

Metal Roofing = The Best Platform for Solar

Over the last 40 years, over 2 billion square feet of metal roofing has been installed annually in the United States. Metal roofs, known for their durability, sustainability and versatility, are also increasing in popularity within the solar marketplace.

There are many reasons why metal roofing is a natural choice for mounting solar PV. The two most important benefits include...

- 1) Metal roofing provides the ideal platform for solar, and
- 2) The service life of a quality metal roof can actually exceed the service life of a solar PV system.

Field studies by several organizations, including one published by the Metal Construction Association, have shown that the service life of a quality standing seam metal roof can be 70 years. The service life of solar PV averages 32.5 years, according to a Berkeley study.

Many alternative roofing systems will expire long before the life of the PV system. But a quality metal roof system can meet or exceed the average life span of a solar PV system, saving disassembly of the PV array, re-roofing and re-assembly costs.

Metal roofing is also one of the most sustainable roofing materials available, which is important to homeowners who are looking for both environmental and economic energy efficiencies.



Long-term Return on Investment

Once the decision is made to install solar, often a new roof is required. More and more building owners are replacing their traditional roofs with metal roofing due to the lifetime cost savings, longevity and ease of mounting solar PV systems.

When determining the return of investment with installing a solar PV system, it is important to include the cost of a potential roof replacement. Why? Because when replacing a roof system, the solar arrays will need to be totally dismantled and then re-installed to allow for the replacement roof. There are a number of exorbitant costs associated with re-roofing when solar PV is involved:

- Removing modules
- Removing the mounting & racking system
- De-commissioning the system during re-roof
- The re-roof expense itself
- Re-installing & re-commissioning the PV system
- Possibility of damaged components
- Potential for new wiring may be necessary
- System downtime

With metal, you can avoid roof replacement since a quality metal roof can last 50+ years. That means your metal roof will still be going strong long after the service life of the solar PV arrays has expired.

In short, solar PV and the roof system should be regarded as a single asset for the greatest benefit.

A quality metal roof is the most solar-friendly roofing system available.

Longevity, durability, performance & aesthetics paired with solar just makes sense.

