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## RESIDENTIAL ROOFING TECHNICAL BULLETIN



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### "TOBACCO-JUICING"

**WHAT IS IT?** Descriptively named after its color, "Tobacco-Juice" is a dry residue that may accumulate on roofs under certain weather conditions and stain the roofing material (the stain may be more visible on light colored roofs). On steep slopes, this residue, because it is essentially waterborne, may trickle down off the roof and stain fascia and wall surfaces that are not properly protected. On flat roofs, "Tobacco-Juicing" usually occurs where puddles form and then dry up. This Tobacco-Juicing phenomenon, which is usually limited to the Southwest region of the U.S., does not affect the performance of the roofing material.

**CAUSE:** The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association (ARMA) explains Tobacco-Juicing as being "...the **normal** result of the weathering of **all** asphalt-based products, ...regardless of their manufacturer. The residue **will not affect the performance** of the roof and should not be considered a performance problem."<sup>1</sup> The conditions necessary for Tobacco-Juicing are: 1) Intensive sun exposure, 2) Heavy collection of night moisture, and 3) Prolonged lack of rain. Typically, all three conditions must have occurred. Tobacco-Juicing generally occurs only during the first weathering cycle of the roof, rarely appearing after the first year or rainy season.

**WHAT IT IS NOT:** Tobacco-Juicing is not the same as "Shingle-Staining". Shingle-Staining is caused by diffusion of light oils from the asphalt into the surface of the granules, generally during prolonged storage of the shingles prior to application. Tobacco-Juicing results in a similar appearance, but is caused by a different mechanism altogether. Tobacco-Juice residue can be washed off, while Shingle-Staining from light-oils can take months of exposure to break down enough to wash off.

**PREVENTION:** Industry research has failed to find any ingredient or procedure that would eliminate the occurrence of Tobacco-Juicing. Although the residue formation cannot be prevented, gently hosing down the roof at regular intervals during long, dry periods of the roof's first summer after installation can minimize any discoloration associated with Tobacco-Juicing.

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<sup>1</sup> Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association Technical Bulletin: "Water Soluble Residue from Asphalt Roofing Products ('Tobacco-Juicing')", ARMA, November 1994.