

Preventing Ice Backup Damage



The best defense against ice backups is **proper insulation**



Ice dams, which can cause interior water damage, occur on sloping roofs during periods of freezing temperatures. When the temperature in your attic is above freezing, it causes snow on the roof to melt and run down the sloping roof. When the snowmelt runs down the roof and hits the colder eaves, it refreezes.



As this cycle repeats, the freezing snowmelt forms an ice dam and ponds of water begin to form behind them. This ponding water sometimes backs up under the roof covering and leaks into the interior of the property. Most cases begin with water stains on walls or ceilings, however, some cases can turn severe, pouring gallons of water through ceilings, walls, and floors, leading to severe water damage.



The best way to avoid these problems is to have sufficient insulation in your attic to keep your warmer interior air from leaking into the attic and raising its temperature above freezing. Since sunlight does not have a significant effect on attic air temperatures, the proper insulation is the best defense.

While routinely clearing snow off of your roof with roof rakes will also help prevent ice dams, regular use of these tools can lead to shingle damage.

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