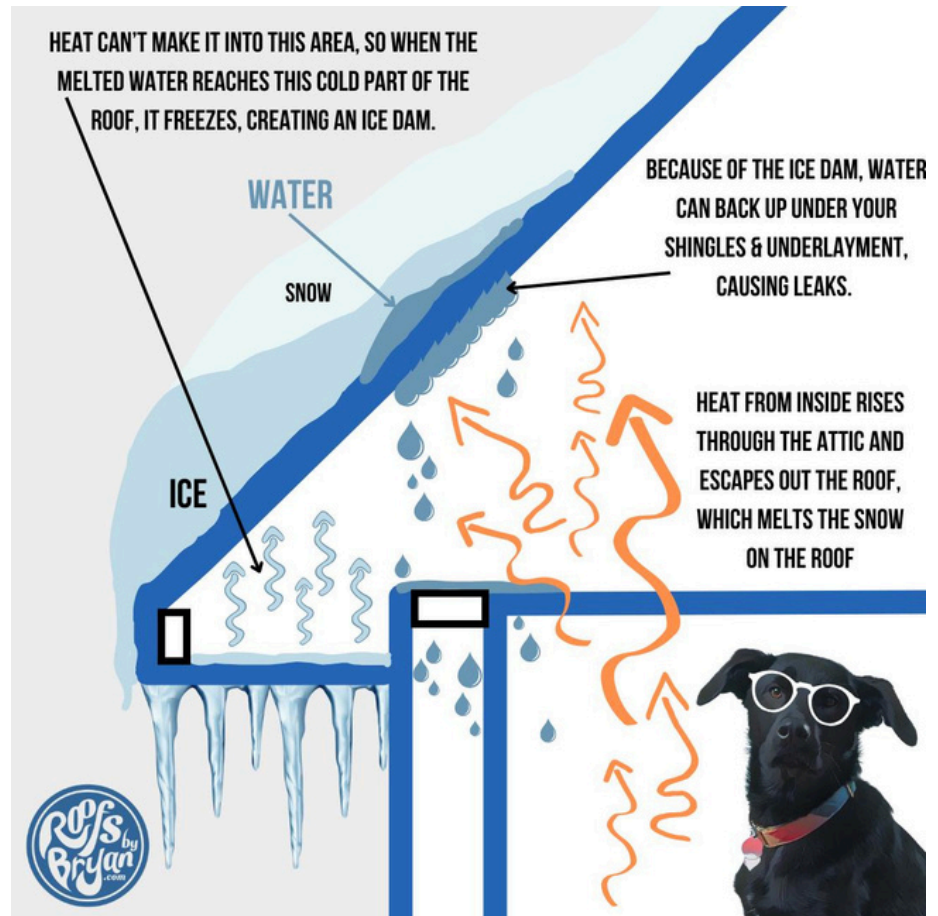


# A New Roof Won't Prevent Ice Dams

## What is an ice dam?

When snow melts and refreezes along your roof edge, water can back up under shingles and find its way inside your home. It's not a roofing issue, it's a ventilation and insulation issue. But mostly it's just a "fun" side effect of living in WNY during the winter.



## How can we help?

That's just it – we may be able to **help**, but we are **not able to stop** ice damming from happening at your home. When you get a roof inspection from us, we check your roof's ventilation. If it can be improved, we will make suggestions (such as adding ventilated soffits, ridge vents, etc.). We've worked on projects before where we've coordinated with a customer's insulation company so that they can add insulation while the roof is off. We can also provide a quote for installing heating cables.

# Shouldn't my ice & water shield protect me from ice dams?

Roof and gutters are meant to support the flow of water – they aren't designed to hold it. This is why ice dams can be dangerous for your home. When the water is not flowing off your roof and through your gutters, it is pooling. This can lead to heavy ice chunks in your gutters that can rip them off, or leaks from water backing up under your shingles.

Your shingles are held in place by nails, which puncture the underlayment. While the ice & water shield is a very thick and strong underlayment, it's not a pool liner – it is still permeable. It prevents a lot of water from getting into your house, but when there is a lot of water pooled up there, it will find a place to go (including through the nail holes).

## What to do if an ice dam forms?

Break it up ASAP. We recommend calling a company with a steam machine. If you feel like you can safely clear the snow and ice from the edges of your roof (perhaps with a roof rake), that should help as well.

### How to prevent ice dams?

- Roof rake
- Heating cables
- Check your insulation
- Move?

Try to keep your eaves clear of snow so that it doesn't turn into ice. You can use a roof rake or heat cables to do this. If snow becomes too unmanageable, or turns into ice, give us a call to see what removal services we are offering.

REPLACEMENTS  
REPAIRS  
GIVE US A CALL!

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