

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

To Roofing



CertainTeed
SAINT-GOBAIN



A Guide to
Protecting Your
Home
Sweet
Home





So You Need to Reroof Your Home?

Let us show you how to do it.

To help you through the process, we've broken down the steps you'll need to take to pick the right roof for your home.

1. Getting Started

Jump into your next roofing project with confidence by understanding how to find a contractor, the best procedures for getting an estimate, and factors to consider before your project takes off.

2. Selecting a Product

Choose the right product for you and your home by weighing the investment budget against features and benefits desired, researching a range of products and studying manufacturers' warranties.

3. Reroofing Procedures

Familiarize yourself with important aspects of the reroofing process, including ordinances and permits.



Getting Started

When it comes to reroofing, there are a number of areas homeowners need to be aware of—from selecting a contractor to the actual start of work.

We've outlined the six most commonly asked questions by homeowners with regard to getting started.



How do I find a professional roofing contractor?

Your first step is to find a contractor. Ask for referrals first from trusted friends, relatives and neighbors. The second best place to seek out a professional contractor is to go to your local building distributor or lumber yard dealer and ask them. You can also visit www.certainteed.com/find-a-pro to locate a contractor near you.



You should interview two to three different contractors, whether they are referrals or from the Internet. Do not consider any bids from contractors you have not met or interviewed.

Ask for eight to ten references, meaning jobsite locations or names of homeowners, from each contractor interviewed. It is not necessary to check all ten, but you will be able to pick randomly from the list those you do call.

While evaluating contractors, consider their length of time in business. Needless to say, longer is usually better. Under three years may signal an unstable business or one low on the learning curve.

A newer business may have a great future but it is only reasonable to be more careful when considering its referrals. The failure rate of small businesses in the first three years is high.

You will also want to consider whether they have numerous customers in the nearby area, their willingness and professionalism of estimate offered, any membership in professional associations and their knowledge and thoroughness of roofing procedures.



How many estimates should I get before selecting a roofing contractor? What is the best way to judge an estimate?

Although you may receive a reliable, fair estimate from the first contractor interviewed, you should usually obtain two additional estimates to help you determine which one is best.

Factors to Consider

- **The contractor**

Base your evaluation on the likelihood that during the next two to five years that the contractor can be located, will stand behind his warranty and will provide the service he promised.

- **The quality and completeness of the roof system recommended**

Make sure the complete roof system will include ventilation and waterproofing shingle underlayment if appropriate to your region and your home's structure.

- **The completeness of the contractor's insurance package**

Protect yourself from involvement in worker injuries, third person liabilities and damages consequential to the work being performed.

Never judge the value of various proposals from the lowest bid received. A low price can signal a lot of discrepancies and shortcomings in the reliability of the contractor.





Selecting a Product

Selecting roofing shingles is no different than purchasing a major home appliance or even a new car. You should investigate your options carefully, and weigh the costs against features and benefits desired.

Sometimes a homeowner who is looking to reroof for functional reasons may see a standard roofing shingle on a neighbor's home and decide to go with the same product choice—and maybe even the same color. But if appearance is a major factor in your decision to reroof, then take the time to really look around.



What is the difference between an architectural, or designer, shingle and a standard shingle?



Since the early 1900s, the three-tab or strip shingle was the standard composition shingle installed on single family residences. Color was about the only appearance differentiation in this class of shingle.

In 1965, CertainTeed Corporation introduced the Hallmark Shingle™, the first architectural or designer shingle on the market. The laminated “dragon-tooth” design followed that to become today’s standard shingle. Additional important innovations in shingle design, such as 3- and 4- layer thick products offer even more choices, including super heavyweight shingles that mimic slate or wood shake.



What does the UL fire resistance rating for a shingle mean?

The Underwriters Laboratories Inc.® (UL) ratings signify that the shingles were manufactured to pass a certain set of standards to qualify as fire resistant. Some local building codes may have ordinances specifying a certain UL Class for your residential area.



Reroofing Procedures

There are various conditions about your roof that may limit your product choices or affect the investment cost of your roofing job.

While we do recommend hiring a professional contractor to reroof your home, you should, nevertheless, familiarize yourself with certain aspects of the reroofing process.



Do I need to obtain a permit to install a new roof on my home?

Some local ordinances require permits be obtained prior to the start of roofing work in both new and some reroofing jobs, depending on the locale. If a permit is required, discuss with your contractor how it will be obtained. If your contractor agrees to obtain the permit, make sure your contract states this clearly.



Your roofing contractor should know if a permit is required in your area for reroofing jobs.



What do I do with existing shingles?

There are two options available for reroofing installations. One would be to tear off the old roof before applying the new one. The second would be to lay new shingles over the existing roof. Today, the vast majority of reroof jobs tear-off the existing shingles.

Tearing off the old roof and starting with a clean deck before reroofing may result in a smoother finished roof system while revealing any defects or condensation problems.

If the old roof is torn off, your contractor should be responsible for the cleanup and disposal of the old shingles, but make sure your contract states this clearly.

If you do plan to reroof over existing shingles, first check if your local building codes limit the number of roof layers that can be applied to a residence in your area. Your contractor should know the pertinent code requirements.



Need to Know More?

We hope this brochure has provided you with some insightful information regarding the reroofing process. If you have any questions or comments, we would be happy to hear from you.

If you'd like additional information or literature on specific products,

Visit us:
www.certainteed.com

Call us: 800-782-8777

Email us:
salesupportgroup@certainteed.com

Or write us:
CertainTeed Sales Support Group
20 Moores Road
Malvern, PA 19355



What's Behind Our #1 Rating?

Builders and remodelers across America know certain things to be true of CertainTeed.

For starters, we've been in the roofing business for over 100 years, and we have thousands of satisfied homeowners. The process of building that satisfaction begins the moment you turn to us.

CertainTeed offers you the broadest range of color and style choices. But you'll see it's not style over substance.

You'll get a roof that's made from the highest quality materials and backed by a strong warranty program.

It's our promise to you: quality made certain, satisfaction guaranteed.

RESIDENTIAL ROOFING



learn more at: certainteed.com/roofing



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