

WHAT ARE THOSE BLACK STREAKS ON MY ROOF?

I have heard people say that the black streaks on roofs are caused by everything from acorns cracking on the surface to tree sap or shingle degradation due to granule loss. While these might be possibilities, the fact is that in most cases, the stains and streaks are a form of algae or moss.



Roof algae, commonly known as Gloeocapsa Magma, is a type of algae that thrives in humid and warm climates and usually appears first on the North slope of the roof where shade is prevalent and moisture tends to accumulate. The result is usually a black streaked roof. Roof moss is more prevalent in the Pacific Northwest and Canada and it is an actual moss growth like what can be found on a tree or rock. Roof algae and moss spores are carried by the wind until all roofs in the area are infested.

Roof moss is very dangerous because it will grow underneath the roof shingle and act like a sponge soaking up water after a good rain. Eventually the moss will cause roof leaks if not treated. Roof moss also accumulates on the North side of the home or where shade is most prevalent.

Roof algae, once attached to a shingled roof, feeds on the dead organic matter used in the manufacturing process of the shingle. As the fungus breaks down the asphalt shingle, the ceramic granules protecting the surface of the shingle are loosened and begin to fall off. This causes the roof to deteriorate prematurely and diminishes the roof's abilities to reflect heat rays. If not treated, the roof algae will reduce the life of your roof, diminish your home's curb appeal and increase your home cooling expenses.

Unfortunately, traditional roof cleaning methods have used high pressure washing and/or hazardous chemical ingredients such as bleach, sodium hydroxide (Lye), copper, zinc, or acid. These techniques could damage the integrity of the roof, your landscaping and even cause harm to siding, brick, windows, gutters and awnings. Now, there is a safer product on the market called Spray & Forget™ that can eliminate these problems. Spray & Forget™ is a no-rinse cleaner and preventative.

The initial removal of roof algae and moss is always more difficult than the prevention of roof algae or moss once the roof is cleaned. A standard practice should be to clean your roof and then apply a preventative such as Spray & Forget™ every 18-24 months to keep the stains from returning. Roof cleaning and prevention has never been easier.

Many people spend countless hours and money cleaning their respective homes every year only to ignore one of the most visible and important parts of the home, the roof. Adding a roof algae/moss prevention program to your annual spring cleaning chores will result in a beautiful home that looks fresh and clean! For additional information on roof cleaning products, preventatives and equipment, view our web site at www.sprayandforget.com.

