



## GAP Roofing Organic Saturated Felt Frequently Asked Questions

**Q – Why do you have 3 Organic Roofing Felt types and which one should I use?**

**A – We sell a “Good, Better, Best” family of products, but this is mostly based on approved ASTM standards to ensure minimum product quality.**

- GAP ASTM D-226 Felt (BEST) – used for all roofing applications and was the “original” organic felt product in the industry. It is the heaviest and strongest felt material on the market and used for both roofing and waterproofing. Numerous states only allow this saturated felt material due to its outstanding and historical performance. Available in #30 (2 square “net” rolls – 216 gross square feet) and #15 (4 square “net” rolls – 432 gross square feet).
- GAP ASTM 4869 Felt (BETTER) – this lighter weight material use was driven into use by the major shingle manufacturers due to being more economical and appearance (heavy weight felts could deform the appearance of lightweight shingles). The use of ASTM 4869 has expanded and many jurisdictions allow and specify this material. Available in #30 (2 square “net” rolls – 216 gross square feet) and #15 (4 square “net” rolls – 432 gross square feet).
- GAP non-rated Felt (GOOD) – this material is used as a low-cost alternative to the above products, were allowed. Its uses are limited and offers minimal protection. The GAP Roofing non-rated material is still 100% saturated (by weight) whereas competitive products vary greatly in poor saturation, performance and protection. There are many inferior products in this category so it is a “buyer-beware” purchase/use. Available in #30 (2 square “net” rolls – 216 gross square feet) and #15 (4 square “net” rolls – 432 gross square feet).

**Q– Why should I use organic saturated roofing felt for my roof verses other underlayment materials?**

**A– Black felt papers have been used for over 100 years for roofing (almost 10 times longer than other materials) and they work; they have been proven due to the test of time for all types of roofs. Below are just a few key attributes:**

- Applications where premium performance is required, the number one roofing solution is ASTM D226 #30 in a two-layer system. This is due to nail sealability, durability (protection of the second layer), breathability and long term performance. This material is considered both water-shedding AND a waterproofing material (no other mechanically fastened material can claim this...offering maximum protection.
- ASTM rated organic saturated felts maintain the highest protection against nail penetrations due to its complete and high amounts of asphaltic saturation of the fiber sheet.
- For lightweight singles, the use of #15 ASTM D226 or #30 ASTM 4869 are preferred and suggested.
- Organic saturated felts are heavier, stiffer, do not shrink and lay down smoother on the roof deck. This property helps “mask” roof deck imperfections and minimizes wind driven rain penetration due to minimal overlap lifting and shrinkage at fasteners. This “lay-down” weight is especially helpful and safer in windy areas during installation.



- Single layer Felt paper should be covered shortly after applied, however, ASTM testing requires a 14-day exposure protection based on all the ASTM testing methods
- All GAP Roofing “ASTM rated” organic saturated felt products have a 10-year warranty (#15 & #30 ASTM 4869 and #15 & #30 ASTM D226), whereas no other felt manufacturer offers any warranty

*Note: Not all synthetic underlayments are the same. Virtually all are made off-shore and many “low-cost” brands are even proving to be dangerous on the roof (slippery, stretching, weak and not holding up to the exterior elements). Roofing contractors should take great care in selecting what works best for themselves and their crews.*

**Q – Where can I get your materials?**

**A – We sell our GAP WaterGuard Building/HouseWrap materials through 1-step and 2-step distribution as well as major lumber dealers.**

**Q– Since the “Best” and “Better” felt products are ASTM rated, is there a difference in products?**

**A– YES! GAP Roofing is vertically integrated to control the key attributes of felt: the paper, the surface and the asphalt.**

- GAP Roofing felts typically have a higher strength rating to other felt manufacturers due to our unique paper making process and proprietary additives. Our paper and proprietary additives are specifically designed to offer greater strength to the base paper and offer more complete saturation of the organic fibers.
- GAP Roofing has perfected the “top side” surface (in our paper making process) to offer greater slip resistance than competitive products.
- GAP Roofing 100% saturates (by weight) all our felts and uses a specific high grade of asphalt. This allows for effective and proper saturation...the key ingredient to long lasting weathering performance.

**Q– What happens if it rains or condensation occurs before I can cover up your Organic Felt?**

**A– The Gap Roofing felt products are designed (by ASTM standards) to repel moisture and exposure for up to 14 days.**

- The GAP Roofing felts are uniquely designed to repel moisture due to the complete asphalt saturation, so virtually all the organic fibers are asphalt coated (moisture repellent), protecting the sheet. Since manufacturers do not all make organic saturated felt with the same process or the same materials, this can be a big problem.
- Organic Felts are porous (that is how it breaths) and moisture can make its way into the sheet. After any moisture is present on the sheet, just allow the material time to dry out prior to roofing sheathing application to avoid any trapped moisture.

**Q– What type of fasteners should I use to fasten down organic saturated felt?**

**A– For our material, like any other roofing underlayment material used in the US (based on the International Building Code), you should follow your local building codes and/or nationally approved**



roofing standards for fasteners, which are plastic cap nails or for metal roofs, a 5/8” head 1” roofing nail.

**Q – What is the most economical and warrantied roofing underlayment on the market?**

**A – The GAP Roofing, ASTM 4869 #15 and #30 Organic Saturated Felt with a 10 Year Limited Manufacturer Warranty.**

- GAP Roofing quality and unique papermaking process, additives and saturation methods has allowed us to offer a 10 Year Limited Manufacturers warranty.
- No other material on the market offers such a unique combination of performance, warranty and economical cost, this includes the low-cost (underperforming synthetics).
- This performance is backed by many successful years of weathering protection against heat, cold and moisture. Additionally, it is estimated that still today in 2017, around 90% of all slope roofing structures in America are still under saturated organic roofing felts...so you can be rest assured your roofing system and home is protected!

**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

CAUTION! All Roof Underlayments may be slippery when wet or covered with mud, dust, frost, ice or snow. Comply with all OSHA or other standards and codes of work. Always use a Fall Protection System when working on roofs. Use roof jacks with planks, toe boards or storage platforms secured to the substrate to prevent slippage of stored material. Stay away from power lines, do not contact with body or equipment. On steep pitched surfaces, roof jacks with planks should be used for standing. Follow all ladder safety standards and codes. Never leave scraps, wrappers or other debris on the roof surface. Dispose of waste in accordance with local regulations.