



TECHNICAL NOTICE

September 28, 2026

REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTALLING SHINGLES OVER EXISTING FULL-COVERAGE ICE AND WATER SHIELD

In re-roofing situations, where an existing full-coverage ice and water shield cannot be removed from the roof deck, contractors and homeowners must consider the following before installing new fiberglass/asphalt shingles.

Synthetic Underlayment. When existing ice and water shield cannot be removed, a layer of TAMKO's Synthetic Guard or Synthetic Guard Plus synthetic underlayment must be installed over the top of the existing ice and water shield prior to shingle installation. Many ice and water shield products have a film or smooth surface that may create a safety hazard for installers and do not provide an ideal surface for shingle installation. Installing a layer of TAMKO synthetic underlayment over the existing ice and water shield helps address these concerns by providing improved installer traction and a suitable surface over which to install the shingles. TAMKO's synthetic underlayment installation instructions should be followed regarding fastener type, spacing, and overlap requirements.

Roof Deck Inspection. Before proceeding with new shingle installation, a thorough inspection of the existing roof deck must be conducted to verify that it is structurally sound and capable of adequately receiving and retaining fasteners. The contractor should check for areas of delamination, rot, soft spots, or other deterioration that may compromise the holding power of roofing nails. Any damaged or deteriorated deck sections must be repaired or replaced prior to installation. Contractors should carefully walk the roof deck and probe suspect areas for deterioration. Where attic space is accessible, contractors should also visually inspect the underside of the roof deck from within the attic. This provides an additional opportunity to identify signs of decking deterioration, including staining, rotting, sagging, or daylight visible through gaps, that may not be apparent when inspecting the deck from above. Shingles installed over a compromised deck may not perform as intended and may result in fastener pull-through, blow-offs, or premature failure. Removal of the existing shingles may damage or disturb the existing ice and water shield. Before installing the synthetic underlayment and new shingles, the existing ice and water shield must be inspected, and any loose, raised or wrinkled, or otherwise irregular areas must be addressed to provide a smooth, flat surface.

Moisture Assessment. Because the existing ice and water shield may conceal evidence of prior leaks or moisture intrusion, contractors must assess the condition of the roof deck for evidence of excessive moisture prior to installation. A pin-type or pinless moisture meter may be used to evaluate moisture content at multiple locations across the roof. Elevated moisture readings may indicate prior or ongoing water intrusion and affected decking may be structurally weakened even when visible damage is not apparent. Decking found to have excessive moisture must be evaluated further and affected sections should be replaced as necessary to ensure a dry, stable substrate for the new roof system.

Fastener Selection. The additional thickness of the existing ice and water shield and the new synthetic underlayment must be considered when selecting fasteners. Roofing nails must be of sufficient length to penetrate through all material layers and achieve the required penetration into the roof deck in accordance with TAMKO's application instructions and applicable building codes. Consult TAMKO's current Application Instructions for fastener specifications.

Warranty Considerations. The synthetic underlayment method described above is TAMKO's required installation method when an existing full-coverage ice and water shield cannot be removed. No more than two layers of ice and water shield may be in place on the roof deck at the time of installation. Failure to comply with these requirements or strictly adhere to TAMKO's applicable Application Instructions may affect coverage under TAMKO's Fiberglass/Asphalt Shingle Limited Warranty and TAMKO's Enhanced Limited System Warranties. TAMKO's current Fiberglass/Asphalt Shingle Limited Warranty and Arbitration Agreement, applicable Enhanced Limited System Warranty, and Application Instructions should be reviewed to ensure compliance with all applicable requirements.

By addressing each of these considerations before beginning installation, contractors can help ensure that the new roof system performs as intended and that the durability and longevity of the roofing materials are not compromised by underlying deck conditions.

This Technical Notice is not intended to alter the Application Instructions for TAMKO fiberglass/asphalt shingles, which are available at tamko.com and are printed on the wrapper of each bundle of shingles in an abbreviated version. This Technical Notice is not intended, nor should it be construed to alter or waive any portion of the *TAMKO Fiberglass/Asphalt Shingle Limited Warranty and Arbitration Agreement* or *TAMKO Enhanced Limited System Warranties*.

In all cases, the installer is responsible for ensuring that the installation complies with TAMKO's Application Instructions and all applicable building codes and regulations.

Additional information about TAMKO products is available at tamko.com.

* To obtain the current version of this Technical Notice and the most recent limited warranty, visit TAMKO's website at tamko.com. TAMKO reserves the right to update, remove, or otherwise modify any Technical Notice. If a previous Technical Notice currently is not listed at tamko.com then it is no longer valid and should not be referenced or relied upon for any reason.