

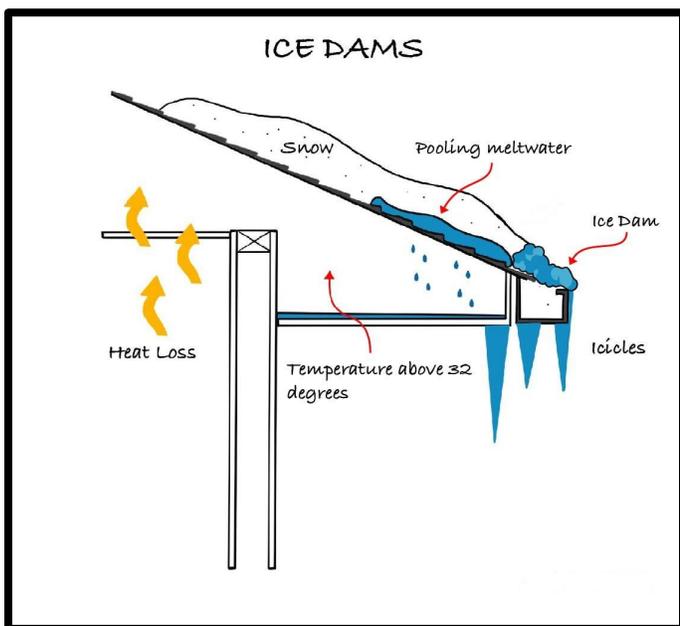
# Bullseye Bulletin

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## How to Prevent Ice Dams on Roof



### What is an Ice Dam?

Ice dams are created when the water freezes in the gutter area of a home. When the home is inadequately insulated, the warm air melts the snow and causes melting that has nowhere to go due to the ice dams blocking drainage. The water then backs-up under the shingles and into the structure, causing damage to ceilings, walls and other areas of the home.

Ice dams can be prevented by ensuring that your attic space has adequate insulation for the region you live in. For Oklahoma, it is suggested that attics have 10-14 inches of blown in insulation. If the heat can't escape into the attic space, the ice can't melt!

Another preventative measure that helps if ice dams are formed is to install ice and water shield around the exterior of your roof's edge, under your shingles. This material is sealed to the decking and allows 3 feet of protection up from the edge of your roof should water get under your shingles.

Step roof pitch also helps by gravity. The steeper the roof, the harder it is for water to travel UP under your shingles and penetrate your interior.

Overall, the best protection against ice dams is adequate insulation in the attic space. This not only keeps warm air out of the attic, it keeps the warm air in your home, creating a comfortable space.

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