



May 2023

REROOFING GUIDELINE

The city of Saint Paul administers the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code for roofing/reroofing projects on one & two-family dwellings (Section 1300.0070 Subp 12b). Below are various code sections along with direction addressing common questions regarding roof sheathing of a roof:

R903.1General.

Roof decks shall be covered with *approved* roof coverings secured to the building or structure in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Roof assemblies shall be designed and installed in accordance with this code and the *approved* manufacturer's instructions such that the *roof assembly* shall serve to protect the building or structure.

R905.2.1Sheathing requirements.

Asphalt shingles shall be fastened to solidly sheathed decks or 1-inch thick nominal wood boards.

The 2020 Minnesota Residential Code is based on the 2018 IRC that is created by the ICC (International Code Council). MN adopted the 2018 IRC with MN amendments in 2020.

Although St. Paul policy will allow for existing nominal roof boards with varying gaps, the building code supersedes municipal ordinances and requires the contractor to follow manufacturer installation specifications. Typically, manufacturers suggest 1/8" gap maximum or use language like "tightly spaced". To install shingles in a way that does not comply with manufacturers specifications would void the warranty and not be code compliant. Gaps in sheathing or "nominal boards" allows for expansion and contraction during the seasons, minimizing damage to the roofing materials.

For additional information, please see the administration section of 2020 Minnesota Residential Code for direction as well as Minnesota State Statute 326B.

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IRC2018P7>

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/326B/full>