Where ice dams happen...and don’t happen

A. Ice dams seldom occur over unheated areas such as garages and porches.
B. The valley areas of dormers frequently get ice dams.
C. Ice dams often occur both below and above skylights. Ice dams above skylights are hard to see from the ground, making them some of the sneakiest to discover.
D. Any openings through the roof—such as pipes and vents—are a good place for small ice dams to form.
E. Valleys are very common areas for ice dam formation. It is important to never use hammers or chisels near valleys as the difference between a thorough ice removal job and valley damage is fractions of an inch.
F. On roofs with a low pitch (angle) even a 1-2” ice dam can cause significant leaking and interior damage.
G. The eaves edge is the most common place to see ice dams. 80% of the dams we remove are found here.
H. Interior rooms with vaulted ceilings are frequently associated with large ice dams. Bathrooms are often the worst. If you add recessed lighting to a vaulted ceiling, you are much more likely to have ice dams.
I. Ice dams occasionally form around chimneys and furnace flues. Any place heat escapes through the roof line. Ice dams in these locations can be very, very small and still cause leaking.