

Flat Roofing in Texas: Everything You Need to Know

Traditionally, flat roofing was only used for businesses, apartments, and other types of commercial buildings. However, thanks to the "modern home" look and craze, flat roofing is now popular for residential properties as well. Flat roofing offers a sleek, modern look in addition to the convenience of being able to easily walk on your roof.

If you're on the fence and can't decide if flat roofing is the right type of roof for you, you've come to the right place. This article will look at the different types of flat roofing systems, the pros and cons of flat roofing, and much more. We'll also let you know who to contact if you think a flat roof is right for you.

How Do Flat Roofs Work?

Technically speaking, there's no such thing as a completely flat roof. After all, roofs need to have a tiny bit of slope to provide adequate drainage for water. "Flat" roofs actually have a slope of between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot to provide this drainage. However, this amount of slope is so slight that it's hardly noticeable unless you're looking for it.

Different Types of Flat Roofing Systems

If you think that a flat roof might be for you, here are some of the most common flat roofing systems.

Thermoplastic Membrane Flat Roofing

This is one of the newer types of flat roofing systems and utilizes thermoplastic membranes, typically PVC or TPO. With the ever-growing popularity of PVC, thermoplastic membrane roofs are quickly becoming a preferred flat roofing option. They're very resistant to high temperatures and UV radiation, making them ideal for homes and businesses in Texas. This type of roof is also easy to install and very durable.

Built-Up Flat Roofs

The built-up roof is the OG of flat roofing systems. This hot tar and gravel roof has been used by flat roofers for more than a century and remains one of the most popular options today. Built-up roofs are very durable and not prone to many problems because they feature three layers of roofing materials. However, because these roofs are also extremely heavy, you can only use them if you have reinforced joists and a stout foundation.

Modified Bitumen

Modified bitumen is similar to a built-up roof in texture and style. However, rather than three layers of tar and gravel, modified bitumen roofs have five layers using a variety of materials. These roofs are very difficult to install and take more time than other types of flat roofing systems. Once they're installed, though, they're very durable and resistant to issues, making them a good investment.

Rubber Membrane

Rubber roofs, also known as EDPM roofing because of the type of rubber that's used, is growing in popularity. These types of roofs are typically used on RVs and travel trailers but are starting to get used on houses and other buildings as well. Part of the reason that rubber membrane roofs are so popular is because of how easy they are to install. They're also reasonably durable but are more prone to problems than other flat roofs.

Green Roof

If you're looking for a flat roofing system that's eco-friendly, unique, and customizable, choose a green roofing system. Green roofs simply mean that the top layer of the roof is composed of plants, flowers, soil, and dirt. The bottom layers provide waterproofing for your home and drainage for the plants above. While green roofs are extremely popular in Europe and other parts of the world, they're just now gaining traction in the states.

Pros and Cons of Flat Roofing

Pros

- Even if you don't want to have a green roof, flat roofs are perfect for rooftop gardens, patios, and other unique features.
- Flat roofs also offer the option of a rooftop pool or hot tub.
- Most flat roofs are white or gray, which makes them more eco-friendly and energy efficient.
- Most types of flat roofs are easy to install and take less time than traditional roofs.
- Flat roofs are preferred by businesses because you can put your plumbing, HVAC, and other equipment on top of the roof, freeing up space below.
- Certain types of flat roofs are cheaper to install than traditional roofs.

Cons

- Regardless of what type of flat roof you have, it usually won't last as long as a traditional roof.
- Flat roofs are more prone to problems and need repairs more often than sloped roofs.
- Water is more likely to pool on top of flat roofs, resulting in dents, dips, and leaks.
- In general, flat roofs are more expensive than traditional roofs.

Do I Need Flat Roofing or Traditional Roofing?

As you can see, there are advantages and disadvantages to flat roofing as opposed to traditional roofing. Because of the space-saving and storage potential of flat roofing, it's almost always used by businesses and commercial buildings. Additionally, because of the unique look and style of flat roofing, many houses are also starting to use them.

On the other hand, if you want to save money and invest in a roof that will last 30 to 40 years as opposed to 20 years, a traditional roof might be a better option. While you have more color and style options with flat roofs, they're also more prone to damage, leaks, and expensive repairs. By weighing the pros and cons above and determining your budget and preferences, you can decide between traditional and flat roofing.

How to Choose the Right Roofing System and Company in Texas

Regardless of what type of roofing system you choose - flat or traditional - [contact us](#) at KangaRoof. We're the Amarillo roofing professionals for the job. We have decades of experience installing all types of roofs, including flat roofing. We can also help you decide which type of roof is best for you and go over the pros and cons of each.

As a full-service roofing contractor, we also offer traditional and flat roofing repairs, replacements, maintenance, and inspections. [Contact us](#) to learn more or to schedule a consultation today!