



# Heat Cable Comparisons

A User Guide to Roof and Gutter De-Icing Heat Cable

Many professional contractors and handymen still install cheap cable because they either do not understand the difference or prefer simple, DIY-friendly products. Here are some differences between the two major varieties of ice dam prevention heat cable available in the North American market today.



## Self-Regulating Heat Cable

### Visual Comparison:

Color: Black or dark grey

Dimensions: 1/4" x 1/2"

### Warranty:

10 Year Warranty

### Energy Usage:

Self-regulates by using less energy when it's warmer outside and more when it's colder. Smart cable.

### Maintenance:

Requires no maintenance annually to operate safely.

### Versatility:

Approved for use on ALL roof materials and slopes.

### Safety:

Can overlap itself and touch ANY material in or on your home including metal, wood, rubber, leaves, etc..

### Effective:

Works to create melted pathways in snow and ice down to -20°F.

### Major Brands:

Heat Tape Pro™, Raychem, Drexan, BriskHeat

## Constant Wattage Heat Cable

### Visual Comparison:

Color: Black or dark grey

Dimensions: 1/4" x 1/4"

### Warranty:

2 Year Warranty (Max)

### Energy Usage:

Consumes the same amount of energy regardless of outdoor temperatures. Dumb cable.

### Maintenance:

Owners must removal combustibles (leaves, pine needles, etc.) from around cable to operate safely. See Manual.

### Versatility:

Approved for use on ONLY sloped, asphalt shingle roofs.

### Safety:

May short, burn out or start on fire if it comes into contact with itself or metal, rubber, wood, or any organic matter such as leaves. See Manual.

### Effective:

Not effective under 15°F and may exacerbate ice dam issues. See Manual.

### Major Brands:

EasyHeat, Frost King, Wrap-On, Heat-It, Prime Wire