



Roofing Term Glossary

****Helpful Hint**** In standard roofing practice many contractors refer to a 10' x 10' = 100 sq feet area as "1 square".

For example: if a 5 gallon pail typically covers 200-250 square feet, they'll refer to it as "covering 2-2.5 squares". Make sure you've got your coverage statement correct.

Alligator Cracking: aka Alligatoring, aka fatigue cracking. A common type of distress in asphalt roofs. Similar in appearance to reptile scales.

Ballast: Used to stabilize a roof substrate by lying on top of the capsheet. Rocks, stone, pebbles, or patio slabs are common roof ballasts

Bitumen: Black adhesive commonly used for roofing- Similar to asphalt.

Cap Sheet: Top layer of waterproofing membrane- Provides the UV protection.

Cure: Time it takes for the product to fully dry.

Degranulation: The break down process of modified bitumen membrane. The granules embedded in the bitumen membrane begin to break off, exposing the membrane to harmful UV rays.

EPDM: A single ply membrane

Flashing: Protective piece over a roof edge

Mesh: Nylon coated fiberglass mesh

Modified Bitumen: Rolled membrane, often capped with granules. Cold or hot applied.

Pinhole: Small leak, usually on a single ply membrane such as a TPO or EPDM

Ponding: Water that stands for 72 hours without evaporating

Recoat: Timeframe from when the top coat must be applied to the primer, or a second coat can be applied before the base has cured.

Touch: Time it takes a coating to cure long enough to be able to touch it without the product transferring to your finger.

TPO: A single ply membrane