



## Glossary of Roofing Terms

Asphalt	A residue from evaporated petroleum. It is insoluble in water, but soluble in gasoline and melts when heated. Used widely in buildings for waterproofing and roof coverings.
Bitumen	A generic term used for either asphalt or coal tar pitch.
Class A/Class C Shingles	A rating by the Underwriters Laboratories given to roofing material, indicating its ability to withstand exposure to fire originating outside the house or building
Cornice	The trim at the eave line, usually consisting of a fascia board, a soffit for a closed cornice, and appropriate moldings.
Cricket/Saddle	A small false roof that is constructed in order to throw off water from behind an obstacle such as a chimney.
Delamination	The separation of the layers of plywood sheathing due to exposure to moisture.
Drip Edge	A piece of metal placed over the roof sheathing at the perimeter to deflect water away from the sheathing and fascia board.
Eave	The lower part of a roof where it meets or projects over a wall.
Fascia	A flat board, band or face located at the outer edge of the cornice.
Flashing	Sheet metal or other material used in roof construction to prevent water seepage between joints.
Louver	An opening with a series of horizontal slats that permit ventilation but exclude rain and vision.
Mastic	A material used as roofing cement.
Paper	A building material, usually asphalt impregnated cellulose or felt, used in roof construction to prevent the passage of air and water.
Parapet	A low wall at the edge of a platform or flat roof that projects above the roof line.
Rafter	One of a series of structural members of a roof designed to support the roof surface and load.
Ridge	The horizontal line at the junction of the top edges of two sloping roof surfaces.
Sheathing	The boards or sheet material that are fastened to the roof rafters to cover the house.
Shingles	Roof covering of asphalt, wood, tile, slate or other material cut to stock lengths, widths, and thicknesses.
Soffit	The underside of an overhanging cornice.
Step Flashing	The interweaving of flashing with the roofing material and the materials of a vertical wall surface, required whenever a vertical wall meets the roofing surface (such as a dormer, skylight, garage or chimney).
Truss	The engineered components that have supplemented rafters in many newer homes. They are designed for specific applications and cannot be cut or altered in any way.
Valley	The joint formed by the junction of two sloping sides of a roof.

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