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**Proper attic
ventilation
is critical for
homes.**



Certified Member

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ATTIC VENTILATION

Attic ventilation is critical for homes and especially for the roofing system. The lack of proper ventilation can:

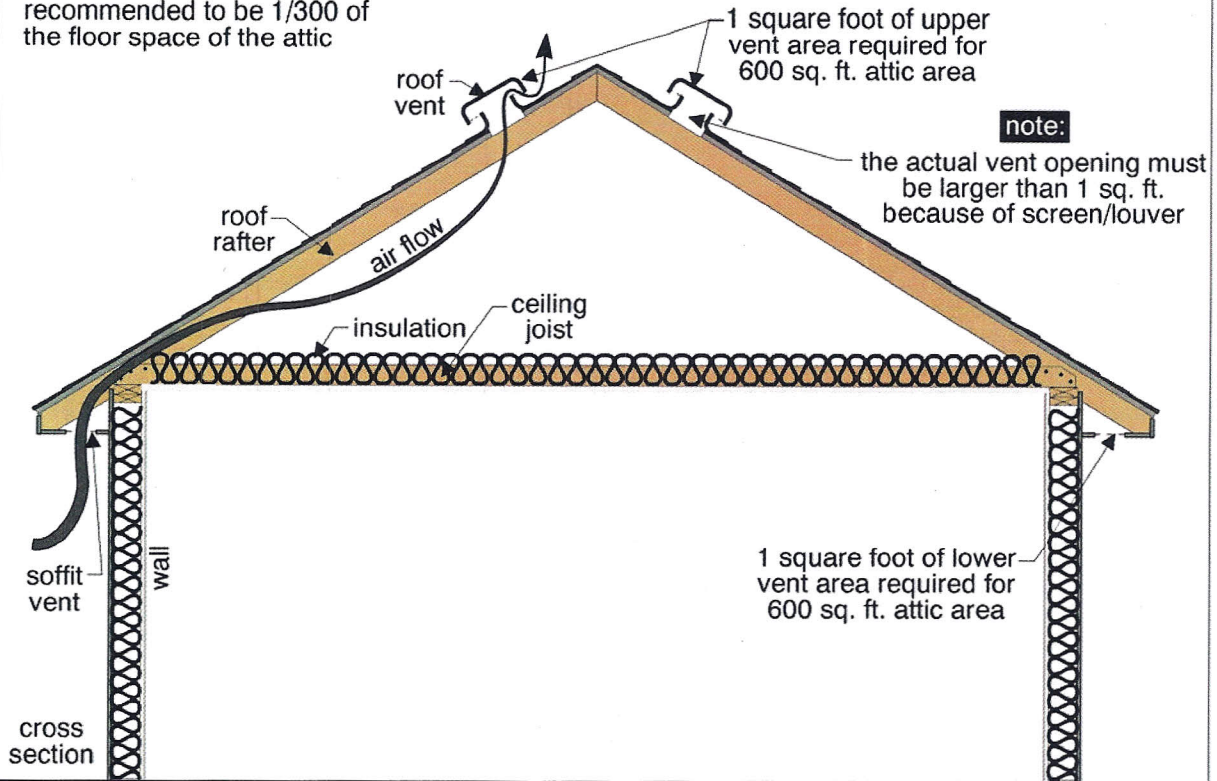
- Increase cooling bills
- Shorten the life of the shingles
- Damage the roof framing
- Affect the air quality in the home

1. Increase cooling bills. Attics need to breathe. The air space above the insulation in a typical attic needs to vent to the outside. If this does not occur, excessive heat in the summer will build up in the attic and it can permeate through the insulation and get into the home; thereby causing the air conditioner to run harder and longer.
2. Shorten the life of the shingles. The excessive heat can cause overheating of the shingles on their underside and therefore shorten their life.
3. Damage the roof framing. Not only can excessive heat build-up occur during the summer, but excessive humidity can occur. During the winter, the high humidity in the attic turns to frost. When the frost melts, the moisture causes deterioration to the roof framing and insulation. If left unattended, the moisture can cause enough damage to require the roof framing to be replaced.
4. Air Quality. In extreme cases, enough mold will grow in inadequately ventilated attics to affect the air quality in the home.

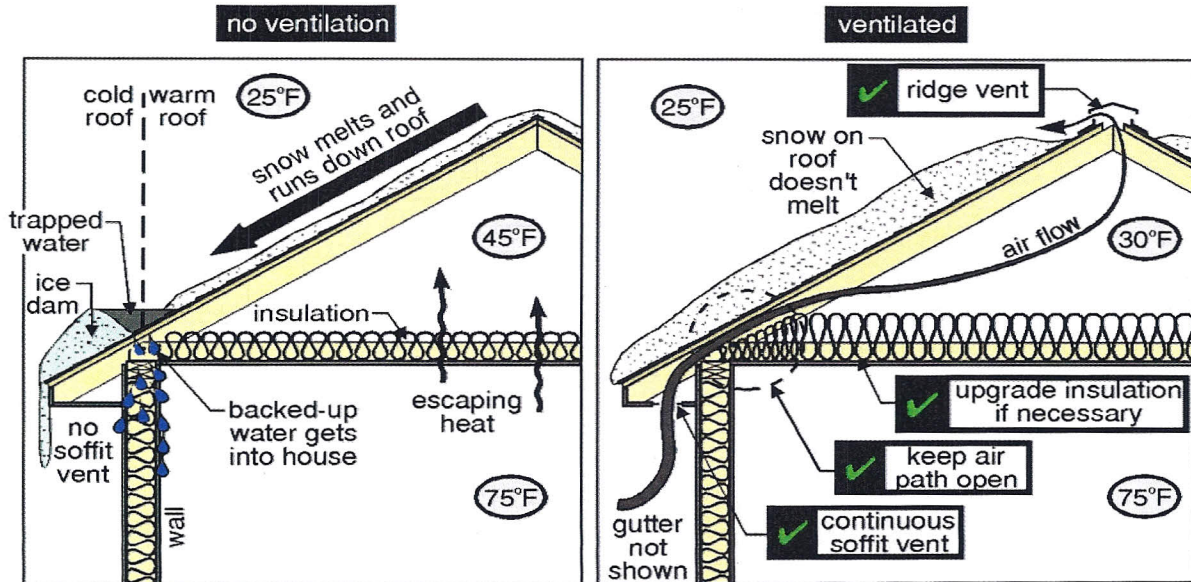
For typical attics, 1 sq. ft. of “net free vent area” per every 150 sq. ft. to 300 sq. ft. of attic space is recommended. An equal amount of roof (exhaust) and soffit (intake) ventilation is recommended for proper air flow and to help prevent ice damming.

Recommended amount of attic ventilation

the total vent area is often recommended to be 1/300 of the floor space of the attic



Preventing ice dams with ventilation



cross section

note: ridge venting is more effective than individual upper level vents