TECHNICAL BULLETIN

SHINGLE *RACKING* INSTALLATION

Malarkey shingle installation instructions state: **"Straight up application of shingles, or *racking*, is not recommended."**

What is Racking?

Racking (also called, *laddering*) is an installation method roofers use to apply shingles in a straight up, *vertical* fashion rather than using the diagonal, pyramid, or stairstep approach described in Malarkey instructions.

Racking was popular when 3-tab shingles dominated the market, but with the advent and popularity of multi-layered *laminate* shingles, the shortcomings of racking shingles were quickly exposed, especially *color blending*.

Other, inherent problems:

- Shingle joints align every other course, and this increases the chance for roof leaks.
- Because of the need to temporarily omit the last nail in the outside shingle of every other course to allow for placement of the adjacent shingle to come, some shingles are inadvertently left unfastened on that end. Shingles with less than the prescribed numbers of fasteners have reduced wind resistance and are increasingly susceptible to blow-off.
- Even if fasteners are not omitted on the outside ends of shingles, the act of lifting shingles to apply the fasteners can create stress cracks that weaken the shingle, especially in cold weather. This may not be obvious at the time of installation, but it can lead to premature failure over time: warping or curling, loss of seal-down and granules.
- As mentioned above, racking can often result in improper color blending (also called *shadowing* or *shading*) because straight-up application uses shingles from the same bundle whereas the next column may have subtle color differences being from another bundle. This effect is more obvious from the ground and can appear as vertical bands or stripes.



If electing to use the racking method, will it affect my Warranty?

Malarkey's *Shingle & Accessory Warranty* covers manufacturing defects and remains in effect regardless of installation method *unless that installation deviates from Malarkey's print instructions and recommendations*, e.g., using less fasteners than prescribed, and/or other practices detrimental to shingle performance.

Malarkey's wind warranties apply only when shingles are sealed, whether by hand-sealing or activation of their factory-applied, self-sealing strips. *Failure to seal because racking and lifting of shingles led to shingle blow-off is not a manufacturing defect*.

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.

**Photo on first page is from InspectAPedia online (https://inspectapedia.com), an "Encyclopedia of Building & Environmental Construction, Diagnosis, Maintenance & Repair."*

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