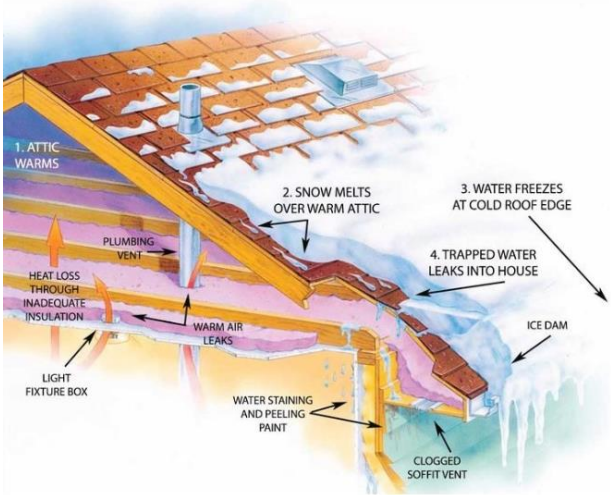
- Winter is here and what does that mean to - you as a homeowner?

"Wow looks at those beautiful Icicles hanging on that homes roof, it looks so festive."



Have you ever seen a house and thought this? Ice Dams can be beautiful with those icicles glistening in the sun, but they are a sign of issues going on in your home, particularly in your attic.

An Ice dam is a ridge of ice that typically forms along the edge of a roof and prevents melting snow from draining off the roof. When it reached the eaves that are cooler then this can lead to icicles hanging off your roof.
Ice damming can become a major issue including damages to you walls and ceilings from water leaking into your home which then can create mold.

Most ice damns are a sign of improper insulation and air sealing in a house. When you enter your attic in the winter should it be warm or cold? We hope you answered cool/cold, as a cool/cold attic in the winter and warm/hot attic in the summer means you have proper insulation and air sealing. If your attic is cool in the summer and warm in the winter, it means the heat from your home is leaking into the attic then going straight outside.

Let's break down this photo:

1. Attic is warm: the warm air from your home in the winter will rise into your attic due to lack of insulation/air sealing allowing the heat to escape your home.

2. Snow melts over warm attic: the warm air escaping from your home will melt the snow on top of your roof.

3. Water freezes at cold roof edges: the sofit of your home sticks out past the attic and the warm air is not escaping there so you have cold areas where the melted snow (water) is now freezing at the edge of the roof.

4. Trapped water leaks into the house: The trapped water will melt and freeze over and over again on the warmer days/colder nights and this can cause damage to the roof/clog the soffits and the water will leak into your home.

Together, proper insulation and air sealing in your attic will help prevent Ice Dams and icicles from hanging off your roof this Winter and Spring!

Insulation isn't sexy it's Smart

Stevens Insulation Services Ltd – January 2025