

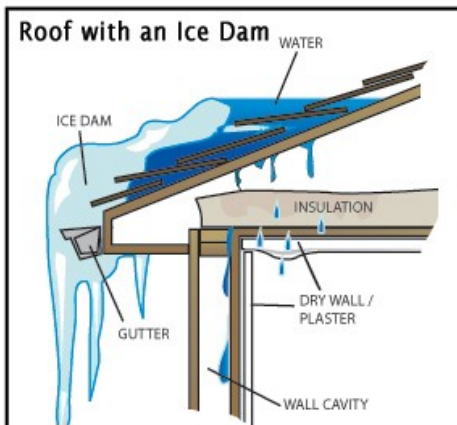


February 2010

Ice damming is a potentially damaging consequence that occurs when an excessive amount of ice builds up at the eaves of a roof and blocks melting snow water from escaping. If left unchecked, it can damage and destroy roofs at their eaves. How ice damming occurs is an interesting process of cold weather, persistent snow and ice and the improper ventilation of roofs. After a snow storm and partial thaw, icicles will commonly form hanging over the eaves of a home. Depending on the amount of snow that falls and partially melts, ice can form in large, thick amounts. As ice builds up at the eaves of a home, the snow behind it,



as it melts, has nowhere to go. The unfortunate part is that it must go somewhere, and it does. When it cannot escape due to the ice dam, it begins to work its way up underneath the shingles of a roof, ruining the shingles, the felt roofing paper and wood sheathing. At worst, it can even begin to rot the structure of the roof itself. The buildup of ice at the eaves combined with melting snow behind it and a lack of ventilation that lets some warm air escape from the home is the perfect storm that leads to ice dams. If these are left unchecked, the entire overhang of a roof can be damaged and require costly repairs.



If the roof of your home is well insulated, make sure there is good ventilation at the under-eaves or soffits. This will allow a small amount of warm air to escape

and help to melt any ice that forms. Warm air rises, so as it escapes through the vents it will be drawn upwards—right into any ice formations. If ice dams form at the eaves of your home, act quickly to melt the ice using either a roof-safe ice melter or rock salt. In order to avoid a big mess later, contain the salt in something with tiny holes like an old pair of pantyhose. The salt will be allowed to melt the ice without getting everywhere.

When ice blocks melting snow from escaping off of a roof, the water works its way under the shingles, eventually ruining the eaves. Avoid this by having the proper roof ventilation. If it happens anyway, act quickly to melt the ice and let the water escape.



Remember to clear snow away from your gas meters and High Efficient Furnace air intakes and exhaust to keep them working properly.

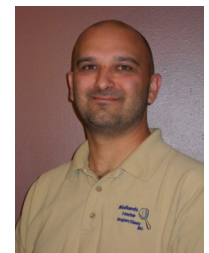


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