

# Roofing Contractors Explain Ice Dams

When living in any region within the United States that has normal snow fall and colder temperatures, ice dams aren't an unusual occurrence to see on buildings or homes. [Roofing contractors](#) have valuable knowledge concerning ice dams — what they are, how you can prevent them, and the consequences they bring if ignored.

## What Are Ice Dams & How Are They Formed?

Ice dams are formed most commonly after a period of heavy snowfall and when the heat coming off of the attic — warming the roof — causes the snow to melt. Now liquid, the meltwater makes its way down the roof until it freezes at the edge of the roofing near the gutters, having no longer the heat from the attic to sustain liquid form. This process continues throughout winter, causing the frozen water at the edge of the roof to grow larger and larger, creating a dam-like structure perched heavily on the edge of your roof, giving it its name: ice dam.

## Why Are Ice Dams a Serious Problem?

The meltwater that the ice dam traps, pools and eventually seeps into your roofing, walls and even your ceiling, causing rust spots, peeling paint, sinking walls and stains. All of which require costly repairs by your local general contractor.

Ice dams can cause a myriad of problems beyond damaging the structural integrity of your roofing, ceiling, and walls though. In addition to a general contractor, you may be calling your local physician as well because the meltwater seeping into your roofing and walls stimulates dangerous mold growth, which irritates or produces allergies and asthma among other respiratory health issues.

## How Can You Prevent Ice Dams.

To avoid ice dams you need to prevent the formation of meltwater, which can be done by keeping your roofing cold. This can be done by minimizing heat loss in your home through better insulation, improving the attic ventilation system, and adding soffit vents among a few other tricks. But the best and safest way to prevent ice dams is to have a general contractor come and assess your home and advise you on which method it is best suited for.

*Suffering from ice dams or want to prevent them? The expert roofing contractors at [Definitive Construction, LLC](#) are well-versed in preventing and repairing all kinds of roofing damage, having provided their professional services to Anchorage, AK residents for nearly 50 years. To further discuss your needs, call a roofing contractor today at (907) 345-6600, or visit their [website](#) for more information.*