



# Proper Installation of APA Rated Sheathing for Roof Applications

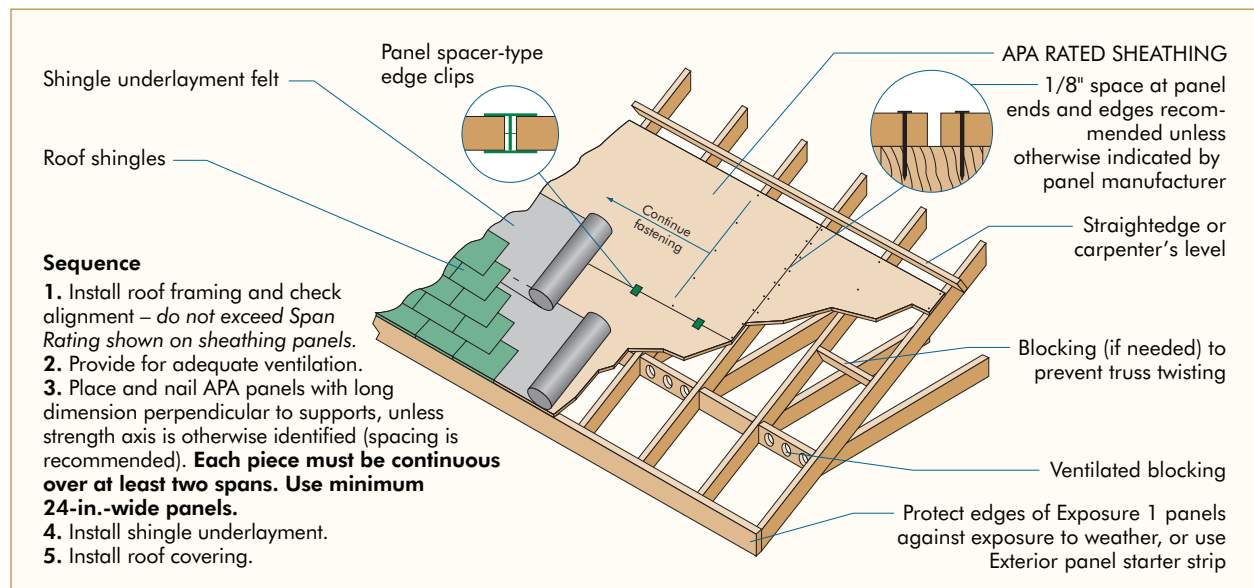
Like all construction materials, APA Rated Sheathing panels must be installed correctly to insure best performance. Nearly all roof sheathing complaints are due to incorrect installation. Following these simple construction steps will provide best performance and minimize complaint callbacks.

**STEP 1.** Always check for level nailing surface. This can be done with a piece of lumber (6 feet to 10 feet long) or a long carpenter's level. Trusses or rafters should be shimmed as necessary to provide a level nailing surface. If top chords of trusses or rafters are warped or bowed, install blocking to straighten.

**STEP 2.** Provide roof ventilation according to building codes (see *hints* below and illustration on next page).

**Ventilation hints:** **1)** Minimum net free ventilation area of 960 square inches for each 1,000 square feet of ceiling area is required. When 50 percent to 80 percent of vents are located near peak or along ridge and the balance are located at eaves or soffits for maximum air flow, or when a vapor barrier having a transmission rate of 1 perm or less is installed on the warm-in-winter side of the ceiling, free vent area may be reduced (minimum 480 square inches per 1,000 square feet).\* **2)** Vent exhaust air from kitchens and bath to outdoors with vent pipes that run through the roof cavity or attic to roof ventilators. **Do not vent exhaust air directly into roof cavity or attic.** **3)** Install baffles providing a minimum of 1 inch of clear space between framing and/or under roof sheathing at eaves to insure that ceiling or roof insulation does not block ventilation paths. For vaulted or cathedral roof construction, provide free ventilation path from eaves to ridge between all rafters.

**STEP 3.** Panels should be fastened with a minimum of 8d common (0.131 inch x 2-1/2 inches) nails spaced at a maximum of 6 inches on center at supported panel ends and edges. At intermediate supports, fasten panels 12 inches on center. In high wind areas more fasteners may be required. Fasteners should be 3/8 inch from panel ends and 3/8 inch from

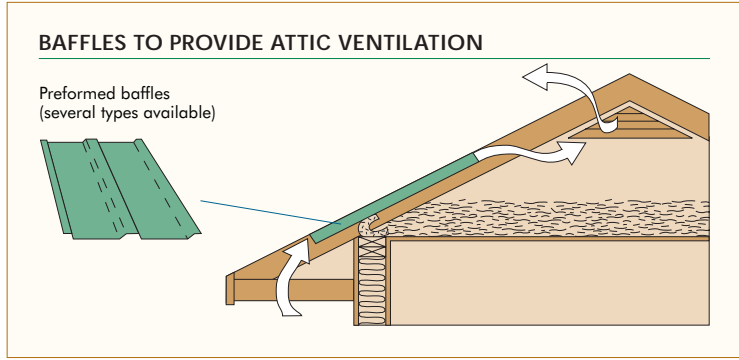


\*See Section R806.2 of the 2006 International Residential Code or Section 1203.2 of the 2006 International Building code for more details.



panel edges (see *hints* below). For pitched roofs wear skid-resistant shoes. Place screened surface of panel or side with skid-resistant coating up.

**Fastening hints:** 1) Position panel. Use temporary fasteners at corners if needed to square panel on framing. 2) Install fasteners at one panel end. 3) Remove temporary fasteners at corners. 4) Install intermediate fasteners, starting at panel edge. Use chalk line or straight edge to align fasteners on framing. Fasten panels in rows across the width, continuing this sequence along the length of the panel. This procedure keeps internal stress from accumulating in panels. 5) Stand on panel over framing near the fastener location to insure contact with framing while driving fasteners. Fasteners should be driven flush with the panel surface. 6) For improved performance, consider thicker roof sheathing panels, panel edge clips, or panels with tongue-and-groove edges. 7) When installing panels, a 1/8-inch space between adjacent panel end and edge joints is recommended, unless panel manufacturer indicates otherwise. Check building code requirements for installation of panel edge clips. Edge clip requirements depend on the relationship of the panel Span Rating to the actual distance between roof framing.



**Spacing hints:** Use a 10d box (0.113 inch x 2-1/2 inches) nail as a spacer to gauge 1/8-inch edge and end spacing between panels. Spacer-type panel edge clips are available from some manufacturers. If necessary, trim panel ends to center on framing.

**STEP 4.** Cover sheathing with shingle underlayment felt as soon as possible to minimize roof sheathing exposure to weather, unless otherwise recommended by sheathing manufacturer.

**Roofing hints:** Use shingle underlayment felt conforming to ASTM D 226 or ASTM D 4869, or check roofing manufacturer’s recommendations if delays are anticipated during construction. Remove wrinkles and flatten surface of shingle underlayment before installing asphalt or fiberglass shingles.

**STEP 5.** Install shingles according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

**Shingle hints:** If using asphalt or fiberglass shingles, postpone shingle installation as long as possible. This will provide time for roof sheathing to adjust to humidity and moisture conditions. For best appearance, use heavier weight shingles, or laminated or textured shingles. This will mask surface imperfections and reduce the risk of shingle ridging.

**Additional Information**

For more complete information, refer to [apawood.org](http://apawood.org) for the following literature:

- *Engineered Wood Construction Guide*, Form E30.
- *How to Minimize Buckling of Asphalt Shingles*, Form K310.
- *Condensation – Causes and Control*, APA Technical Note X485.

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