

How to choose a residential metal roofing contractor

Posted by McElroy Metal • October 15, 2019

If you have decided that you need a new roof and are considering all the benefits that metal roofing offers, the next step is to identify qualified contractors in your area who specialize in metal roofing.



As you might guess, contractors that only “dabble” or occasionally install metal roofing often steer homeowners toward shingles because it’s their comfort zone. Do not let their comfort zone push you to accept a shorter-term solution for one of the biggest investments you have, your home.

If you’re having trouble finding contractors with experience in metal roofing, you might check out the “Find a Contractor” feature on our website. Simply enter your

zip code, adjust the desired distance range, and select “Residential Roofing” from the drop-down menu on the right side. You’ll find a list of installers in your area who have experience with metal roofing projects. Not all of our customers choose to be listed on our website, so please contact us if your search comes up empty.

These next steps are critical. Before picking up the phone or sending an email to request an estimate, take the time to check out the contractor a bit.

1. Ask family and friends about their recent projects and who they would recommend.

2. Review contractor websites.

- Look for things like customer testimonials and types of products offered.
- If you can find any content on substrates and paint systems, give it a read.
- If they happen to list any vendors on their website, check out those websites, too.
- If they blog, take the time to read several blogs, and decide if they seem like a reputable company you’d like to work with.
- Look to see if there are names of owners/team members on the website.
NOTE: Not all contractors have a website. The absence of a website doesn’t necessarily spell danger. Some smaller contractors do excellent work but simply haven’t invested the money or resources required to have a website. So while reviewing contractor websites should be a part of your research, don’t exclude someone from your consideration simply because they don’t have their own website.

3. Search the internet.

- While you're online, do some general investigative work.
- In most cases, it's as simple as doing an Internet search for "reviews for XYZ Roofing in city, state" and hitting go.
- You may find plenty of positive things, which is great but also be on the lookout for negative experiences reported to agencies like the Better Business Bureau.

After you've done your research and identified your top two or three contenders, it's finally time to make the call. When you reach out, ask about their experience, product recommendations, and their process.

While you're certainly not limited, below are a few questions to help as you begin your conversations with contractors:

- How long have you been installing residential metal roofing?
- How many different metal roofing projects have you completed?
- What different types of systems have you used?
- Which system is your preference, and why?
- What substrate do you use?
- What paint system do you use for residential metal roof projects, and why?
- What training has your crew had for residential metal roofing?
- What warranty can I expect on both the product and the installation?
- If I have a warranty claim, does it include labor or just product replacement?
- Could you give me a list of references where you've completed residential metal roofing?

The next step is to request a metal roofing estimate. Contractors usually visit your home in order to understand the unique aspects of your home that they might need to account for. You want to make sure there are no surprises or changes after you have made your contractor and materials choices.

While contractor selection is critical to a good residential metal roofing installation, it's also important to ensure you're receiving certified products. The UL Label and the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval are two examples intended to give consumers a level of confidence in the products they choose.

The Metal Construction Association (MCA) is an organization of manufacturers and suppliers whose metal products are used in structures throughout the world. Since it was formed in 1983, the MCA has focused on promoting the use of metal in the building industry through marketing and education. The MCA also developed a Metal Roofing Certification program to assist homeowners and professionals in choosing the right metal roof based on their needs.

The MCA Roofing Certification is based on industry standards published in the Guide Specification for Residential Metal Roofing. This program offers certification in the categories of both substrates and coatings.

Roofing products that meet the MCA Metal Roofing Certification criteria may be promoted as "Metal Construction Association Certified Premium Painted™," "Metal Construction Association Certified Standard Painted™" or "Metal Construction Association Certified Natural™."

Look for this label on bundle packaging. This Certified Premium Painted label is your assurance that your roof panels are coated with a high-quality Kynar 500® (PVDF) coating. Kynar 500® is a fluoropolymer (polyvinylidene fluoride or PVDF) resin that is used by leading paint manufacturers to create long-life coatings for many end uses including metal roofing and siding.

For many people, a home is their largest asset and adding a metal roof to a home is a substantial investment. Because Kynar 500® offers the greatest protection against panel fade and chalk, homeowners are assured that their homes will still look great decades after the initial installation.

Choosing the right contractor who uses the best metal roofing materials is critically important to ensure that your project goes smoothly and you will enjoy the benefits of your new metal roof for decades.

About McElroy Metal

Since 1963, McElroy Metal has served the construction industry with quality products and excellent customer service. The family-owned components manufacturer is headquartered in Bossier City, La., and has 13 manufacturing facilities across the United States. Quality, service and performance have been the cornerstone of McElroy Metal's business philosophy and have contributed to the success of the company through the years. As a preferred service provider, these values will continue to be at the forefront of McElroy Metal's model along with a strong focus on the customer. More information can be found at <http://www.mcelroymetal.com>.