

Using The Edge™ Vent with Gutter Protection Devices

CAN THEY COEXIST?

Air Vent's edge-of-roof, shingle-over intake vent – The Edge™ Vent – not only provides needed incoming airflow into an attic, its roof-top installation eliminates working overhead with soffits and undereaves while standing on a ladder. Now the roofer has complete control over the intake ventilation from the roof. Many roofers find this combination useful and appealing.

Gutter protection devices are designed to keep debris out of gutters so the water can flow freely while simultaneously reducing gutter maintenance. Many homeowners find them helpful.

But can the two products coexist on the same house near each other? Specifically, can the needed attic intake air enter The Edge Vent in an unobstructed manner while the gutter protection device keeps the gutters clear of debris? Furthermore, can the gutter protection device work as intended without its performance compromised by The Edge Vent's design and/or placement?

It depends on how the gutter protection device installs and how it works. We will explore gutter protection designs that are compatible with The Edge Vent and those that are not. **Note: Most of this information will be applicable to any edge-of-roof, shingle-over style intake vent.** Check product geometry and installation instructions to verify.

Gutter Protection Designs that ARE Compatible

If the gutter protection device is a flat panel that attaches exclusively to the gutter itself (front and/or back) or the fascia and does not require any mounting onto the roof deck, under the shingles, under The Edge Vent or over the top of The Edge Vent, it is compatible with The Edge Vent. These gutter protection designs are intended to allow water to flow through the device material and into the gutter. The hole opening limits the size of debris that passes through to prevent clogging from large objects or a collection of medium sized objects.

See Illustration 1 and Illustration 2.

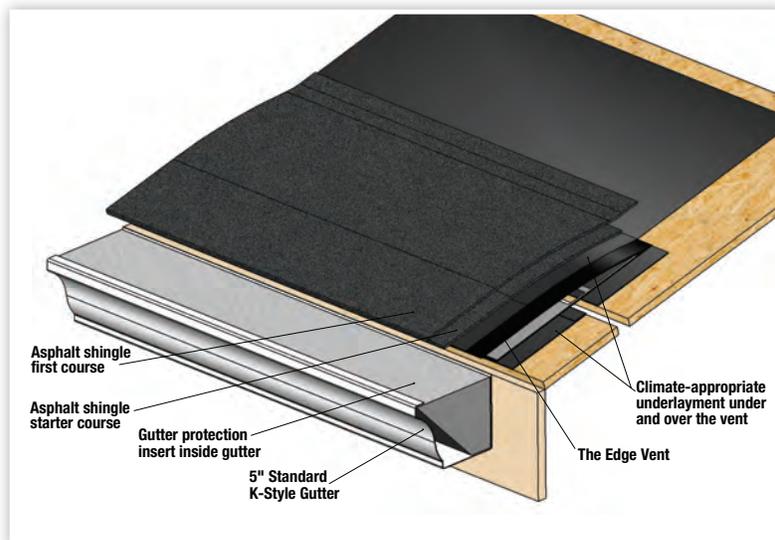


Illustration 1
This combination of gutter protection and The Edge Vent is **COMPATIBLE**.
WHY? The Edge Vent has full net free area available and water drains freely through the gutter insert.

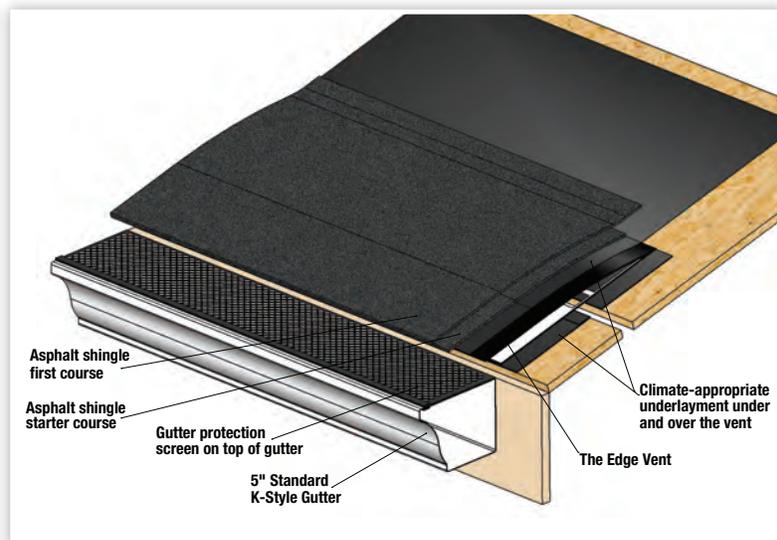


Illustration 2
This combination of gutter protection and The Edge Vent is **COMPATIBLE**.
WHY? The Edge Vent has full net free area available and water drains freely through the gutter screen.

Gutter Protection Designs that are **NOT COMPATIBLE**

If the gutter protection device requires any mounting onto the roof deck, under the shingles, under The Edge Vent or over the top of The Edge Vent – even if the device has airflow openings itself – it is not compatible with The Edge Vent and, thus, the two products cannot coexist. Additionally, if the design of the gutter protection device is such that it relies on a specific roof pitch for proper shedding/drainage of water, The Edge Vent will not be compatible because the vent causes a slight change in pitch near the roof edge.

Also, many of these simple designs utilize surface tension to ensure rainwater follows the profile of the vent and falls into the gutter while debris sheds over the gutter and away to the ground. If this direct contact is lost by mounting the device under the vent, the water will land somewhere in the middle of the device and may not adhere well to flow into the gutter. If the device is mounted under the shingles to maintain surface tension with the shedding water, the air opening between the device and the gutter may restrict the free flow of air into the vent and cause a reduction in ventilating performance.

See Illustration 3 and Illustration 4.

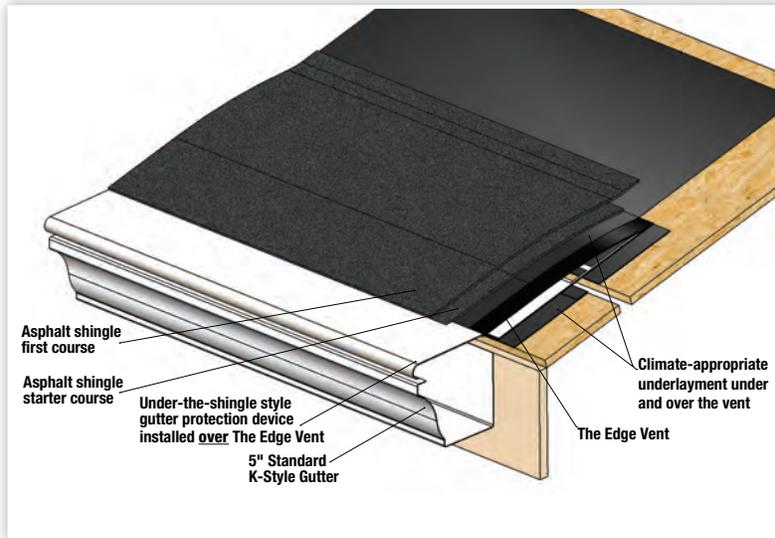


Illustration 3

This combination of gutter protection and The Edge Vent is **NOT COMPATIBLE.**

WHY? Restricted airflow clearance between the gutter and the protection device.

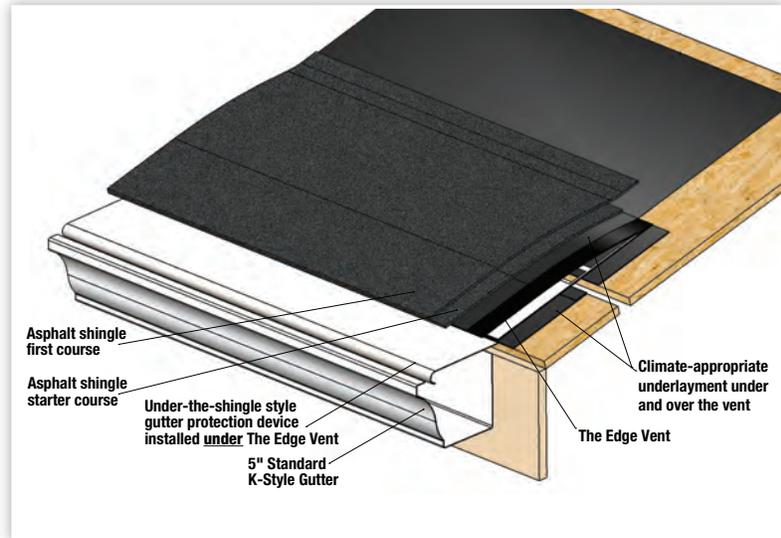


Illustration 4

This combination of gutter protection and The Edge Vent is **NOT COMPATIBLE.**

WHY? Discontinuous water contact for proper gutter protection device performance.

Is Moving the Vent “Up the Roof” a Solution?

If the gutter protection device cannot coexist with The Edge Vent it is reasonable to consider moving the vent up the roof to allow clearance for both the vent and the gutter protection device to coexist successfully and perform as intended. Unfortunately, Air Vent does not recommend this. In fact, Air Vent only recommends moving The Edge Vent up the roof in an open soffit (exposed rafter tail) situation. Such attics do not begin at the roof’s edge and, thus, the vent would be useless at that location. Moving The Edge Vent up the roof is acceptable in open soffit situations. However, if the attic begins at the edge of the roof that is the intended location of The Edge Vent so incoming air can enter at the lowest possible point under the roof deck, which is the goal of a proper attic ventilation system.

Bottom Line: The Edge Vent provides 9 square inches of Net Free Area per linear foot. To achieve this airflow, *nothing can obstruct The Edge Vent’s openings* on the front face of vent – this includes gutter protection devices, even if those devices have airflow openings. Any material in front of the vent’s louvers could restrict and/or reduce the vent’s airflow. Second, for maximum weather protection, *The Edge Vent must lay flat on the roof deck* with nothing underneath it except roof edge flashing and climate-appropriate underlayment. Having a gutter protection device that requires material to be placed underneath the vent could negatively affect The Edge Vent’s weather protection.



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