



# technical bulletin

Asphalt Roofing  
Manufacturers Association

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## ***How to Shingle a Cone Roof***

Roofing cone shaped roofs can be challenging. Two types of cone roofs are used most often, cones with flat sides and cones with round sides. The difference between the two is really the number of sides. Cones with three to eight flat sides look like a flat-sided geometric shape, such as a pyramid. Cones with more than 10 sides appear rounded. By definition, a cone consists of a circular base with sides tapering up evenly to a point.

### **UNDERLAYMENT**

On new construction, roofing underlayment is generally applied perpendicular to the flow of water. On a cone roof, the felt should be applied vertically, following the flow pattern from the peak to the base (Fig. 1). This method will help to prevent the felt from wrinkling or buckling. Vertical application will result in an overlap of material near the cone's peak. The mechanic should trim this overlap during felt application and before applying shingles. Overlap the felt vertically as progress is made up the cone and cement the lap edge using asphalt plastic cement. Alternately, self-adhered eave and flashing membrane underlayment can be used to insure a high degree of protection from wind driven rain or from possible gaps between abutting shingles.

### **VENTILATION**

In many cases, the cone is open into the attic area and should be part of its ventilation system. Static ventilation may be accommodated in the main attic area by increasing the requirement for the net free venting area by approximately the same square footage as the cone shaped room. If the area is open to the finished living space, a ceiling fan can help force heat and moisture from the cone shaped room to the main living area for disposal. A room dehumidifier may also be useful.

For positive ventilation, in cases of a completely circular cone, an off peak roll-type ridge vent or a specialty vent may be used at the peak. The formula for cones shaped rooms is the same for any other residential area, that is, 1 sq.ft. of net free vent area for every 300 sq.ft. of attic area, if equal intake and exhaust vents are used; or 1 sq.ft. of net free vent area for every 150 sq.ft. if only exhaust vents are used.\* If no ventilation is used, the owner should be made aware of the possible accelerated weathering or wear and effects on the product's warranty that will likely occur. Contact the shingle manufacturer for more specific requirements.

### **ROOFING A FLAT-SIDED CONE**

To roof a flat-sided cone, a contractor should use the same procedure they follow on an ordinary hip roof (Fig. 2). On each of the flat sides of the pyramid, a vertical chalk line is snapped from the tip of the cone to the center of the eave. Shingles are applied to the flat areas and cut at the joints or hips. To complete the hip joints, a standard hip and ridge shingle is used. Continuous horizontal chalk lines should be snapped around the cone to ensure that the shingles line

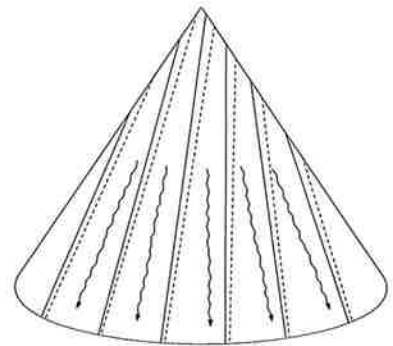


Figure 1  
Underlayment on cones is generally applied perpendicular to the eave, with the laps cemented.

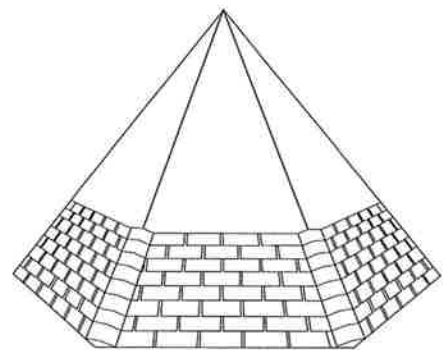


Figure 2  
When roofing flat-sided cones, use the standard hip and ridge application method. Snap horizontal chalk lines to ensure a continuous roofing line.

up on the structure's adjacent sides. Shingles applied to steep-sided cones (greater than 21-in-12 slope) may require hand-sealing with asphalt plastic cement. Consult the manufacturers directions for application to steep slopes.

### **ROOFING A ROUND-SIDED CONE**

This is a more complicated style to shingle. Because the cone is curved, there is no horizontal line to follow. If you try to create a line by butting the sides of the shingle together, the shingles will gradually curve downward and not align properly after encircling the cone. This condition is more pronounced as you move toward the top of the cone.

Aligning the shingle tab cutouts vertically is another challenge. Since the cone tapers up from the bottom to the peak, less material is needed to shingle each succeeding course. The amount of horizontal offset and the shingle's cutouts varies, creating a random appearance. If standard three-tab shingles are used, each shingle has to be trimmed for proper vertical alignment. To simplify this process, use a randomly applied shingle that does not require vertical alignment.

### **VERTICAL ALIGNMENT**

The following recommendations are for round cones with a base diameter slightly wider than the cone's height. After the underlayment is in place, snap two vertical lines from the cone's peak to its base. These lines should be about 36 inches apart - or the width of the shingle - at the cone's base. Use the vertical lines as a guide for placing the shingles. In the first courses, a full-width shingle will fit between the two lines. However, as you move up the cone, the distance between the vertical lines narrows. In these areas, trim the shingles to fit between the lines. To minimize waste, divide the cone into three zones, bottom, middle and top (Fig. 3). Mark zone areas by attaching a string to the cone's peak and using a chalk to mark a line around the circumference. If access to the peak is difficult, there is an alternate method: measure a series of equidistant points from the eaves and connect the points by drawing a chalk line around the cone.

In Zone 1, starting at the cone's base, use a full-width shingle between two vertical lines. In Zone 2, near the middle of the cone, use two-thirds of a shingle and in Zone 3, one-third of a shingle. To mark the division between Zone 1 from Zone 2, cut a two-thirds width shingle and scribe a line around the cone where two-thirds shingle fits precisely between two of the vertical lines. To differentiate Zone 2 from 3, take the remaining one-third of the shingle and move it up on the cone until it fits snugly between the two vertical lines. Mark the zone by scribing an exposure line around the cone's circumference.

In the lower part of each zone there is little side overlap between shingles. As you move up the cone, however, side overlap becomes more of a problem and shingles must be trimmed at an angle for the end joint to be parallel to the flow of water (Fig. 4). This is done by marking a string line from the cone's apex and trimming the shingles on the angle. This will reduce the chances of water flowing into the joints and causing a leak. Shingle end joints in succeeding courses should be offset by 3 inches or more.

### **HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT**

Horizontal alignment can be maintained within each zone by scribing alignment lines similar to those used to establish the three zones. It is not necessary to mark every row; every two or three rows is sufficient. Make sure that side joints from one course do not line up with side joints in the courses immediately above or below. Good roofing practice dictates that shingle joints be kept as far away from each other as possible, but never less than 3".

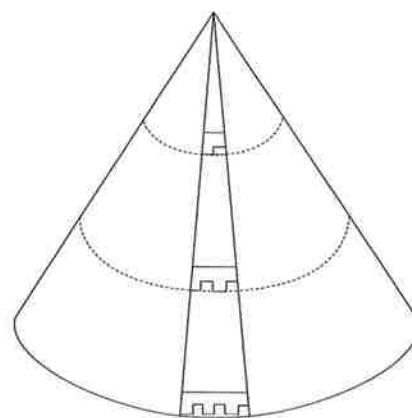


Figure 3

To make application easier, divide cone roofs into three distinct zones. Start by applying shingles to zone 1, then work up to zones 2 and 3.

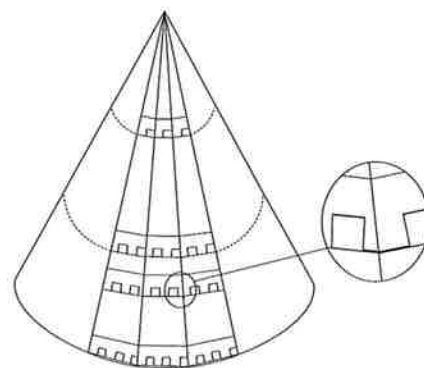


Figure 4

Side overlap of shingles is more noticeable in the upper portions of each cone. Trim shingles at an angle to make the joint parallel to water flow.\*\*

\* For more on this topic, see the ARMA Technical Bulletin, *Ventilation and Moisture Control for Residential Roofing*

\*\* Vertical lines are for calculating shingle width. Do not align the shingle sides. Shingles should be offset by at least 3".

Note: These recommendations were prepared by and have the approval of the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association for informational purposes only. They are not intended to revoke or change the requirements or specifications of the individual roofing material manufacturers or local, state and federal building officials that have jurisdiction in your area. Any question, or inquiry, as to the requirements, or specifications of a manufacturer, should be directed to the roofing manufacturer concerned.