



technical bulletin

Asphalt Roofing
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Use of Shingle Underlayment

There are a number of important reasons for installing asphalt-saturated felt underlayments on wood decks before shingle application. Among them are the following:

- Using the appropriate underlayments along with the proper decking materials and shingles will help in meeting Class A and/or Class C fire ratings. A shingle by itself is not fire-rated, although it is a part of the roofing assembly. In many municipalities, a Class A and/or Class C fire rating is required by code or ordinance for all roofing assemblies.
- Generally, asphalt roofing manufacturers recommend the application of asphalt-saturated felts over wood decks. Some will only warrant their shingles under the condition that this type of underlayment has been used in the roofing assembly. See individual manufacturers' warranties.
- The asphalt-saturated felt keeps the deck dry until shingle application is completed, thereby allowing one to avoid the problems that usually result when shingles are placed on wet decks.
- Asphalt-saturated felt is water resistant. It provides secondary protection to help shield the deck from wind-driven rain and other moisture penetrations.
- Installing asphalt-saturated felt helps minimize "picture framing," which is the visible outline of deck panels, caused by irregularities in roof decking thickness.
- Asphalt-saturated felt offers protection from resins that may come from wood board sheathing.

Note: The use of laboratory tested asphalt shingle underlayment products complying with ASTM standards D4869 and/or D6757 is recommended, and may be required by the shingle manufacturer and/or the building code. Additionally, follow printed instructions for application provided with the shingles to ensure optimum performance of the single underlayment and the shingle roof system.

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