

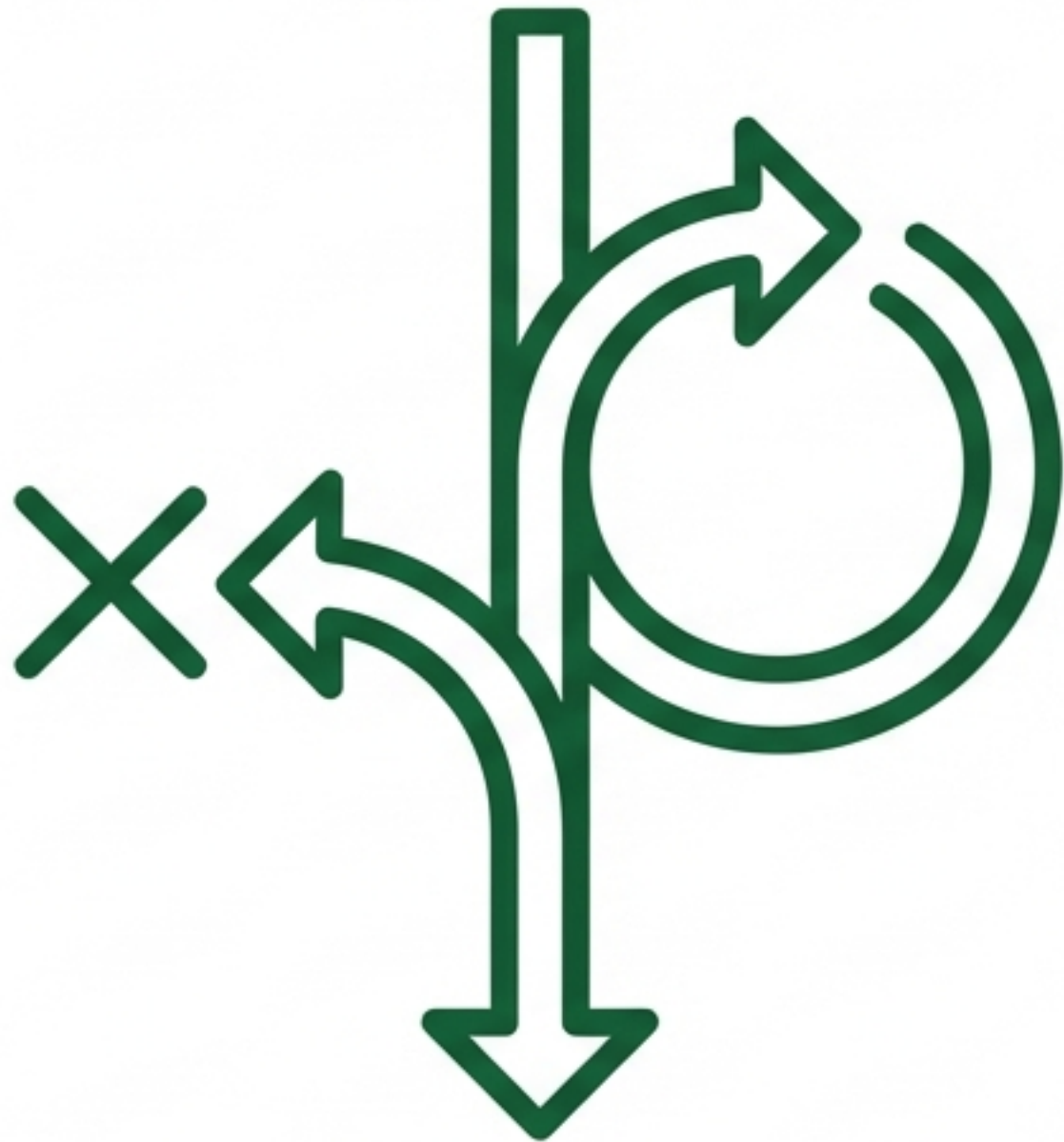


## How Do You Know if a Roof Leak Is Coming From Shingles or Flashing?

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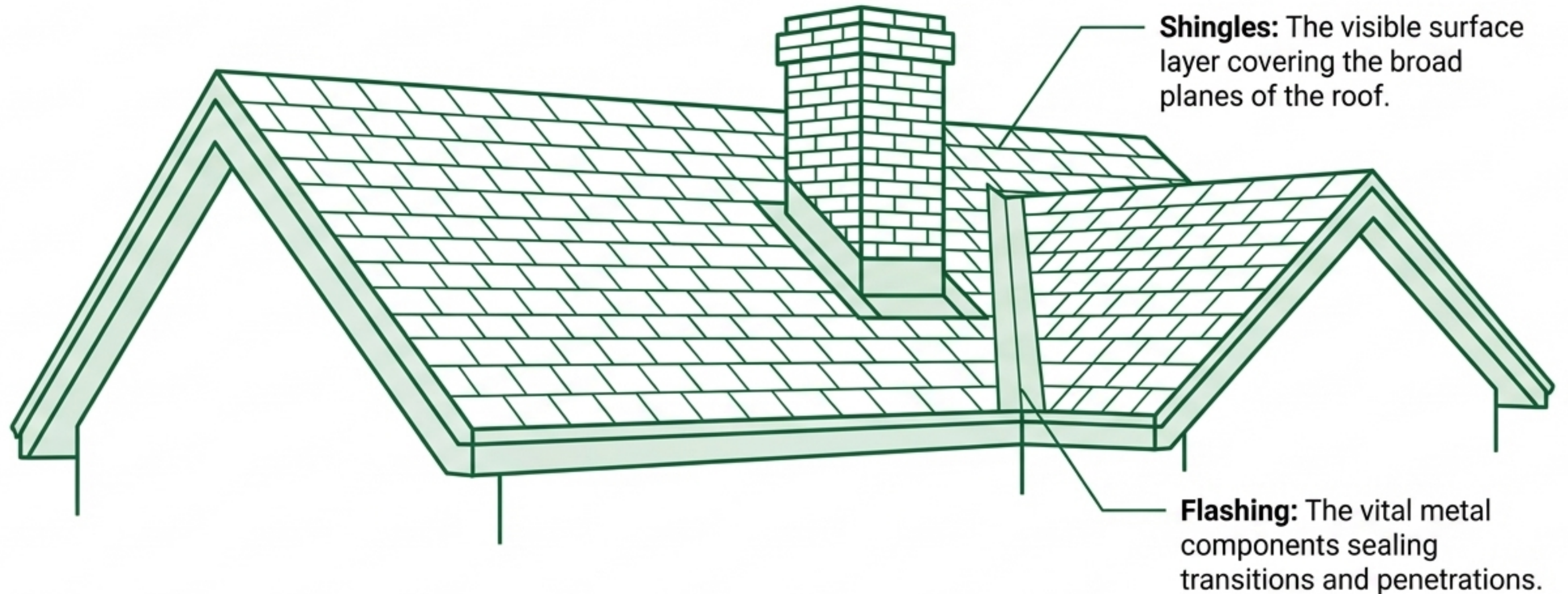
- A Diagnostic Guide for Homeowners
- Reading the clues to find the true source

# Why the True Source Matters



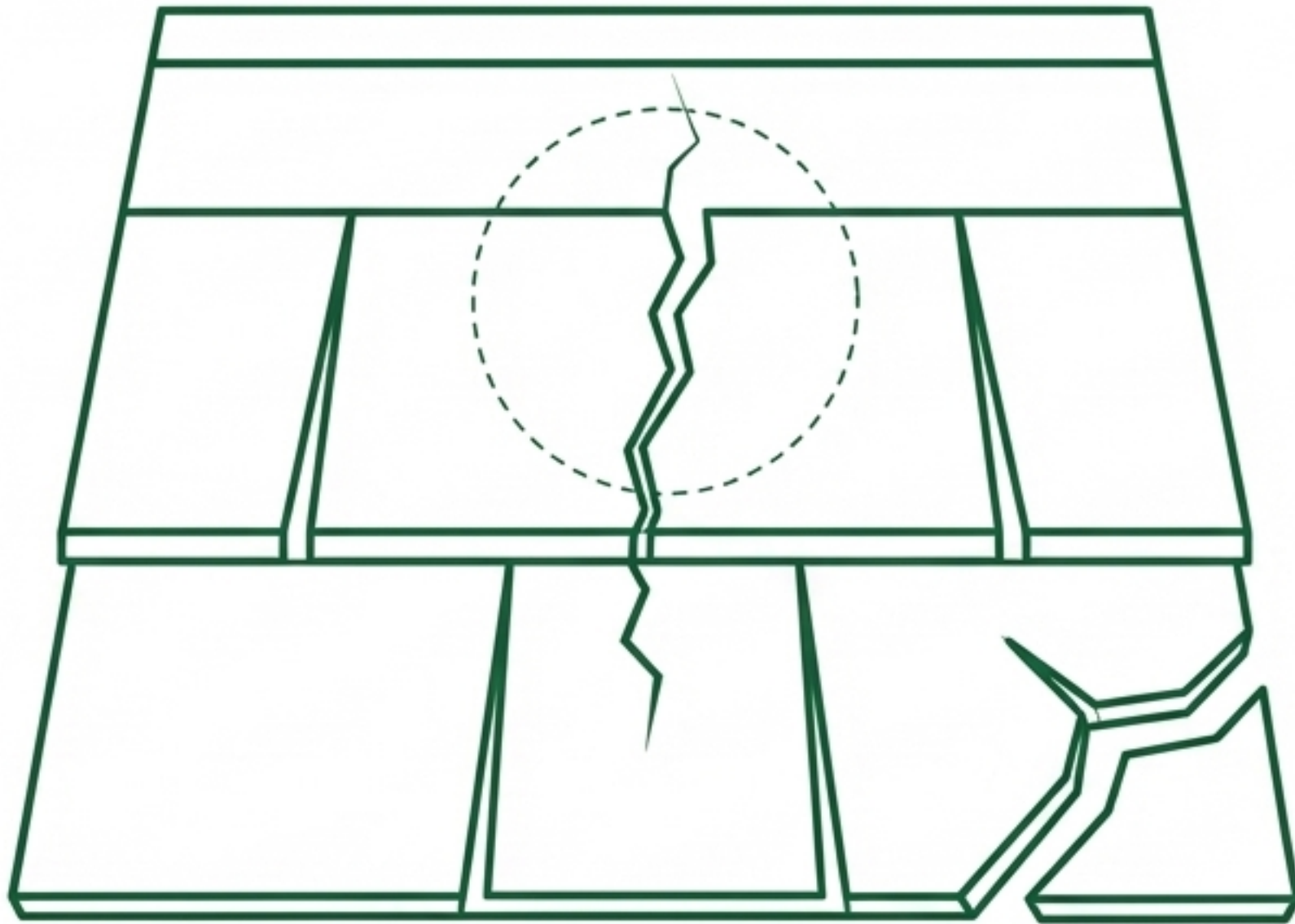
- Misidentifying the source leads to repairs that do not solve the actual problem.
- Applying surface fixes to the wrong component allows unseen water damage to continue.
- Getting the source right the first time is the only path to a permanent fix.

# The Two Primary Culprits



**Note:** In aging homes, flashing failures cause the majority of leaks, even when shingles look intact.

# Understanding Shingle Failure

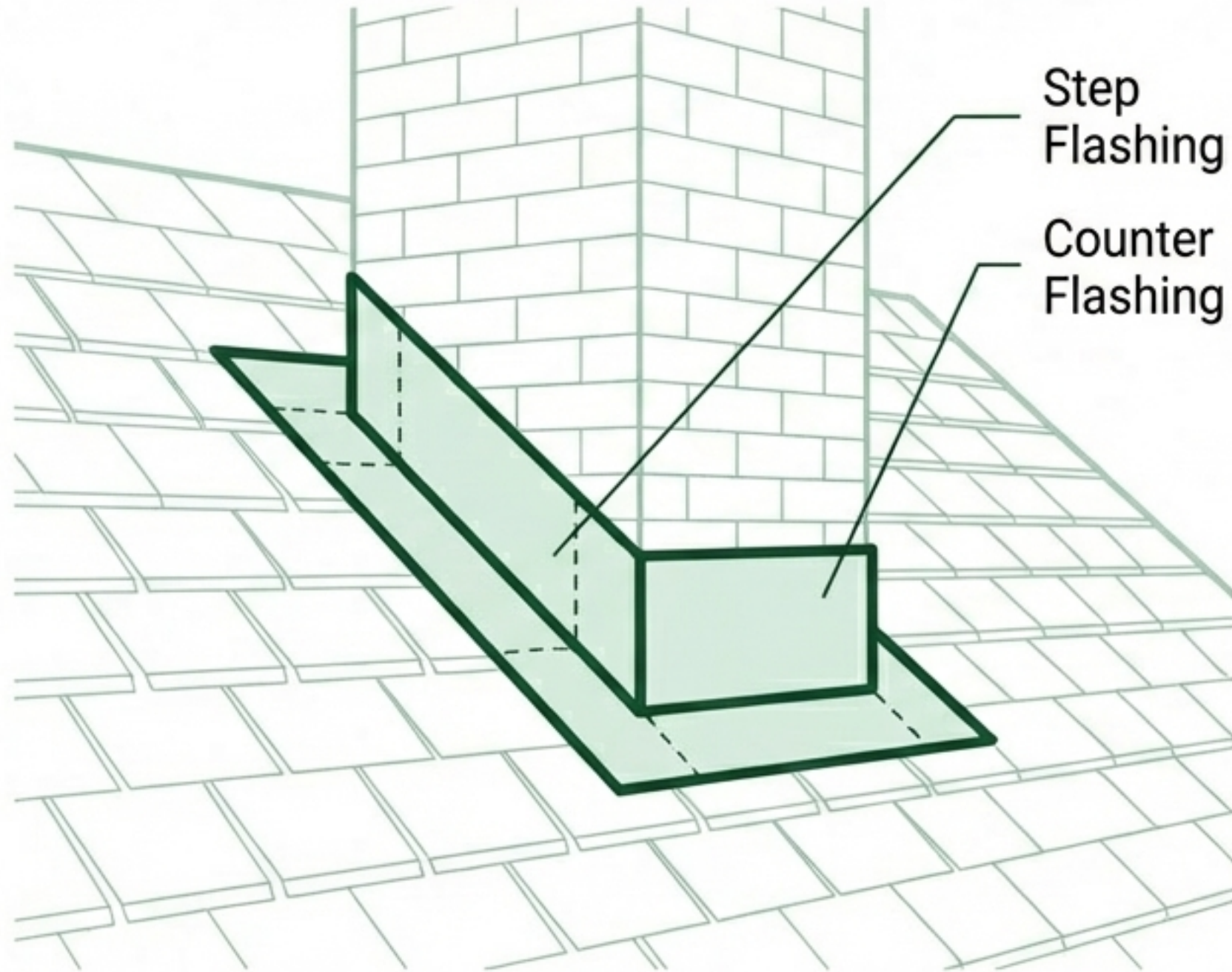


**Aging:** Shingles become brittle and lose their watertight seal over time.

**Granule loss:** Exposed asphalt accelerates deterioration from UV rays.

**Weather damage:** High winds or impact can crack, lift, or completely remove shingles.

# Understanding Flashing Failure



**Chimneys:** Complex flashing assemblies here are among the most common leak sources.

**Vents:** Rubber or metal pipe boots frequently degrade and fail before the surrounding roof.

**Edges:** Transitions at dormers, skylights, and vertical walls are consistent vulnerability points.

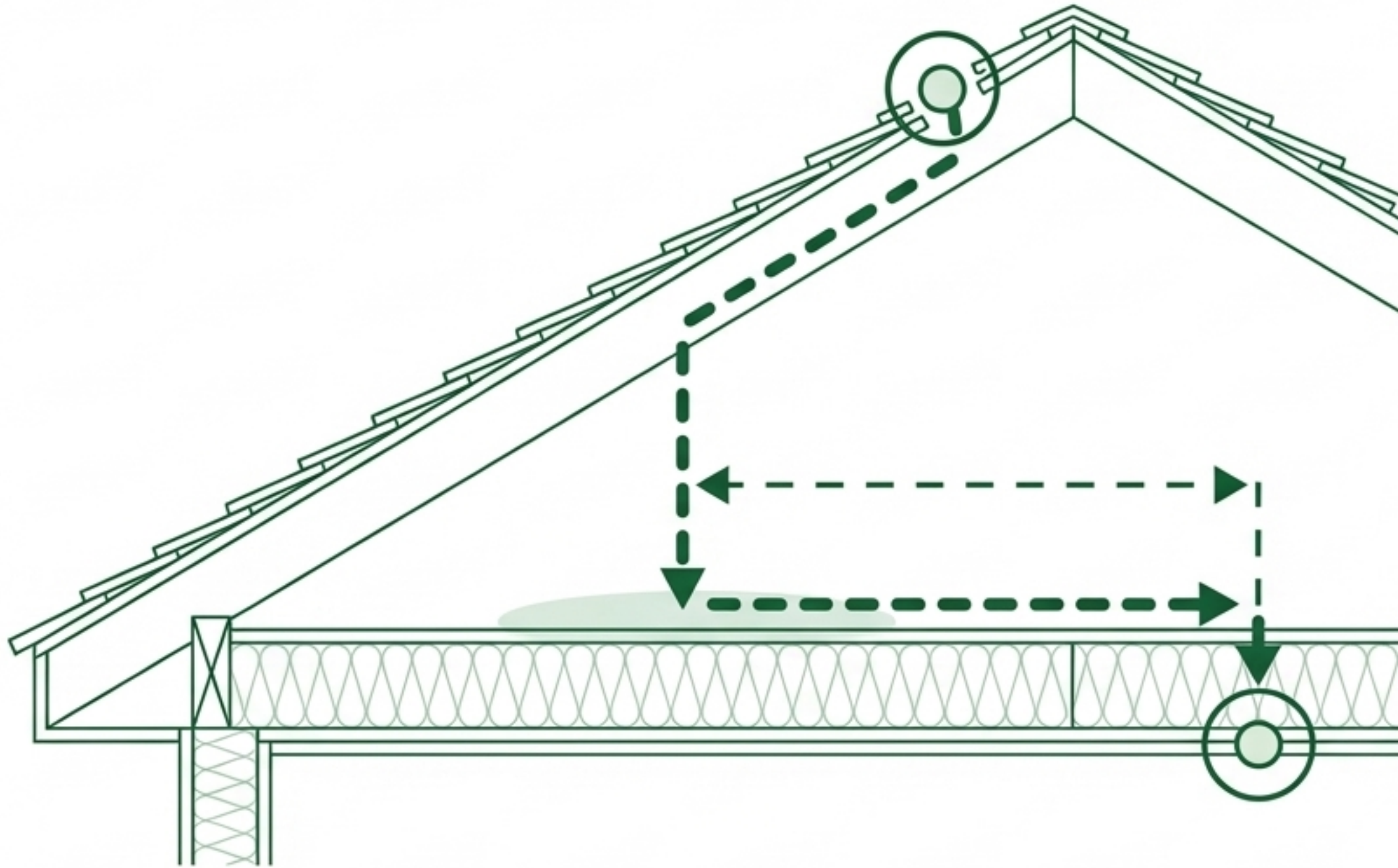
# Differentiating the Symptoms

	Shingle Leaks	Flashing Leaks
Typical Location	Occur in the open field of the roof.	Occur at joints, penetrations, and walls.
Weather Trigger	Happen during any straight rainfall.	Often require wind-driven rain to force water into gaps.
Visibility	Damage is often visible from the yard.	Gaps require close, roof-level inspection.

# Mapping the Interior Clues

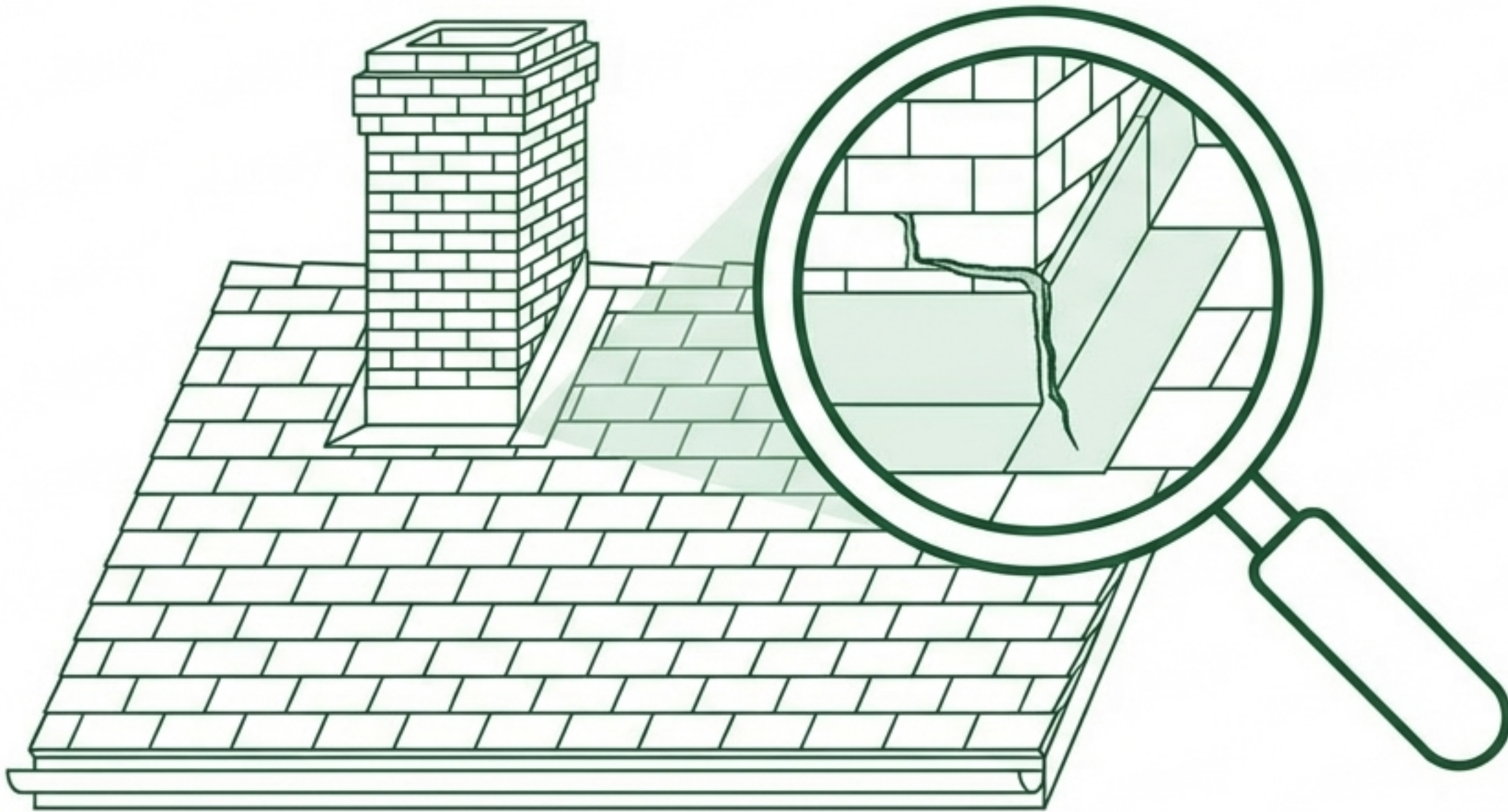


# The Path of Least Resistance



- Water rarely falls straight down from its exterior entry point.
- Moisture travels along structural rafters and underside sheathing.
- By the time water pools and stains your ceiling, it may have traveled several feet horizontally.

# The Illusion of Obvious Damage



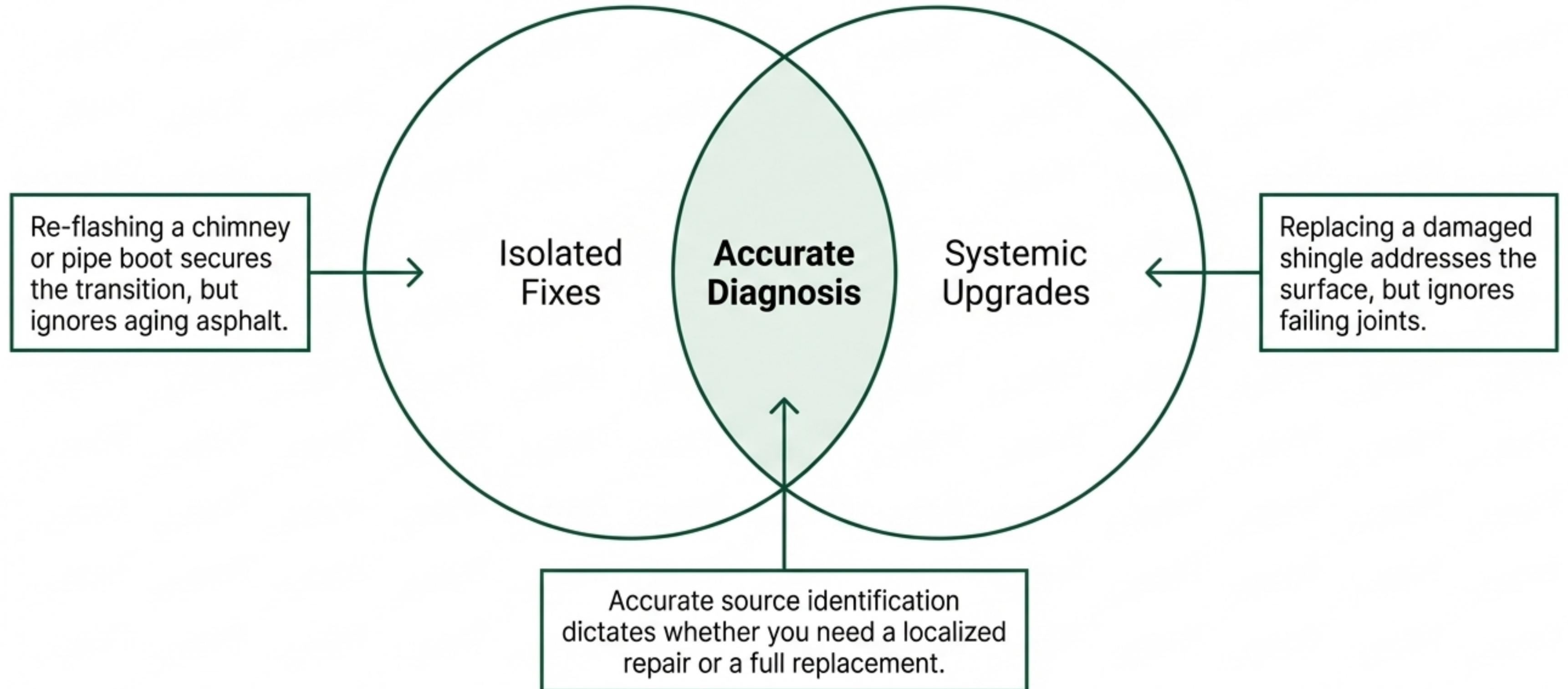
- A missing shingle might be harmless, while an invisible flashing gap lets water pour in.
- Attic inspections show where water is pooling, but not always how it entered.
- Caulking a visible gap may hide the leak temporarily without fixing the underlying assembly.

# The Professional Investigation



- Professional evaluation must occur from the roof surface, not just the yard.
- Inspectors systematically evaluate all flashing assemblies above the interior stain.
- Attic observations are correlated with exterior findings to pinpoint the exact entry.

# Matching the Solution to the Source



# Stop Guessing, Start Diagnosing

- Let the structural clues guide the diagnosis rather than jumping to conclusions.
- Understand that visible damage does not always equal the active leak.
- Rely on comprehensive, surface-level professional inspections to ensure a permanent solution.