

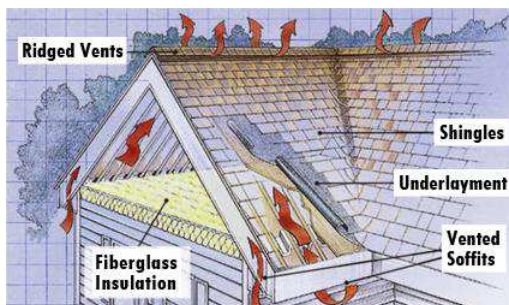
ROOFING PROBLEMS...HAVE YOU LOOKED IN YOUR ATTIC?

If you are like me, the most time I spend in the attic is around the holidays when I am taking out decorations or putting them away for the season. Unfortunately, the attic's function is for more than just a place to store holiday decorations. It may surprise you to find that many problems associated with your roof could be directly related to your attic. Often we don't think of peeling paint on the outside of our home being the result of poor attic ventilation, or roof and siding decay being the result of our attics. However, the place that we are storing all those decorations for the holidays may not only be functioning improperly, but may cause us to have to replace the roofs on our homes.

WHEN IS IT TIME TO REPLACE YOUR ROOF? Some common roofing problems are listed below to help you determine if it may be time to call on a roofing professional.

1. **Missing, cracked or curling shingles** – POSSIBLE CAUSE - shingles may have reached the end of their useful life.
2. **Excessive energy costs** – POSSIBLE CAUSE - insufficient attic ventilation which causes heating and cooling systems to run excessively.
3. **Dark, "dirty-looking" areas on your roof** – POSSIBLE CAUSE - there is vegetation, fungus or algae growth on your roof, or a loss of granules due to the age of the shingles.
4. **Leakage in attic after driving rain** – POSSIBLE CAUSE – leaky or inadequate shingle underlayment or deteriorated flashing.
5. **Stains on interior ceilings and walls or mold and mildew growth** – POSSIBLE CAUSE – inadequate or faulty shingle underlayment allowing leakage, or inadequate ventilation.
6. **Roof shingle, sheathing and siding decay** – POSSIBLE CAUSE – poor attic ventilation.
7. **Blistering and/or peeling of outside paint** – POSSIBLE CAUSE – excessive moisture or high humidity due to poor attic ventilation.

FOUR OF THE PROBLEMS LISTED ABOVE have to do with proper ventilation in the attic. The part of the house that is probably overlooked even more than the roof is the attic. The average person spends little to no time in this space. A properly ventilated attic is crucial for maintaining energy efficiency, moisture control in your home, and extending the life of your roof. **It is very important to make sure that air can flow freely from your soffit to your ridge.**



At first it may seem odd to add insulation for warmth and then purposely allow cold air to enter the attic through vents, but this combination is the key to a durable and energy-efficient home. In the Wisconsin winters, allowing a natural flow of outdoor air to ventilate the attic helps keep it cold, **which reduces** the potential for ice damming (snow that melts off a roof from an attic that is too warm and then re-freezes at the gutters, causing an ice dam that can damage the roof). Proper insulation and air sealing also keeps attics cold in winter by blocking the entry of heat and moist air from below. In the hot summer months, natural air flow, in a well-vented attic moves super-heated air out of the attic, **protecting roof shingles** and removing moisture.

If you are experiencing roofing problems, it **may be** your attic ventilation that is to blame. The best thing to do is to call on a professional. Make certain that the company you call has a good reputation (what is their **BBB** rating? Are they a part of **NARI** or other credible organizations?). Make sure the company is willing to share references with you, and is willing to allow you to speak with prior customers about their work. Make sure that the company you hire is insured, is state certified, has been installing roofs for a long time, has specialized/trained workers to do the job, and can deliver superb customer service.

We want to make sure that the part of your home that is thought about the **LEAST**, is doing the **MOST** to keep the roof over your head safe and sound.