

Media Dossier for *Roofing Ripoff*

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CONTACT: Tim Carter - tim@askthebuilder.com 603-722-0908

Summary: The following questions help explain the core issues discussed in Tim Carter's *Roofing Ripoff* expose' book.

Who is Tim Carter?

Tim is the author of the nationally syndicated weekly newspaper column Ask the Builder that appears in seventy USA newspapers. He's a national award-winning builder and remodeler with decades of hand-on experience working in and on the homes of paying customers. He's the founder of AsktheBuilder.com, the oldest and longest-lasting first-person home improvement site on the Internet.

Why did Tim Carter decide to write *Roofing Ripoff*?

Tim Carter's own 30-year-warranty asphalt shingles started to fail nine years into their life and failed catastrophically in fourteen years. When Carter presented questions to the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association and the top three asphalt shingle manufacturers in the USA, they all refused to answer his questions about why modern shingles performed differently than old shingles.

Carter decided to conduct a survey of his 51,000 newsletter subscribers and syndicated column readers. The survey results showed the asphalt shingle failure problem was widespread across the USA.

What are the most common visible defects a homeowner sees with the failing shingles?

The asphalt shingles start to loose many of the colored ceramic-coated granules exposing large patches of bare asphalt. The shingles often start to have curled edges. The shingles become very brittle and can crumble with little effort. See photos at end of this dossier.

Why are newer asphalt shingles failing long before the warranty expires?

Based on the evidence Carter collected, it appears the asphalt used in the manufacture of the shingles is being pre-aged. This can happen by bubbling too much air into the asphalt at the factory where the shingles are made.

Do new shingles weigh less than shingles that were made decades ago?

Many standard modern shingles weigh less. Decades ago asphalt shingles used to weigh 240 pounds a square. A square is a unit of measure used in building industry and equals enough product to cover 100 square feet of surface area.

Carter weighed modern standard shingles and some weigh just over 190 pounds per square.

How long did asphalt shingles used to last before this recent spate of crumbling and curling shingles?

Carter had standard three-tab shingles on his own last home in Cincinnati, Ohio that were twenty-three years old and in very good condition. The shingles came with a 15-year warranty.

Carter did a field study in December, 2016 and took photos of an asphalt shingle roof in Montrose, California that was installed in 1965. The shingles exposed to constant sunlight still laid flat and had almost all of the colored ceramic granules on the shingle.

Is there anything a homeowner or business can do to extend the life of their shingles?

*While doing research for his Roofing Ripoff book, Carter was the first person in the world to discover that copper will react with asphalt in shingles and slow the natural oxidation of the asphalt that happens when the sun's ultraviolet light strikes the shingles. **See last photo in this document.***

All a homeowner has to do is attach a thin sheet of copper at the peak of the roof. When rainwater strikes the copper, it transports invisible copper ions down the roof. The copper bonds with the asphalt keeping it soft and supple for decades.

When the asphalt stays soft, it holds onto the colored granules and the shingles lay flat. This allows the shingles to resist damage from sunlight and hail damage.

Failed Shingle Photos:





BELOW Photo of How Copper Preserves Asphalt Shingles:

