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DEFIANCE OH: (866) 864-9463

TROY OH: (844) 863-8257

ST. LOUIS MO: (833) 880-0341

TRUSTWAGNER.COM | contact@trustwagner.com

Asphalt Shingle Installation Mistakes to Avoid

Asphalt shingle installation services are one of the most common roofing applications on a home. Wagner Roofing & Construction Solutions installs and repairs all roofing materials—including asphalt shingles. Our decade-long experience in the industry has made us aware of all the common mistakes asphalt shingle installers frequently make. We've found that most issues homeowners experience with their asphalt shingles stems from common mistakes from the installation process. These are mistakes that could have easily been avoided! Here are some of the most common asphalt shingle installation mistakes to avoid.

Asphalt Shingle Installation Mistake #1: Nail Placement & Quantity

First, let's begin with nail placement and nail quantity of the asphalt shingle roofing system. No shingle from one manufacturing company to the next is the same. With this information, we can infer that the manufacturer's installation instructions vary from one manufacturer to the next, as well. Nail placement can make or break how the roof performs over the years. With three-tab shingles, be sure not to nail into or above the sealing strip. The nail should be driven into the shingle flushed with the surface—not over-driven. Next, ensure you're using the correct quantity of nails to secure the shingle. Some manufactures recommend 4 nails, but others recommend up to 8 nails for a successful installation. Check with the manufacturer about the quantity, align the nails correctly, and this will help you avoid this mistake completely!

Asphalt Shingle Installation Mistake #2: Using Shingles in the Incorrect Setting

All roofing materials are designed to work successfully in their intended settings. The performance of the materials outside of their intended environment may be compromised if they're used incorrectly. Shingles are recommended to be used on a roof that has a pitch of 2/12 or greater. The lower the slope, the slower precipitation will run off. Failure for water to properly run off of a roof can lead to huge problems. Leaks, water damage, mold, and mildew are all consequences of stagnant water on a roofing system. This will lead to premature deterioration of the roof. We recommend installing a rubber roof when the pitch is 2/12 or lower to avoid these issues altogether.

Asphalt Shingle Installation Mistake #3: Installing Flashings Improperly

Lastly, let's discuss what makes or breaks any roofing system on the market—flashings. What are flashings? Flashings are strategically placed on a roofing system to keep water from penetrating underneath the shingles. Flashings are used on valleys, vents, skylights, chimneys, edges of the roof, and more. Most leaks found on a shingle roof are caused by poor flashing performance or flashings being installed incorrectly. Precipitation is bound to happen whether we plan for it or not. If there is even the slightest bit of an opening for water to penetrate—it will happen. It's inevitable! Ensuring everything is properly sealed with flashings and sealant will save the roof from dreadful—and expensive—damage down the line.

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These common mistakes can easily be avoided if you hire a professional to install your shingle roofing system. The contractors at Wagner Roofing & Construction Solutions are dedicated to delivering customer satisfaction in every project they complete. Did your past contractor make one of these common mistakes while installing your roofing system? Call us today! We would love to repair or replace your roof to bring it back to its tip-top shape.

Questions:

1. What are three common mistakes made in an asphalt shingle installation?

Three of the most common mistakes made in an asphalt shingle installation are nail placement, using shingles with the incorrect roof pitch, and installing flashings incorrectly.

2. Why are nail quantity and nail placement so important in an asphalt shingle installation?

Nail placement can make or break how the roof performs over the years. With three-tab shingles, be sure not to nail into or above the sealing strip. The nail should be driven into the shingle flushed with the surface—not over-driven. Next, ensure you're using the correct quantity of nails to secure the shingle. Some manufactures recommend 4 nails, but others recommend up to 8 nails for a successful installation. Check with the manufacturer about the quantity, align the nails correctly, and this will help you avoid this mistake completely!

3. What roof pitch is recommended for an asphalt shingle installation?

If you want to use asphalt shingles on a roof, it's recommended that your roof has a pitch of 2/12 or greater. The lower the slope, the slower precipitation will run off. Failure for water to properly run off of a roof can lead to huge problems. Leaks, water damage, mold, and mildew are all consequences of stagnant water on a roofing system. This will lead to premature deterioration of the roof. We recommend installing a rubber roof when the pitch is 2/12 or lower to avoid these issues altogether.

4. Why are flashings on an asphalt shingle installation so important?

Flashings are strategically placed on a roofing system to keep water from penetrating underneath the shingles. Flashings are used on valleys, vents, skylights, chimneys, edges of the roof, and more. Most leaks found on a shingle roof are caused by poor flashing performance or flashings being installed incorrectly. Precipitation is bound to happen whether we plan for it or not. If there is even the slightest bit of an opening for water to penetrate—it will happen.