

City of Riverside

Building & Safety Division

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www.riversideca.gov



❖ REROOFING INFORMATION SHEET ❖ (Asphalt Shingles)

QUESTION 1: What are the nailing requirements for asphalt shingles?

ANSWER: Nailing requirements for asphalt shingles are specified by the manufacturer of the product. As a general rule, standard asphalt shingles require 4 nails per strip shingle. The nails must be corrosion resistant (galvanized, stainless steel, aluminum, or copper), minimum 12-gage shank, 3/8 inch head, and long enough to completely penetrate through the sheathing. In most cases, a roofing nail for a reroof over an existing roof should be at least 1-1/4" in length.

QUESTION 2: How many times can I reroof over my existing asphalt shingle roof?

ANSWER: No more than 2 applications of asphalt shingles may be applied to a roof.

QUESTION 3: What is the minimum roof slope required for asphalt shingles?

ANSWER: Asphalt shingles may not be installed on roofs which are generally flat. In most cases, asphalt shingle roofs must have a slope of at least 2:12 (2 inches vertical rise for every 12 inches of horizontal run). When the roof slope is between 2:12 up to 4:12, underlayment consisting of 2 layers of nonperforated Type 15 felt applied shingle fashion with a 19 inch overlap on each layer shall be applied to the roof deck. For roof slopes of 4:12 or greater, only one layer of underlayment shall be required.

QUESTION 4: What are the nailing requirements for adding plywood to a roof?

ANSWER: For typical 1/2 (15/32) inch thick plywood over existing space sheathing, the typical nail is an 8d (eight penny), or Approved 2-1/2 inch long roof sheathing staples, or 2-1/2 inch long #10 wood screws. The end joints of each plywood sheet must occur over a supporting rafter and the nails are to be placed every 6 inches (6" on center) at these plywood end joints. Additionally, nails are required to be placed every 12 inches (12" on center) to secure the plywood to all other rafters supporting the plywood sheet. This nailing pattern is commonly referred to as a 6 and 12 pattern (nails spaced every 6" on the ends and every 12" elsewhere on the plywood sheet). Another important fact to remember is that all nails must not occur where there is direct support from wood members below. In other words, nails must penetrate the plywood, then the space sheathing, then into the rafter.

QUESTION 5: Are there other things that I need to know about reroofing?

ANSWER: Each reroof project will have unique challenges and it is not possible in this information sheet to predict them all. When in doubt, please give us a call and we will do our best to advise you. Don't forget to secure a reroof permit and obtain the required inspections from the Building Inspector.