

# Reroofing involves more than choosing shingle colors

When it is time to replace their roof, most homeowners concern themselves with choosing an attractive style and leave the rest up to their contractor.

Because roof replacement requires a considerable investment, homeowners should know all the facts when discussing reroofing options with their contractor. A little knowledge can go a long way, especially when it comes to the life of your roof.

Take home ventilation for example, a topic directly affecting a home's roof. "We've found that many homeowners are unaware of the need for roof ventilation," said Marianne Horvat, director of marketing, Air Vent Inc., Peoria Heights, Ill., a leading manufacturer of ridge ventilation products. "For instance, an improperly ventilated attic can cause heat and moisture to become trapped under the roof's deck, which can result in damage to shingles and

the roof structure. Also, an unventilated attic can invalidate your shingle warranty."

Poor attic ventilation can also lead to ice dams. This occurs in the Snowbelt region when heat from the attic combined with heat from the sun melt snow on the roof and the resultant water flows down the roof and refreezes at the eaves. This ice build-up can distort gutters and cause water shingles, causing damage. As the ice begins to melt, water can leak behind wall cavities resulting in damage to ceilings and walls.

While there are many roof ventilation systems on the market, a balanced system of soffit and continuous ridge vents provides the most efficient ventilation method, according to Horvat.

Soffit vents, installed under the eaves of a home, provide an inlet of air flow. Ridge vents, installed across the entire roof's peak, or ridge, supply an outlet for air

flow. According to Horvat, this system aids in reducing heat build-up and excess moisture, and helps to keep the roof deck temperature uniform. Because ridge vents help keep roof decks cool in winter, they also help prevent ice dams, which leads to a longer-lasting roof.

"A ridge vent is a great system to use, but it must have an external baffle such as the kind built into Air Vent's ShingleVent II ridge vent to work most efficiently," said Horvat. A ridge vent, installed over a slot cut at the ridge of the roof, provides proper ventilation through two kinds of air movement: warm air rising in the attic and being expelled at the highest point in the roof; and wind passing over the ridge and creating negative pressure which pulls air and moisture out of the attic. The external baffle helps to create negative pressure by directing air up and over the vent.

According to Horvat, independent testing by Pittsburgh Testing Laboratories has concluded that ridge vent systems with internal baffles or no baffles do not create the desired negative air pressure essential in an efficient ventilation system.

ShingleVent II is a shingle-over ridge vent, which means the vent is covered with shingles so it blends with the roof. It provides 18 square inches of net free ventilation per linear foot. When used in combination with balanced soffit venting, ShingleVent II provides superior ventilation, equal to or greater than any other ridge vent in the industry.

ShingleVent II features a patented weather filter which provides a more complete barrier against weather and insect infiltration. According to Horvat, no other ridge vent manufacturer offers this weather filter and external baffle system combination.

The streamlined appearance of ShingleVent II provides an added benefit to homeowners. Compared to other ventilation systems such as roof or turbine vents, ridge vents blend naturally with the roof line, and from the ground are nearly invisible. ShingleVent II also comes with a 30-year limited transferable warranty.

"Put simply, installing a ridge vent system like ShingleVent II is a smart decision when re-roofing your home," said Horvat. "They're usually no more expensive to install than conventional ventilation systems."

Once you're familiar with ventilation options, it's important that your roofing contractor is, too. When selecting contractor to perform the work, the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) recommends that you prequalify the company to ensure the job is done right. The association offers a number of tips when

evaluating roofing contractors:

- 1) Check for a permanent place of business, tax identification number and where appropriate, a business license.
- 2) Insist on seeing copies of their liability coverage and workers' compensation certificates.
- 3) Look for a company with a proven track record that readily offers client references and a list of completed projects.
- 4) Call your local Better Business Bureau to check for possible complaints filed against the contractor.
- 5) Carefully read and understand any roof warranty offered and provisions that would void it.

For more information about ShingleVent II, any other Air Vent product or for a free copy of Air Vent's informational brochure, "Ridge Vent Airflow Performance Tests," write to: Air Vent Inc., 4801 N. Prospect Road, Peoria Heights, IL 61614; or call 800 247 8368.

# Create a distinctive exterior for your house with vinyl siding

If you're looking to re-side your house with a material that allows you to express personal style, consider vinyl.

Today's vinyl siding and accessories can help you achieve the house style of your dreams. You can recapture a house's historic past or invent a fresh, contemporary look. Vinyl is a practical choice, too, because it's durable, easy to maintain and works well with other building and landscaping materials such as brick, wood and stucco.

Wolverine Technologies of Livonia, a leading manufacturer of vinyl building products, has one of the industry's largest selections of siding styles, finishes, trim, accessories and colors. "When selecting siding for your home — whether to enhance your home's current look or give it a total makeover — remember that success is in the details," said Walter A. Hoyt, director of marketing. Details to consider include the style of the panel, exposure or profile width, texture, finish and accessories and colors.

If you seem to find the details overwhelming, don't fret. Hoyt recommends five helpful steps for creating a beautiful, customized house exterior.

1. Select a siding panel. A siding panel's profile refers to its silhouette, which can be flat or can have a shaped contour such as a beaded or banded edge. You should compare panel's exposures or profile widths, which typically range from three to eight inches. A panel's texture can be smooth or wood-grained. Wolverine siding features a low-gloss finish and looks like freshly painted clapboard, according to Hoyt.

For a classic look that's reflective of early American houses in seaboard states and quite popular today across the country, Wolverine offers its American Legend siding, available in three profiles

and 10 colors. American Legend features an exclusive design feature called Grip Lock that enables installers to "snap" panels together, creating a secure lock for increased stiffness, less sag and attractive installations, according to Hoyt.

2. Next, select trim elements, which include corner posts and window and door surrounds. Corner posts can be wide or narrow, flat or fluted with round or square edges, depending upon the style you wish to achieve.

3. Consider your accessory options, such as beaded panels for soffits, porch ceilings and exterior wallcovering. Vinyl lattice is low-maintenance and works well for exterior porches and stairs.

4. Think about dramatic accents such as fishscale shingles in round, square or octagonal shapes for gable and dormer areas. These shapes, traditionally used on Victorian-style houses, can add flair to any house style. You may also wish to apply siding diagonally on dormered areas or vertically for a striking touch.

5. Design with color. Hoyt recommends selecting a siding color that complements your existing roof. You can choose trim colors that complement or contrast with your siding. Select a monochromatic color scheme to enhance any style house from traditional to modern. For a more dramatic effect and to accentuate a house's details, use a contrasting trim color. To facilitate the color selection process, certified Wolverine dealers can provide you with an Exterior Color System guide which provides the opportunity to mix and match panel and trim colors.

For more information on Wolverine American Legend vinyl siding, Exterior Design System or any Wolverine product, call 1-800-452-2152 or write Wolverine Technologies, Product Information Specialists, 17199 Laurel Park Drive North, Livonia, MI 48162.

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