

8. How to get started

We already asked you to visualize the end result and your objectives for your roofing project. Next, we will visualize the process to follow to reach your goals.

8.1 Measure

The carpenter's rule of "measure twice, cut once" applies to the roofing trade as well. You need to know how much material to buy, as well as the type of flashings and accessories. Detailed instructions are given in the brochure "How to Measure your Roof".

8.2 Evaluate roof repairs & ventilation

To evaluate the need and scope of repairs, you will need to conduct a full and thorough inspection of your roof, attic, and external elements. Make a copy of the roof sketch you have made for the measuring step, and use it to mark areas that may have problems.

Detailed instructions on how to conduct a roof inspection are given in the brochure "How to Conduct a Roof Inspection", and a sample checklist of the things to look for is included with that document.

Your goal at this point should be to understand the scope of work involved with roof. You need to identify the problem areas, as revealed by the inspection, and use this knowledge to put together a realistic plan of action.

It helps if you can document your roof and problem areas with digital photos. The best approach is to

take photos from the front, back, left and right sides, then from the corners (front-left corner, front-right corner, etc.). Close-up photos of details and problem areas are very useful.

Document the state of the ventilation: pictures of the soffits, the outlet vents, and if possible, from inside the attic, several photos of the insulation, the situation at the eaves, and any water-marks or discoloration on the sheathing and joists. In doing so, record the direction you were pointing the camera at so that it is clear what area of the roof one is looking at.

Document the situation with the gutters, by shooting down each section of gutters. This will give an understanding of how the gutters are positioned on the eaves, and if there will be the necessity to move or reposition them. Photograph as well the chimney flashings and any other flashings that will need to be changed. When doing the photography, check each shot that it was in focus, and clearly shows the area of interest. If necessary, retake the shots until you have a good shot. Fortunately with digital cameras, this is easy to do and does not use up film.

8.3 Review plans with PRS

Once you have measured everything and found the problems, the next step is to set down the objectives you have, and rank them in order of priority or importance to you. These may include

appearance, reliability, performance in bad weather, increase in resale value of the home, cost, etc.

It helps at this point to write a report to yourself, showing the roof sketch and measurements, describing the inspection and the problems uncovered or recorded, noting the objectives, and detailing a preliminary action list or scope of work. Append the measurements and quantities you have calculated, the inspection checklist, and the photos.

At this point, you need to check your plan with experienced roofers. If you are planning to do it yourself, that would be us. Send us the sketches and measurements, and your conclusions as to what you believe the problems are and how you propose to fix them. Send us also some of the digital photos that allow us to understand the context of the project and work.

We will review your scope of work and your objectives, and see if there are any other “gotchas” that you may have missed. We will also check your material calculations and your choice of flashings. We will probably want to discuss your plan over the phone and confirm our understanding of your project. At the end of the exercise, if we find anything that needs to be added or corrected, you can adjust your plan (and expectations) accordingly.

8.4 Review install video, install guides

By this point, you have a very clear idea of what has to be done. Now you need to ensure that you are knowledgeable and confident of carrying out the detailed work necessary to achieve your plan. Review the video and the install guides and walk yourself through the installation process. If you have questions about specific details, or find that there is lack of information, contact us and let us understand what you need. Usually we are able to give you immediate feedback or next-day graphics on how to do a specific detail or solve a specific problem.

At the end of this exercise, you know HOW you will carry out the work, and you can adjust your plans accordingly.

8.5 Find out the safety rules & get the necessary equipment

Since safety while working is extremely important, you need to know what the safety experts in your area consider to be safe working practice. These are stated in the form of safety regulations, and are usually very detailed but straightforward. They are available usually from municipal or county government departments responsible for building permits and/or workplace safety, or from the state or provincial departments that govern the construction and workplace safety areas.

Many rental places can also rent you the necessary safety equipment,

including scaffolding, roof jacks and platforms, fall arrest equipment, and the like. Spending money on safety equipment is cheap insurance compared to what it will cost you if you have an accident. Work smart – work safe.

8.6 Find out if you need permits

Many municipalities and counties impose additional rules regarding residential renovation that are regulated by use of permits. You need to find out whether the scope of work that you are planning requires a permit, and if so, get it. This is especially true for buildings that may be in a historic area, or have historic or architectural attributes. It is much better to know ahead of time if there are special rules governing your work, than to invest time and money in your project, only to have it stopped because of regulations that you were not aware of.

8.7 Determine product, flashings and accessories needed

Now you can finalize your choice of product, flashings, accessories and update your project plan. This is your last chance to make changes before you commit your hard-earned cash.

8.8 Order the material

Place your order with us and let us confirm to you the exact amount of payment and the delivery schedule.

Why the PRS System is right for you.

We may need to contact several transport companies to determine the best rate, and delivery location. Sometimes the delivery can be arranged directly to the home, but usually it is cheaper for you to have the transport company leave the materials at their local depot where you can pick them up.

8.9 Purchase additional materials locally

The necessary materials that are NOT supplied by us will have to be purchased locally. This may include wood for repairs, vents, underlayment, caulking, etc.

8.10 Receive materials and verify all in order

Make sure that you have all materials on hand, in good shape, and securely stored before you start your project. Damage during transportation does happen and it is false economy to start before you have everything on hand.

Once you receive your materials, store them in a secure place that is protected from the weather and from view of the casual passer-by. Aluminum is worth money to a scrap yard, and there are people who could decide that you have the “scrap” they need.