



technical bulletin

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Self-Adhering Underlayment Removal Prior to Steep Slope Re-Roofing

Self-adhering waterproof shingle underlayment is generally used on the eave, rake, valley areas and as flashing around roof penetrations. Self-adhered underlayments are installed to minimize chances of water penetration the roof system in critical areas of the roof. It is difficult to remove self-adhered shingle underlayment once it has been installed for an extended period without damaging the deck material.

Removal of self-adhering underlayment is always recommended in situations in which it can be pulled up without damaging the deck. Removal will facilitate examination of the deck for deterioration and damage, reduce build-up of material that could generate a water stop that produces a leak, and eliminate unevenness that may create an aesthetic issue with the newly installed shingles. Removal of self-adhering underlayment becomes more important when more than one layer of self-adhering underlayment is present.

If only one layer of self-adhered underlayment is in place, and it is not possible to pull it up without damaging the deck, installation of a second layer of underlayment over the existing membrane is permissible. Offset laps in the new and existing underlayment and "feather in" the new underlayment by extending the new material beyond the existing material a minimum of 8". This will reduce the likelihood of water stops and aesthetic problems.

If two or more layers of self-adhered underlayment are in place, all layers should be removed. If removal of the existing material cannot be accomplished without damaging the deck, then the roofing contractor may have to remove and replace the decking in the areas covered with self-adhering underlayment.

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