



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

INSTALLATION OF ASPHALT SHINGLES IN HOT WEATHER

Asphalt roofing shingles are used in a wide range of temperatures with great success. Asphalt's behavior changes with temperature and exposure to radiant energy from the sun. In hot weather, shingles become more pliable, but with a few tips, can be easily installed despite the conditions.

Handling and Storage

Prior to transportation to the jobsite, store shingle bundles inside whenever possible to protect the shingle and wrapper from the elements. Leaving shingles in their bundles until installation will also help them stay cooler. This keeps shingle adhesives aligned properly with their release tape and prevents them from sticking together.

At the jobsite, store bundles in small stacks in a shaded area. Avoid improper and prolonged jobsite storage. Stacking bundles too high or cross-bundle stacking could create pressure points that can cause distortion of the shingles, bleed-through of the asphalt coating and staining of the bottom shingles.

Shingle seal-down adhesives will also soften as shingles get hotter, making them harder to separate. It may be necessary to use a hose and spray a stack of shingles with cold water. Shingles tend to separate easier when pulled from the bundle granule side up.

During roof loading and once on the roof, keep shingle bundles flat. Don't drape over hips or ridges.

Installation

Install the *least* sun-exposed sides of the roof first. Begin work on southern-facing roofs in the morning and as the sun rises and the roof heats up, work your way around to the west and north sides, finishing on the eastern-facing roof in the afternoon. As you rotate to each side of roof, move the access point, your ladder, as well. This will vary the paths installers take across the roof to complete their work instead of concentrating traffic in one area.

If the roof is shaded by trees or other houses at certain times of the day, work those areas when shaded.

Shingles bond together quickly in hot weather, and if they aren't installed flat, the heated shingles will take on the irregularities of either the substrate or underlayment and may be permanently distorted.

During installation, never cut or trim shingles on top of an installed shingle or the underlayment, as in the heat it is very easy to cut and damage the material underneath. Take particular care when cutting the overlying shingles in a closed-cut valley, as a cut shingle is very likely to create a leak. The best tool for this type of cutting is a hook-blade knife.



Avoid leaving trimmed pieces of shingles on the roof during hot weather. Small pieces, especially those with sealant, will seal themselves to the roof and be difficult to remove later without damaging the shingles underneath.

Once installed, limit foot traffic over the completed roof, especially during extreme temperatures, both hot and cold. Ensure only trained inspection and repair personnel perform rooftop activity.

Fastening

Elevated temperatures soften asphalt shingles and make it easier to overdrive fasteners. To avoid improper fastening when using pneumatic nailers, set the pressure setting for flush application and adjust as needed.

Tips for Installers

When walking on a hot roof, always walk flat-footed and pick up your feet. Avoid twisting and turning sharply, especially when carrying heavy loads. Wear soft-soled shoes to minimize slippage and avoid scuffing shingles.

Wear knee pads to protect the roof and your knees.

Use foam cushions you can sit or kneel on while shingling; manufactured shingle pads like the Roof Zone Wedgie Pad¹ or AJC Shingle Pad™ are available, but old seat cushions or carpet remnants also work well. Besides protecting the roof, pads insulate installers from the hot roof surface.

Contact Malarkey Technical Services with questions at (800) 545-1191 or (503) 283-1191, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Pacific Time, or email us at malarkey.technicalinquiries@amrize.com.

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