preferred ratio is 1 sq foot of net free area of ventilation to every 150 feet of attic space. In order to qualify for FHA loan, ventilation must meet the 1/150 rule. Many [calculators](#) to help you plan the right amount of ventilation for your home and the ventilation system you select
- There are many styles of [ventilation systems available](#); many ventilation systems are 100% green, utilizing no electrical power. Electrical units run on solar power are also available. Systems using no electrical power are referred to as passive systems.

Can I over ventilate?

If the system isn't balance at the top or ridge area, or if there were gable end vents with ridge vents, without adequate soffit ventilation you may actually pull moisture into the home during a heavy rain or snow storm.

The exception to the balance rule is at the soffit in passive systems. Since the air that enters at the soffit acts to push out moisture and warm air having extra soffit ventilation will not create an off balance system.

Additional information:

Still have questions? For more information, please visit www.asphaltroofing.org, to see our , [Case Studies](#), [Video Packages](#), and [Scientific Articles](#).