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To: GAF Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE

From: Technical Services Department

No: TAB-R-2011-109

Subject: Exposed Nails on Shingles

What Are Exposed Nails/Fasteners?

Nails directly exposed to the environment... are called "exposed nails" or "exposed fasteners." Exposed nails can be seen by close visual inspection of the roof materials and by reflection of sunlight. Because exposed nails can be seen by reflection of sunlight, they may also be referred to as "shiners." See Figure 1.



Figure 1.

What Causes Exposed Nails?

Fasteners/Nails installed on the face of the shingle... or below the intended fastening location can result in exposed nails. Properly aligning the shingles will help to minimize improperly placed nails. When shingles are installed following GAF's application instructions, there should be no exposed nails in the field of the roof. Caution should be taken when adding additional equipment to the roof, because installation of satellite dishes, photovoltaic panels, and solar heating systems may result in exposed nails.

Potential Damage:

Exposed nails can corrode over time... and allow water infiltration. As shingles move over time due to slight deck movements, expansion and contraction from temperature variations, wind, etc., the nail hole may enlarge and allow water to enter. Additionally, improperly placed nails may increase the possibility of seal tab failures, shingle blow-offs from wind, and aesthetic issues.

What Is The Remedy?

Replace face-nailed singles... Remove any shingle with exposed nails and replace it with a new shingle. Be sure to use the manufacturer-recommended number of nails to fasten the shingle to the roof deck. Covering the exposed nail with any type of roof cement or caulk is not a permanent repair and will be excluded from coverage under GAF's limited warranties.

Where Can I Get More Information?

GAF Can Assist You... with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF can be contacted at **800-ROOF-411** (800-766-3411). Also, the GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit www.gaf.com to find the latest information on our products and their installation.

Important: This document supersedes any prior GAF Technical Advisory Bulletins on this topic. Please always check www.gaf.com to make sure you have the most up to date information.