



Empire Shake & Shake Plus Aspen Blend Installation Guide



The term “Aspen Blend” refers only to a mixture of 70% Empire Shake and 30% Empire Shake Plus tiles installed randomly on the roof. Other percentages of Shake and Shake Plus tiles can be used depending on the desired look that you are trying to achieve.

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Important things to know before you start:

- The thickness of Empire Shake tiles is 3/8" nominal. The thickness of Empire Shake Plus tiles is 3/4" nominal. The thickness of the Plus tiles tapers down to about the same thickness as the Shake tiles where the next row of tiles will fall. This allows the Shake and Shake Plus tiles to be installed side by side without creating an uneven surface to be covered by the next row of tiles.
- Aspen Blend can be installed at 7", 8", or 9" exposure depending on the slope of the roof.
- Aspen Blend can also be installed in a staggered pattern with 7" and 8" exposures or 8" and 9" exposures depending on the slope of the roof.
- There are 36 tiles in an Empire Shake bundle. There are 24 tiles in an Empire Shake Plus bundle.
- The bundles contain 6", 9", and 12" wide tiles. There are always twice as many 9" tiles in a bundle than there are 6" or 12" tiles.
- "Easy Math": Plan on installing 3 bundles of Shake and 2 bundles of Plus to achieve the 70% Shake 30% Plus ratio.
- Another popular percentage mixture is 60% Shake and 40% Plus. This is not considered Aspen Blend, but if this look is desired, 1 bundle of Shake installed with 1 bundle of Plus will be a 60% Shake and 40% Plus mix.

Installation:

- See the EcoStar Empire Shake and Empire Shake Plus Installation Guide for proper underlayment installation and requirements.
- Use only Shake tiles for the starter row. They are installed with a 3/4" overhang at the eaves, 3/8" gap between tiles. Install the tile widths randomly along the eaves.
- 3/8" is the minimum gap between tiles, not the required gap. On shake installations, slight variations in the gap size enhance the rustic look and can make installation easier with less waste. Example: As you approach a rake edge or dormer wall with a row of tiles, when you get to within two to three feet of the end, with a little trial and error, you can probably find a combination of tile widths that will cover the gaps, cover the nails, and ends the row with a full tile just by varying the gaps a little. Cut a tile if you need to.
- Once the starter row has been installed, install the first exposed row of tiles directly over the starter row tiles, making sure to cover the nails and the gaps. Use a random selection of Shake and Shake Plus.
- Continue installing the Shake and Shake plus in this manner to complete the roof using the exposure marks on the tiles as a guide and snapping lines every other row to keep the tiles parallel to the eaves. Do not use red chalk.
- To maintain the proper percentages of Shake and Shake Plus for the Aspen Blend, take 3 bundles of Shake and 2 bundles of Plus to the roof, open them, install them randomly until they are gone, and repeat this procedure to complete the roof. Please note that orders which are not factory-blended must be blended on-site to avoid color mapping.
- Even distribution of the thick and thin tiles is checked by eye.
- Let the previous row of tiles dictate the width selection for each tile. Don't be surprised if three or four 9" tiles end up together. Remember, there are more of them.
- Valley cuts: Cutting across the face of a Plus tile exposes the hollow portion/ribs of the tile. Use the Shake tiles where these cuts are necessary. When just a small corner must be cut from a tile where it touches the valley, that is a good place for a Plus tile. By selecting the tiles for placement along the valleys in this manor, you can have Shake and Shake Plus tiles next to the valley without exposing the Plus ribs.



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