

Ice Dams

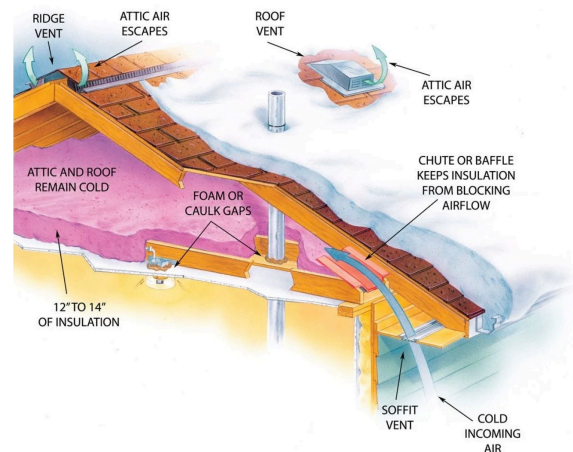
Ice dams can form on pitched-roof overhangs in cold climates such as Minnesota. Heat loss through the roof and heat from the sun (even in freezing temperatures) can cause snow on a roof to melt. As water runs down the roof onto the overhang, it freezes and forms an ice dam just above the gutter. The ice dam traps water from melting snow and forces it back under the shingles and into the building's interior.

Watch the edge of the roof overhang for evidence of ice dams and look at the eaves and soffit for evidence of deterioration and water damage. If the house has an attic, the underside of the roof deck at the exterior walls can be checked for signs of water intrusion.

Ice dam removal is a pain, so try to prevent them from forming in the first place. The key to preventing ice dams is simply to keep your attic and roof cold.

After a snowfall, a cold roof will have a thick blanket of snow. A warmer roof, however, will soon have clear spots where the snow has melted off, and may well have icicles hanging from the eaves. To keep your roof cold, follow these steps:

- Close up attic bypasses
- Measure your attic insulation level
- Add roof and soffit vents



Owner / CPI

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Tim also has a license from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to perform radon measurements and is registered with the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) as a Radon Measurement Professional.

