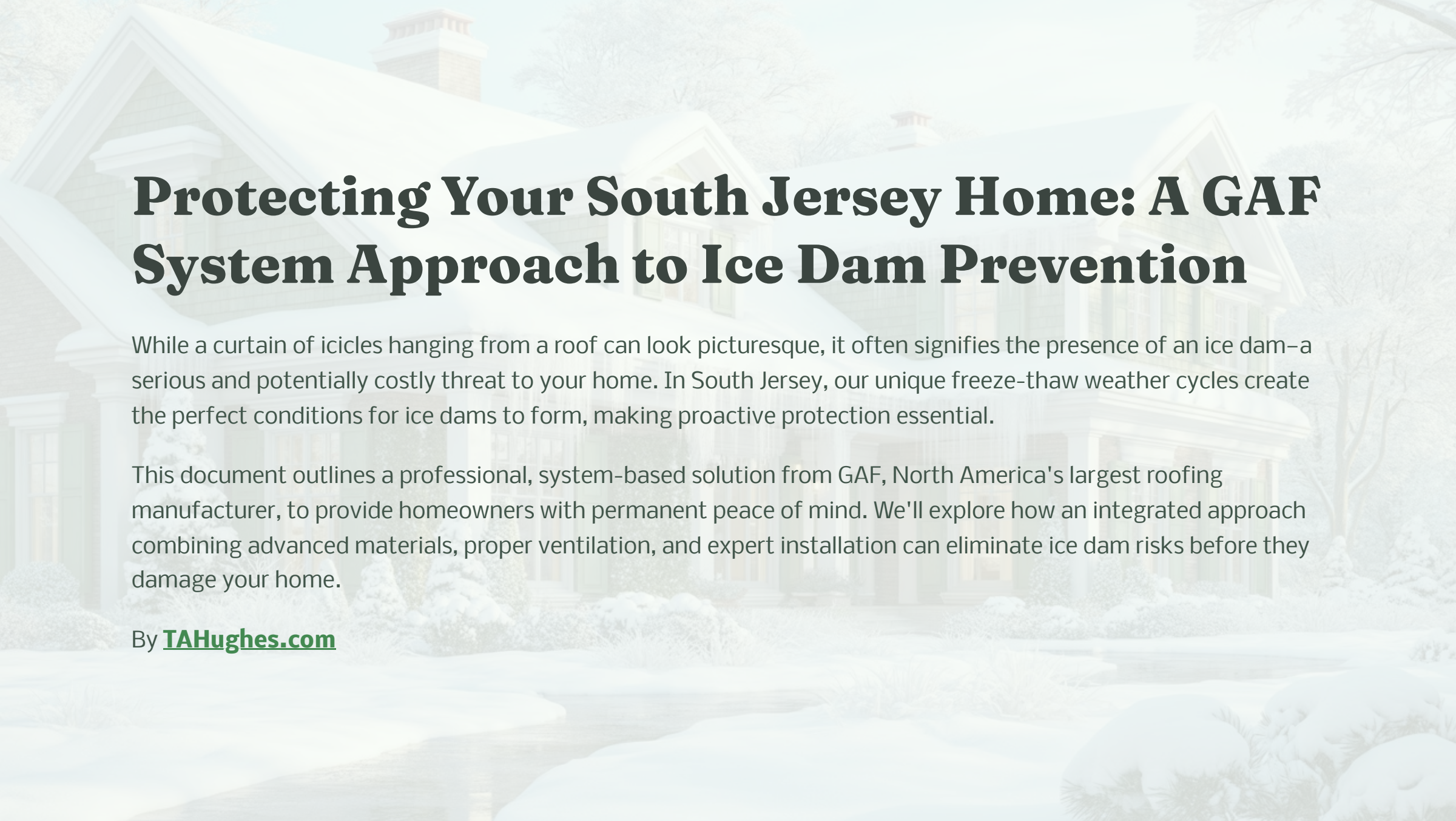




Protecting Your South Jersey Home: A GAF System Approach to Ice Dam Prevention

While a curtain of icicles hanging from a roof can look picturesque, it often signifies the presence of an ice dam—a serious and potentially costly threat to your home. In South Jersey, our unique freeze-thaw weather cycles create the perfect conditions for ice dams to form, making proactive protection essential.

This document outlines a professional, system-based solution from GAF, North America's largest roofing manufacturer, to provide homeowners with permanent peace of mind. We'll explore how an integrated approach combining advanced materials, proper ventilation, and expert installation can eliminate ice dam risks before they damage your home.

By TAHughes.com

Understanding Ice Dams: The Hidden Winter Threat

What Is an Ice Dam?

An ice dam is a ridge of ice that forms along the edge of a roof, trapping melting snow behind it. As this trapped water pools, it can back up under the shingles and leak directly into your attic and home.

The formation process begins when heat escaping from your home warms the roof deck, melting snow on top. This water flows down until it reaches the colder eaves, where it refreezes and builds up into a dam.

Why South Jersey Is Vulnerable

South Jersey's unique freeze-thaw weather cycles create perfect conditions for ice dam formation. Temperature fluctuations cause repeated melting and refreezing, allowing ice dams to grow larger and more destructive with each cycle.

Ignoring this issue can lead to severe and expensive consequences that extend far beyond the roof itself, affecting your home's structure, interior, and overall value.

The Cascading Damage of Ice Dams



Shingle & Roof Surface Damage

The pressure from trapped, freezing water can lift, crack, and dislodge shingles. This allows moisture to penetrate the underlayment and causes the roofing materials to degrade prematurely, shortening your roof's lifespan significantly.



Interior & Structural Damage

Once water breaches the roof surface, it can leak into the attic, soaking insulation and drastically reducing its R-value. From there, it can drip through to stain ceilings and walls, promote mold growth, and eventually cause the underlying wood decking and structural rafters to rot and warp.



Gutter & Fascia Damage

The sheer weight of a large ice dam can bend gutters or pull them away from the house entirely. As the dam melts and refreezes, the overflowing water can also saturate and rot the wooden fascia boards behind the gutters.

As GAF-certified specialists, we know that preventing this cascading damage requires abandoning temporary fixes in favor of a professionally installed, integrated roofing system designed to stop ice dams before they start.

The GAF Three-Part Defense System

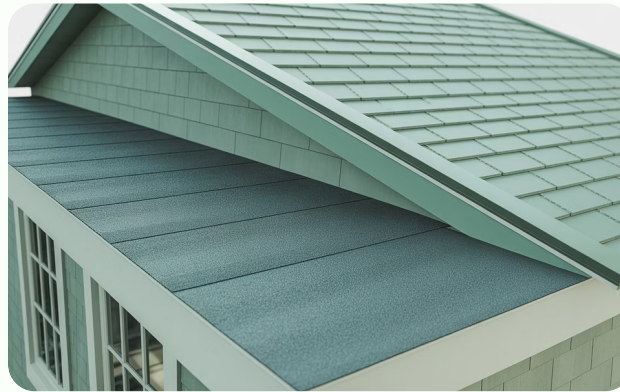
A truly resilient roof is more than just a layer of shingles. Preventing ice dams requires a multi-component system where each part plays a strategic role. This layered approach addresses both the immediate symptom of water intrusion and the root cause of ice dam formation: improper roof temperature.

GAF, North America's largest roofing manufacturer, has engineered a comprehensive three-part defense system that works synergistically to protect your home. Each component serves a specific purpose, and together they create an impenetrable barrier against winter's worst threats.



GAF Leak Barrier

Your first line of defense: A self-sealing membrane applied to vulnerable areas like eaves and valleys, creating an impenetrable barrier against water intrusion from ice dams and wind-driven rain.



GAF Deck Protection

A robust underlayment covering the entire roof deck, providing crucial secondary protection against moisture infiltration and helping shingles resist blow-off.



GAF Attic Ventilation

Attacking the root cause: A balanced system of intake and exhaust vents that maintains proper roof temperature, preventing heat buildup that leads to ice dam formation.

Component One: GAF Leak Barrier

Your First Line of Defense

The first and most critical layer of protection is a specialized ice and water shield, known as the GAF Leak Barrier. This self-sealing membrane is installed on the most vulnerable areas of your roof, primarily the first three to six feet along the eaves, as well as in valleys and around penetrations.

Its primary function is to create an impermeable seal that prevents any water trapped by an ice dam from penetrating the roof deck and leaking into your attic. Even if water gets under the shingles, this barrier holds it back, providing a waterproof safety net that protects your home's interior.

The self-sealing technology means that when nails or fasteners penetrate the membrane during installation, it automatically seals around them, maintaining complete water-tightness. This advanced material is specifically engineered to withstand the harsh conditions that cause ice dams.

Key Installation Areas

- First 3-6 feet along roof eaves
- Roof valleys where water concentrates
- Around chimneys and vents
- Skylights and other penetrations
- Low-slope roof sections

Components Two & Three: Complete Protection

GAF Deck Protection: The Secondary Shield

Working in tandem with the Leak Barrier, GAF Deck Protection is a high-quality underlayment that covers the rest of the roof deck, providing a crucial secondary shield against water infiltration from wind-driven rain or any other moisture that might find its way past the shingles.

By protecting the roof sheathing from moisture, it prevents the slow, hidden rot and degradation that can compromise the structural integrity of your entire roof over time. This layer ensures that even in extreme weather conditions, your roof deck remains dry and structurally sound.

GAF Attic Ventilation: Attacking the Root Cause

While barriers are your failsafe, proper attic ventilation attacks the root cause of ice dam formation. An ice dam begins when heat escaping from your home warms the underside of the roof deck, melting the snow on top.

A balanced ventilation system—with cool air intake vents at the soffits and warm air exhaust vents at the ridge—continuously circulates cold, outdoor air through the attic. This keeps the roof deck temperature close to the outside temperature, preventing the snow from melting and starting the hazardous ice dam cycle.

Real-World Results: A South Jersey Success Story

This isn't theoretical. Our team at T.A. Hughes recently responded to a call in South Jersey where a homeowner discovered water stains on their upstairs ceilings, a clear sign of severe ice dam damage. An ice dam had forced water under the shingles, leading to significant structural problems.

The Problem Identified:

The damage was extensive, impacting multiple aspects of the roof's integrity:

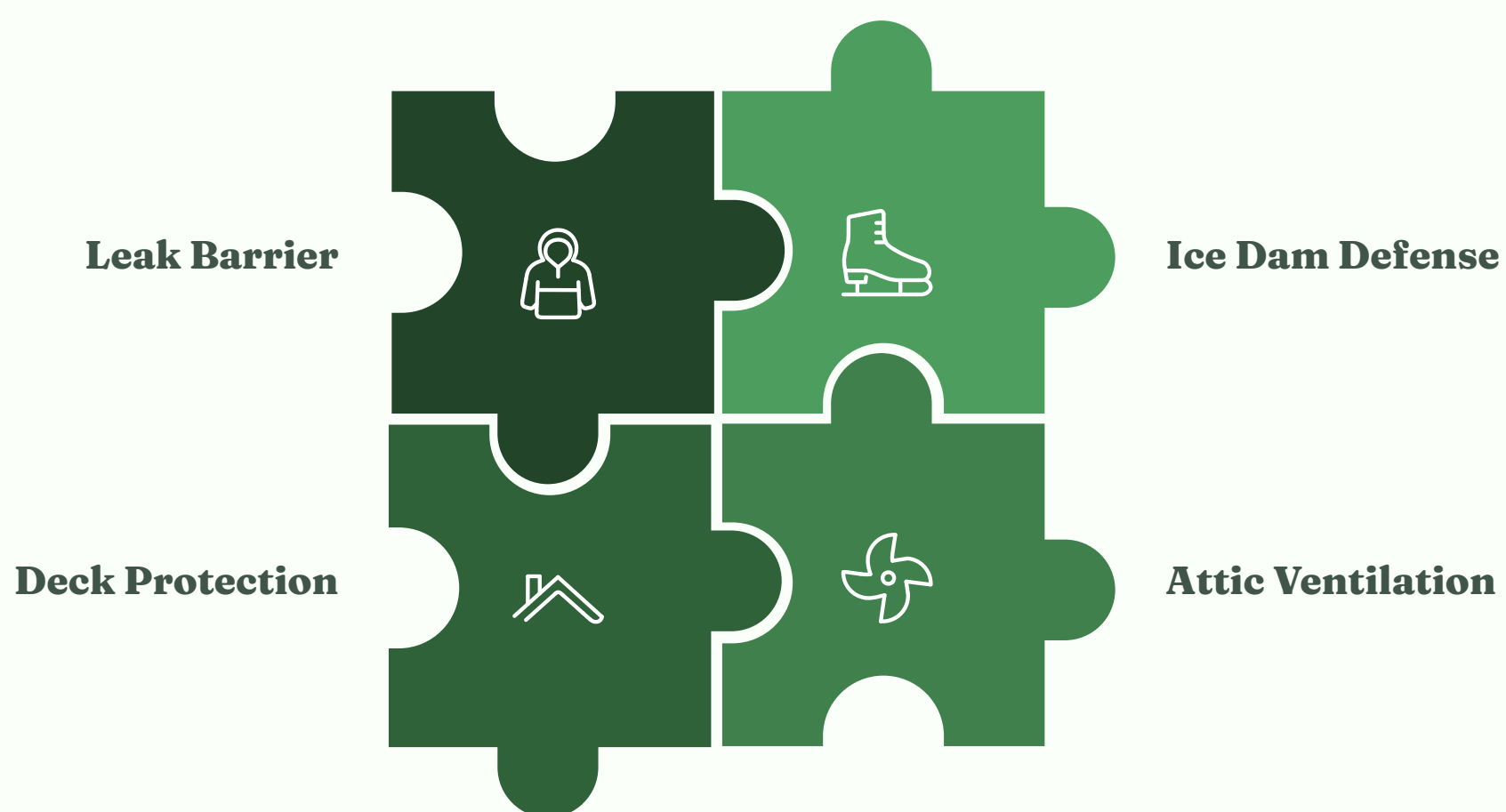
- **Water Stains:** Visible water damage on upstairs ceilings.
- **Ice Dam Infiltration:** Water had been forced under the shingles by an active ice dam.
- **Rotted Sheathing:** The roof sheathing was severely rotted.
- **Saturated Insulation:** Attic insulation was completely saturated, compromising thermal performance.
- **Mold Risk:** Conditions were ripe for potential mold growth, posing health risks.

The Permanent Solution:

Our solution was a comprehensive, permanent fix: the installation of a robust GAF ice & water shield system. This approach goes beyond temporary repairs, targeting the root cause of ice dam formation and protecting the home long-term.

The new GAF system ensures the roof is not only repaired but also fortified against future ice dam challenges. This integrated system works to prevent water infiltration and maintain a consistent roof temperature, eliminating the conditions that allow ice dams to form.

Understanding how these components integrate is crucial for comprehensive protection:



❏ **Critical Insight:** The performance of this system is entirely dependent on the quality of its installation. Even the most advanced materials will fail without expert installation.

The T.A. Hughes Master Elite® Advantage

Even the most advanced roofing system in the world will fail if it is not installed with precision, expertise, and strict adherence to manufacturer specifications. This is why choosing the right contractor is as important as choosing the right materials.

The GAF Master Elite® certification is the highest mark of excellence from GAF, North America's largest roofing manufacturer, indicating a truly qualified and trustworthy installer. T.A. Hughes Roofing has earned this elite status through decades of proven performance and dedication to quality.



GAF Master Elite® Contractor

This certification is earned by only approximately 2% of roofing contractors nationwide, signifying that T.A. Hughes has met GAF's most stringent standards for professionalism, reliability, and craftsmanship. This elite status ensures your project receives the highest level of expertise.



Over 35 Years of Local Experience

As a second-generation, family-owned business, T.A. Hughes has been serving homeowners across Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties for over three decades, building a deep understanding of local weather challenges and construction styles unique to South Jersey.



Commitment to Quality

The company operates on a clear and simple promise: "The only recommended roofers to call when you need it done right the first time." This commitment ensures that every installation meets the highest standards of workmanship and durability.

Choosing T.A. Hughes not only guarantees that your GAF ice dam prevention system is installed correctly but also unlocks access to the most comprehensive warranty protection in the industry.

Ultimate Peace of Mind: The GAF Golden Pledge® Warranty

A new roof is a significant investment, and the GAF Golden Pledge® Limited Warranty offers unparalleled protection, safeguarding your home against material defects and workmanship errors for decades. This premier warranty is exclusively accessible through GAF Master Elite® Contractors like T.A. Hughes, ensuring you receive the highest level of coverage in the industry.



Comprehensive Document

The GAF Golden Pledge® Warranty is a symbol of superior protection, assuring your roof's integrity for the long term. This top-tier coverage is only available when installed by an elite GAF contractor.



Unmatched Coverage Duration

Benefit from **up to 50 years of non-prorated material coverage** against manufacturing defects and an impressive **up to 25 years of workmanship coverage**, protecting you from installation errors.



Exclusive Master Elite Access

This warranty is only offered by GAF Master Elite® Contractors—a distinction earned by approximately **2% of roofing professionals nationwide**. This ensures your installation is performed by the most qualified experts, like T.A. Hughes.

As a factory-certified GAF Master Elite® Contractor, T.A. Hughes is uniquely qualified to provide this premier level of protection to homeowners in South Jersey. This commitment to excellence provides a level of security and long-term value that other contractors simply cannot match.



Take Action: Protect Your Home Today

Your Complete Protection Package

By combining the advanced, three-part GAF system to prevent ice dams, the proven expertise of a Master Elite® installation by T.A. Hughes, and the unmatched security of the Golden Pledge® Warranty, you can achieve true, long-term peace of mind.

Don't wait until the next winter storm reveals vulnerabilities in your roof. Proactive protection is always more affordable than emergency repairs and the extensive damage that ice dams can cause to your home's structure and interior.

Schedule Your Assessment

To protect your home before the next winter season, contact T.A. Hughes today to schedule your comprehensive winter roof assessment.

- **Phone:** (856) 467-1645
- **Service Areas:** Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties
- **Experience:** Over 35 years serving South Jersey
- **Certification:** GAF Master Elite® Contractor



Contact Us

Call (856) 467-1645 or visit online



Free Assessment

Comprehensive winter roof evaluation



Expert Installation

GAF system installed by Master Elite® professionals



Lifetime Protection

Golden Pledge® Warranty coverage