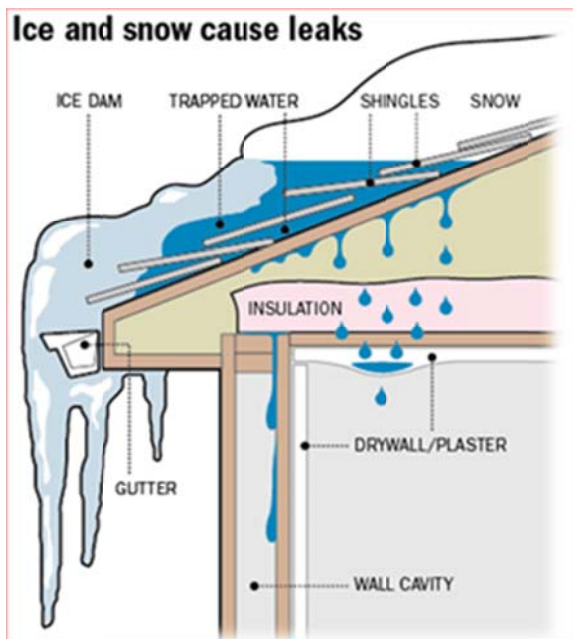


What You Need to Know About Ice Dams

What is an Ice Dam?

Snow accumulation on a roof, goes through cycles of melting and refreezing due to temperature changes and heat escaping from the attic. In a perfect situation, the water would flow off the edge of the roof into the gutter. When the outside air temperature is low, the edge of the roof can stay below freezing. As the water flows down the shingles, it refreezes when it gets to the lower part of the roof due to the temperature change. The ice that forms creates a line or "dam," at the edge of the roof. As more and more snow melts, it continues to refreeze increasing the size of the ice dam.

As the ice dam grows, the melted snow pools up behind it, where it then forces its way back up under the shingles breaking the seal between your roof and the shingles. The water forces its way into your home causing damage to your ceilings and walls.



How to Prevent Ice Dams

A good way to prevent ice dams is to lower your attic temperature by installing additional insulation in your attic area. You can do this by laying out additional layers of insulation or having additional insulation blown in. You do need to be careful not to diminish your air return by over insulating. With inadequate ventilation through your soffits, heat can build up regardless of the amount of insulation present in your attic. Make sure your attic vents are not covered with insulation or any other material

so that the air moves freely through the soffit vents. The recommendation for venting is 1 square foot of vent for every 150 feet of attic floor area. If your attic lacks in ventilation, you may need to consider installing ridge vent on the peak of your roof or cut in additional louvers. Be sure and check weather-stripping on attic stairways and hatchways are providing a good seal to keep warmth in your home and out of the attic.

A common mistake made by some homeowners, is attempting to melt the snow on the roof by leaving their hatchways open to the attic. The thought behind this is letting the heat from your home up into the attic. This is actually the worst thing a homeowner could do. Not only will you be throwing energy dollars away, you are actually contributing to the formation of an ice dam due to the thaw and freezing winter conditions. As a homeowner, you should find some comfort in seeing standing snow on the roof opposed to ice dams. Standing snow proves adequate ventilation and insulation is present in your attic.

If you have questions or concerns regarding insulation or ventilation in your attic contact Netzke Construction. We would be more than happy to assist you!

Signs You May Have an Ice Dam

The appearance of water damage on ceilings or exterior walls may indicate that an ice dam has formed and water has forced its way into your attic. Water damage is a serious issue. It can lead to rotting and mold growth which can cause serious health problems with people living in the home.

To prevent costly interior damage caused by ice dams, call Netzke Construction LLC. We can remove your roof snow and use our pressurized steamer to melt away the ice that can lead to water damage in your home. Netzke Construction LLC is equipped with quality equipment and OSHA approved protection.

The Solution

Your best defense against ice dams is removing snow off the roof to prevent refreezing after melting. If an ice dam has formed, call Netzke Construction LLC to take care of the problem before it becomes a "bigger" problem.

Netzke Construction LLC can safely remove snow from your roof using our expandable roof rake. If ice is present, we use hot water or steam to safely remove the ice from your roof without damage to gutters or shingles. Using hammers or hatchets to remove ice can cause more damage to your roof.