



**Asphalt Shingle Re-Roofing**  
CITY OF HIGHLAND BUILDING DIVISION  
27215 BASELINE, HIGHLAND, CA 92346  
(909) 864-8732

BULLETIN

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**How many layers can I cover my roof with?**

**California Building Code Section 1510.3** states that new roof coverings shall not be installed without first removing all existing layers of roof coverings where any of the following conditions occur:

1. Where the existing roof or roof covering is water soaked or has deteriorated to the point that the existing roof or roof coverings is not adequate as a base for additional roofing.
2. Where the existing roof covering is wood shake, slate, clay or cement or asbestos cement tile.
3. Where the existing roof has two or more applications of any type of roof covering.

**Can I use my existing sheathing, and if not, what type of sheathing will I need?**

You can use your existing sheathing as long as it is in good condition, any damaged sheathing must be replaced prior to re-roofing. A minimum ½-inch exterior rated plywood is required on all sheathing replacements. Existing 3/8-inch sheathing may be allowed to remain if it is in good condition, and can support the weigh of the new roofing material.

**Will I need to apply a layer of roof felt prior to applying the new shingles?**

You will need to apply 2 layers of non-perforated Type 15 felt when placing the new roofing directly on the sheathing, and when the roof slope is between 2:12 and 4:12. Only 1 layer of no perforated type 15 felt is required when placing the new roof directly on the sheathing, and when the roof slope is 4:12 and over.

**What types of inspections will be completed, and when should I call for them?**

If you will be covering over your existing shingles, you will be required to have a roof Pre-inspection prior to performing any work. During this inspection we will verify that the roof is sound and verify the number of existing layers of shingles.

If you will be stripping off the existing roof and exposing the sheathing, you will be required to obtain a Roof Nail inspection in place of the Roof Pre-inspection. During this inspection we will verify that the existing sheathing is in good condition, and that any areas where sheathing has been replaced was done so properly. We will also be verifying that the nailing that is holding down the sheathing is done properly and per code (6 inches on center on the edges of the panels 12 inches on center in the field of the panels, using a minimum 8d nail). Once the re-roof is completely finished, the last inspection you will need is a Final. During this inspection we will verify that the roof and flashings were installed properly, that all roof vents caps have been replaced and that all exposed plastic piping have been painted.

During all roofing inspections, a ladder must be supplied for the inspector. The ladder shall extend at least 3 feet above the roof, and shall be tied to the structure. For roofs structures that are greater than 18 feet above grade, a safety harness and tether shall be provided for the Inspector per California Occupational Safety and Health requirements.

**My current shingles are not made of asphalt. Can I still cover over them with asphalt shingles?**

You may cover over the following existing roofing materials with asphalt shingles within the limits of the material listing: Built Up Roofing, Wood Shingles, Asphalt Shingles and Modified Bitumen. You may not place asphalt shingles over the following types of roofing materials: Wood Shakes, Concrete/ Clay tiles and Metal Roofs.