



# Steep Slope Technical Point

TO: Steep Slope Sales Team,  
GAF-Elk Contractors, GAF-Elk  
Distributors.

FROM: Contractor Services

DATE: 10/1/07

No: I43-07

SUBJECT: *Damage To Shingles Caused By Hurricanes*

<i>What Type Of Damage Can Occur?</i>	Damage caused by hurricanes... can include wind blow-off of a large number of shingles, wind uplift of individual tabs or shingles, shingle loss, broken sealant bonds, granule loss, and punctures caused by flying debris.
<i>How Can I Tell If The Roof Was Damaged?</i>	Generally, damage from a hurricane is apparent, however, small amounts of hurricane damage can harm the surface of the shingle and lead to deterioration of the shingles months or years later. Evaluating damage from hurricane exposure is subjective at best and often everyone involved offers a different assessment of damage.
<i>Specific Damage To Be Aware Of...</i>	<p><b>Granule Loss...</b> hurricane wind exposure can result in varying degrees of granule loss. Hurricane winds can loosen the granules, potentially allowing the granules to separate from the asphalt coating and wash off of the roof. The extent of granule loss resulting from hurricane exposure is influenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Age of the product</li> <li>○ Force and duration of the winds and wind driven rain</li> <li>○ Type and amount of wind borne debris</li> <li>○ Orientation and slope of the roof deck in relation to the wind direction</li> <li>○ Amount of foot traffic on the roof</li> </ul> <p><b>Broken Sealant Bonds...</b> hurricane force winds can break the sealant bond which seals the shingles together. When sealant bonds are broken, it is not likely that the shingles will re-seal without hand-sealing. The subsequent strength of re-sealing is influenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Age of the product</li> <li>○ Time of year and amount of exposure to higher ambient temperatures</li> <li>○ Length of time before shingles are exposed to subsequent high winds</li> <li>○ Stress and strain on the shingles due to exposure to sustained high winds and/or deck movement</li> <li>○ Contamination of the sealant by dirt, debris, or other foreign substances</li> <li>○ Ability for shingles to lay flat</li> </ul> <p>If sealant bonds have been broken due to exposure to hurricane force winds and have sustained no other damage, GAF-Elk recommends hand-sealing of the shingles. Hand-sealing will help to insure adequate sealing of the shingles rather than depending on the shingles to re-seal themselves.</p>
<i>Warranty Coverage?</i>	<p>Any shingle failures, either immediate or a result of latent damage, is beyond the scope of the GAF-Elk Shingle Limited Warranty, and is neither the responsibility of GAF-Elk nor is it evidence of a manufacturing defect.</p> <p>Damage caused by hail, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, fire, lightning, etc. is specifically excluded from the GAF-Elk Shingle Limited Warranty. These catastrophic conditions, or the flying debris that may accompany storms, may cause latent damage to the shingles and therefore cause the shingles to deteriorate prematurely.</p>
<i>Where Can I Get More Information?</i>	GAF-Elk Technical Services can assist you... with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF-Elk Technical Services can be reached at 800-ROOF-411 (800-766-3411). Also, <i>the GAF-Elk website is a great resource</i> for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Visit: <a href="http://www.gaf.com">www.gaf.com</a>