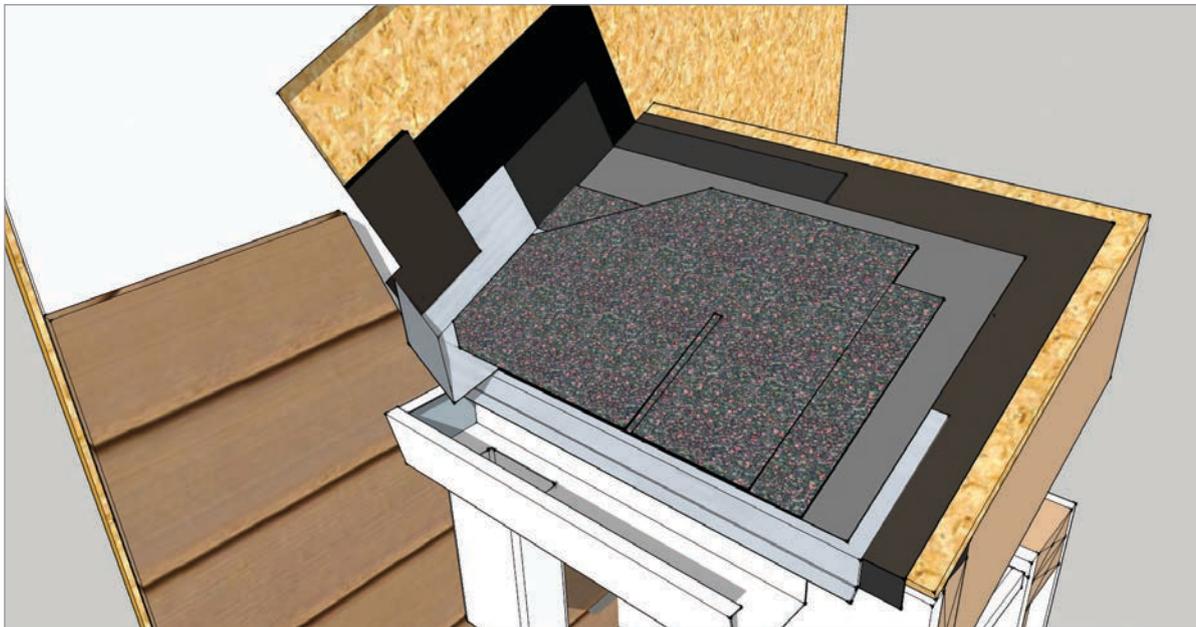


# Leakproof Kickout Flashing

POORLY INSTALLED OR MISSING FLASHING AT ROOF-WALL CONNECTIONS IS A COMMON CAUSE OF WATER DAMAGE. THE SOLUTION: WATERPROOFING AND PROPER KICKOUT FLASHING.

BY DAN MORRISON, AND SAL ALFANO / DIRECTOR OF CONTENT



Kickout flashing replaces the first piece on step flashing and redirects water away from the siding (ideally into a gutter). Without a kickout, water will eventually get behind the siding and into the wall, where it will wreak havoc for years before you notice any signs of a leak.

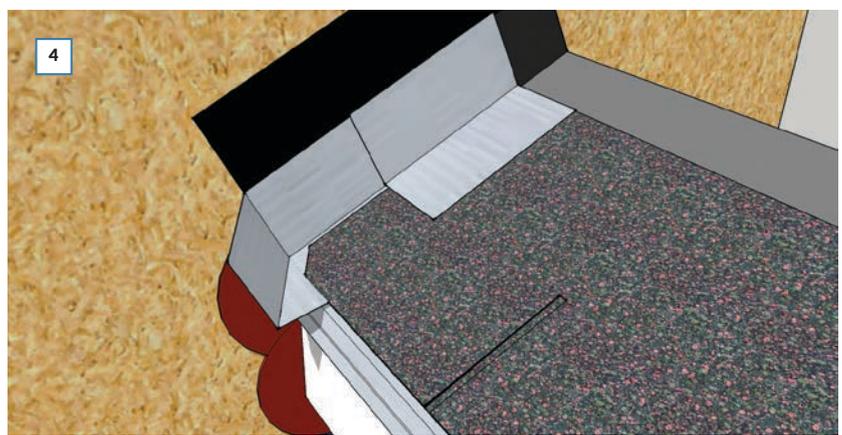
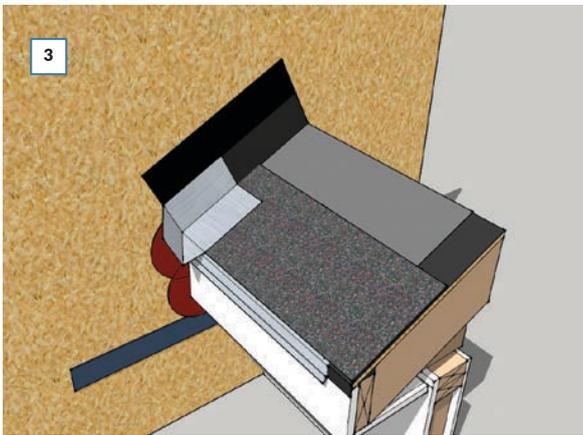
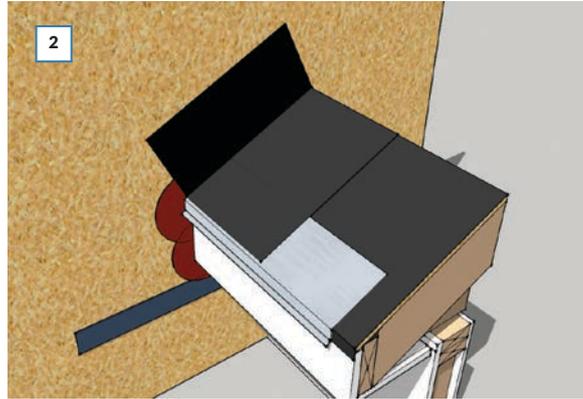
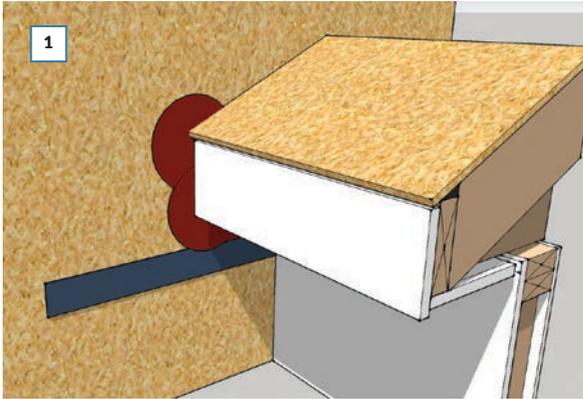
**G**round zero for roof rot is often where roofs meet walls. If water isn't redirected from the roof into a gutter, it can pour into the wall, where over time it will rot the sheathing and framing and wreak havoc with insulation and drywall. The solution is kickout flashing, which replaces the bottommost piece of step flashing and directs water away from the wall and into the gutter.

Some contractors make their own kickout flashing from a standard piece of step flashing by cutting the roof leg in half, then sliding the upper half over the lower half. But unless this joint is soldered, it will eventually leak, defeating its purpose.

Another option is to use a prefabricated kickout flashing, which is available in powder-coated metal ([kickoutflashing.com](http://kickoutflashing.com)) or plastic ([dryfekt.com](http://dryfekt.com)) for less than \$20. In a pinch, you can make your own by crimping the roof leg rather than cutting it (see "Roll Your Own Kickout Flashing," on page 60).

Here are step-by-step instructions for prepping the roof and wall for kickout flashing, adapted from the "Best Practices Manual" of high-performance builder/remodeler Hammer & Hand, in the Pacific Northwest. (The manual is available at [hammerandhand.com](http://hammerandhand.com).)

**Step 1] Waterproof the wall.** Apply waterproofing membrane where the bottom of the roof meets the



wall [1]. In new construction, apply a peel-and-stick membrane directly to the wall sheathing before fastening a rafter to the wall. As an alternative—especially for retrofit work where roof framing and fascia is already in place—use a liquid-applied paint-on membrane such as FastFlash. The waterproofed area should cover the wall at least 4 inches in all directions from the framing, including the area below the fascia.

Be sure to integrate this membrane into the existing housewrap using proper overlaps. If necessary, make the transition to housewrap at the bottom of the waterproofing with flashing tape, which can be lapped over and sealed to the housewrap later. Extend the flashing tape at least 10 inches past the fascia.

**Step 2] Flash the roof and roof-wall connection.**

Next, install a course of peel-and-stick membrane along the eaves, folding over the bottom 2 inches onto the fascia [2]. After installing metal drip edge, run a strip of peel-and-stick membrane to cover the entire joint where the roof meets the wall, extending the membrane about 8 inches onto the roof and up the wall.

**Step 3] Install the kickout flashing.** Install roofing felt or synthetic roofing underlayment over the roof, running it up the wall at least as high as where the top of the step flashing will be [3]. Next, install a starter strip of roofing, then use the kickout flashing in place of the first piece of step flashing. Make sure it overhangs the eaves far enough to direct water away from the roof and wall and into the gutter.

**Step 4] Weave in the step flashing.** Install step flashing and roofing, alternating as necessary to ensure that each piece of step flashing overlaps the lower piece by at least 2 inches [4]. The top of standard step flashing should align with the top of the shingle, but the overlap is the important thing, as is ensuring that the step flashing doesn't peek out from underneath the shingles.

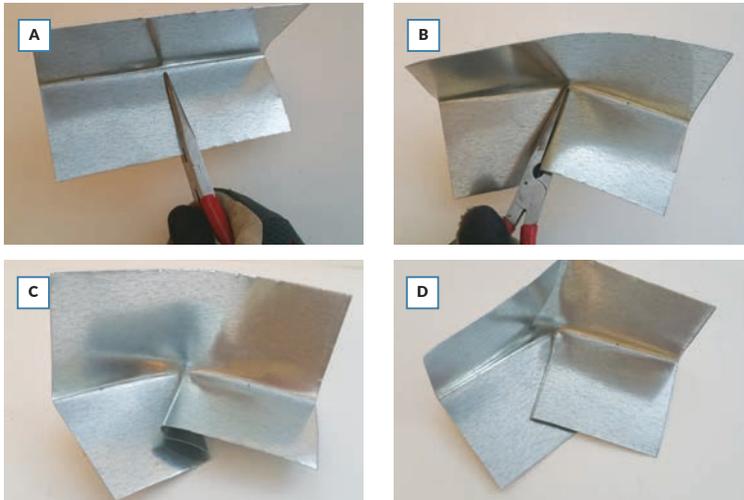
**Step 5] Flash the step flashing.** After the roofing and step flashing is complete for the entire length of the roof-wall connection, add another strip of peel-and-stick membrane over the top of the step flashing, cutting a slit for the kickout flashing and leaving

## ROLL YOUR OWN KICKOUT FLASHING

You can make kickout flashing from a piece of step flashing, but there's a wrong way and #TheRightWay.

The wrong way is easy: Cut the roof-leg of the step flashing at 90 degrees, then slide the lower half under the upper half. Unfortunately, this is guaranteed to leak, even with caulk or adhesive applied to the seam, and especially if you get the overlaps backward. Unless the seam is properly overlapped and soldered, water will eventually make its way underneath. By the time you discover the leak, the damage to the wall will be done.

#TheRightWay is to *fold* the roof leg instead of cutting it. This creates a seam, but one that water cannot penetrate. To get a good fold, you will need a pair of long needle-nose pliers—long enough to reach all the way from the edge of the step flashing to the inside corner. Use galvanized steel or heavy aluminum (light-gauge aluminum may tear at the corner). The hardest part is finding the extra-long pliers. I don't have any, so for demonstration purposes I cut the flashing in the photos to match the 2¾-inch throat of the needle-nose pliers I had on hand. —SA

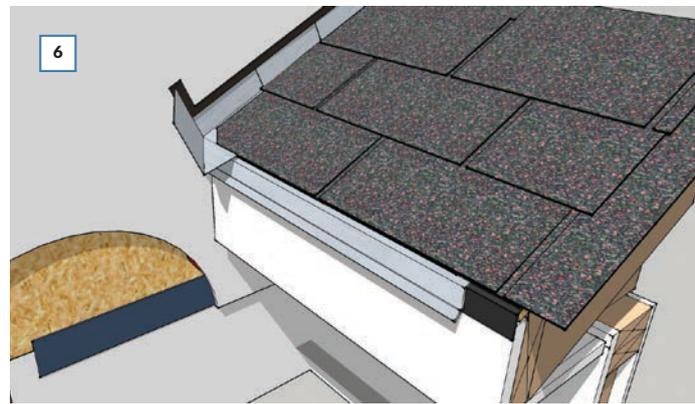
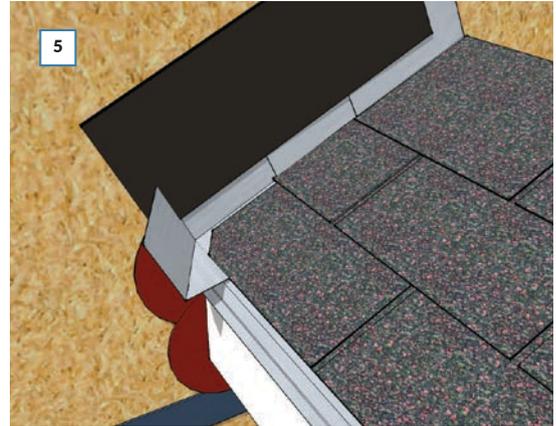


**[A]** Clamp the roof leg of the step flashing so that the tip of the needle-nose pliers reaches all the way into the corner bend.

**[B]** Roll the needle-nose pliers “downhill” to create a fold in the roof leg. Here, I’m making a “left-hand” kickout; roll the pliers the other way to create a “right-hand” kickout.

**[C]** Pinch the wall leg to create a vertical crease, then adjust the width of the fold (with gloved hands or with the pliers) until you get enough angle on the kickout bend.

**[D]** Flatten both edges of the fold, and crease the wall-leg bend again to create a sharper corner. As with all step flashing, fasten the kickout in place through the wall leg and avoid nailing through the roof leg.



a 2-inch gap between the membrane and the roofing [5].

**Step 6] Button up the housewrap.** Install housewrap on the wall from the bottom up [6]. Use flashing tape along the bottom of the waterproofed wall area to ensure continuous drainage, being careful to lap the upper courses of housewrap over the lower ones and making a slit for the kickout flashing. Keep the housewrap as well as any type of siding material about 2 inches off the roofing. **PRO**

*Dan Morrison is senior technical editor of ProTradeCraft.com. Sal Alfano is director of content. Adapted with permission from the “Best Practices Manual” of Hammer & Hand, a Portland, Ore., and Seattle-based general contractor specializing in high-performance buildings.*

**▲** FOR A VIDEO ON HOMEMADE KICKOUT FLASHING, SEE “KEEP WATER OUT OF WALLS WITH KICKOUT FLASHING” AT PROTRADECRAFT.COM