

What to Know About Austin Roofing Company Roof Installation for New Construction

Getting the Roof Right on a New Build or Addition

When you are putting up a new house, an addition, or an accessory dwelling unit in Austin, the roof is one of those things you really want to get right from the start. It is not just about keeping the rain out, though that is obviously critical. It is about making sure the whole assembly works together for years, through our hot summers and the occasional freeze. A lot of the details that matter most are hidden once the shingles go on, so you have to trust that the crew understands how each component fits into the system. That is where experience with the full product line from a manufacturer like GAF becomes important.

I have seen roofs that looked fine from the street but had shortcuts underneath. No drip edge. No ice and water shield in the valleys. The flashing was just roof cement slopped on around the chimney, with no real step flashing or counterflashing. Those roofs might hold up for a few years, but eventually the water finds its way in. A proper installation takes more time and uses more materials, but it saves a lot of headaches down the road. For anyone planning a project, it helps to know what a quality job actually involves. [Austin Roofing Company roof installation](#)

What Goes Into a Complete Roof Installation

A roof is a layered system. Starting from the deck up, each layer has a job. The deck itself needs to be solid and dry. Then comes the underlayment. For most projects in Central Texas, GAF WeatherWatch is a good choice because it provides extra protection during the hot months and still handles the wet weather we get. On low-slope areas or in valleys, you often see an ice and water shield applied. That is a self-adhering membrane that seals around nails and gives you a secondary barrier if water ever gets past the shingles.

Next comes the drip edge, sometimes called a metal drip edge. That strip of metal along the eaves keeps water from running back under the shingles and into the fascia. It is a small detail, but if it is missing or installed wrong, the edge of the roof deck can rot. The same goes for the eave flashing and valley flashing. Those metal pieces direct water away from the most vulnerable spots. Gable trim finishes the edges along the rake, and it also needs to be installed with the right overlaps and fasteners so it does not blow off in a storm.

On the shingles themselves, you have choices. Architectural shingles have become popular because they offer a thicker, more dimensional look than standard three-tab shingles. They also tend to perform better in wind because of their heavier weight. But they require a different nailing pattern and more attention to alignment. A crew that has done a lot of **Austin Roofing**

Company roof installation will know how to lay architectural shingles so the courses stay straight and the exposure is consistent. That matters for appearance as much as performance.

Starter Shingles and the First Course

The bottom row of shingles is not the same as the rest. You have to use starter shingles, which are basically full shingles with the tabs cut off. They go on upside down under the first course to fill the gaps between the tabs and seal the edge. If you skip starter shingles, the first course will have openings that let water and insects in. It is a common shortcut that tells you a lot about the installer's standards.

Above the starter course, each row of shingles overlaps the one below. The exposure is set by the manufacturer, usually around five or six inches for architectural shingles. Nails go in just above the cutout, and the next row covers them. That is the basic idea, but the details at the hips, ridges, valleys, and penetrations are what separate a good roof from a mediocre one.

Flashing and Ventilation Details

Where the roof meets a wall, or around a chimney, or at a pipe penetration, you need proper flashing. Chimney flashing is especially tricky because it has to step up the slope and be counterflashed into the masonry or the siding. Pipe flashing usually comes as a pre-molded rubber boot that fits over the pipe and gets sealed with roof cement and sometimes a metal collar. The same goes for any skylight or vent. Every penetration is a potential leak, so each one needs its own careful treatment.

Ventilation is another piece that often gets overlooked. An attic that cannot breathe will trap heat and moisture, which shortens the life of the shingles and can lead to mold. Soffit vents under the eaves let cool air in. Ridge vents at the peak let hot air out. The ridge vent itself is a plastic or metal piece that sits under the ridge cap shingles. It has a baffle that keeps rain and insects out while allowing airflow. The hip and ridge shingles are then cut and installed over the vent to make it look finished. If the ridge is not vented, you lose a lot of the efficiency of the soffit vent, and the roof deck stays hotter than it should.

In my experience, the best way to handle all these details is to work with a crew that follows the GAF system approach. GAF System Plus, for example, bundles the shingles, underlayment, starter shingles, hip and ridge shingles, and all the flashings into one warranty. That means every component is tested to work together, and if something fails, there is no finger-pointing between material suppliers. It gives the homeowner a single point of accountability. A roofer who is GAF-certified and holds a Master Elite certification, which is the highest level GAF offers, has gone through extra training to install those systems correctly. That is the kind of credential that matters when you are choosing a contractor for your project.

Choosing the Right Materials for Austin's Climate

Austin's weather is a mix of intense sun, heavy rain, and occasional hail. Shingles need to resist UV degradation and handle wind-driven rain. GAF Timberline architectural shingles are a solid option because they are thicker and have a larger granule surface that reflects more heat. They also carry a Class A fire rating, which is important in wildfire-prone areas around the city. The color choice matters too, because lighter colors reflect more heat and can lower attic temperatures by several degrees.

For the underlayment, GAF WeatherWatch is a synthetic felt that resists moisture better than traditional organic felt. It is also lighter and easier to handle, which means the crew can work faster without cutting corners. In the valleys, where water concentrates, adding a strip of ice and water shield under the valley flashing gives you an extra layer of security. That combination of WeatherWatch and ice and water shield is common on higher-end installations and is worth asking about if you are getting bids.

What to Look for in a Contractor

When you are interviewing roofers for a new-construction project or an addition, ask about their experience with the specific products you want. A contractor who does a lot of **Austin Roofing Company roof installation** will be able to talk through the steps and show you examples of their work. They should be able to explain why they use a certain type of flashing or why they prefer one brand of shingle over another. If they cannot give you a clear answer, that is a red flag.

Also ask about the warranty. A manufacturer's warranty is only as good as the installer's certification. If the roofer is not certified by GAF, the warranty might not cover labor if something goes wrong. That is a risk you do not need to take. A Master Elite certification means the roofer has met GAF's standards for training, business practices, and customer satisfaction. It is not a guarantee, but it is a good sign.

Finally, look at the details. On a finished roof, the ridge cap shingles should be straight and evenly spaced. The valley flashing should be centered and clean. The drip edge should be visible and tight against the fascia. If you see wavy lines, uneven gaps, or exposed fasteners, those are signs that the crew rushed through the work. A quality installation takes time, and that time shows in the finished product.

For anyone planning a new build or a major addition, understanding what goes into a proper roof installation helps you ask the right questions. Whether you are working with a general contractor or hiring a roofer directly, the same principles apply. Use good materials, follow the manufacturer's instructions, and do not skip the details. A roof is a long-term investment, and

getting it right from the start saves money and frustration later. That is the approach behind every **Austin Roofing Company roof installation** done right.