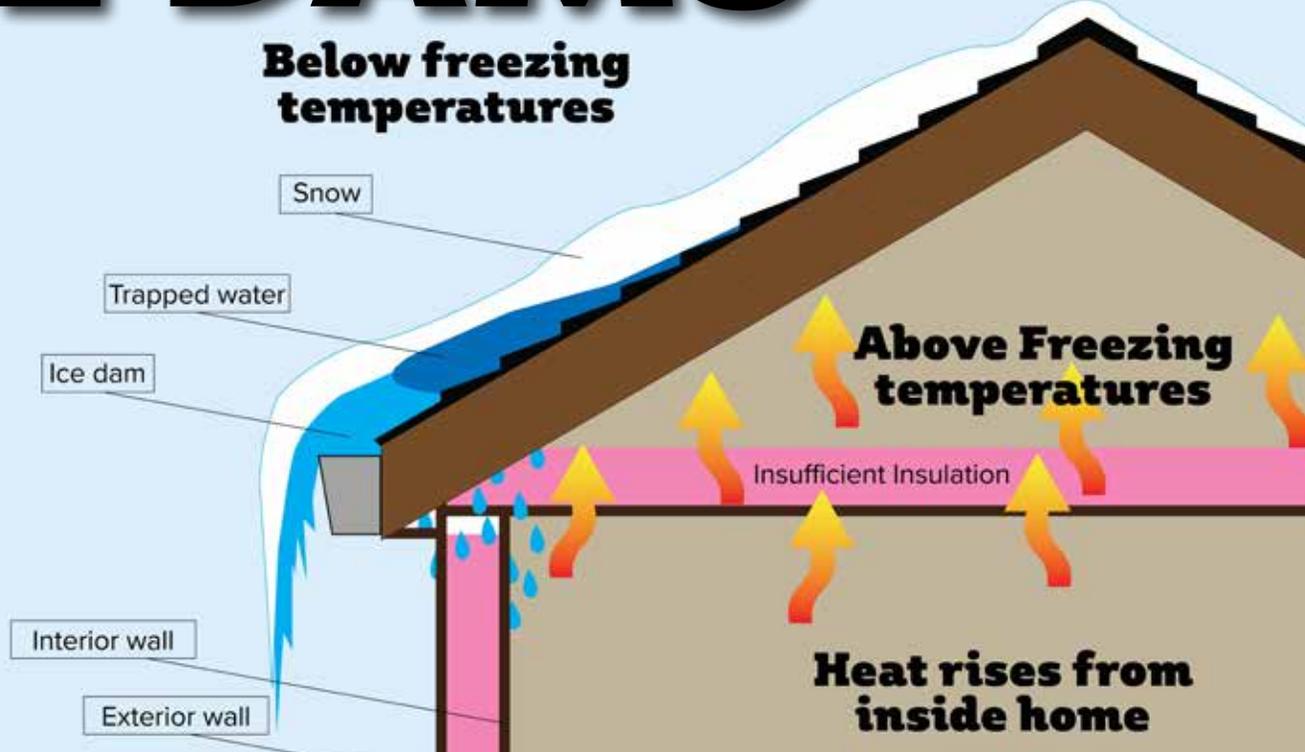


# ICE DAMS

**Below freezing temperatures**



## What is an Ice Dam?

- Ice dams are formations of ice near the edge of the roof or the valleys that trap water and prevent drainage
- When water backs up behind the ice dam, this can lead to water damage and mold

## What to do if you have an ice dam

- If you have a leak, place a fan directed at the leak inside the attic to force cold air at leak point to freeze water and stop leak temporarily
- Fill old pantyhose with ice melt, place on ice dam and have it extend over gutter. This will eventually melt through the snow and ice and create a drainage path
- Call a professional to remove accumulated snow and ice from the roof, and/or assess damages to be repaired

## What not to do

- Never use a hammer, axe, shovel or anything else that can damage the roof to break up the ice
- Never throw salt on roof, this will just cause damage to plants below and not melt the ice

## Prevention

- Proper insulation in the attic with a R-Value of 30
- Proper ventilation - This allows heat to escape keeping the roof and soffits at the same temperature
- Roof leak barrier - A rubberized film applied under shingles to prevent water that gets under the shingle from entering the home
- Ensure trees and other plants are not depositing debris onto roof, that could slow drainage
- Energy audit - Have a professional come to your home to see where heat loss is occurring and provide solutions
- Install heated cables on eaves of the home to melt any ice that may form
- Remove new snow with roof rake past the eave
- Exhaust all vents to outside instead of into the attic
- Install newer sealed can lights, as the older style cannot be insulated due to fire hazard
- Install a cold roof
- Caulk all penetrations (wires, venting, etc...)to prevent heat loss into attic space