

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does metal attract lightning?

A. Lightning is attracted to the highest point, not necessarily metal. A metal roof has no greater chance of being hit by lightning than any other type of roof. However, if your roof is struck by lightning a metal roof can help prevent your house from catching fire as it can dissipate the electrical charge. As well remember it is non-combustible.

Q. Is metal roofing noisier?

A. This is probably one of the biggest misconceptions about metal roofing. On a residence, metal roofing is often installed over a solid substrate. In addition, attic space and insulation serve as an additional sound barrier. Metal is not any noisier than other “traditional” roofing materials.

Q. Does a metal roof cost more than a typical roof?

A. Metal roofing is a premium roof product which means that the initial cost will probably be higher but you can expect it to last 2-3 time longer than an asphalt, concrete tile, fibre cement or shake roof systems. The average lifespan of an asphalt roof is 12-20 years; wood shingle and shake roofs often need replacing before 20 years. Concrete tile roofs can crack and warp in the freeze and thaw cycle in northern climates. Generally speaking, a metal roof can last 40-60 years, possibly beyond, retaining its good looks decade after decade. Your new metal roof should add resale value, save you money on your energy bills, and give you peace of mind that you’ll probably never have to reroof again.

Q. How heavy is metal roofing?

A. Metal roof systems are on average 50% lighter than asphalt roof systems and 75% lighter than concrete tile, fibre cement shakes and slate. The weight of a metal roof is generally determined by its gauge and profile. METAL EXPERTS’[®] 29 gauge, hi-tensile, pre-painted TR-936[®], PR-936[®] and LR-936[®] are approximately 1.95 lbs. per linear foot.

Q. How far can I span with metal roofing?

A. The span capabilities are based on many issues such as the width of the material, gauge, profile, and snow load. You should refer to the published load tables for your particular panel type to ensure it meets the actual performance requirements.

Q. How well does metal roofing stand up under extreme weather?

A. High winds, heavy snow, wildfires and hailstorms are only a few of weather abuses metal roofs can withstand. The wind resistance and uplift resistance of metal roofing exceeds most common building codes. This allows those recommending this product for high wind areas to do so with a high level of confidence. Many metal roofing materials carry a class 4 rating which is the highest rating for resistance to hail.

Q. What snow guard systems are recommended?

A. Snow guard systems are often integrated into the metal roof system, some as simple as an additional piece of trim. They have become more and more an issue of safety as they prevent snow from sliding off the roof onto traffic areas. Panel style and aesthetics are some other factors used in determining the choice of snow guard system.

Frequently Asked Questions continued

Q. What is the minimum roof slope for metal roofing?

A. Our metal panel systems can be applied to pitches of 2/12 or greater depending on roof geometry, substrate and physical location of the project. Special installation instructions apply for roofs 2/12 to < 4/12.

Q. Can you walk on a metal roof?

A. Most metal systems, when installed properly, can support the load of an individual walking on them. Care must be taken to avoid any damage including abrasion or collapsing of the raised portion of the panels. The appropriate OHS approved safety procedures should always be followed.

Q. Can insulation be applied under the metal panels?

A. Yes, foil faced radiant barrier insulation is the most recommended type. Using this inexpensive insulation product will save you additional utility costs by making your roof energy efficient.

Q. Is metal roofing environmentally friendly?

A. Metal roofing is not only great for your building but it's great for the environment as well. The re-cycled content of the steel in a metal roof is about 56% from production to installation reuse – far superior to asphalt. Billions of pounds of asphalt are dumped into landfills every year. Metal roofing can often be installed over an existing asphalt roof saving the cost of tear off and haul away but more importantly stopping the asphalt from showing up in one of those landfills. If you are installing a metal roof over an existing asphalt roof, strapping should be applied on top of the asphalt shingles. This will ensure your metal roof is installed on a solid, level surface and reduce abrasions.

Q. Are special tools required for metal roof installation?

A. Metal roofing can be easily installed with standard hand tools such as a drill, hammer, metal snips, caulk gun, pliers, chalk line and tape measure. Cutting panels is best done with an electric shear attachment for your drill. Panels may be cut as well using a circular saw with a proper metal cutting blade.

Q. Do you provide technical assistance and advice?

A. Our trained customer service staff will be more than happy to help you. Simply call our 1-888-2-METAL-4 (1-888-263-8254) customer service line.

Q. Do you install?

A. No. We are a manufacturer that sells through a network of manufacturer distributors. We would be happy to provide you with the name and number of the distributor(s) closest to you. Just check out our website www.metalexerts.ca or call our 1-888-2-METAL-4 (1-888-263-8254) service lines.

Q. Can Metal Roofing be installed over another roof?

A. In many cases yes, a metal roof can be installed over an existing asphalt roof. This is possible if the existing asphalt shingles are laying flat and strapping has been installed to provide a flat and level surface.