

6 Roofing Mistakes To Avoid



#1 - Buy a “cheap” roof

You get what you bargain for.

Buying a new roof can be very expensive. Not only do you have to factor in the price for the roof itself, but you also have to incorporate the cost it will be for the contractor to install the new roof.

Although the economy does seem to be improving, many people are trying to keep their expenses under control. Many homeowners just don't have the money for repairs that may need to be done to their homes, but a roof is surely an important feature to repair or replace.

When choosing a new roof it's important to remember that a lower price usually means lower quality. Treat your roof like an investment. Typically roofs are made to last 30 – 50 years when installed the proper way.

Trying to cut corners on materials and/or contractor services will get you no where. The smart thing to do is to have the materials and job done right the first time; in the long run it will save you the time and money that may be needed for repairs in the future.

The best thing you can do is research, research, research. Knowledge on materials and especially the contractor you are looking to hire is crucial. Buying a roof is a very important part of any home. Always remember you get what you bargain for.

2 - Not checking references

Who did you hire?

References are an extremely important part of hiring ANY contractor. With the high price of installing a roof it's good to know pertinent information about the roofing company you are looking to hire. Since almost all roofs look perfect right after they are installed it's important to ask for customer references from a few years ago as well.

Try checking the Better Business Bureau for testimonials from previous customers of the particular roofing company you're looking to contact. Finding a complaint from a customer can ultimately help you when deciding which contractor to go with. You can find out how the company took care of the issue.

In addition to The Better Business Bureau, websites like Angie's List offer great insight from consumers on businesses in your area.

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Don't be afraid to ask questions. If you owned your own business and were hiring employees to work for you, you'd like know who you were hiring; treat the "interview" process the same for contractors.

([***http://www.bbb.org/ ***](http://www.bbb.org/)) ([*** http://www.angieslist.com/ ***](http://www.angieslist.com/))

#3 - Forgetting to check the roofer's insurance certificate/verify license information

Making sure you check the roofer's insurance certification, as well as verify their license information is a mistake that many people make. Every state is run differently and it's important to understand the current law in the state you live in.

Pennsylvania's law is that if an accident occurs and the contractor doesn't have enough insurance to cover it, the homeowner is then liable to cover the incident costs. A registered contractor in Pennsylvania is only required to carry \$50,000 in insurance. These laws also apply to Worker's Compensation insurance.

It is said that a good roofing company carries at least \$1 million in property and personal injury insurance.

You can go to <http://www.licensepa.state.pa.us/> to verify license information on businesses and individuals regulated by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in the state of Pennsylvania. This website also has information regarding whether or not there have been any lawsuits against the contractor.

Don't second guess asking the company you are hiring to show you their insurance certification. It's important to understand what you are looking for when viewing these documents. Make sure the contractor has enough insurance to cover any injuries that could occur and make sure their license is active.

#4 - How do they guarantee their work?

It's important to understand there is a difference between the manufacturer's warranty and the guarantee the roofer gives on the work he's providing to you. The manufacturer will have warranties that cover the materials used that will include replacement costs on the product; not the mistakes made during installation or even against future leaks.

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Many roofers do not guarantee their work against leaks. This is mainly because it's almost impossible to put a time frame on how long the roof will last without a leak.

#5 - An impressive warranty

Warranties are a very important part of the purchasing process. Everything from vacuums, televisions and of course motor vehicles has warranties that come with them, or that can be purchased along with the item.

Some consumers look for words such as, lifetime or forever. But what do these words really mean?

It's crucial to understand what the warranty is actually saying. For example, a lifetime warranty guarantees the lifetime of the product on the market, not the lifetime of the customer. When a product is discontinued the "lifetime" warranty is then limited to a certain period of time.

It's also important to research information regarding the warranty. Words like "extended" and "breach" can be confusing to some consumers. You really want to know what the warranty is covering, the length of the warranty and how the company will replace or repair the purchased materials.

#6 Doing the job yourself

With any home improvement job it's crucial to understand what you'll actually be doing. You're taking a huge risk when doing a roofing project on your own. You don't have roofing insurance and none of the work you do will be covered under a warranty.

It's extremely important to have a professional roofing contractor do the work on your home.

Not only is insurance, and having a warranty a concern, but safety issues are also necessary to think about. No one is prepared for a un-needed injury to themselves.

It's also important to ask yourself, do you know what areas of the roof are vulnerable and do you know how to properly ventilate the new roof? These are both important parts of the roofing process and cannot be neglected.

Schedule Your Free Evaluation Today!