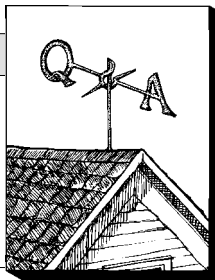


# Are Two Roofs Too Many?

by Hank Spies



## Roof Rehab

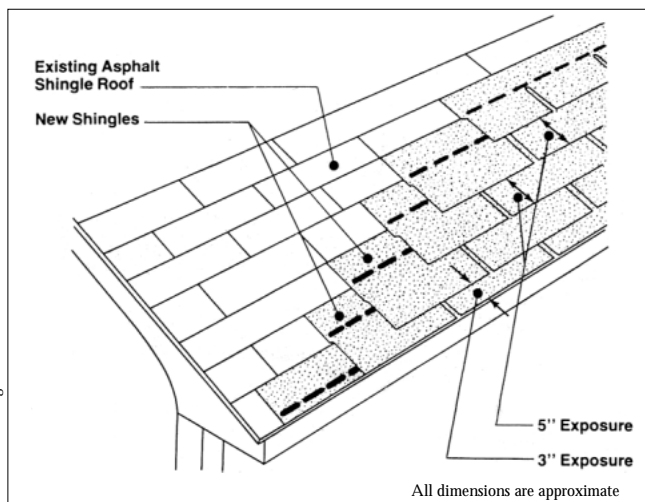
**Q.** Will putting a second asphalt-shingle roof onto an existing roof lower the life expectancy of the new roof? I have heard that the wavy patterns created by the first roof let in heat and moisture that can reduce the life of a roof by as much as seven years.

**A.** Properly installed, the second layer of asphalt shingles should last as long as the first layer. The new layer should be as smooth as the first and should have no wavy patterns as long as this application procedure is followed (see illustration below): The

## Replacing Rotted Wood

**Q.** We're working on a crawspace with severely rotted sills, band joists, and joist ends. The crawspace is unvented and has a bath fan venting into it. We plan to add ventilation and repair the damaged framing by replacing parts and sistering others. Should we remove or treat all rotted wood to ensure that the decay does not continue? What treatment is effective?

**A.** It is not necessary to remove the rotted wood. Just keep the crawspace dry. The usual procedure in cases such as this is to remove as much of the sill



When installing a second layer of asphalt shingles, placing the top edge of the new against the butt of the old will help produce a smooth, unwavy roof.

tabs of the new shingles for the starter course are cut away, leaving head portions as wide as the exposure of the original shingles (usually 5 inches). Two inches are cut off the top edge of full-width shingles for the first course. The cut edge is aligned with the butt edge of the old shingles. Full-width shingles are used for the second and remaining courses, with the top edge of each shingle placed against the butt of the old shingle. This will reduce the exposure of the first course, but that is usually not noticeable from the ground, especially if there is a gutter along the eaves.

## What's Up?

**Q.** How should plank decking be laid, with the heart side of the board up or down? Or does it make a difference?

**A.** Both the Southern Forest Products Association (SFPA) and Koppers Company now recommend installing decking with the bark side up. This is contrary to recommendations that have been around for years. SFPA currently is sponsoring research at Mississippi State University to determine if there is a difference or if we have all been victims of an old wives' tale.

as necessary to slide a new sill onto the foundation. Then sister the floor joists. The band joist doesn't have to be repaired unless it is needed as a nailer for the siding, since it is not structural. A plastic ground cover should be installed over the dirt surface in the crawspace to control evaporation of water into the house. If you wish to treat the rotted wood to prevent further decay, the only effective product that is approved for application without a permit is copper naphthenate (such as green Cuprinol).

## Wood for Bridges

**Q.** Will using pressure-treated (PT) wood for a foot bridge over a stream create an environmental hazard? I have noticed that PT posts often are used for guardrails on roads near rivers and streams.

**A.** CCA-treated wood, graded and quality-marked for direct burial, will create no known environmental hazard. Penta-treated or creosoted material, however, always should be avoided. ■

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