July 2025

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Viking CertainTeed Cold Weather Tips and Tricks

Version: 1.0

INTRO

Installing asphalt shingles in cold weather presents unique challenges that can affect the performance, durability, and warranty of your roofing system. When temperatures drop below 4°C, shingles become less flexible, adhesives may not activate properly, and wind or ice can compromise the integrity of the installation.

This guide is designed to help roofing professionals understand the best practices for cold weather installation. It covers everything from material handling and surface preparation to nailing patterns and sealing techniques—ensuring your roof performs reliably through the harshest conditions.

The ideal temperature range to install CertainTeed shingles is between 10°C to 29°C. If you're installing at cooler temperatures (below 10°C), here are our suggested steps.

Best Time to Install
Ideally, wait until spring to install. If that's not possible, only proceed on days when temperatures are 10oC and consistently rising.

Peel and Stick Adhesion Tips in Cold or Windy Conditions
If your Peel-and-Stick Underlayment membrane isn't adhering properly, it's likely due to cold temperatures, wind, or both.

Cold Weather Tips

a) Below 10°C, the bitumen adhesive in Peel-and-Stick Underlayment membrane becomes less tacky. You'll need to hand nail carefully. Cut the roll into manageable lengths (3–5 meters), and make sure side laps are at least 90mm and end laps are at least 150mm. Just like with waterproofing, ensure laps are facing the correct direction.

b) Preheating the rolls overnight in a warm-room or heatbox to between 10–29°C improves adhesion. Keep in mind that the roof deck may still be colder than the air, so a few nails might still be needed to help manage the roll—especially if one end cools before it sticks. Also, heat the lap joints and roll them firmly – do not use any type of flame torch to heat lap joints.

Windy Conditions

Use primer adhesive SES301 to help hold the membrane in place during windy installations.

Note: These are temporary measures. As the roof warms up, the adhesive bond will strengthen and become more permanent.

Handling Shingles in Cold Weather

Bitumen is viscoelastic—it softens with heat and hardens in the cold. Forcing cold shingles into shape can cause cracking, which may lead to leaks. Over driving Nails into cold shingles my also cause them to crack. While CertainTeed shingles with ClimateFlex are more flexible in cold weather, it's still best to warm them up before use. Here are three easy ways to do that:

a) Lay the unopened bundles out on the roof or ground and let the sun naturally warm it.

b) Store the pallet in a garage or enclosed space with a heater running overnight. Only bring out packs as needed.

c) Use a warming blanket, ideally on unstacked packs, for more even heating.

Sealant Strips in Cold Weather

Sealant strips don't activate properly in low temperatures, which can cause shingles to lift—leading to potential blow-offs and leaks. Here's how to prevent that:

a) Hand-seal each shingle tab with a compressed 25mm spots of pitched roofing sealant.

b) Warm shingles before installation.

c) Install during the warmest part of the day whenever possible.

Nail Blow-Through & Underdriven Nails

Cold shingles combined with incorrect nail gun pressure can lead to poor fastening, increasing the risk of wind damage. To avoid this:

a) Adjust nail-gun pressure as needed throughout the job.

b) In extreme cold, consider hand-nailing.

c) Aim to work with materials warmed to between 10–29°C for best results.

Hip and Ridge Caps

Hip and ridge caps will crack if forcefully folded over the peak at less than 10°C. Hip and ridge caps cannot be installed until all individual caps are heated enough to freely fold over the peak.

a) Never use any type of flame torch to heat caps.

b) In most installations, tightly fitted shingles at all hips along with installing ridge vents create a near watertight roof. Installation of Hip and Ridge caps may be able to be delayed until ambient temperatures rise.

c) Hand sealing also required for the hip and ridge caps.

Ice Dams & Water Intrusion

Improper sealing at eaves and valleys, along with ice buildup on flat roof sections, can cause water to back up under the shingles. Prevent this by:

a) Using Peel-and-Stick Underlayment membrane at eaves, valleys, and flat areas.

b) Improving attic ventilation and insulation.

c) Hand-sealing all vulnerable areas thoroughly.

Uneven Appearance

Cold shingles may not lay flat, which can affect the roof's appearance and lead to curling at the corners. To manage this:

a) Allow shingles to warm and relax before installation.

b) Let clients know that minor unevenness may self-correct as temperatures rise.

Caution: Important Reminder

In cold weather, all shingles must be installed with six nails and hand sealed. This ensures better adhesion while waiting for the roof temperature to rise and helps prevent blow-offs.

Always ensure all nails are correctly driven. Overdriven or underdriven nails will affect the durability of the shingles.

Hand sealing works in conjunction with the factory applied adhesive. It is critical to ensure that all hand applied adhesive sealant is properly compressed 25mm spots and is located adjacent to factory applied adhesive. If not done correctly the factory applied adhesive is unable to bond shingle surfaces once ambient temperatures rise. This will result in poor wind uplift performance.