

GLOSSARY OF STEEP-SLOPE ROOFING TERMS

APRON FLASHING:	A term used for a flashing located at the juncture of the top of the sloped roof and a vertical wall or steeper sloped roof.
ARCHITECTURAL PANEL:	A metal roof panel, typically standing seam or batten seam, requiring a solid substrate beneath and relies on slope to shed water.
BACKPAN:	A type of metal flashing used at the upslope junction between a roof projection, chimney or skylight and the roofing.
BATTEN:	A wooden member usually attached to the structural decking used to elevate or attach steep-slope roof coverings such as concrete or metal tiling.
CHANNEL FLASHING:	A type of metal flashing used at roof / wall junctions and other vertical projections where an internal gutter is needed to handle water run off.
CLOSED-CUT VALLEY:	A method of valley application in which shingles from one side of the valley extend across the valley while shingles from the other side are trimmed back approximately 50mm (2") from the valley centerline.
COATED BASE SHEET:	A felt that has previously been saturated with asphalt and later coated with a harder, more viscous asphalt, which greatly increases its impermeability to moisture.
COMPACT ASSEMBLY:	An insulated metal roof system configured with each component placed immediately on top of the preceding component; each component is in contact with the adjacent component. No space is provided for ventilation of the roof assembly above the structural roof deck.
COUNTER BATTEN:	Wooden members or strips installed parallel to the roof slope over which horizontal battens are secured. The horizontal battens provide attachment for the primary roof covering.
COURSE:	The term used for each row or layer of roofing material that forms a steep-slope roofing system.
CRICKET:	An elevated roof structure constructed to divert water around chimneys or curbed roof penetrations or projections.
CROSS VENTILATION:	The effect that is provided when air moves through a rafter cavity or attic space between the roof vents.
DORMER:	A framed projection through the sloping plane of a roof.
DRIP EDGE:	A metal flashing with an outward projecting lower edge that controls the direction of water run off and helps protect underlying building components at the eaves.
EAVE:	The projecting edge of a roof that extends beyond the supporting wall.
EAVE PROTECTION:	A steep-slope waterproofing membrane applied along the eave edge to prevent melt water from ice dams entering under the roof covering and the building envelope. Typically extends from eave edge up slope a minimum of 300mm (12") past the interior face of the exterior walls.
EAVESTROUGH:	A channeled component installed along the down slope perimeter of a roof that conveys run off water from the roof to the drain leaders or down spouts.
END LAP:	The distance of overlap where a material or membrane extends beyond the end of the adjacent material or membrane.

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EXPOSURE:	The traverse dimension of a roofing element or component not overlapped by an adjacent element or component in a roof covering.
FASCIA:	A vertical member concealing the lower ends of the rafters and the outer edge of the gable. Also known as the bargeboard when installed at the gable edge.
FIELD OF THE ROOF:	The central or main portion of a roof excluding the perimeter of a building.
FLASH POINT:	The lowest temperature at which vapour from heated bitumen (combustible substrate) will ignite when exposed to an ignition source but will not remain burning.
GABLE:	The triangular portion of the end wall of a building directly under the sloping roof and above the eave line.
GABLE ROOF:	A roof with a single ridge that terminates at gable ends.
GAMBREL:	A roof that has two pitches on each side.
GRANULE:	An opaque, natural or synthetically, colored aggregate commonly used to surface roof coverings.
HAND TABBING:	A method of spot applying asphalt-based adhesive to shingles for securement and wind resistance.
HEAD LAP:	The distance of overlap measured from the uppermost ply or course to the point that it laps over the undermost ply or course.
HIP:	The inclined external angle formed by the intersection of two sloping roof planes.
HIP ROOF:	A roof that rises by inclined planes to form one or more hips.
ICE DAM:	A mass of ice formed at the transition from a warm to a cold surface. Frequently formed by refreezing melt water at the overhang or valley of a roof causing water to back up under the roof covering.
INTERLAYMENT:	A felt or membrane sheet material used between courses of steep-slope roofing to improve the weather and water shedding characteristics of the primary roof covering during times of wind driven precipitation.
INTERLOCKING SHINGLES:	Individual shingles that mechanically attach to each other to enhance their wind resistance.
INORGANIC SHINGLE:	An asphalt shingle with a reinforcement mat manufactures from materials other than hydrocarbons or their derivatives.
JOIST:	Any of the small timbers, metal or wood beams arranged parallel from wall to wall to support the ceiling or the roof of a building.
MANSARD:	A decorative steep-sloped roof on the perimeter of a building.
MANSARD ROOF:	A steeper roof that terminates into a flat roof at its high point.
METAL PANEL SUPPORT SUBSTRATE:	The surface upon which an underlayment membrane is applied and the metal roof panel is uniformly supported.
MITER:	The joint produced by joining two diagonally cut pieces.

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NAILER:	A piece or pieces of dimensional lumber or plywood secured to the structural deck or walls which provides a receiving medium for the fasteners used to attach membranes or flashings. (commonly referred to as blocking)
NET FREE VENT AREA:	The area open for the unrestricted flow of ventilation air into an attic space or rafter cavity.
OIL CANNING:	The buckling and minor deformation of light gauge sheet metal that results in a wavy or uneven finished appearance caused by stresses at their attachment points.
OPEN VALLEY:	A method of valley construction in which the steep-slope roofing on both sides are trimmed along each side of the valley exposing the valley flashing material.
ORGANIC FELT:	An asphalt roofing membrane manufactured from cellulose fiber.
ORGANIC SHINGLE:	An asphalt shingle reinforced with an organic mat manufactured from cellulose fibers.
PITCH:	See Roof Slope.
PLY:	A layer of felt, plysheet or reinforcement in a roof membrane or roof system.
PRIMER:	A thin liquid applied solvent based bitumen that may be applied to a surface to improve adhesion of subsequent applications of roofing materials.
RAFTER:	A series of sloped structural members, designed to support the roof deck and its associated loads that extend from the ridge or hip to the down slope perimeter or eave.
RAKE:	The sloped edge of a roof at or adjacent to the first or last rafter.
RESIDENTIAL ROOFING:	A residentially occupied building of four units or less with a total finished roof area not exceeding 372 m ² . (4000 ft ²).
RIDGE:	The highest point of the roof represented by a horizontal line running the length of the area where two roof areas intersect.
RIDGE CAP:	A material or covering applied over the ridge of a roof.
RIDGE VENT:	A ventilator located at or near the ridge that allows the escape of air from the attic space or rafter cavity.
ROOF COVERING:	Water shedding or waterproofing material that covers a substrate to protect the roof assembly from moisture penetration.
ROOF SLOPE:	The angle the roof surface makes with the horizontal expressed as a ratio of the vertical rise to the units of horizontal length. Slope may be expressed in a ratio such as 4:12 or as a percent.
RUN:	The horizontal dimension of a slope.
SIDE LAP:	The measurement of the continuous longitudinal overlap of neighbouring roofing materials.
SELF-ADHERING MEMBRANE:	A membrane with a tacky backside that can adhere to a substrate and to itself at overlaps. (a.k.a. Peel & Stick Membrane)
SOFFIT:	The enclosed underside of any exterior overhanging section of a roof eave.

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SOFFIT VENT:	A ventilator located at the downslope eave or in the soffit of a roof assembly, that allows air to enter the attic space or rafter cavity.
SPACED SHEATHING:	Dimensional lumber or strips of sheathing material fastened to the roof rafters/joists at predetermined intervals resulting in a discontinuous substrate for the support and attachment of steep-slope shakes or shingles.
STARTER COURSE:	The first layer of roofing, applied along a line adjacent to the downslope perimeter of the roof area. With steep-slope water shedding roof coverings the starter course is covered by the first course of roofing.
STARTER STRIP:	A membrane sheet, roll roofing or shingle strips applied along the downslope eave line before application of the first course of roofing, intended to fill spaces between cutouts and joints of the first course.
STEEP-SLOPE ROOFING:	A category of roofing that includes water shedding types of roof coverings installed on slopes normally exceeding 2:12.
STEP FLASHING:	Individual pieces of overlapping metal or membrane flashing used to flash walls, around chimneys, curbs and such roof projections along the slope of a roof.
STRUCTURAL ROOF DECK:	The structural component of the roof of a building capable of supporting the design dead and live loads, including the weight of the roof system.
SUBSTRATE:	A supporting surface upon which the roof covering or membrane is adhered or applied.
TAB:	The exposed portion of strip shingles defined by cutouts.
THERMAL BREAK:	An element of low thermal conductivity placed in an assembly to reduce or prevent the flow of thermal energy between conductive materials.
TILE BEDDING:	An asphaltic or cementitious roofing product placed beneath steep-slope roofing tiles along hips and ridges to support individual units and to reduce their displacement or blow-off.
TOE BOARDS:	A device used at the bottom (eave edge) of a roof slope to prevent roofing materials from falling over a steep-slope fall protection device.
UNDERLAYMENT:	An asphalt saturated felt or other sheet material installed between the substrate and the roof covering, usually used in steep-slope roof construction. Underlayment is used to separate the roof covering from the roof deck, to shed water, or to provide secondary weather protection for the roofing system.
WOVEN VALLEY:	A method of valley construction in which shingles or roofing from both sides of the valley extend across the valley and are woven together by overlapping courses as they are applied.