



WHAT IS A ROOFER



“Roofing is the most crucial trade since it protects all other aspects of the structure.”

A roofer is a **skilled tradesperson** focused on roof construction. They oversee the entire roofing process for both residential and commercial projects, ensuring the roof is properly installed according to building plans. Roofers also select the right materials, substrates, and accessories needed for each roofing job.

What Roofers Do

Roofers play a vital role in providing shelter by installing, repairing, and renovating both new and existing roofs. They work with a variety of materials such as shingles, single-ply membranes, asphalt, and metal.

Typical tasks performed by roofers include:

- Inspect problem roofs to determine the best way to repair them
- Measure roofs to calculate the quantities of materials needed
- Replace damaged or rotting joists or plywood
- Install vapor barriers and/or layers of insulation
- Install shingles, single-ply, asphalt, metal, or other materials to make the roof watertight

Types of Roofers

There are **4 main types of roofers**:

1. **Shinglers**, who primarily install shingles, shakes, tiles, and other nail-on products on roofs with 3:12 pitches or above
2. **Metal roofers**, who focus on metal panels
3. **Single-ply roofers**, who focus on low slope such as EPDM, TPO and PVC.
4. **Roof coaters**, who apply protective coatings to enhance a roof's durability and waterproofing

It is not uncommon, however, for companies to have their roofers do multiple styles of roofing.

Types of Roofs

Roofs are the first layer of protection against the elements. Properly installed roofs keep water from leaking into buildings and damaging the interior, equipment, or furnishings. There are **three basic types of roofs**: low-slope, steep-slope, and sustainable.

1. **Low-slope.** Low-slope roofs rise less than 2 inches per horizontal foot and are installed in layers. Low-slope roofs make up about two-thirds of all roofs. Most commercial, industrial, and apartment buildings use this type.
2. **Steep-slope.** Steep-slope roofs rise more than 2 inches per horizontal foot and make up most of the remaining roofs; most single-family homes use this type of roof. Although asphalt shingles are commonly used on steep slopes, tile, solar shingles, fiberglass shingles, metal shingles, or shakes (rough wooden shingles) are used as well.
3. **Sustainable.** A small but increasing number of buildings now have vegetative roofs that incorporate landscape materials into traditional roofing systems. Solar is another sustainable roof that is becoming increasingly popular.

Roofers may specialize in the installation and replacement of one or more of these three roof systems.

Work Environment

Roofers work outdoors year-round, tackling a variety of weather conditions, which can be both a perk and a challenge—especially in Colorado's unpredictable climate. With days that can swing from hot to cold, roofers need to be flexible, especially when making repairs. However, they usually take breaks from roofing during rain, snow, or when it's really windy or cold.

The job is physically demanding, requiring heavy lifting, climbing, bending, and kneeling. Overtime can be necessary to wrap up projects, particularly during the busy summer months.

But it's not just about the hard work; **roofers also get to experience some pretty cool aspects of the job.** They spend time outdoors, breathing in fresh air and soaking up amazing views from high up, whether they're on city skyscrapers or houses in beautiful landscapes. Many roofers now use drones to inspect roofs more efficiently and safely, bringing a tech-savvy edge to the trade. Plus, as the industry evolves, roofers are getting involved in sustainable innovations, like installing solar panels and using eco-friendly materials. Overall, roofing offers a **unique blend of technology, sustainability, and the great outdoors**, making it an exciting and fulfilling career choice!



HOW TO BECOME A ROOFER

Most roofers in Colorado learn on-the-job.

Education

Most roofers in Colorado pick up their skills right on the job. While there aren't strict education requirements, taking high school courses in math, vocational training, mechanical drawing, and blueprint reading can be super helpful.

Training

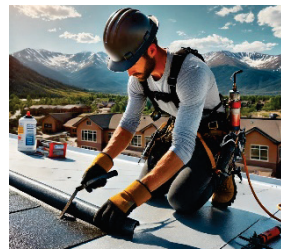
Training is mainly hands-on. New roofers learn directly from experienced workers who show them how to use roofing tools, equipment, and materials effectively.

The Colorado Roofing Association (CRA) offers an *Introduction to Roofing* course that can give new roofers an advantage over other applicants with 60% of the class being hands-on training. Get more info at: <http://coloradoroofing.org/member/training-center>

Important Qualities

Being a roofer means having strength, precision, care, and efficiency. But to succeed in this trade, you'll need these important qualities:

- **Balance.** You'll be working on steep roofs high off the ground, so having great balance is crucial to stay safe and avoid accidents.
- **Physical strength and stamina.** Roofing is physically demanding. You'll be on your feet all day, bending, lifting, and carrying heavy materials, so having endurance is key.
- **Comfort with Heights.** Roofers must be comfortable and unafraid of working at heights.
- **Cautiousness:** Roofing is dangerous, so being cautious helps prevent falls and helps keep you and your coworkers safe.
- **Integrity.** In an industry sometimes under scrutiny, it's important to be trustworthy and have strong moral values.
- **Teamwork.** Roofing is rarely a solo job. You'll need to work well with a crew to get the job done efficiently and safely.



"As a roofer, you make a real difference by providing something valuable and essential for others."

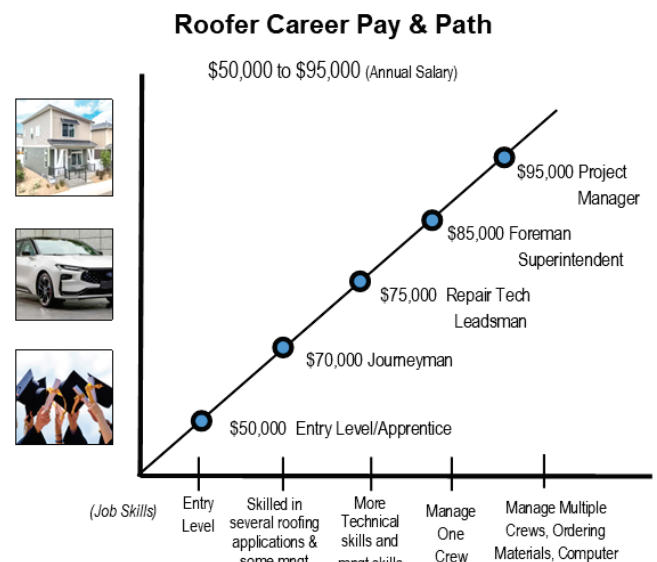
PAY

In May 2023, roofers earned a median annual wage of **\$55,840**. Starting pay ranges from \$19 to \$38 an hour, increasing with skills and experience. Many employers also offer competitive benefits, including health insurance and retirement plans.

Job Outlook

Colorado's roofing industry is booming, with over 2,000 companies providing services. **The job outlook for roofers is strong**, with a projected growth of 6% from 2023 to 2033—outpacing the average for all jobs. This means there will be plenty of opportunities in roofing! A big reason for this demand is that roofing work often involves repairs and reroofing, which are less affected by economic downturns than new construction. While roofers in Colorado might experience some short periods of job scarcity, the state's growth and frequent hail and high winds suggest there will be plenty of work for the long run.

Career Path



Sources: 1) Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/roofers.htm> 2) Indeed: <https://www.indeed.com/career/roofer/salaries/CO> 3) CareerExplorer by Sokanu: <https://www.sokanu.com/careers/roofer/> 4) Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roofing>