

Roofing Contractor Questions & Considerations

Installing roofing materials is a labor intensive profession few people are familiar with. A typical roofing project will cost thousands of dollars. People rarely go up on roofs to review work performed, let alone know what they are looking at. An improperly installed roof can possibly void a shingle manufacturer warranty, and the claims related to the failure of the shingle. A poorly installed roof may also reduce creditability for weather related insurance claims. A poorly/improperly installed roof may also wear out faster. We have inspected many newer homes (less than 10 yrs old) needing complete roof replacements. If a poorly installed roof is in need of repair and the warranty coverage is a subject for debate, replacement costs are often out of pocket expenses for the homeowner. A properly installed roof requires experience, training, and a certification process holding the contractor accountable in all methods and materials used.

*The following considerations are from First American Roofing & Siding, Inc.
First American is a full-time roofing company that has invested years into obtaining the proper training and certifications.*

When hiring a roofing contractor ask/research the following:

- **Insurance:** Insist on seeing the roofing contractor's proof of insurance. Review the insurance policy for workers compensation injury coverage. If there is no workers compensation coverage, the homeowner is liable for worker injury. Do not allow the roofing contractor on your roof without proof of workers compensation insurance.
- **Better Business Bureau:** Check with the Better Business Bureau and verify the contractor's rating. A roofing contractor accredited through the BBB is held accountable to the BBB's code of ethics.
- **References:** Request past customer testimonials and references. Specifically ask: "Would you recommend this contractor and why?" Does the contractor have a website? What does it say?
- **History:** How long has the contractor been in business? If I have concerns down the road will he be around to ensure warranty and/or maintenance items are handled properly?
- **Certification:** What does the shingle manufacturer's certification program entail? Some shingle manufacturers have no certification program at all, some are overly easy to obtain, and some take years to obtain. The GAF/Elk Master Elite Certification requires years of training, background checks and credit history to achieve. A stronger certification program demands more accountability from the contractor thus improving skills and warranty coverage and support for the customer.
- **Other Considerations:** What type of shingle is to be installed and why? Do the slope and/or style of roof affect shingle choice?
Warranty: Does it cover materials and labor? How long does it last? Is the warranty full or prorated? If/when I sell my home is the warranty transferable to the new owners?

More Questions?

If you have more questions about your roof or your roofing contractor feel free to email or call Dallas Werner at 608-783-3101 or Dallas@FirstAmericanRoofing.com Company Website: www.firstamericanroofing.com

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