

## Shingle Gauge™ Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How did the Shingle Gauge™ change in early 2012?

The new "01/12" Shingle Gauge™ is designed to measure 3-tab fiberglass asphalt shingles, but does not include 3-tab organic or laminated shingles. It can be identified by a "01/12" label below the words Shingle Gauge™, and is shorter than previous Gauges. The new Gauge was released in spring 2012.

### 2. Why did you not include a Laminated section of the Shingle Gauge™?

In early 2011, nearly all asphalt shingle manufacturers introduced lifetime limited warranties for their products. Haag responded by acquiring 76 models of shingles from U.S. manufacturers (laminated and 3-tab fiberglass) to measure each shingle's thickness and compare with its warranty. Our testing concluded that laminated shingles could not be separated by thickness into warranty categories. New "lifetime" warranty products included the thinnest to the thickest shingles tested. Further complicating the issue, many manufacturers limit "lifetime" warranties to residential installations (and, for the same product, use a traditional year designation for commercial-use installations, for example, a 30-year warranty).

### 3. Where can I find more information about new Laminated Lifetime warranties?

See the article, "30 Years to Life: Understanding Lifetime Limited Asphalt Shingle Warranties" by Maciek Rugar (an NRCA director of technical services) in the June 2011 edition of Professional Roofing magazine: <http://www.professionalroofing.net/article.aspx?id=1913>  
Or, review individual manufacturers' product information for new warranty guidelines.

### 4. Can I still use my "4/09" Shingle Gauge™?

Yes. Haag's "4/09" Shingle Gauge™ remains accurate on Laminated shingles installed *before* January 2011.

### 5. What does the "01/12" Shingle Gauge™ measure?

The "01/12" Shingle Gauge™ measures the thickness of fiberglass asphalt 3-Tab shingles and correlates thickness to a warranty level. Knowing a warranty level can be important in estimating a comparable replacement shingle. While the Shingle Gauge™ was designed with the strictest analytical tolerances possible, we still consider it an *estimating* tool due to a small number of shingles that do not conform to the gauge.

## 6. How do you use the “01/12” Shingle Gauge™?

1. Make sure you are measuring a 3-Tab fiberglass asphalt shingle only. (See question #10.)
2. Gently lift one shingle tab and slide the Gauge onto the butt end of the tab.\*
3. Stop and take your reading when you feel the slightest resistance.\*\*

*\*Note: We recommend measuring from the shingle’s butt (bottom, downslope edge). Do not measure over the sealant strip, as it could alter the thickness and measurement read by the Shingle Gauge™. If the sealant strip is applied as a dashed line, it is possible to measure from the butt edge and avoid the sealant strip. If the sealant strip is a solid line, measure from a lower end (side edge) of the shingle.*

*\*\*Note: It is important to stop at the slightest resistance. Do not force the shingle into the Shingle Gauge™. The depth of the shingle in the slot of the Gauge corresponds to the shingle’s warranty level, indicated by the gray bars above. When measuring a Laminated shingle, be sure to measure only a single layer at the butt.*

## 7. What does the “4/09” Shingle Gauge™ measure?

The “4/09” Shingle Gauge™ measures the thickness of a 3-Tab or Laminated shingle, and based on analyses made by Haag Engineering, correlates that thickness to a warranty level. Knowing a warranty level can be important in determining a comparable replacement shingle. While the Shingle Gauge™ was designed with the strictest analytical tolerances possible, we still consider it an *estimating* tool due to a small number of shingles that do not conform to the gauge.

## 8. How do you use the “4/09” Shingle Gauge™?

1. Locate the appropriate shingle type on the Gauge (3-tab asphalt fiberglass or 3-tab organic), and use that part of the Gauge to take your measurement. (See Question #10.)
2. Gently lift a shingle tab and slide the Gauge onto the butt end of the tab.\*
3. Stop and take your reading when you feel the slightest resistance.\*\*

*\*Note: We recommend measuring from the shingle’s butt (bottom, downslope edge). Do not measure over the sealant strip, as it could alter the thickness and measurement read by the Shingle Gauge™. If the sealant strip is applied as a dashed line, it is possible to measure from the butt edge and avoid the sealant strip. If the sealant strip is a solid line, measure from a lower end (side edge) of the shingle.*

*\*\*Note: It is important to stop at the slightest resistance. Do not force the shingle into the Shingle Gauge™. The depth of the shingle in the slot of the Gauge corresponds to the shingle’s warranty level, indicated by the gray bars above. When measuring a Laminated shingle, be sure to measure only a single layer at the butt.*

## 9. How were the Shingle Gauges™ created?

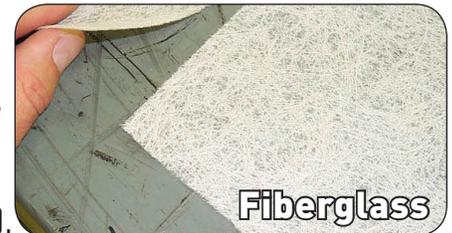
Haag’s Research/Testing department created the Shingle Gauge™ by measuring hundreds of shingles, and then correlating these measurements with shingle warranties. The Shingle Gauge™ was created in 1993, re-designed in 2004 and modified in 2006 and 2009. In 2012, Haag Engineering once again tested and re-calibrated the Shingle Gauge™ to conform to the most recent shingle manufacturer warranties. To ensure you are using the most current version of the Shingle Gauge™, look for the “01/12” label below the words Shingle Gauge™.

## 10. How do you identify 3-Tab Fiberglass, 3-Tab Organic, or Laminated shingles?

Organic and fiberglass shingles look similar from a distance. Examine the edges closely and you'll see either clear or white fibers of glass (fiberglass) or brownish paper fibers (organic, also called "paper"), which look like the torn edge of cardboard. If you can't see the fibers, you can tear a corner or edge and expose the fibers for examination. (Note: fiberglass represents 90+% of the market.)



Organic shingles are used more commonly in colder climates. Their increased weight and stiffness help keep them in place in high winds when there isn't enough heat to activate the sealant strips. Organic shingles are less common. "Organic" is included on the "4/09" Shingle Gauge™, but is not on the "01/12" Shingle Gauge™.



Laminated shingles (also called architectural or dimensional shingles), are two thicknesses of shingle bonded together. The overlying piece normally has extra "teeth" or tabs with wider spaces between them, making them easily distinguishable from 3-tab shingles. The "4/09" Shingle Gauge™ features a Laminated measurement section, but the "01/12" Shingle Gauge™ does not include a Laminated section (please see Question #2 above).



## 11. Does weathering of a shingle over time affect its thickness, and therefore the measurement, given by the Shingle Gauge™?

Yes. A shingle can become thinner over time as granules wear away and asphalt deteriorates due to weathering. Variables such as local climate (heat, UV exposure, and moisture), foot traffic, and lichen growth all effect how quickly a shingle will deteriorate on the roof. While there is no reliable scientific way to account for all these variables, we recommend using the Shingle Gauge™ on the least weathered part of a roof for the most accurate reading. An extremely weathered roof's age should be considered along with the Shingle Gauge™'s measurement.

## 12. Is there any type of shingle the Shingle Gauge™ cannot measure?

Yes. Any type of shingle (3-Tab or Laminated) made with *modified asphalt* (sometimes called "impact resistant") does not conform to the Shingle Gauge™. We also do not test or include T-Lock Shingles in the Shingle Gauge™. And, due to manufacturers' warranty changes, the 01/12 Shingle Gauge™ can no longer measure Laminated (architectural) shingles.

## 13. Do you update the Shingle Gauge™?

Yes. We continually monitor manufacturing and warranty trends and product lines. When necessary, we re-test and recalculate the gauge. Any adjustments or changes will be publicized in a news release and on our website, and incorporated into new gauges.