

Frequently Asked Questions

SBS (Polymer-Modified) Shingles

ClimateFlex[®]

All-Weather Application

Q. What is SBS?

SBS (Styrene Butadiene Styrene) is a rubber-like ingredient (polymer) used to modify roofing asphalt and improve its pliability and weatherability.

Q. What are SBS (polymer-modified) shingles?

SBS (polymer-modified) shingles are created with polymer-modified asphalt. They look just like traditional shingles, yet have important performance enhancements provided by the polymer-modified asphalt that are not found in traditional asphalt shingles.

Q. What are the benefits of polymer-modified shingles?

Polymer-modified shingles provide a range of benefits compared to standard (non-polymer-modified) asphalt shingles, including:

- **Hail Protection** – Higher industry impact-resistance ratings, offering greater protection from the impact of hail.
- **Granule Adhesion** – Deeper-embedded granules, helping to reduce granule loss to better maintain roof function and leak protection.
- **Tearing/Cracking Resistance** – Improved resistance to tearing and cracking, which helps resist environmental stresses such as damaging winds and freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Insurance Savings** – Due to the proven performance characteristics of polymer-modified shingles, some insurance companies offer insurance policy discounts on homes that use these products. Check with your insurance company to verify qualification.
- **Cold-Weather Installation and Storage** – Remains flat and ‘sits better’ in cold weather. Easier to handle, cut, and install in lower temperatures than non-modified shingles.

Q. Where can I get polymer-modified shingles?

CertainTeed offers a family of polymer-modified products, all which utilize CertainTeed's proprietary **ClimateFlex**® technology. Any CertainTeed products which carry the **ClimateFlex** brand receive the performance benefits listed above. These products include:

- **NorthGate**® **ClimateFlex**® - High-performance Class IV impact-resistant laminate shingle offered in Max Def color blends with enhanced warranty offerings
- **Landmark**® **ClimateFlex**® - Class IV impact-resistant laminate shingle offered in standard color blends
- **Shadow Ridge**® **ClimateFlex**® - Hip & Ridge accessory that pairs with NorthGate **ClimateFlex** and Landmark **ClimateFlex**

NOTE: Availability by region may vary. Please check CertainTeed's website for availability in your area.

Q. What is ClimateFlex® technology?

ClimateFlex technology works at a molecular level using a specialized blend of polymers in high-quality asphalt to make shingles strong and pliable. These products provide enhanced hail resistance, cold-weather flexibility, and granule adhesion compared to non-polymer-modified asphalt shingles.



Q. Do CertainTeed ClimateFlex® products qualify for home insurance discounts?

Due to the improved performance versus traditional asphalt shingles, Class IV polymer-modified **ClimateFlex** shingles may qualify for insurance discounts. Check with your insurance company for more information.

Q. Can CertainTeed ClimateFlex® products be double stacked?

Due to the asphalt formulation which allows polymer-modified shingles to remain flexible and pliable, **ClimateFlex** product pallets should only be single stacked. Double stacked pallets can cause damage to **ClimateFlex** products and increase the likelihood of shingles sticking in the bundles.

Q. How do ClimateFlex® products resist scuffing during installation?

While there is no way to completely eliminate scuffing, we take many proactive steps to reduce the probability of scuffing with our **ClimateFlex** products.

Firstly, we use specialized polymers mixed with high-quality asphalt in a unique blending process to maximize elasticity against abrasion. This process is closely monitored to ensure that only the best materials and optimum formulations are used to create our products.

Secondly, our manufacturing process allows for deep asphalt penetration into our glass mat to improve the strength and performance.

Lastly, we test all products to the highest quality standards to ensure long-lasting performance backed by the industry's best warranty.

Installers can take additional precautions to avoid scuffing the shingles:

- Plan for early working hours to avoid the mid-day sun
- Wear shoe wraps
- Use foam-rubber pads as sit-upons

Q. Are there any specific installation guidelines for ClimateFlex® products?

ClimateFlex products follow the same installation guidelines as CertainTeed Landmark shingles, available at www.certainteed.com/resource/technical-information/. In fact, our **ClimateFlex** polymer-modified technology keeps shingles flexible in lower temperatures, allowing for easier handling and installation in cold weather.

Q. The new Landmark® ClimateFlex® product includes a sand zone in the top portion of the shingle. What is the purpose of this?

The new sand zone feature on CertainTeed Landmark **ClimateFlex** helps to alleviate pressure points in the bundles, allowing for weight to be more evenly distributed across the shingle. This feature eliminates humps in the bundles so that the shingles lay flat in storage.