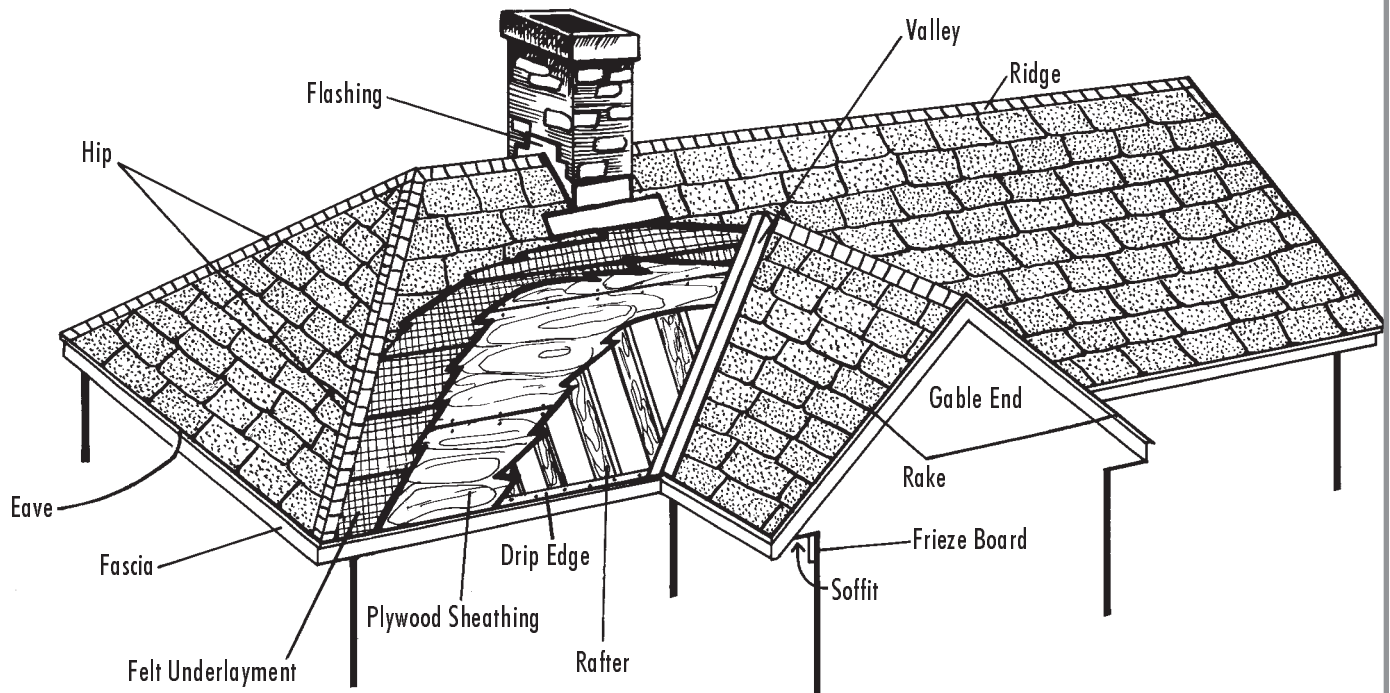


Parts of a Roof



A few definitions may make it easier for you to communicate with roofers.

Built-up Roof—A low-slope (or flat-seeming) roof covered with alternating layers of roofing felt and hot-topped asphalt and topped off with a layer of gravel.

Cornice—The wood or metal finishing at ends or edges of a building, including a fascia, frieze, or rake.

Counterflashing—The flashing that is embedded, or attached, and sealed at its top in a wall or other vertical structure and is lapped down over base flashing.

Courses—Horizontal rows of shingles or tiles.

Drip Edge—The strip of metal extending out beyond the eaves or rakes to prevent rainwater from curling around the shingles back onto the wooden portion of the house.

Eaves—The lower edge of a roof (often overhanging beyond the edge of the house).

Fascia—A decorative board extending down from the roof edge either at the eave or at the rake.

Felt—The bituminous paper used by roofers, usually made of a combination of asphalt and either paper or rags.

Flashing—Sheet metal or other material used at junctions of different planes or materials on a roof to prevent leakage.

Frieze Board—A board at the top of the house's finished wall, forming a corner with the soffit.

Joist—In a flat roof, a horizontal structural member over which sheathing is attached.

Pitch (slope)—The number of inches of vertical rise in a roof per 12 inches of horizontal distance.

Rafter—A structural member (usually slanted) to which sheathing is attached.

Rake—The slanting edge of a gable roof at the end wall of the house.

Ridge—The horizontal line at the top edge of two sloping roof planes.

Sheathing—The decking material (usually sheets of plywood), which is nailed to the rafters, and to which shingles or other outside roofing materials are secured.

Single-ply—A roofing system or roofing material used for low-slope roofs, including systems made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), EPDM rubber, and Thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO).

Soffit—The area that encloses the underside of that portion of the roof that extends out beyond the sidewalls of the house.

Square—One hundred square feet of roof.

Step Flashing—Flashing that is laid in strips under each shingle and bent up the edge of a chimney or wall.

Synthetic shingles—shingles made of metal, wood fiber, Portland cement with fibers, and polymer composites to look like slate or wood shingles.

Underlayment—The material (usually roofing felt) laid on top of sheathing before shingles are applied.

Valley—Where two sloping roof sections meet.

Valley Flashing—The metal or fabric in valleys, extending in under the shingles on both sides.