



## What are the pros and cons of metal roofing?

There are several things that set metal roofing apart from other types of roofing. For starters, while it can provide a very long-lasting roof, it costs more than other materials—like asphalt, wood, or plastic. If you are looking at installing metal roofing yourself, there are special screw patterns designed by the manufacturers, so be aware of the installation guidelines.

The main thing with metal roofs is that they are much more likely to shed snow. On a steep pitch, it's almost guaranteed that snow will slide off at some point during the winter; if not then, expect it on a warm day in spring. This creates great potential for damage because of the weight of the snow. You can shear a deck off a house, crush a car, or trigger a slide by slamming the door.

So before installing a metal roof, consider all the things that can be damaged from snowfall around your home. If you see areas of concern, one solution is snow stops—a series of pre-bent steel triangles that are quite sturdy. They are screwed on in rows going up the roof, according to the manufacturer's pattern for attachment.

Also remember that just as anything on the ground is susceptible to snow damage, anything on your roof is as well. This includes stovepipes, septic vent pipes, and other objects. Sliding snow can shear them off or break them. Once again, use snow stops or install a cricket around pipes on your roof. A cricket is a metal triangle that looks a little like a dormer. Most sheet metal places will make them. A cricket acts like an old cowcatcher on a train. When the snow comes down, it hits the cricket and gets diverted to either side of the pipe, thus avoiding damage.