# Technical Bulletin

## Roof Underlayment and Fastener Considerations

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## Role of Underlayment in Steep Slope Roofing

Underlayment is an **essential component** installed beneath most steep slope roofing materials, providing an extra layer of protection for the roof structure. When paired with shingles or flush materials, the underlayment typically faces minimal water exposure after installation, as these roofing materials offer **effective coverage and drainage.**



## Underlayment Functionality in Tile Roofs

The function of underlayment changes with tile roofing systems. Unlike other steep-slope roofing products, tiles are not installed flush against the roof deck, which allows **both air and water to circulate between the layers.** This ventilation is beneficial, as it limits heat transfer, allows tiles to dry faster after a rain, extends underlayment life and helps prevent ice damming on the roof.



However, the open structure also means that the underlayment may be exposed to water before the tiles are fully installed or from typical condensation in humid climates. **Choosing proper fasteners is vital to prevent premature failure caused by weather exposure**; low-quality staples tend to rust quickly and can leave holes, which makes them unsuitable for tile roofs.

# Recommended Fasteners for Mechanically Attached Underlayment

**Appropriate capped nails** should be used for proper installation of mechanically fastened underlayments, per underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions. It is also important to consider **proper fastening patterns.** Manufacturer's Installation instructions and code requirements will dictate proper spacing, based on location and project conditions. Using battens may reduce the number of fasteners needed. Manufacturer's instructions and code requirements will provide that determination.





# Self-Adhered Underlayment

In many areas, especially higher wind and extreme climate locations, conditions may dictate the use of **self-adhered underlayments.** These underlayments have individual requirements for mechanical fasteners (i.e. headlap fastening). In many cases, fasteners are not required in the non-lap areas. These underlayments may be adhered directly to the deck or to a mechanically fastened anchor sheet. Requirements in both cases will vary by manufacturer.

**For more information, contact your local Eagle Account Representative by visiting eagleroofing.com.**