

# Staples Vs. Nails For Shingle Applications

## Steep Slope Technical Point

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# Steep Slope Technical Point

TO: Steep Slope Sales Team,  
GAF Contractors, GAF  
Distributors.

FROM: Contractor Services

DATE: 05/27/11

No: 132-11

## SUBJECT: *Staples Vs. Nails For Shingle Applications*

<p><i>Are Staples Recommended As Fasteners For Asphalt Shingles?</i></p>	<p>Staples are not recommended by GAF and most industry organizations...Staples made of at least 16-gauge galvanized steel with a minimum crown of 15/16" have been and continue to be used by some applicators to install shingles. If staples are used to install GAF shingles, our limited shingle warranty will remain in effect. However any problems resulting from the use of staples, including wind blow-off, are not covered by the warranty.</p>
<p><i>What Should Be Used?</i></p>	<p>To fasten GAF shingles to acceptable decks... use zinc coated steel or aluminum; 10-12 gauge; smooth, barbed or deformed shank roofing nails with heads 3/8" to 7/16" in diameter. The nails must be long enough to penetrate at least 3/4" into wood decks or just through plywood or OSB decks.</p>
<p><i>Does Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Recognize the Use Of Staples?</i></p>	<p>UL, which historically used staples for wind speed testing... up to 60 mph, did so only because properly installed staples had no bearing on wind performance up to those speeds. Since building codes have been increasingly requiring the use of nails, specifically for high- wind areas, UL has begun to perform its higher wind speed testing only using nails. Many current UL wind listings are based on using nails.</p>
<p><i>What About Building Codes?</i></p>	<p>Most local building codes do not permit the use of staples... to install shingles. It is the responsibility of the roofing contractor or specifier to verify that the use of staples conforms to local building code requirements.</p>
<p><i>Where Can I Get More Information?</i></p>	<p>Yes. GAF Technical Services can assist you... with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF Technical Services can be contacted at 800-ROOF-411 (800-766-3411). Also, <i>the GAF website is a great resource</i> for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. That site is at: <a href="http://www.gaf.com">www.gaf.com</a>.</p>

