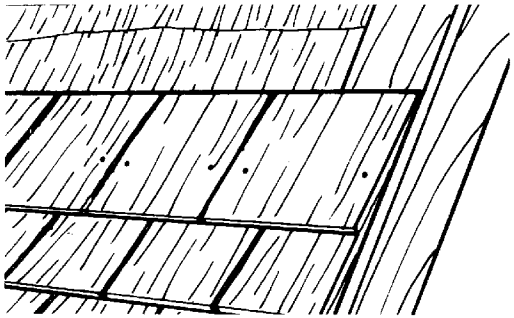
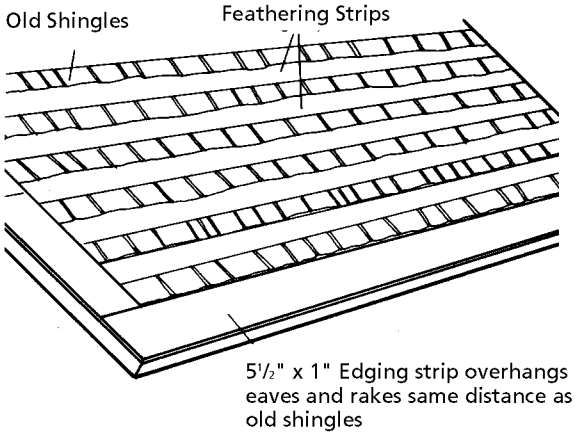


Fasten the new shingles on top of the old shingles. Use the old shingles to align the new ones. Nails are 5d rust-resistant for shingles.



For high wind areas, remove 5-1/2 inches of old wood shingles around perimeter. Drawing shows how siding is used to make roof uniform. Butt wide edge of siding to butts of shingles.

Remove all loose and protruding nails, and hammer new nails in different spots than the old nails. Renail any loose shingles, and replace the missing ones with similar shingle material. This does not have to be a perfect job, since the main purpose is to provide a uniform surface. If you can't find an exact replacement, do the best you can.

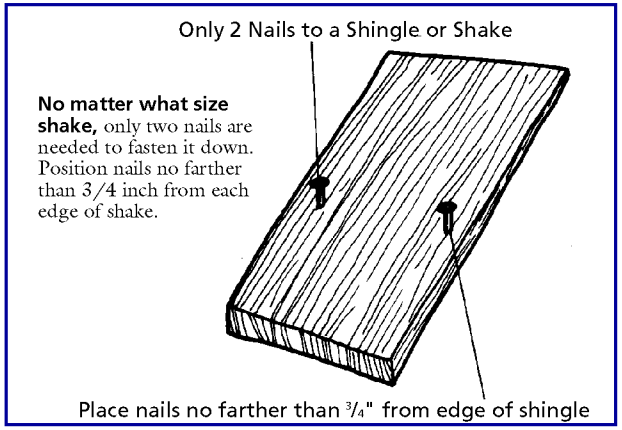
Badly warped or curled shingles should be split in sections, and each section nailed down separately. Any individual shingles that are badly deteriorated should be removed and replaced.

If you reside in an area where high winds are prevalent, it's smart to remove badly weathered shingles from the rakes and eaves. Cut off the shingles 5-1/2 inches from each edge, and replace with nominal 1X6-inch lumber. If necessary, cut back shingles to fit in the lumber. Add strips to the sides, also, as shown in the illustrations. Use strips of beveled siding and butt the wide edges against the bottoms of the shingle courses, with the thin edges against the top edges of the course below. The siding will "feather out" the surface so that the new roofing will lay flat. Before applying the new roof, sweep up all debris on the roof surface.

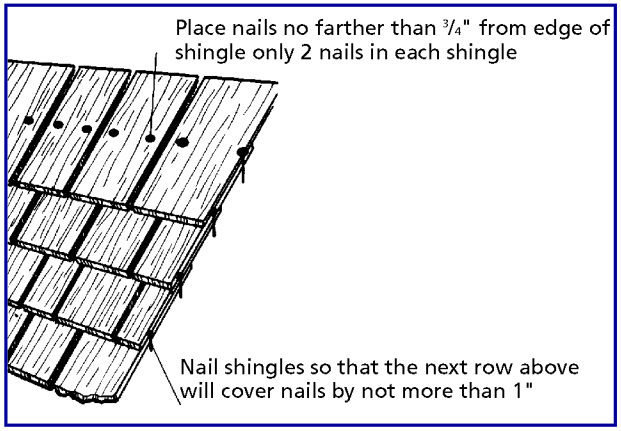
If the roof is in bad shape, we recommend that the shingles be stripped from the roof and new singles applied from scratch. A crowbar is the best tool for removing shingles and shakes, using the curved end to pull up the shingles and also to remove the nails. This is easier than bending over and pulling with a hammer. You also can try using a flat tiling spade to remove the shingles, but we think the crowbar is best.

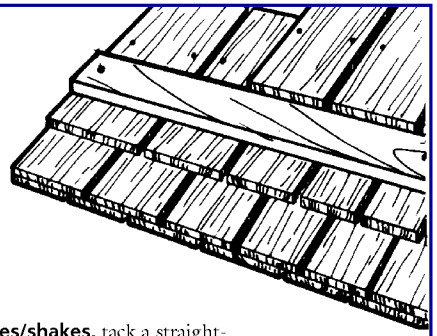
LAYING THE SHINGLES/SHAKES

If the old shingle courses are straight, you can use them to help align the new ones. Otherwise, snap a chalkline with a horizontal line for each shingle course. Tack a long piece of straight 1X4, with a nail protruding slightly at each end, flush to the butt line of each course. Set the bottom of each shingle at the top of the 1X4. Move the 1X4 up for each course.



No matter what size shake, only two nails are needed to fasten it down. Position nails no farther than 3/4 inch from each edge of shake.



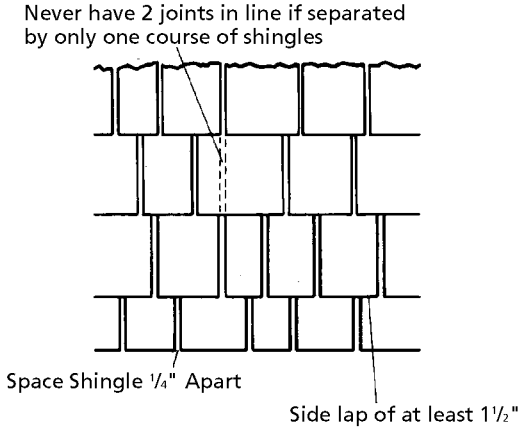


To align shingles/shakes, tack a straight-edge 1X4 along a horizontal chalkline.

In re-roofing, the sizes of the nails usually are 5d for shingles and 8d for shakes. Do not drive the nailheads into the shingles, but just to the surface (see illustrations).

The courses are nailed at the proper exposure with the joints offset at least 1-1/2 inches from the joints of the previous course. If you are using a roofer's hatchet, set the sliding gauge to the same distance as the exposure so that you can quickly check exposure dimension as you work. As you start a new course, tack the 1X4 along the horizontal chalkline and butt the shingle edges against it for easy alignment. Use the head of the hatchet for nailing, and the blade to split the shingles when necessary. If you don't have a hatchet, use a hammer and saw.

Specially cut ridge shingles are the easiest to apply at the ridge of the roof. But you can make your own Boston Hip ridge. We recommend getting special ridge shingles, since the two sides of the ridge should be beveled snugly against each other and must be sawed or planed to the proper angle.



Space wood shingles 1/4 inch apart. In succeeding courses, leave a gap of at least 1-1/2 inches between the joints of the shingles.

Each course should be nailed with alternately facing overlaps. In short, first the right-hand shingle overlaps the left one, then the left one overlaps the right, and so forth. Double the first ridge or hip shingle. Succeeding shingles take the same exposure as for field shingles.

With shakes, start with a double layer for the first course. Stagger the shake joints in the upper layer of the first course, relative to the joints of the layer below. The first course should project over the eaves by 1 to 2 inches. Put a strip of roofing felt over the top edges of the first course of shakes. Then lay the shakes as you would shingles, checking the alignment as you go.

CONSTRUCTION DATA

If you must work on the new roof, use boards as a walk-way. You should always wear soft-soled shoes during application. Never wear hob-nailed shoes.

Because hand-split shakes come thicker than ordinary roofing materials, butt lines at eaves shed water runoff across a slightly wider area. Use of wider guttering than usual will reduce splashing and runoff. For handsplit shakes 3/4-inch thick or less, use 5 inch gutter widths. For thicker shakes, 6 inch gutters are recommended. Use treated or painted wood gutters.

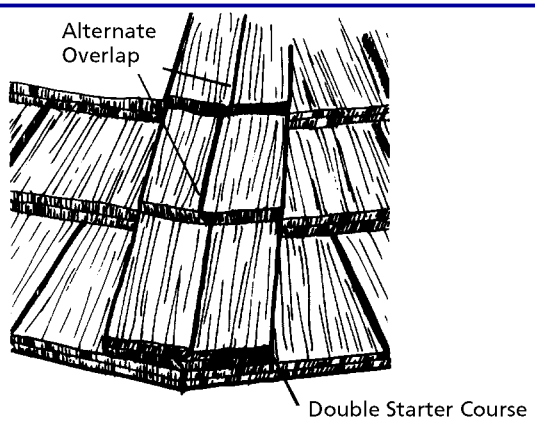
Interlaced strips of roofing felt are recommended for shakes. These can be important to the roof's future longevity. An underlayment of roofing felt, however, is questionable. It can adversely affect the roof's life expectancy in hot, humid climates because condensation may create a moist layer under the shakes. Do not use a roofing felt underlayment instead of the recommended interlacement.

Straight-split shakes are equal thickness throughout. The smoother end (front end) of the shakes should be at the top. This end, from which the shakes are split, allows for a tighter and more weather-resistant fit.

Under ordinary weather conditions, red cedar does not need any finishing or preservatives. It will weather naturally to a silver-gray color. Over a long period it will become almost black. If you live in a very humid area, such as the southeast, or in any area below overhanging trees, a fungicide is desirable to inhibit moss, fungus, and mildew. Some shingles and shakes may come pretreated. Apply the fungicides carefully, following manufacturer's instructions to the letter.

Always clean wood roofs periodically to remove accumulated debris and to prevent moisture buildup. Use a stiff broom or brush to keep the joints clear between shingles—a vulnerable area in wood roofs.

Wooden shingles and shakes may be colored. Use a penetrating wood stain—not paint—for this job. Paint can seal the shingles/shakes so moisture can't escape. There are several stains made especially for roofs.



Double the starting course at the eaves of hips. Alternate overlap of shingles. Choose uniform 3-5 inch shingles for a good looking job. You can interweave felt at starter course.

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