6 question you NEED to ask a roofing contractor before you hire

With helpful checklists so you don’t forget!

1. Can You Provide the Results of a Brittle Shingle Test?

Understanding the flexibility of your roof's shingles is crucial in determining whether repairs are feasible or if a full replacement is necessary. A brittle shingle test assesses the condition of your shingles by gently lifting them to see if they can bend without cracking or breaking. Shingles that fail this test are considered too brittle for effective repairs

Follow-Up: Can I Receive a Copy of the Test Results?

Requesting a picture or video of the results ensures transparency and allows you to make informed decisions about your roof's maintenance or replacement needs.

Red Flag: If a contractor is unwilling or hesitant to perform this test or share the results, it may indicate a lack of thoroughness or transparency in their assessment process.

Note: While the brittle shingle test is commonly used, it's important to understand that it is not an officially standardized industry test. Results can vary based on who performs the test and the methods used. Therefore, it's advisable to consult with qualified professionals who can provide comprehensive evaluations and recommendations based on your specific situation.

CHECKLIST

- [ ] Ask the contractor to perform a brittle shingle test
- [ ] Request a photo or video of the test to confirm results
- [ ] Ensure the contractor explains the implications of the results
- [ ] Consult with a qualified professional for a comprehensive evaluation

By following these steps, you can better understand the condition of your roof and make informed decisions about necessary repairs or replacements.

2. Have You Assessed the Humidity Levels in the Attic?

The average family emits 2 gallons of condensation a day! WOW! That is why proper attic ventilation is crucial in preventing moisture buildup, which can lead to mold growth and structural damage. A well-ventilated attic allows moist air to escape, reducing the risk of condensation and associated problems.

Follow-Up: Can You Provide Documentation of the Humidity Assessment?

Requesting a documented humidity assessment ensures transparency and allows you to understand the current state of your attic's environment. This information is vital for making informed decisions about necessary ventilation improvements.

Red Flag: If a contractor is unwilling or hesitant to assess attic humidity or provide documentation, it may indicate a lack of thoroughness or transparency in their evaluation process.

Note: At Avoda we do this test with a hygrometer and will show you exact numbers - explaining their significance and giving you peace of mind that your roof will be a long term asset to your home.

CHECKLIST

- [ ] Ensure the contractor assesses attic humidity levels with hygrometer
- [ ] Request documentation of the humidity assessment
- [ ] Discuss potential ventilation improvements based on the assessment results

By following these steps, you can help prevent moisture-related issues in your attic, ensuring a healthier home environment and prolonging the lifespan of your roof.

3. Can You Provide Details About Your Experience, Training, and Certifications?

Understanding a contractor's background is essential to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge for your roofing project. Certifications from reputable manufacturers and organizations demonstrate a commitment to quality and adherence to industry standards.

Follow-Up: What Specific Certifications Do You Hold?

Inquiring about specific certifications helps verify a contractor's expertise. For example, the CertainTeed ShingleMaster™ credential requires contractors to employ a Master Shingle Applicator-qualified workforce or attend a ShingleMaster Credential Course, ensuring a knowledgeable crew on your roof.

Red Flag: If a contractor lacks recognized certifications or is unwilling to discuss their qualifications, it may indicate insufficient training or experience.

Note: Not all certifications are equal, and simply having one doesn't always mean a contractor is the best choice. Some companies will pay for certifications without actually adhering to the best practices required to maintain them. That's why it's important to ask follow-up questions, such as:

- How often do you receive updated training for this certification?
- Does this certification cover all types of roofing materials, or just one?
- Are you required to meet ongoing performance standards to keep this certification?

By asking these deeper questions, you ensure you're working with a contractor who actually practices what they preach—rather than just flashing a badge to win your business.

CHECKLIST

- [ ] Ask the contractor about their years of experience in the roofing industry
- [ ] Request information on any industry-specific training programs they have completed
- [ ] Inquire about certifications from reputable manufacturers or industry organizations
- [ ] Verify the validity of the certifications provided
- [ ] Ask follow-up questions to determine if the certification reflects real-world expertise

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Avoda Roofing's Commitment to Excellence

At Avoda Roofing, we take pride in our certifications and the trust they represent:

- **CertainTeed ShingleMaster™:** This credential signifies our commitment to employing a knowledgeable crew and adhering to high standards in roofing installation.

- **Certified Installers of Green American Home and Classic Metal Roofing Systems:** Our team is trained to install premium metal roofing systems, offering durable and energy-efficient solutions for your home.

These certifications reflect our dedication to quality workmanship and customer satisfaction. We don’t just carry a certification—we live up to its standards every day on the job.

4. Can You Show Me Local Projects You've Completed?

Many homeowners have been burned by out-of-town crews who take deposits, do rushed work (or no work at all), and disappear before problems arise. Asking for proof of local projects ensures you're hiring a contractor with real roots in the community—one who stands behind their work.

Follow-Up: Can You Provide References From Local Homeowners?

A reputable roofing company should have a portfolio of completed projects and be able to connect you with past customers in your area. If a contractor hesitates to provide references, that's a major red flag.

Red Flags:

- The contractor can't name any projects in your town or surrounding areas.
- They avoid giving you references or claim they "don't do that."
- Their business address isn't local, or they operate out of a P.O. box with no physical presence.

At Avoda Roofing, we take pride in serving our neighbors.

We aren't some fly-by-night crew that disappears after the job is done—we're rooted in this community. Just ask the homeowners in Wyalusing and the surrounding area, whose roofs we've restored with quality craftsmanship that stands the test of time.

When you hire Avoda, you're hiring a name you can trust, a company that will still be here years down the road.

CHECKLIST

- [ ] Ask for specific addresses of homes they've worked on in your community
- [ ] Request before-and-after photos of completed projects
- [ ] Contact past clients if possible to hear about their experience
- [ ] Verify their business location to confirm they have local ties

5. Where Will You Use Ice and Water Shield on the Roof?

In regions like Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Binghamton Tri-City area, installing an ice and water shield is not just advisable—it's essential for protecting your home against harsh winter conditions. This self-adhering underlayment acts as a barrier against water infiltration caused by ice dams and wind-driven rain, safeguarding your roof's integrity.

Key Areas for Ice and Water Shield Installation

- **Eaves**: The shield should extend from the roof's edge to at least 24 inches inside the exterior wall line, as per Pennsylvania building codes.
- **Valleys**: These junctions between roof slopes are prone to water accumulation and require additional protection.
- **Penetrations**: Areas around chimneys, skylights, and vents should be sealed to prevent leaks.

Follow-Up: How Do You Ensure Compliance with Local Building Codes?

Requesting specifics about their installation process and adherence to local codes ensures the contractor's commitment to quality and regulatory standards.

Red Flag: If a contractor downplays the importance of ice and water shield or suggests it's unnecessary in your area, it may indicate a lack of experience with local climate challenges.

CHECKLIST

- [ ] Confirm that the contractor plans to install the ice and water shield at eaves, valleys, and roof penetrations.
- [ ] Verify that the installation will meet or exceed local building code requirements
- [ ] Discuss the materials and techniques they will use to ensure optimal protection

By addressing these points, you can ensure your roof is equipped to withstand the demanding winter conditions typical of the Northeastern United States

6. How Long Will Your Roofing Product Actually Last, and Is This Clearly Stated in Your Contract?

Understanding the true lifespan of your roofing materials and the specifics of your warranty is crucial. Many manufacturers offer warranties ranging from 20 to 50 years, depending on the quality of the materials. However, it's essential to recognize that these warranties often come with numerous clauses and exclusions that can be overwhelming and may limit actual coverage.

Common Warranty Exclusions:

- **Acts of God:** Many warranties exclude coverage for damages resulting from natural events, such as high winds exceeding certain speeds. For instance, winds over 60 mph are often considered "acts of God," potentially nullifying material guarantees.
- **Improper Installation:** Defects arising from installation errors are typically not covered under manufacturer warranties.

Follow-Up: Can You Provide a Clear, Concise Summary of the Warranty Terms?

Given that standard warranties can be lengthy and filled with legal jargon, requesting a straightforward summary helps ensure you understand the coverage, limitations, and any conditions that might void the warranty.

Red Flag: If a contractor is unwilling or unable to provide a clear explanation of the warranty terms, it may indicate potential issues with transparency or the quality of the product and service.

CHECKLIST

- [ ] **Request a Plain-Language Summary**: Ensure the warranty terms, coverage duration, and exclusions are clearly outlined
- [ ] **Clarify Coverage on Natural Events:** Understand how events like high winds, hail, or other "acts of God" are addressed in the warranty
- [ ] C**onfirm Inclusion in the Contract:** Verify that the agreed-upon warranty terms are explicitly stated in the final contract

By thoroughly understanding the warranty terms and ensuring they are clearly documented in your contract, you can make a more informed decision and have greater peace of mind regarding your roofing investment.

Avoda Roofing's Commitment to Transparency:

At Avoda Roofing, we believe in being upfront and honest about manufacturers' guarantees and how they affect you. We provide clear, concise summaries of all warranty terms and ensure they are included in your contract, so you know exactly what to expect.

Even if you don’t choose us, we care about you. We hope this guide equipped you with the knowledge necessary to make informed decision with your roofing needs.

If you have any questions email us:
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Or call 570-871-1591