

Common Roofing Terms You Should know

Whether you need to repair your roof or replace it, Skye Roofing is committed to completing the job quickly, efficiently, and with as little stress as possible.

With over a decade of experience in Southern Oregon our strong reputation and loyal client base reflect our commitment to keeping your family and investment in your home safe.

No job is too challenging for us! At Skye Roofing we ready to help with all your residential roofing needs.

Contact us today to schedule your free roof inspection. Let us repair your roof with expert care!

Below is a list of terms used in the roofing business to help you understand the components of a roofing project.

Asphalt: an organic bituminous compound used in the manufacturing of composition shingles.

Asphalt Roofing Cement: used to bond roofing materials, also known as flashing cement or mastic

ASTM : American Society for testing of Materials. A voluntary organization concerned with the development of standards, testing procedures, and specifications. Many city building codes use ASTM standards.

Base Flashing: the portion of the flashing which is attached to, or rest on the roof deck.

Blend: mixtures of various colored granules on the surface of shingles.

Blind Nailing: nails driven in such a way that the heads are concealed by succeeding layers of roofing materials.

Blisters: bubbles that may appear on the surface of asphalt roofing.

Bridging: a method of reroofing where the new shingles follow the contour of the old roofing. Also called “butting up”. It is almost always desirable to tear off old roofing.

Built-Up Roofing: a flat or low sloped roof made up of layers of asphalt and ply sheets. This type of roofing is not done much anymore and has been replaced with Modified Bitumen or TPO

Butt: the portion of the shingle exposed to the weather, sometimes called the “tab” of the shingle.

Cant Strip: a 45 degree beveled wood, fiberboard, or metal strips at the junction of the roof and a vertical surface used to break a right angle. Primarily used in low sloped roofing.

Cap Flashing: flashing on a vertical surface to prevent the flow of water from getting behind the base flashing. The cap flashing overlaps the base flashing. This flashing (AKA counter flashing) is generally not changed in a reroofing job.

Caulk: A substance used to fill a joint or void. There is wide range in both price & quality.

Cement: a substance, when cured, binds to surfaces together.

Class “A”: the highest fire resistance rating for roofing as per ASTM E-108. Shingle with this rating should withstand severe exposure to fire from sources originating outside the building. Other classes are B and C.

Closed Valley: when roofing materials cover the entire valley.

Coating: a layer of viscous asphalt applied to shingles in which granules are embedded.

Collars: pre-formed flange placed over a vent pipe. (AKA vent sleeve) There are two types, lead jacks and rubber boots.

Counter Flashing: see Cap Flashing.

Course: a horizontal unit of roofing running the length of the roof.

Cricket: a small peaked saddle constructed on the top of the basic roof and behind the chimney. A cricket is generally not required.

Cupola: a structure rising above the main roof. It is usually ornamental, but may be used for ventilation.

Dead Level: a roof or section of roof without any pitch.

Deck: the material installed over the framing of a structure on which shingles are installed. The primary materials are Oriented Strand Board (OSB) and CDX Plywood.

Double Coverage: a method of applying roof shingles so that two complete layers of material are provided.

Dormer: a window unit projecting through the sloping plane of the roof.

Drip Edge: usually metal strip used on eaves and rakes to allow for water run off without damaging underlying materials

Drip Course: the first course of shingles that slightly overhangs the edge.

Eave: the horizontal edge of a roof that projects over the outside wall.

Exposure: the portion of the shingle that is exposed to the weather. usually measured from the butt of one shingle to the butt of the next overlapping shingles.

Flashing: Thin pieces of metal or other durable material installed at joints, edges, and roof penetrations (such as chimneys, walls, skylights, and vents) to direct water away from vulnerable areas and prevent leaks into the building.

Impact Resistant: usually refers to shingles or other roofing materials that have passed UL 2218 impact testing, which simulates hail by dropping steel balls from specific heights.

Under UL 2218, products are rated in Classes 1 through 4:

Class 1: Lowest impact resistance

Class 2: Moderate impact resistance

Class 3: High impact resistance

Class 4: Highest impact resistance (the standard most insurers care about for hail-resistant/discount programs)

A “Class 4 impact resistant shingle” means it achieved the top rating under the UL 2218 impact test.

Lap: the overlap of surface of one roofing material to another.

Laminated Shingles: shingles containing more than one layer of tabs creating extra thickness. (AKA dimensional or architectural)

Lock Shingles: a shingles with a mechanical locking feature. These are not common.

Low Slope Application: method of applying shingles on slopes between 2 and four inches per foot.

Mansard Roof: a vertical portion of roofing.

Mastic: see asphalt roof cement.

Modified Bitumen: roller roofing membrane with a polymer modified asphalt. The roll will generally have a fiberglass or polyester mat for reinforcement.

Nesting: see Bridging

Normal Slope Application: method of installing shingles between 4 and 21 inches per foot.

Open Valley: valley in which metal is used and roofing material does not cover entire valley area as in a Closed Valley.

Saturant: asphalt used to impregnate felt for waterproofing and strength.

Seal Down: a factory applied asphalt strip used to bond a shingle to the one above. This is used to provide wind resistance.

Sheathing: exterior grade boards used as a roof deck.

Side Lap: a horizontal lap.

Skirt Flashing: a large often single piece of flashing commonly found at the bottom of a dormer or addition.

Slope: The degree of incline of a roof plane. In most case we use fractions not degrees. This is true with framers and most all of construction. 2/12 is the minimum slope for shingles.

Soffit: the finished underside of an eave.

Soffit Vent: An under eave opening needed for intake of outside air. These are not part of a typical roofing job, but are needed for good attic ventilation.

Soil Stack: a vent pipe that penetrates the roof.

Span: the horizontal measurement from eave to eave.

Spire: a tower of roof tapering up to a point.

Square: a unit of roof measurement covering 100 square feet.

Square Butt Shingles: generally three tab 20 year shingles : not laminated.

Starter Course: the first course of shingles installed on your roof. It will be under the first exposed row. Often these shingles are 20 year three tab shingles. So as to not create an awkward hump, these are used even when heavier laminated shingles are installed.

Step Flashing: flashing along a roof slope against a wall or chimney using succeeding courses of flashing material placed in conjunction with layers or courses of roofing materials. Step Flashing is generally in 4 by 4 by 8 inch pieces.

Tab: portion of strip shingles defined by cut outs or slots so when installed, material appears to be individually applied.

TPO (Thermoplastic Polyolefin): a single-ply, heat-weldable roofing membrane—typically white and reflective—used on low-slope roofs, made from polypropylene blended with EPDM rubber for durability and energy efficiency.

Underlayment: An asphalt saturated felt or synthetic felt applied over the roof deck and under the roofing material. Homeowners should know there is a wide range of both quality and price in Underlayment's.

Valley: the intersection of two roof slopes.

Vent: an outlet for air

Weathering : changes in color, texture or efficiency brought about by exposure to outside elements.

Contact us today to schedule your free roof inspection. Call (541) 200-5269 now.

Guide To Roof Replacement

A roof replacement or major repair is one of the most significant investments they'll make in their home.

We compiled a **Home Owner Guide To Roof Replacement** to help you manage your roofing project.

Call us today to schedule a free roofing estimate.