

ICE DAM PREVENTION

SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

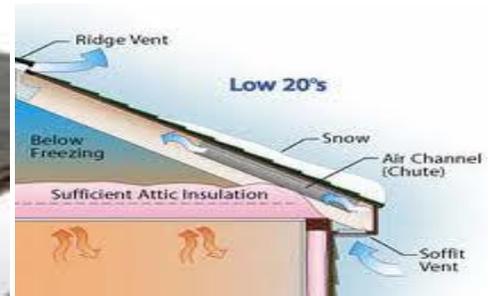
320-203-1297
Zablocki Roofing



Proper ventilation and insulation will help prevent ice dam creation in the future. Zablocki Roofing wants to provide you with the knowledge necessary in order to win the battle against dangerous ice dams and snow build-up. These are some things you can do to help minimize ice dams.

Here is some information for you:

1| Proper home ventilation: Properly vented attics help prevent the formation of ice dams, which results in less damage to the interior of the house and longer lasting roofs. When heat from your home escapes into the attic, the heat can melt snow on the roof, this water flows down the roof, under the snow, onto the eave and gutter, where cold temperatures cause it to freeze. Eventually, ice accumulates and prevents additional snow melt from draining; it then backs up under the roof covering, resulting in leaks, damaged ceilings, walls, roof structure and insulation.



2| Proper soffit ventilation: Attic ventilation draws in cold outdoor air and flushes out warmer attic air, cooling the attic and the roof in the process. The minimum ventilation area (size of the openings) should be about 1 sq. ft. of vent per 300 sq. ft. of ceiling area (attic floor area), when half the vent area is low on the roof and half is high. Actually figuring all this out is a bit complex; you'd have to examine your existing vents to find the area of each, which is stamped on them. As a rule of thumb, put an 8 x 16-in. vent in the underside of the overhang ([soffit](#)) in every other rafter space. (If you're planning to rebuild the soffit, install a continuous 2-1/2-in.-wide "strip" vent, because it will look better.) And install a continuous ridge vent along the peak. If the ridge on your roof is much shorter than the roof edge—on pyramid-shaped roofs, for example—add the common square-shaped roof vents near the peak. Add enough so their ventilating area is about equal to the area of soffit vents. This might deliver a whole lot more ventilation than the minimum requirement, but don't worry. You're unlikely to have too much ventilation.

3| Proper Insulation: If your insulation is just level with or below your floor joists (i.e., you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you cannot see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you probably have enough and adding more may not be cost-effective. It is important that the insulation be evenly distributed with no low spots; sometimes there is enough insulation in the middle of the attic and very little along the eaves.

The recommended level for most attics is to insulate to R-44. When adding additional insulation, you do not have to use the same type of insulation that currently exists in your attic. You can add loose fill on top of fiberglass batts or blankets, and vice-versa. If you use fiberglass over loose fill, make sure the fiberglass batt has no paper or foil backing; it needs to be "unfaced." If you choose to add loose fill, it may be wise to hire a professional, as the application requires the use of a blowing machine.

