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Ice Dams: Causes & Cures

The winter season of 2010-2011 had been particularly harsh. Many New England homes had developed ice dams although they never had a problem before. Ice dams are caused by moderate to heavy snowfall followed by a period of freezing temperatures. Homes insulated with the traditional methods of fiberglass or cellulose allow for warm air inside the house to filter into the attic and melt the snow from the underside of the roof. The melt-water flows under the snow and pools along the edge of the roof. There, frigid outdoor temperatures refreeze the water into ice dams and icicles along the edge of the roof overhang where temperatures are coldest. Ice dams can result in damage to the roof and water damage to the ceiling and walls inside your home.

March & Martin, Inc. can help prevent or resolve ice dam problems by insulating the roof of your home with spray foam insulation. Spray foam insulation, such as Icynene, is an air barrier. Spray foam creates an air seal between the warm air inside the home and the cold air outside. When using spray foam, ice damming can be controlled by stopping the heat flow from inside the attic to the shingles. The roof temperature will remain the same as the ambient air temperature thereby preventing snowmelt and the resultant ice dams.

Please contact March & Martin to discuss how we can resolve your ice dam problems, help you avoid costly water damage to ceilings and walls, and save you or a loved one from a dangerous journey onto the icy roof to contend with those ice dams and icicles.