

Install Roofing on Low-Slope or Pitched Roofs

COMPANY

PROJECT / LOCATION

DATE

PREPARED BY

Covers roof access, receiving and staging materials, fastening roofing with nail guns, and cleanup. Protect workers at roof edges 6 feet or more above a lower level with guardrails, safety nets, or personal fall arrest. On low-slope roofs, warning line combinations or a safety monitoring system may also be used.

Protective equipment

- Full-body harness with compatible connectors and connecting equipment when using personal fall arrest.
- Safety glasses with side shields when handling materials or using nail guns.
- Work gloves suited to sharp roofing materials.
- Work boots with slip-resistant soles.
- Hard hat where falling tools or materials could strike you.
- Hearing protection when nail-gun noise creates a hearing hazard.

Before you start

- Check roof edges, skylights, openings, roof condition, and the ladder access route before sending the crew onto the roof.
- Set up fall protection for roof edges 6 feet or more above a lower level. On steep roofs use guardrails with toeboards, safety nets, or personal fall arrest. On low-slope roofs you may also use a warning line combined with another system.
- Check fall arrest equipment and anchorages. Anchorages must not also support a platform and must hold at least 5,000 pounds per attached worker.
- Check pneumatic nail-gun hose connections and muzzle safety devices before use.

#	JOB STEP	HAZARDS	CONTROLS
1	Set up roof access and fall protection.	A worker can fall at an exposed edge while setting up protection. A worker can fall through a skylight or roof opening.	- Keep fall protection in use during setup wherever exposed edges are 6 feet or more above a lower level. - Stay connected to personal fall arrest while you install guardrails at an open edge. - Never attach personal fall arrest equipment to guardrails. - Protect holes, including skylights, more than 6 feet above lower levels with covers, guardrails, or personal fall arrest. - Keep covers or guardrails in place on openings that are not in use.

2 Climb to the roof and transfer tools.	Carrying tools while climbing can cause a fall from the ladder or roof access point. A nail gun can drop or disconnect when lifted by its air hose.	- Transfer tools separately so your hands remain available for climbing. - Check that the ladder is stable and the landing is clear before climbing. - Step off the ladder into a guardrailed area, or connect to personal fall arrest right away. - Raise and lower tools in a bucket or bag on a hand line. - Never hoist or lower tools by their hoses.
3 Receive and stage roofing materials.	A worker can fall while receiving materials at a roof edge. Sliding bundles can strike workers, and sharp material edges can cut hands.	- Protect workers in the hoist area with guardrails or personal fall arrest. - Use personal fall arrest when receiving materials requires leaning through an opening or over an edge with guardrails removed. - Never use harnesses or fall arrest components to hoist materials. - Place materials where they cannot slide toward workers or roof edges. - Keep walking routes clear of bundles and loose materials. - Wear gloves suited to the material edges.
4 Lay out and position roofing materials.	Loose materials, hoses, or slippery footing can cause a trip or slide toward an edge. Awkward bundles can strain the back or pinch hands during positioning.	- Remove loose scraps from the work area. - Route hoses away from walking paths. - Stay inside the roof's fall protection (guardrails, nets, personal fall arrest, or warning line setup) when working near edges. - Stage materials close to their installation area to reduce carrying. - Get help with loads you cannot control safely. - Keep hands clear of pinch points when setting materials down.
5 Fasten roofing with nail guns.	An unintended discharge or flying fastener can puncture a hand or strike another worker. An unsecured hose connection can release the tool or whip the hose into a worker.	- Use only nailers whose muzzle safety device works, and never bypass it. Automatic-feed nailers run above 100 psi at the tool must have one. - Keep hands and coworkers out of the fastener path. - Wear safety glasses with side shields. - Secure the tool to its hose with a positive connection that cannot come apart by accident. - Stop using the tool if a connection becomes loose or damaged.

6 Collect scraps, lower tools, and leave the roof.

Scraps or tools can fall from the roof and strike people below.

Removing protection too early can expose workers to a fall during cleanup or exit.

- Collect loose scraps in containers instead of pushing them over the edge.
- Lower tools in a bucket or bag on a hand line, never by air hoses or fall arrest equipment.
- Keep people clear of the area below material transfers.
- Keep fall protection in place through cleanup and roof exit.
- Cover unused material holes, or put guardrails along all their open sides.

Stop work and call the supervisor if

- Stop and call the supervisor if required edge or opening protection is missing, loose, or removed without replacement protection.
- Stop and call the supervisor if fall arrest equipment is damaged or has taken a fall load; remove impact-loaded equipment from service immediately.
- Stop and call the supervisor if a nail-gun safety device fails or a hose connection will not stay secured.
- Stop and call the supervisor if weather, slippery footing, or unstable roof surfaces prevent safe movement.

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.501, Duty to have fall protection; 29 CFR 1926.502, Fall protection systems criteria and practices; 29 CFR 1926.302, Power-operated hand tools; 29 CFR 1926.28, Personal protective equipment
Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use.
Not legal advice.

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REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)

REVIEW DATE

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