



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

ASPHALT SHINGLES AND GRANULE SLOUGHING

[September 2020]

Granules are an important part of a shingle. They help protect shingles and their binder, the asphalt, from solar ultraviolet radiation as well as impart design and color to the roof. During the manufacturing process, roofing granules are embedded with pressure into the heated asphalt surface of shingles. To ensure complete and thorough coverage, more granules than necessary are used, with the goal to adequately cover the asphalt on the roofing sheet. The excess granules are referred to as “hitchhikers” in the industry, and most are reclaimed in a later stage of the process. Despite the effort to remove hitchhikers, some granules remain on shingles as they’re packaged into bundles.

INITIAL INSTALLATION AND THE LOSS OF HITCHHIKERS

Following the installation and initial weathering process of shingles, hitchhiker granules inevitably fall off over time, often taking several months. They typically end up in gutters, so it is not uncommon to find them there or at the exit of downspouts. The loss of these hitchhiker granules is not a manufacturing defect and will continue to a lesser extent over the life of the roof. This excess granule *sloughing* may take from six months to two years, depending on climate, but does not affect the performance or lifecycle of the shingles.

Granules in gutters are not necessarily from Malarkey shingles, either. Lots of people have their roofs replaced and not the gutters, so granule accumulation may be from the previous roof.

CONTINUED LOSS OF GRANULES

There are factors that can cause shingles to lose more than a normal amount of granules, and it is usually the occurrence of severe weather. High winds and hail storms are capable of damaging shingles and causing significant granule loss. To alleviate homeowner concerns, Malarkey recommends a professional roof inspection after such events.

If in the absence of unusual weather conditions, shingles are showing bare spots of exposed asphalt, you are encouraged to contact Malarkey’s Warranty Services Department at 1-888-963-9501 or email warrantyinquiries@malarkeyroofing.com for assistance.