



Scaling the heights for roof repairs

AP — There's Trouble, with a capital T, when rain doesn't drain off a roof quickly and efficiently.

That rain will penetrate the smallest hole created by a separation of flashing around a chimney, vent or skylight.

Roof leaks or poorly drained rain water can result in stained interior walls, ruined paint or wallpaper and eventual dry rot of structural lumber.

You really don't need fancy equipment for making rooftop repairs and for cleaning gutters and downspouts.

It takes a ladder tall enough to get you to the roof, a reliable sealer material, a bucket, garden hose, and a flexible cable known to plumbers as a "snake."

It also takes the common sense not to climb a ladder or do any roofing chores you might not be able to handle.

THE FIRST STEP is in examination of the flashing around the chimney, vent or other rooftop accessory.

Check carefully for a total seal along the seam between the flashing and the chimney, as well as the flashing around vents and adjoining shingles.

These seams open because of expansion and contraction caused by cold and warm weather. These structural movements also are the cause of loose shingles.

There are a number of sealers available for closing these seams. Most, however, need to be mixed and are heavy when hoisting up a ladder to the problem area.

One new caulking material is merely pressed in place. Available in a ribbon-like roll seven-sixteenths of an inch wide and 15 feet long, the caulk is applied by unrolling it to the required length over a flashing seam and cutting it with a sharp knife.

The caulk is then pressed into place with the fingertips.

ITS MANUFACTURER, 3M, says



Missing shingles don't necessarily mean reroofing is in order. It's best to contact a professional roofer.

this will form a tight, water-and-weather-resistant seal that will protect cracks and seams for 20 years.

Loose shingles can be secured by installing a strip of the caulk under the

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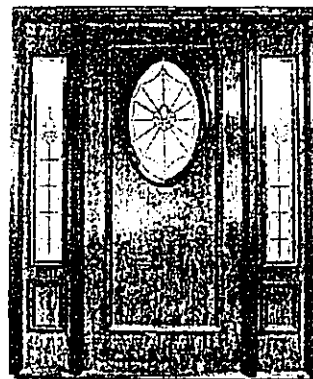
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