

Question: I plan on re-shingling my roof this summer which leads me to a two part question. A) How much overhang should I allow for the shingles over the edge of the roof? B) Will ice and water shield prevent leaking caused by ice damming in the valleys and at the eaves of my roof ?

Shingles should overhang 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch past the edge of the roof, or fascia board as is commonly referred to. Any more than this will cause the shingle to curl down over the fascia board, crack and age prematurely. Remember to put a starter strip under the first row of shingles. A starter strip is a regular shingle installed backwards. In answer to your second question, yes. Ice and water shield is a tar type membrane that significantly reduces leakages in valleys and eaves when properly installed. With certain complex shingled roofs; with continuous leaking problems, I would, and have in the past, recommend ice and water shield on the entire roof. Better to spend a little extra now as a precaution rather than what could be a significant expense for interior water damage later. . We have the technology to stop leaking shingled roofs..... so lets use it !!

Peter Weeks has been a Chelsea resident for 15 years. As a general contractor since 1988, he has been doing residential home inspections for about one year. He is an associate member of OAHI (Ontario Association of Home Inspectors), CAHPI (Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors) and a member of the BBB. He is a fully Qualified and Fully Liscenced Inspector. Forward your question to , Peter at pwhi@sympatico.ca or by phone at 290.3697.