

# HOUSING

The  
Portland  
Observer

## Re-Roofing Involves More Than Choosing Right Shingle Color

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 re-roofing 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 un-ventilated 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 settle under roof 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



Homeowners planning to re-roof their homes should consider a ridge ventilation system, such as ShingleVent® II, from Air Vent Inc., Peoria Heights, IL. ShingleVent II has been proven to provide superior attic ventilation to help prolong the roof's life and keep weather and insects from infiltrating the home. The product's low ridge profile blends naturally with the roof line and from ground level, is virtually invisible.

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 virtually 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 a 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.

## Appliances Still A Great Buy In Today's Inflationary World

When it comes to redoing your home, your remodeling dollar goes a long way when you use it to purchase new laundry equipment, say Whirlpool home economists.

The Consumer Price Index, a monthly listing put out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showing the comparative costs of those day-to-day items that people buy, indicates that washers and dryers have gone up in price only a fraction of what other consumer items have over the years.

For example, college tuition went up a whopping 122.2% between December 1984 and December 1994. During the same period, fees for cable television went up 83.7% and the price for the average newspaper increased by 61.4%.

Laundry equipment prices, on the other hand, say the Whirlpool home economists, have only gone up 6.4% over the past 10 years. In fact, in terms of how many work hours it takes a person to earn the money to buy a piece of laundry equipment, it actu-

ally takes less time today than it did in 1970. Back then, it would have taken 71.3 hours on the job in order to afford the average automatic washer. In 1993, it took less than half that - 32.5 hours.

Dryers have also become a better

buy over time. In 1970, buying an electric dryer meant 50.5 hours on the job, while a gas dryer took 57.9 hours. By 1993, though, the price to be paid had dropped to only about 27 hours for either dryer.

So, with inflation, you're actually getting more washer and dryer for your dollar today than you did a decade ago! And, that doesn't even take

into account all the improvements - like reduced energy consumption, quieter operation and better cleaning performance - that have been made in laundry equipment over the years.

So, if you're looking at ways to stretch your remodeling or home improvement dollar, look to a new washer or dryer. It's a best buy!

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