

# ICE DAMS



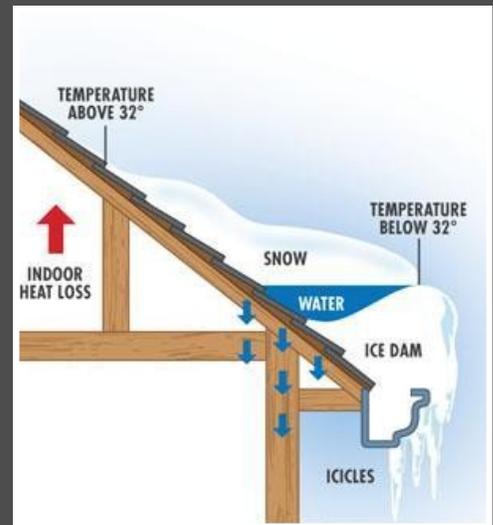
## Why are my new windows or doors leaking?

### THE ANSWER: ICE DAMS

An ice dam is a build up of ice along the edge of a roof and in the gutters that prevents snow from properly melting and draining off. Ice dams are the result of snow, on a section of the roof warmer than 32°F, melting then refreezing along the edges colder than 32°F.

### WHY NOW?

Heat is no longer escaping through old windows and/or doors first. Without the old escape route, heat now leaks into the inadequately insulated and ventilated attic.



### WATER DAMAGE

The leaking is a result of water trapped between the unmelted snow and the ice dam (see image, above). Without another escape route, the water works its way under the shingles and into the house. From the attic, the water finds its way into the walls or ceiling, down to your new windows and/or doors.



### WHAT NOT TO DO

Trying to chip away at the ice from the outside is dangerous for both your roof and yourself. Throwing salt on your roof is more harmful to your nearby plants than to the ice. A permanent fix includes proper insulation, air sealing and ventilation.



### WHAT CAN I DO?

You can diminish the ice dam by filling the leg of discarded pair of panty hose with a calcium chloride ice melter. Lay the hose on the roof across the ice dam but overhanging the gutter (see image, right). The calcium chloride will eventually melt through the snow and ice to create a channel for water to flow down into the gutters or off the roof.

Call Comfort for more information regarding a Home Energy Audit or a free in-home insulation estimate.



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