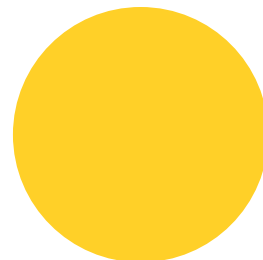
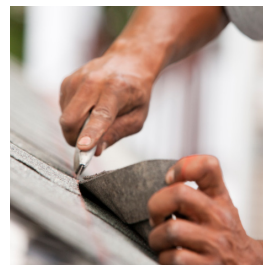


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



Installing Your Own Shingles Instructional Guide

While installing your own shingles is a job that should be limited to only the most advanced DIYers, this guide explains how it can be done.



Installing Your Own Shingles Instructional Guide

A pretty good argument could be made that there's no roofing material that can be considered DIY-friendly. Regardless of what product is being installed on a roof, the application requires a level of experience and knowledge that most homeowners lack.

A poor installation can result in water leaks and even more of a consideration, working on a roof can be hazardous. It's almost always a wise decision to call in the experts when you have a roofing project. However, if you're determined to do your own installation, three-tab asphalt shingles might be the best choice of roofing materials for a DIYer.

Preparing Your Roof for Asphalt Shingles

There are quite a few tasks that must be accomplished prior to starting your installation. Keep in mind that while the shingles provide a layer of protection for your home, there's another barrier that goes on first. This installation guide is based on a roof that has had the old shingles removed. Follow these steps to prepare your roof for asphalt shingles:

1. Cover all sheathing with underlayment. The most common is 15 pound felt paper, but the 30 pound variety can add a little more protection. Work your way from the eave to the ridge with each row overlapping the preceding row by about two inches.
2. If you live in a region that receives ice and snow, install ice dam membrane at the eaves and in the roof valleys.
3. Install drip edge on the eaves and rakes of the roof. The vertical side of the drip edge should fit tightly against the fascia and rake boards. The top flange of the drip edge should be tucked under the felt or ice dam membrane at the eaves, but should overlap the felt at the rakes.
4. Check to ensure that all roof penetrations such as plumbing and mechanical vents are flashed properly. Everywhere the slope of the roof meets a vertical part of the house should also be flashed along the entire length.

When these steps are complete, spend a little time inspecting the roof for any issues that could permit water intrusion — correct anything found.

Installing Three-tab Asphalt Shingles

Asphalt shingles can be installed with a hammer and roofing nails, but the job is much easier if you use a pneumatic roofing nailer — pulling a trigger doesn't require quite as much effort as hammering a nail. While you may not want to purchase the tool for one job, they can often be rented at home improvement stores and tool rental depots. Follow these steps to install your asphalt shingles:

1. Measure the width of the roof at the eave and make a center line mark on the felt. Make a similar mark at the ridge taking into account any deviations in the roof width at that point. The second mark should be directly above the first — measure each from a parallel outside edge to double-check. Chalk a vertical line on the felt that intersects both marks.
2. Install a course of starter shingles at the eave with the front edge of the shingle even with the outermost edge of the drip edge. Starter shingles are available from most roofing product manufacturers, but you can also make your own by cutting the tabs off the three-tab shingles and using the part left over. When complete, there should be a single row of starter shingles along the entire eave - the ends of each shingle just butt together.
3. Place your first three-tab shingle so that it's centered on your vertical chalk line and the front edge is even with the front edge of the starter shingles and drip edge. Use four nails to secure it to the roof sheathing. Most three-tab shingles have a 5-inch exposure so the nails should be placed about 5.5 to 6 inches up from the front edge of the shingle. There should be a nail near each side and one above each tab cut-out.



4. Continue installing shingles in the same fashion along the eave. The shingle ends just butt into each other.
5. Verify that your shingles are designed for a 5-inch exposure and then chalk a horizontal line across your first row of shingles 5 inches from the front edge.
6. The first shingle on the second row will butt up against the vertical center line rather than being centered on it. Line up the front edge on your horizontal chalk line and secure the shingle. The second shingle will have its edge butted up to the vertical line as well - this creates a staggered effect from the first row. The first shingle of the third row will once again be centered on the line.
7. Work your way to the outer edges of the roof installing the second row of shingles.
8. Continue up the roof slope in this fashion. Chalk a line marking the 5-inch exposure for each course of shingles and make sure shingle cut-outs alternate at each row.

Most roofing material manufacturers have specially designed shingles for the ridges. If you have a ridge vent, take care not to close off the ventilation when installing the shingles. Roof valleys should be done after the adjacent slope has been shingled. Stop your shingles about one width short of the valley on both sides while roofing and return to the valley when both roofing slopes are complete.

