**Commercial Ice Dam Guidance For Steep-Sloped Roofs**

### The Risk

While ice dams may form on low-sloped roofs, businesses occupying buildings with steep-sloped roofs may be more likely to encounter them.

- Melting snow runs down to the roof edge which remains cold.
- Warm air in the attic heats up the roof.
- Water backs up under the shingles resulting in leaks into the attic.
- Warm air from the inside gets into the attic through gaps in and around lighting fixtures, fans, etc.

### Preventing Damage

**VENTILATE. INSULATE. SEAL.**

**Warm air in the attic heats up the roof.**

- Seal lights, HVAC ductwork and other openings to prevent warm air from entering the attic.
- Seal 24 in. from the exterior wall between roof covering and the attic to prevent leakage.
- Use rake with wheels to prevent damage to roof covering.
- Check references and licenses when hiring a reputable professional contractor.

**Add insulation in attic, particularly around lights, HVAC ductwork and other openings between the inside and the attic.**

**Make sure vents are open and clear of snow to allow warmer air to escape.**

**Vent:**

- Vents allow air to circulate freely.
- Warm air in the attic heats up the roof.
- Water backs up under the shingles resulting in leaks into the attic.
- Warm air from the inside gets into the attic through gaps in and around lighting fixtures, fans, etc.

### Removing Ice Dams

**Hire a professional when removing ice dams.**

- Use professionally installed, high-quality self-regulating heating cables on eaves, gutters, downspouts, or around roof drains.
- Make sure the heating cables are UL Listed, FM Approved, or CSA Certified.
- Channels can be created using de-icing chemicals. However, use caution as chemicals can cause discoloration or damage to roof covering.
- Channels can be created using de-icing chemicals. However, use caution as chemicals can cause discoloration or damage to roof covering.

- Hire a professional to make vertical channels through the ice dam to allow water to drain off.

- Use rake with wheels to prevent damage to roof covering.

- Remove the snow with a snow rake, from the ground, no snow, no ice dam.

**Use rake with wheels to prevent damage to roof cover.**

**Remove the snow with a snow rake, from the ground, no snow, no ice dam.**

- Use rake with wheels to prevent damage to roof cover.

- Check references and licenses when hiring a reputable professional contractor.

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