

What are ice dams?

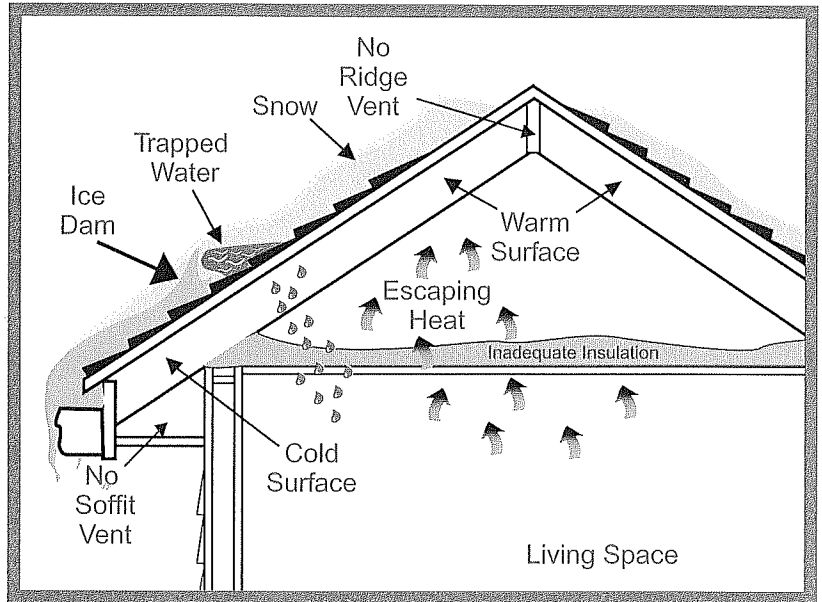
Ice dams are common wherever roofs can receive heavy snow buildups.

Snow acts like an insulation layer on the roof above the attic. If the home lacks proper insulation, the temperature in the attic rises.

Ice dams occur when snow melts on the roof above the warmed attic and water from the melting snow refreezes at the colder roof edge and soffit.

As the ice dam builds, the water from the melting snow begins to pool behind it and can eventually work up under the shingles and enter the attic. This can cause damage to the roof, ceilings, walls, and contents of the home. When the ceiling insulation becomes wet, it loses its insulation value, which can make the attic even warmer and make the ice dam condition worse. (Figure 1)

Figure 1



Ice Dam Formation Caused By:

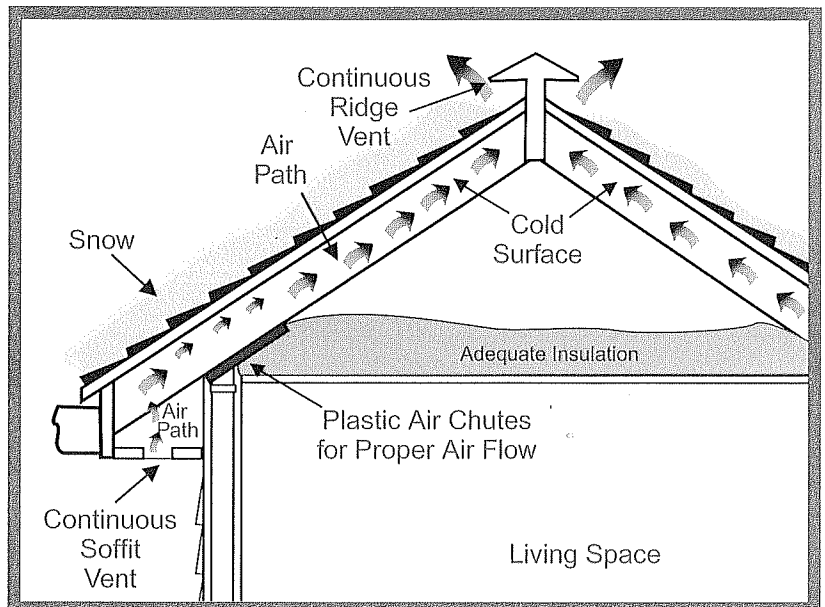
- No ridge vent
- No soffit vent
- Inadequate insulation

Preventative Measures

There are no guaranteed measures to take against the forming of ice dams. In addition to what Figure 2 shows, there are steps you can take that will greatly reduce the chances of an ice dam situation occurring:

- Each Fall, thoroughly clean all leaves, sticks and other debris from your home's gutters and downspouts. This will allow melting roof snow to flow into the gutters and through the downspouts.
- Once winter arrives, make every effort to keep the snow load on your roof to a minimum. There are long-handled devices on the market called "roof rakes" that allow users to stand on the ground and pull the snow from the roof. These devices are best suited for use on single story homes.
- During winter months, make sure gutters and downspouts are kept free of snow, ice buildup and the formation of icicles.
- Consult Quality Craft with any ice dam questions or concerns. It is important to rely on someone who has experience with ice dams to help prevent or repair them.

Figure 2



Ice Dam Prevented By:

- Continuous ridge vent
- Continuous soffit vent
- Adequate insulation

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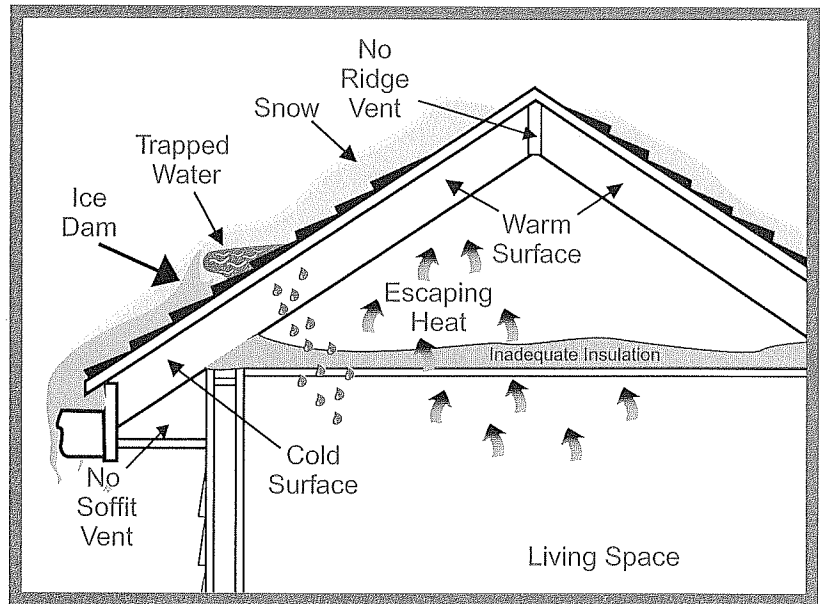
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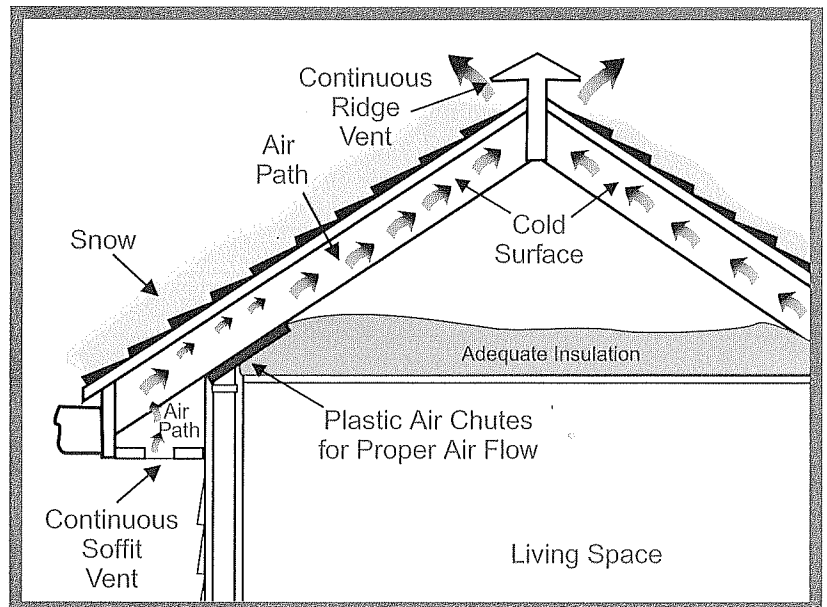
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