

Five roofing materials to choose from

There are so many roofing materials to choose from but the majority of homeowners simply choose to go with the same roofing material that's already on their roof.



Asphalt shingles

Asphalt shingles are usually the go-to choice since they're easy to install and less expensive than all other materials. One downside is that they don't last as long as other materials. If you want something that looks a little nicer and will last longer, you can spend a little more on architectural shingles instead of going with the standard 3-tab shingles.

Concrete or clay tiles

Concrete, and especially clay tiles have a unique look that makes them a popular option for colonial or Spanish architecture. They're more expensive but they are very durable and long lasting. Some older homes may not be able to support the weight of a tile roof.

Metal roofing

Metal roofs are an especially good choice for roofs that have a rather slight or steep slope. It can consist of larger sheets or smaller shingles and can mimic other roof materials. Metal roofs are versatile because they can come in a wide variety of colors and styles and they weigh less than the materials they simulate.

Wood shakes or shingles

Wood shakes and shingles are more expensive and long-lasting than asphalt but less expensive than tile roofing. Like tile, they also create a very unique look and are popular with certain kinds of architecture. Keep in mind that wood shakes and shingles may be banned in some areas due to fire hazard.

Slate

Slate roofs are especially popular in the Northeastern United States though it's a great roofing material anywhere. Slate is the most durable but also the most expensive roofing option. Slate is even heavier than concrete or clay tiles and some homes may not be able to support its weight.

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