

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, GAF Field Services

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: Damage To Shingles From Gutter And Downspout Runoff**



Quality You Can Trust...  
From North America's  
Largest Roofing Manufacturer!™

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**Can Water From  
Downspouts Draining On  
My Roof Damage  
Fiberglass-Asphalt  
Shingles?**

**Yes...** damage can occur where the gutter outlets or downspouts discharge water from higher roof areas directly on lower roof surfaces.

**What Kind Of Damage Can  
Result From  
Gutter/Downspout Runoff?**

- **Erosion of the mineral granules...** on the shingles directly below the gutter outlet or downspout can occur. This erosion will gradually expose the asphalt that is beneath the granules and accelerate the weathering, thus reducing shingle life. Erosion may be visible in one to two years or less, or be barely visible throughout the life of the roof depending on the volume and force of the water at the discharge point.
- **Leaks may occur...** due to the high volume and force of the water at the discharge point being great enough to force water between the shingles and create a roof leak. Depending on the circumstances and frequency, it may be years for the roof leak to manifest itself on the interior. By this time, extensive damage to the roof deck, insulation and ceiling may have occurred.
- **Algae, mold, fungus, moss or other vegetation may grow...** near the discharge point because of moisture being present at the location for a longer time than the rest of the roof. This can be an aesthetic issue as well as result in damage to the roof or building.
- **Side walls may be damaged...** if the discharge point is near a wall. Excess moisture against walls can result in wood rot, mortar deterioration or flashing corrosion that may lead to costly repairs to either the home's structure or the exterior components

**What Are My Options?**

- **Route the water directly to the ground...** using longer downspouts.
- **Route the water to another gutter...** using a downspout.
- **Changing the building design...** if the building is in the design stage can eliminate potential trouble spots.

**Will Excessive Runoff Void  
My Warranty?**

- No, the GAF Shingle Limited Warranty against manufacturing defects will remain in effect.**
- However, any damage to the shingles attributable to granule loss or erosion of the fiberglass asphalt shingle due to gutters/downspouts from upper roofs draining on lower roofs is not GAF's responsibility under the terms of our Limited Warranty.
  - The GAF Limited Warranty does not warrant the design of the roof or the installation or performance of the gutter and drainage system.

**Where Can I Get More  
Information?**

**GAF Technical Services Can Assist You...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF Technical Services can be contacted at **800-ROOF-411** (800-766-3411). Also, the GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) to find the latest information on our products and their installation.

**Important:** This document supersedes any prior GAF Technical Advisory Bulletins on this topic. Please always check [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) to make sure you have the most up to date information.