

How, when and why to buy a new roof

The wise home-owner buys a new roof in the same way as he buys any other expensive and necessary item which he and his family will live with for many years.

He shops carefully, finds out as much as he can about the product, looks at samples, makes comparisons, and then makes his purchase on the basis of careful judgment and the most critical evaluation.

A good judgment in this area, however, can be far more difficult for the home-owner since he will purchase a new roof only once or twice in his lifetime, on the average.

Special purchase

Most of us are far less familiar with this type of shopping than with the problem of buying a new car, for example. And, in some ways, the purchase is unlike any other expenditure since it involves not only a product but the cost of installation as well.

Here are some hints on buying a new roof which should prove helpful in making a "best buy" in this critical area.

The first pertinent question, of course, is "when?" Can the existing roof be repaired? Or is it time for a complete replacement?

If your house is 15 years old, and has never been re-roofed, it may be time for a new roof. Look for such signs of age as shingles which are curling at the edges, splitting, dried-out, and showing lots of bare spots where the granules which protect the surface have disappeared. Are there granules in the gutters and around the drains?

If the roof is beginning to leak, as well as to show these signs of old age, it is definitely time to buy a new roof.

If the house is no more than fifteen years old, and has never been re-roofed, it may be possible to install a new roof over the old one without going to the additional expense of ripping off the existing roof.

Double damage

If the roof and the deck beneath it show signs of considerable damage from rain, snow, hail, etc., after a particularly severe winter, it may be necessary to rehabilitate both structures.

If some damage has occurred to the roof, which remains essentially sound otherwise, it

may be possible to have the damaged area repaired and to live with the roof for quite a number of years without a total replacement.

This is a judgment which calls for a reliable professional roofer.

Finding a professional roofer with a good reputation is the same as locating a good professional in any other category. Look around the neighborhood for houses which have recently been re-roofed and ask your neighbors if they are pleased with the installation.

Job well done

Does the new roof look good? Did the roofer complete the job on time? Is your neighbor happy with his work? Does he recommend him?

Local home centers are good sources of recommendations for competent professional roofers of good reputation. Local Better Business Bureaus should also be checked out.

Comparison shopping is definitely in order. Just as you looked at more than one house before buying the one you live in, talk to at least two or three roofers before you make up your mind.

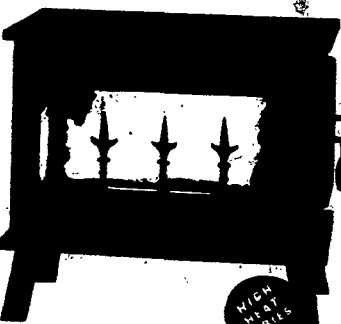
Get an estimate

The professional-roofer will inspect your roof and then provide a complete estimate, in writing, of the work that has to be done. He will show you samples of shingles in both standard and premium (heavier) weights.

If he shows you samples of GAF Timberline shingles, for example, he will give you a choice of six different popular earth-tone colors which will enable you to choose either a complementary or contrasting shade to match your siding as well as the surrounding environment.

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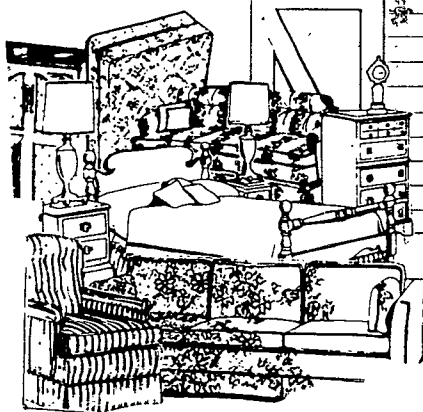
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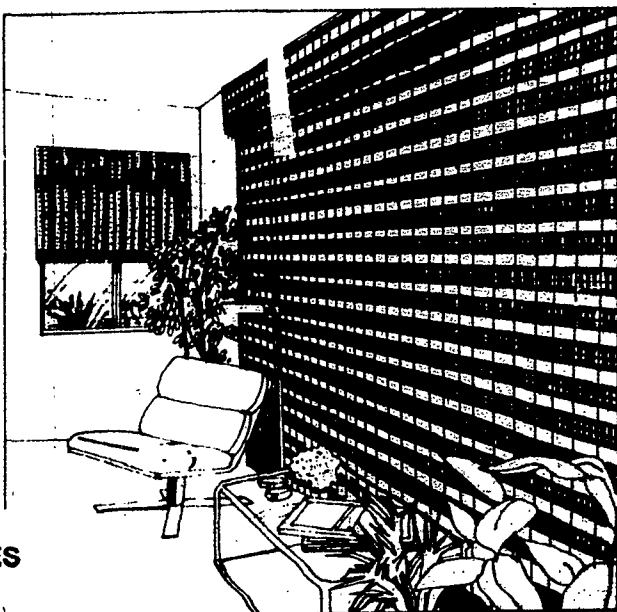


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