



# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM AN ICE DAM

Those of us who have experienced a harsh winter know the damage wintry weather can do to our homes. For homeowners, one of the least understood but most dreaded of winter hazards is the ice dam.

## WONDERING HOW AN ICE DAM FORMS?

- 1** | Following a snowfall, heat from the sun or from inside your home warms your roof, causing snow and ice to melt.
- 2** | Water flow from melted snow and ice refreezes when it reaches the colder roof edge, forming an ice dam.
- 3** | The ice dam prevents further water flow from draining away from your home and causes water to back up under the roof and leak inside.

## HOW DO YOU STOP AN ICE DAM FROM FORMING?



### INSULATION

Add insulation to the attic floor to keep heat where it belongs—in your home.



### VENTILATION

Pair a ridge vent with continuous soffit vents to circulate cold air under the entire roof and flush out warmer attic air.



### ROOFING MATERIAL

Hire a professional to install an ice shield along the edge of the roof and underneath shingles to stop leaks.



### SNOW REMOVAL

Standing on the ground, use an expanding roof rake to remove as much snow as possible from the edges of the roof.

## Did You Know?



It can take as little as 24 hours for an ice dam to form.



Ice dams and severe winter weather cause billions of dollars of damage to homes every year.



The average ice dam can weigh over 1,000 lbs.

## AN ICE DAM FORMING INCREASES WHEN

- Temperatures are below freezing.
- There's been a heavy snow.
- Icicles are hanging from your roof and gutters.

## LEAVE ICE DAM REMOVAL TO THE PROFESSIONALS

If an ice dam forms on your property, contact a licensed, insured professional to remove it. The Andover Companies does not recommend you climb on your roof to try to mitigate the situation, as you could cause more damage or, worse, fall and get seriously injured.

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