



ATTIC AND ICE DAM SELF-CHECK

THE ATTIC DECIDES WHETHER THE ROOF STAYS COLD | TWIN CITIES METRO

Run this check each fall, and again after any interior work that opened ceilings. Every sign below traces back to the same system: air sealing, insulation, and balanced ventilation.

FROM THE LIVING SPACE

- ☐ **Water stains on top-floor ceilings or walls, especially after a thaw.**
- ☐ **Higher-than-expected heating bills on the top-floor units.**

IN THE ATTIC

- ☐ **Frost or moisture on the underside of the roof deck, or a musty smell.**
Warm moist air is getting up there.
- ☐ **Rusty or frosted nail tips poking through the deck.**
The telltale of attic condensation.
- ☐ **Thin, matted, or unevenly spread insulation.**
If you can see the ceiling joists, there is not enough.
- ☐ **Insulation pushed into the eaves, blocking the soffit vents.**
Intake comes in low at the soffit, and the whole system depends on it.

ON THE ROOF, FROM THE GROUND

- ☐ **Uneven snow melt, bare warm streaks next to snow-covered areas.**
Heat is leaking through in spots.
- ☐ **Icicles and ice ridges at the eaves and gutters after snow.**
The classic ice dam sign.

THE FIX, IN ORDER

- ☐ **Air sealing first.**
Close the ceiling gaps around light fixtures, hatches, plumbing, and wiring. Escaping air carries the most heat.
- ☐ **Insulation second.**
Minnesota's code floor for ceilings is R-49, and many building-science specialists go above it for ice dam prevention.
- ☐ **Balanced ventilation third.**
Intake low at the soffit, exhaust high at the ridge, roughly matched, without mixing vent types that fight each other.

ICE DAMS OR FROST IN THE ATTIC?

A first call takes about fifteen minutes and costs nothing, 612-440-8660. The full guide: trupointhoa.com/knowledge-center/attic-ventilation-insulation