

Residential Metal Roofing

CHOOSING AN INSTALLER



For more information visit metalroofing.com

Introduction

CHOOSING AN INSTALLER: MRA BUYER'S GUIDE



Your roof does more than top off your home—it's your first line of defense against the elements, protecting everything and everyone inside. That's why choosing the right roofing installer is just as important as selecting high-quality materials. A well-built roof depends on skilled craftsmanship, proven products, and a contractor you can trust.

When evaluating your options, look for professionals who work with reputable manufacturers and adhere to strict industry standards. Organizations like the Metal Roofing Alliance (MRA) bring together manufacturers, contractors, and suppliers who are committed to quality, safety, and long-term performance. Their products are tested against rigorous standards to help ensure your roof meets building codes and stands up to years of wear.

It can be tempting to cut costs with cheaper materials or less experienced installers, but those short-term savings often come at a higher price. Inferior products and workmanship can lead to premature failures, costly repairs, and limited or nonexistent warranty protection—putting both your investment and your home at risk.

By choosing a qualified installer who stands behind their work and uses trusted materials, you gain more than a new roof—you gain confidence that your home will be protected for years to come.

Here's what to know before you get started.

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Section 1

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Now that you are ready to proceed with the re-roofing process, do your homework **BEFORE** reaching out to a roofing installer. It is important to note that, while the type of roof you install is critical to your decision process, just as critical is the selection of your roofing installer. For homeowners seeking a quality metal roofing installer, MRA offers these tips:



Don't assume all roofers are equally skilled

Some contractors push homeowners towards a certain roofing material, not because it's the best or most appropriate for their home, but because it may simply be the option the installer is most familiar with. Make sure your installer is properly trained, experienced and skilled in installing metal roofing.

Ideally, look for a roofer that has been in business for at least five years; roofers who don't do quality work usually don't last that long.

It is also important that your installer utilize OSHA approved fall protection measures throughout your re-roof project, a prudent practice followed by law-abiding roofing contractors.

Get referrals

Reputable installers are typically involved in the industry and are committed to keeping abreast of the latest trends and techniques. Check to see if the prospective installer is a member of MRA and other reputable trade alliances.

Be sure to ask for and contact recent references. When contacting references, ask if they were satisfied with the work, if the process went smoothly, if the installers were careful and courteous and they did what they promised, including sticking to the estimate and change orders.

Also, ask the installer to provide you with a few recent job locations so you can drive by and check out the work. While pictures may be helpful, there's nothing like seeing how a roof looks first-hand.

Know what you want before you reach out

With metal roofing alone, there are hundreds of different options, material types, finishes and installation techniques.

Request the highest-rated, longest lasting material within your budget and always do your own research for whatever product recommendation your installer suggests, verifying it's what you want for your home.

Section 1

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

(Continued)

Protect yourself

Make sure that installers are licensed, insured and carry workers' compensation coverage. Don't be afraid to ask for proof-of-insurance certificates and the insurance agent's name. A reputable installer won't hesitate to provide you with that information. Don't pay the full amount of a job upfront; ideally, pay one-third upfront for materials, and the remainder when roofing and clean up are completed to your satisfaction. It goes without saying that evaluating warranties is essential: make sure it covers not only materials and finishes, but leaks, flashing failures and other labor-related defects.

Be thorough

Putting on a new roof is only part of the equation. Replacing flashing, curbs and roof jacks is less complicated when re-roofing, so consider having it done at the same time if needed. Be sure to have your contractor or HVAC provider verify proper attic ventilation. Poor ventilation can cause significant damage, high utility bills and worse case, can lead to serious safety issues.

Remember... metal roofs are one of the best and most reliable ways to protect your home for the long run. Invest some time and effort upfront before your re-roofing project begins - it will pay off with many years of loving your home's roof.

Demand Quality Products

As happens with many consumer products, there may be industry suppliers who attempt to secure lower priced products through offshore raw materials or production. It is not uncommon for these low-priced products to be made from low-quality materials.

All Metal Roofing Alliance manufacturer members have been vetted as producing products that meet the Premium Quality Certification requirements put forth by the Metal Construction Association. These products represent the highest quality metal roofing options on the market based on materials used throughout the manufacturing process and meet rigorous industry standards for residential metal roofing. Using MRA manufacturer members products can help you rest easy knowing the products are quality and made to perform.

In all cases, MRA recommends you ask questions and be certain you understand the metal roof you're purchasing. Who produced it, where, and from what raw materials? What industry standards does the roofing meet or exceed? What is the product warranty you will receive and who backs up that warranty? What has been their experience with warranty claims?



- Select the type of roofing you desire before reaching out to a local installer, including the type of roof material and color.
- Make sure the installer you choose is a qualified, trained installer of the roof choice you select.
- Referrals are important and should be easy for good installers to provide... just ask.
- Require proof of the installer's coverages (licenses, insurance, etc.) upfront. Don't be afraid to verify as needed.
- Do not pay 100% of the roof estimate up-front. Work with the installer on determining payment amounts based on targeted points in the project. A quality, trustworthy installer will understand that full payment is dependent on a job well-done.
- Make sure you inspect the workmanship and finished product before making final payment. Don't be afraid to question the installer about specific aspects of the final results for clarity and confirmation.
- Make sure you record the important details about your roof — the manufacturer of the product, installer information, warranty details — for future reference. Also get signed, final versions of all pertinent warranties for the project.

Section 2

UNDERSTANDING THE ROOFING PROCESS



Understanding the roofing process is a vital part of your roof replacement project. The ability to make an educated decision when hiring a roofing professional will save you time, money and frustration throughout the process.

A moderately-sized, professionally-installed roof will follow a process similar to these steps...

1 INSPECTION / REMOVAL

Often a metal roof may be installed over the existing roof, eliminating the need for tear-off and disposal. If you choose to install a metal roof, MRA recommends asking your installer if the old roof must be removed prior to installation. Should you need to remove the existing roof, this will require depositing the old roofing material into a dumpster or truck for removal, including old or damaged flashings and drip edge. A good roofing crew will protect your foundation, siding and landscaping during tear-off and will use magnetic tools to pick-up nails and metal objects from your lawn and surrounding areas.

2 ROOF SUBSTRUCTURE / REPAIR

If the roof deck is in good condition, only minor repairs will be required. If not, replacement of bad wood with new plywood sheathing, OSB or boards, whichever is applicable to your type of roof, will be required.

3 UNDERLAYMENT / WATER PROTECTION

Install underlayment over the roof sheathing. The layer of underlayment creates an inner barrier against water penetrating into the house. Rows of underlayment are overlapped as they progress upward toward the peak and are normally nailed in place with sealing nails.

4 DRIP EDGE

Apply metal drip edge round the edge of the roof, both the eave sides and gable sides. The metal drip edge is nailed in place over the underlayment.

5 FLASHING / CURBS & ROOF JACKS

Where necessary, apply new valley flashing along areas where two roof planes meet. The valley flashing is typically fastened to the roofing deck.

6 VENTILATION / RIDGE VENTS

Install the ridge vent. This continuous vent along the peak of the roof will help air circulation in the attic space and can be integral in exhausting hot air and preventing winter ice dams. Ridge vents may not be included on older roofs but installing them can be a good idea whenever a house is re-roofed.

7 INSTALLATION

Installation of the roofing panel should be performed by a licensed metal roofing professional with experience installing the roof style you chose.

8 CLEAN-UP & INSPECT

Complete the final clean-up and haul debris away. Have the installation inspected and approved by an approved building inspector.

Section 3

WARRANTIES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Product warranties can be tricky, especially when it comes to roofing. Knowing what to look for in a product warranty could mean the difference between a long-lasting roofing product and one that appears to be quality but, when failure occurs, ends up being worthless.

Quality metal roofing products, such as those offered by MRA manufacturer members, typically come with a 40+ year warranty on painted and stone-coated products. And the warranties that back these quality metal roofing products are solid, offering homeowners the assurance that the metal roof they have installed will be a “life time roof”. Odds are high that, with other roofing materials, your warranty will not be as robust or provide the true coverage that a quality metal roof warranty can provide.

Further, a quality metal roof is typically backed by multiple layers of warranty protection designed to cover both the product itself and the installation workmanship. Common metal roofing warranties include:

Manufacturer Material Warranty – Covers defects in the metal panels, fasteners, or roofing components. Many premium systems offer 30–50 year or lifetime coverage.

Paint & Finish Warranty – Protects against fading, chalking, peeling, or corrosion of the factory-applied coating. High-end finishes often carry 30–40 year warranties.

Weather & Performance Warranty – Some systems include protection against wind damage, hail resistance, or water penetration when installed to manufacturer specifications.

Workmanship Warranty – Provided by the roofing contractor to cover installation-related issues. Quality contractors may offer warranties ranging from 5 years to lifetime workmanship coverage.

Transferable Warranty Options – Many metal roof warranties can transfer to a new homeowner, helping increase resale value and buyer confidence.

Because metal roofing systems are engineered for long-term durability, manufacturers are often able to offer more comprehensive and longer-lasting warranties than those commonly available with asphalt roofing.



Section 4

HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST: WHAT TO KNOW



Is it time for a new roof? Do any of these signs exist?

- Missing or loose roofing material
- Damaged roofing material
- Sagging roof
- Large amounts of granules in your gutters or downspouts
- Exposed nail heads or loose nails
- Water damage inside your home or attic
- Missing or damaged flashings, curbs or roof jacks
- Noticeably higher heating or cooling bills

Where you live matters. Is your region prone to...

- Heavy snow and/or ice
- Extreme heat or cold
- Hurricanes, tornadoes or high winds
- Hail
- Wildfires

Comparing roof materials. What factors do you value in a roof...

- Low maintenance
- Environmental impact
- Warranty
- Other
- Style options
- Cost
- Expected lifespan

Metal roofing styles. Which metal roof options appeal to you...

- Shingles
- Tile
- Stone-coated
- Vertical panel (aka standing seam)
- Shake
- Slate

Custom look such as _____

Metal roofing colors and coatings. Things to consider...

- Do you want to add the appearance of height to your home?
- Do you want to stand out or blend in?
- Do you live near a corrosive or marine environment?
- Are you interested in cool coatings to reduce heating/cooling costs?

Section 4

HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST

(Continued)

Metal roofing materials are often dictated by the style you choose. Do you have a preference in the type of metal used on your home?

Do your homework. In regards to your installer, have you...

- Received referrals and/or seen previous roofing jobs?
- Verified their documentation (licenses, insurance, etc.)?
- Finalized the metal roof style and color you want?
Can they install this roof? Do they have experience/
training to do so?
- Are you clear on the warranty(s) being offered/provided?

Other concerns? _____

Understanding the roofing process. Does the installer follow a similar process and did they include in their estimate...

- Inspection and roof removal (if needed)
- Roof substrate repair and/or replacement
- Underlayment and water protection
- Drip edge protection
- Flashing, curbing and roof jack replacements
- Knowledge of ventilation requirements and
installation of vents
- Roof installation using appropriate fasteners
- Clean-up and final inspection

Warranties. You should know the following... What warranties are being offered?

Product: _____

Workmanship: _____

Who is providing (supporting) the warranties?

Company: _____

Contact Information: _____

Notes



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