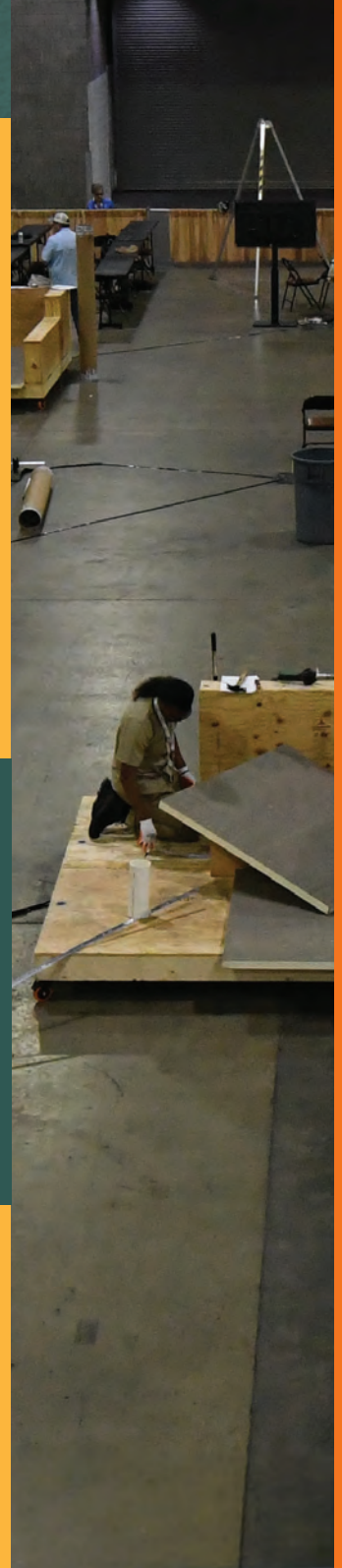
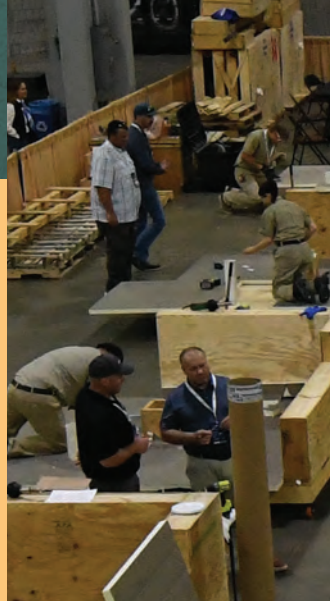
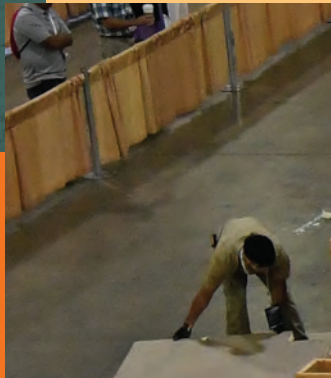


P|R

PROFESSIONAL ROOFING



FROM PAST TO FUTURE

SkillsUSA® holds its fourth annual
commercial roofing competition





WHY A MALARKEY SHINGLE?

Made Better, Last Longer, More Sustainable

Unlike standard roofing shingles, Malarkey shingles are made of **Rubberized Asphalt** for superior all-weather resilience, **Upcycled Rubber & Plastics** to reduce landfill waste, and **Smog-Reducing Granules** that help clean the air.

Better performance, and better for the environment –
why not a Malarkey shingle?



WHEN IT MATTERS®



Malarkey is part of the Amrize family of brands

How to extend your life

These nine things can add years to your life expectancy

by Ambika Puniani Reid



I don't like to talk about it, but I am firmly in middle age (meaning I am somewhere between 40 and 60 years of age). However, I cannot ignore the fact that my days on Earth are finite, and I would like as many as possible.

In *The New York Times* article "9 Things Experts Wish You'd Do in Midlife to Increase Longevity," Dana G. Smith shares the following ways we can all buy a little more time:

1. Performing cardio-respiratory fitness through interval training, such as alternating sprinting for 30 seconds and resting for 30 seconds for 10 minutes
2. Prioritizing social relationships by asking a friend to join you while running an errand, going for a walk or doing a workout together
3. Eating fermented foods such as yogurt, sauerkraut, kimchi or kombucha
4. Lifting weights
5. Eating at least 0.8 to 1.2 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight and including some protein in every meal
6. Taking the stairs rather than elevators, walking instead of driving or parking farther away from a building's entrance
7. Getting the shingles vaccine
8. Making a list of your parents' chronic health conditions so you can watch for signs and symptoms in yourself
9. Going to bed at the same time every night

Smith writes: "The seeds for many age-related diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and dementia, are sown in middle age, so it's important to start thinking about prevention early. And it takes a lifetime of healthy habits, not just a few weeks, to move the needle on your longevity."

Ambika

AMBIKA PUNIANI REID is editor of *Professional Roofing* and NRCA's vice president of communications.





CLOSE-UP

Elevate,TM Nashville, Tenn., recently collaborated with the National Association of Home Builders to construct The New American Home[®] 2026 featured at the 2026 International Builders' Show. The annual project showcases the latest designs, technology and sustainability in residential construction.

This year's project was constructed with nearly \$3 million in donated materials from NAHB members. Elevate contributed a complete low-slope roof system, including UltraPlyTM TPO membrane, ISOGARDTM polyisocyanurate insulation, UltraPly Bonding Adhesive and accessories, installed by Alpha Roofing & Sheet Metal LLC, Clermont, Fla.

The 7,889-square-foot luxury home consumes less energy than it produces and has a Home Energy Rating System Index of -40.

To submit a photo to Close-up, email professionalroofing@professionalroofing.net. Submittals should include a photo and a description of the photo. 📷📸📷



FEATURES

28

From past to future

SkillsUSA® holds its fourth annual commercial roofing competition

by Josephine Burnham

32

Building the career pathway

Industry partners launch a new CTE roofing program in southern California

by Rebecca Eller-Molitas

37

Centennial roofing

Renaissance Historic Exteriors, Belvidere, Ill., restores Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Illinois

by Chrystine Elle Hanus

42

What went wrong?

Understanding the differences between roofing disputes is crucial

by Trent Cotney

48

What does it cost?

A new edition of NRCA's *Roofing Contractors Equipment Cost Schedule* is available

by Nick Gallagher





Forward-Thinking Companies Turn to Us.

“We’re here to grow and grow fast, consistently, with integrity.”

— Diaz Roofing LLC
TAMKO Pro Gold™
Certified Contractor*



The roofing industry runs on the skill and dedication of the contractor community. TAMKO is committed to providing premium education & training opportunities for TAMKO® Pro Certified Contractors.

Our contractors learn how to scale their business quickly—and responsibly—through the Roofing STRONG Alliance by TAMKO™ and The TAMKO Edge® program. You’ll gain access to real resources through our affinity partners—from lead generation and homeowner financing to hands-on craft and sales training designed around your team’s goals. It’s everything you need to help you grow, all in one place—because we’re dedicated to building the STRONGest contractor community.†

Let’s build ‘people-first’ companies together.



PERFORMANCE THAT PROTECTS™



tamko.com/edge

*TAMKO CONTRACTORS ARE NOT EMPLOYEES, AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF TAMKO BUILDING PRODUCTS LLC. TAMKO Pro Certified Contractors may receive certain benefits, such as marketing support, product rebates, access to third-party discounts and the ability to offer Enhanced Limited System Warranties.

†TAMKO does not guarantee any sales, markups, margins, or profits.

COLUMNS

3

How to extend your life

These nine things can add years
to your life expectancy

by Ambika Puniani Reid

12

Build a bomb shelter

Protecting yourself from
possible nuclear verdicts is
easier than you think

by McKay Daniels

16

Do the right thing

Designers should not forget
about best practices when specifying
temporary roof systems

by Maciek Rupar

24

A worthy effort

NRCA takes its support for
affordable housing to Capitol Hill

by Brad Stine

DEPARTMENTS

4

Close-up

10

New Ideas

12

News + Views

16

Research + Tech

24

Rules + Regs

51

Briefings

58

Details

TEAM

Editor

Ambika Puniani Reid
areid@nrca.net

Associate Editor

Chrystine Elle Hanus
chanus@nrca.net

Editorial Assistant

Josephine Burnham
jburnham@nrca.net

Creative Director

Nancy Davis
ndavis@nrca.net

Graphic Designers

Jairo Ayala
jayala@nrca.net

Oshla Gray
ogray@nrca.net

Director of Communications

Krista Berns
kberns@nrca.net

Manager of Online Communications

Madison Mahoney
mmahoney@nrca.net

National Advertising Sales Manager

Michael Stack
mstack@nrca.net
(847) 493-7554

CEO

McKay Daniels
mdaniels@nrca.net

Publisher

Jeff Jarvis
jjarvis@nrca.net

Digital editions: You can find additional editorial and images for this issue and past issues at professionalroofing.net.

Subscription: Subscriptions are free for roofing industry professionals. Subscribe online at professionalroofing.net/ subscribe. Single copies may be purchased for \$10 U.S. For questions regarding subscriptions or renewals, call (847) 299-9070. Periodicals class postage paid at Itasca, IL, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Professional Roofing*, 2 Pierce Place, Suite 1200, Itasca, IL 60143.

Letters: Write to 2 Pierce Place, Suite 1200, Itasca, IL 60143; fax (847) 299-1183; or email professionalroofing@professionalroofing.net. Views expressed in Letters are not necessarily those of NRCA. Letters must include the sender's name and company name.

Mission: *Professional Roofing* provides cutting-edge content, valuable insight and innovative ideas to help roofing professionals succeed.

Judgments, opinions and submitted photography in *Professional Roofing* are the authors' alone and should not be considered an expression of opinion, endorsement or official policy of NRCA. Articles are published for the purpose of stimulating independent thought about matters of concern to roofing professionals.



(ISSN 0896-5552)

is published 10 times per year by the National Roofing Contractors Association, 2 Pierce Place, Suite 1200, Itasca, IL 60143. Periodicals postage paid at Itasca, IL, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Professional Roofing*, 2 Pierce Place, Suite 1200, Itasca, IL 60143. Statements of fact and opinion are made on the responsibility of author alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or the membership of NRCA. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.



The official publication of the National Roofing Contractors Association
Copyright 2026 • Printed in the United States



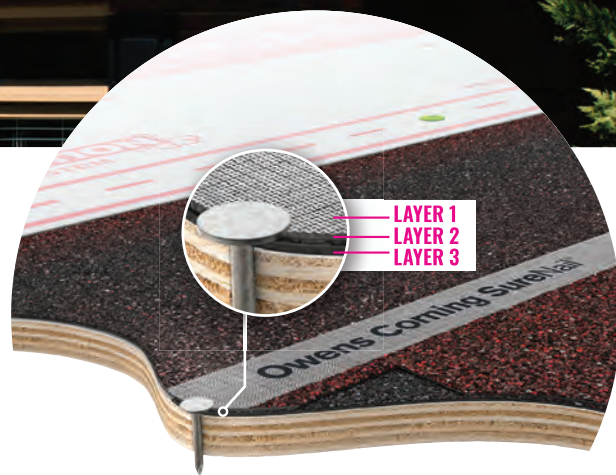
THE DIFFERENCE IS EASY TO SEE

DURATION® SERIES SHINGLES

with SureNail® Technology with Triple Layer Protection®

Nothing's more visible than the patented SureNail® Technology exclusively on Duration® Series Shingles. The wide, highly visible engineered fabric strip provides a unique triple layer of reinforcement in the nailing zone to help deliver consistent performance and quality installation. With Duration® Series Shingles, the difference is easy to see.

Learn more about the SureNail® difference at OwensCorning.com/SureNail



*The amount of Triple Layer Protection® may vary on shingle-to-shingle basis.
SureNail® Technology is not a guarantee of performance in all weather conditions. SureNail® Technology is available only on Owens Corning® Duration® Series Shingles.
THE PINK PANTHER™ & © 1964–2026 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. All Rights Reserved. © 2026 Owens Corning. All Rights Reserved.

Plate marking made easy

OMG Roofing Products has introduced the RhinoMark™ Plate Marking System to provide roofing contractors a simple, effective way to find and mark RhinoBond® plates beneath membranes.

RhinoMark reportedly leaves a clean, temporary mark and makes it easy to quickly position the RhinoBond tool over the plate, delivering consistent welds for strong bonds. This allows for more accurate placement with a magnetic centering guide that limits unwanted marks on the roof.

The product is available in RhinoMark Single Pack: one tool and one refill; and RhinoMark Multi-Pack: four tools, six refills and one carry case. omgroofing.com

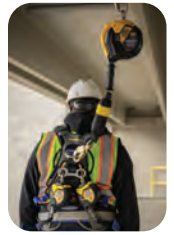


Fall protection made easy

Werner® has announced a full redesign of its fall-protection harness portfolio and introduced a new visual safety system across its Blue Armor,™ ProForm™ and LiteFit™ harness lines.

The system reportedly simplifies inspection, improves harness identification and enhances all-day comfort. The harnesses are made with a unified visual safety system, upgraded materials and patented technologies designed to help professionals inspect, adjust and wear equipment correctly on job sites.

wernerco.com



New design for panel series

ATAS International Inc. has introduced MultiFin, a new panel series featuring a distinctive fin-style profile, available in multiple variations designed to pair seamlessly with the MetaFlex panel through a shared interlock.

MultiFin, as a structural rainscreen wall panel system, encourages design flexibility and elevated aesthetics with options to mix and match colors and finishes and variation in fin spacing and incorporates solid or perforated surfaces.

Panels are offered in aluminum and steel in a range of thicknesses made for commercial, educational, residential, mixed-use and healthcare facilities.

atas.com



Safety programs are OSHA-ready

AlignOps Busy Busy has created Safety Module to help contractors create stronger, more consistent safety processes that are Occupational Safety and Health Administration-inspection ready.

The new module reportedly helps users create heat-specific job-site inspections, create daily heat and job-safety analyses, document water and shade station checks, encourage employees to report heat hazards immediately, deliver and track heat safety training, track heat-related incidents, and assign and track corrective actions.

The BusyBusy Safety Module is ideal for crews working outside in elevated temperatures and provides simple, mobile-friendly time tracking and GPS-enabled crew management.

alignops.com/busybusy



Solar systems for steep slopes

CertainTeed has expanded its solar system-based solutions with a new Solstice™ Mounting-System and Ground Mount, representing the next evolution of the company's system-first approach to solar roofing, where every component is designed to work together seamlessly.

Designed for steep-slope roofs, the Solstice Mounting System delivers a fast solar installation through its lightweight yet high-strength rail design, universal pop-on clamps and single-tool assembly.

The Solstice Ground Mount is for traditional ground-mounted solar projects. It features an advanced pipe-based design that accommodates a variety of soil conditions, simplifying product selection without sacrificing performance.

certainteed.com



**WRE
BOOTH
441**

POLYGLASS®



WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS, SO DOES EACH LAYER

Burn-Shield Technology® roofing solutions are engineered to slow the spread of flame and resist ignition from wind-blown embers—**giving you time when it matters most.**



UL Class A Fire-Rated
(ASTM E108)



Waterproofing
Performance



WUI-Compliant
(California Title 24)



Low- and Steep-Slope
System Options



CAL FIRE Building
Materials Listed



Burn-Shield Technology®

Wildfires are changing the code.
Polyglass is changing the standard.

**Explore Our Fire
Rated Systems**

polyglass.us





Build a bomb shelter

Protecting yourself from possible nuclear verdicts is easier than you think

by McKay Daniels

Next time you drive to a job site, count the billboards. I counted billboards on my way to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport recently. There were 12 in less than 2 miles. I didn't count all the billboards; I didn't count the beer or fast food ones. I counted the ones with a lawyer's face, catchy slogan and a phone number big enough to read at 70 mph.

You know the ones I am talking about and for good reason: \$45 million was spent in Las Vegas alone on personal injury billboards in one year. But that isn't even the maximum; \$165 million was spent in Los Angeles; \$70 million in Dallas; \$88 million in Atlanta and \$80 million in Orlando. A personal injury lawyer in Connecticut spends more than \$1 million per year rotating her billboards every eight weeks, posing with Vanilla Ice, Mike Tyson and an NFL quarterback while pitching the same pitch: Get hurt, call me.

It's easy to laugh at silly ads, but it's a lot less funny when

you find out who these firms are actually hunting. I recently came across a jaw-dropping piece written by Adam Rosen in *The Hustle* about the billboard lawyer boom, and one line from a marketing consultant stopped me cold: “Everybody wants that truck wreck.” Not a slip-and-fall. Not a parking-lot fender bender. They want a commercial vehicle, ideally one owned by a business with real insurance behind it.

That’s us. Roofing runs on trucks of all sorts, shapes and sizes that haul crews, materials and equipment to job sites every day in every U.S. market. That puts our industry squarely in the crosshairs of a legal environment that has changed dramatically during the past several years. And it’s showing up on every insurance renewal notice you get.

What’s causing this spike? Start with the lawyers themselves. There are now more than 1.3 million practicing attorneys in the U.S., which is roughly one for every 260 Americans, and the personal injury bar spent north of \$541 million on billboards and outdoor advertising in 2024 alone, up nearly \$200 million in just two years, according to the American Tort Reform Association. And just like the roofing industry, consolidation and rollups are happening in the legal world, too. Legal shops are getting larger and more sophisticated. Morgan & Morgan, the country’s largest personal injury firm, reportedly spends \$350 million per year on marketing.

When our family moved to Illinois eight years ago, I was excited to see a local bakery from my hometown in Nevada had taken private equity money and franchised across the nation. Nothing Bundt Cakes are the best! I was less excited to see that local Las Vegas trial

attorney Glenn Lerner also had now expanded into 10 states and had billboards along Chicago’s highways just like he had back home in Las Vegas.

This isn’t a cottage industry. It is a massive enterprise with, increasingly, outside investors. Private equity and litigation-funding firms are now bankrolling lawsuits the way venture capital bankrolls startups, betting on a big payout down the road. Think about that a moment: The private equity firms that are likely reaching out to you to buy your shop also are reaching out to law firms saying: “We’ll fund the costs; you file the suit.”

Willie Sutton, one of the most notorious bank robbers in U.S. history, famously answered the question “Why do you rob banks?” with “because that’s where the money is.” If Sutton were alive today and used his wiles slightly differently, he’d probably be a personal injury lawyer because that’s where the money is, and the payouts have gotten enormous.

A LexisNexis review of 73,000 federal cases found the average jury verdict hit \$16.2 million in 2024—nearly double what it was two years earlier and almost four times the 2019 average. The industry has a name for the really big ones: “nuclear verdicts,” generally anything more than \$10 million. Those surged 52% in 2024 alone, totaling \$31.3 billion in payouts nationwide with the median nuclear verdict climbing to \$51 million. Verdicts more than \$100 million, once vanishingly rare, hit 49 cases that year, more than doubling the 2023 number. Trial lawyers have also gotten sharp about a courtroom tactic called reptile theory. This is when attorneys argue a case not just on the facts but on triggering a juror’s gut-level fear that

“this could happen to my family,” which reliably drives up awards.

You may think your insurance will cover these costs. And it will, but how have your premiums been in recent years? Insurance carriers don’t eat these losses quietly. They price them into the next year’s premiums. Commercial auto liability has been unprofitable for insurers for 14 years running, and it shows: Industry brokers are projecting auto liability rate increases of 8% to 20% for construction fleets in 2026 with some placements seeing excess trucking coverage jump as much as 75%. Roofing gets hit particularly hard because underwriters already view the roofing industry as being high-frequency and high-severity. With lots of vehicles on the road and lots of exposure, there is litigation risk stacked upon litigation risk.

If you have noticed your commercial auto renewal costs creeping up regardless of your own claims history, this is a big reason why. It is probably not because your crews are driving worse. The entire system pricing your risk has repriced itself around a number of much larger verdicts that increasingly are funded by outside capital with every incentive to push a case to trial instead of settling it.

But pushback is building. Many states have introduced tort reform this year that would tighten how damages get awarded and regulate litigation funding. A new group backed in part by the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, a trucking trade association, has committed millions of dollars to fighting what it calls predatory personal

NRCA members can download NRCA’s *Fleet Safety Playbook* for free at shop.nrca.net; non-members can purchase the publication for \$195.

injury practices and is pushing Congress to tax third-party litigation funding.

Wherever you land on the broader tort reform debate, this trend line matters, and trade groups across construction and transportation are showing up in these battles. NRCA has been fighting for tort reform measures in Congress for years with our coalition partners. But we also are working to help individual companies protect themselves because no one wants to wait for legislators to fix your insurance premium.

NRCA's *Fleet Safety Playbook* is a new best-practice guide for you and your company to try and take control of the risk you face on the road and courtroom.

Some of the best practices get some pushback (dash cams most of all), but the math doesn't lie. Dash cams help. Insurance underwriting is all about statistics, risk and costs. And underwriters are explicitly rewarding contractors who can document a real safety program with dash cams, GPS and telematics, documented driver training and hiring standards, and clean paper trails if something does go wrong.

One insurance industry leader summed up dash cams succinctly during a conversation: "You're assumed guilty in a work truck. So if dash cam footage comes back showing

someone on your team at fault, at least you know that and can minimize the fight and move on. But otherwise, that footage is likely the only thing to prove your innocence. Without it, you're assumed guilty and paying regardless."

I was recently with a contractor whose cell phone pinged with a real-time telematics report. One of the company trucks was in an accident. The dash cam footage clearly showed the driver was not at fault. Tens of thousands of dollars in legal bills and potentially millions in payments were saved. In a world where the other side is going to argue your driving record to a jury using every emotional lever available, having the boring stuff like logs, footage and training records in order is what could keep a fender bender from turning into a nuclear verdict with your company's name on it.

The billboards aren't going anywhere because Wall Street smells money in exploiting life's accidents. But contractors who take fleet safety and documentation as seriously as the plaintiff's bar takes marketing will be the ones who weather this market and keep their insurance bill from eating their margin. 🚚📱🔍

MCKAY DANIELS is NRCA's CEO.
MDANIELS@NRCA.NET

Worker fatigue can lead to safety risks

Long shifts, overtime, heat, repetitive tasks and inadequate recovery time can cause physical and mental strain and raise risk of injury because of slower reaction times,

decreased situational awareness and impaired judgment, according to *Construction Executive*. This can lead to accidents that affect the safety of fatigued workers and their co-workers. It also can result in costly rework, wasted labor and materials and schedule delays.

Construction Executive shares the following ways companies can address worker fatigue:

Apply job-site intervention.

On-site occupational health

professionals can conduct ergonomic assessments, coach proper body mechanics and safe material handling, and lead warmups before shifts to improve flexibility and comfort.

Deliver targeted care. Episodic health services offer flexible, targeted services for companies that only require support for seasonal or project-specific risks. The services can be provided once or on a recurring basis to address specific occupational illness and inquiries.

Measure impact and demonstrate value. Measurable outcomes can include tracking recordable injuries and near-misses; monitoring reductions in days off through better prevention and quicker

recoveries; analyzing schedule adherence and rework rates for reductions in fatigue-related errors; and evaluating rates of winning bids on safety-sensitive projects linked to enhanced safety metrics.

Use data to take action. Occupational health experts can help create a fatigue management strategy by using injury data. Strategies could include analyzing injury and near-miss data for fatigue-related patterns; reviewing schedules and overtime to identify high-risk rotations; surveying workers and screening for sleep and fatigue issues; and adding fatigue-related questions to injury evaluations.



Roofing Alliance accepting MVP Awards entries

The Roofing Alliance is accepting entries for its Most Valuable Player Awards program. The deadline for entries is Sept. 14.

Nominations are based on significant contributions in two categories: outstanding performance and leadership and outstanding community involvement. Each category is judged separately, and individuals can be nominated for one or both categories.

MVP Awards are eligible for workers employed by a Roofing Alliance or NRCA member. From roofing contractor firms, any roofing field worker, foreman or superintendent can be nominated. From distributor firms, any warehouse employee, warehouse foreman, driver or equipment operator can be nominated.

MVP Awards winners receive two complimentary coach airfare tickets and three nights' hotel accommodations during NRCA's 140th Annual Convention Feb. 16-18, 2027, in Las Vegas. Each winner also receives two complimentary SuperPass registrations to the 2027 International Roofing Expo,[®] two complimentary tickets to the NRCA Industry Awards and Reception and a \$100 American Express gift card. Winners are formally recognized during the NRCA Industry Awards and Reception Feb. 17, 2027, in Las Vegas.

One winner will be chosen as *Professional Roofing's* Best of the Best Award winner. Co-sponsored by *Professional Roofing* and OMG Roofing Products Inc., Agawam, Mass., the recognition includes a prize and a feature article in *Professional Roofing*.

For more information, visit roofingalliance.net or email Abby Nelson, Roofing Alliance programs manager, at anelson@nrca.net.



Gold Circle Awards call for entries

The Gold Circle Awards program recognizes NRCA members for outstanding contributions to the roofing industry. Unique roofing-related projects (commercial or residential), programs and services are eligible to be entered in one of the following categories: outstanding workmanship, innovative solutions, artisan workmanship and wall panels and façades.

Outstanding workmanship applies to steep-slope and low-slope projects that exceed standard roofing practices. This category includes all roof systems, including metal roofing projects.

Innovative solutions applies to a smart or unique solution to a problem, an environmentally friendly project, a unique software program/service specific to the roofing industry or innovative equipment specifically designed for the roofing industry.

Artisan workmanship is a new category that applies to the highly-skilled, detail-oriented craft of working with roofing materials, such as copper, by hand. This includes the design and installation of original, one-of-a-kind materials as well as the reproduction of historical details, emphasizing aesthetic appeal and functionality.

Wall panels and façades is also a new category that applies to wall panels, cladding and façade systems and the complexity of installing a combination of specific materials and integrating multiple components.

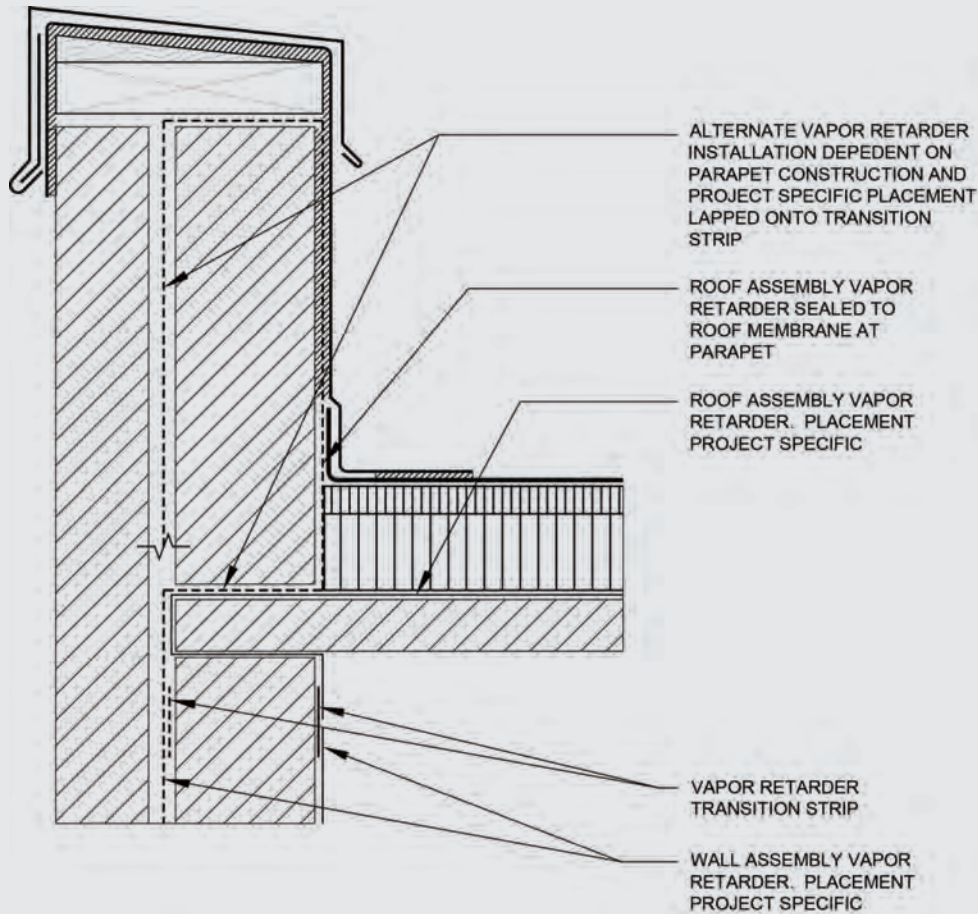
Gold Circle Awards winners receive:

- Formal recognition during the NRCA Industry Awards and Reception held during NRCA's Annual Convention and the 2027 International Roofing Expo,[®] Feb. 16-18
- A Gold Circle Awards trophy
- Recognition in *Professional Roofing* magazine
- Press releases notifying industry trade press and local media

Projects submitted must have been completed by NRCA members between June 1, 2024, and May 31, 2026. One submission per category per company is allowed. The submission deadline is Friday, Sept. 18, 2026.

Visit nrca.net/NRCA-awards/gold-circle-awards for more information or contact Chrystine Hanus, an NRCA director of communications, at chanus@nrca.net.





Do the right thing

Designers should not forget about best practices when specifying temporary roof systems

by Maciek Rupar

Construction sequencing pressures roofing contractors to install roofing materials during unsuitable weather or before blocking, curbs, penetrations or walls are complete—all of which may cause problems. Installing a temporary roof system can help avoid such problems by providing interim protection for other trades so they can stay on schedule; it also reduces traffic on the finished roof until the permanent roof system is installed.

General guidelines

A temporary roof system may be installed as a sacrificial traffic surface to preclude damage to the finished roof system from other trades or to dry-in a building before permanent roof system installation. A temporary roof system may be removed or remain as a component, such as a vapor retarder, of the completed roof assembly. Roof system designers are responsible for specifying that a temporary roof will be required; the type and specification of the temporary roof to be

used; and whether it will be removed or inspected, repaired and left in place as part of the finished roof assembly.

The cost of the temporary roof should be itemized in the quoted price. Time and material costs for any necessary repairs to the temporary roof should be incorporated as a separate part of the contract.

If a designer is uncertain whether a temporary roof will be necessary, it can be bid as an additional alternative on a unit-cost basis. Then, the decision to use a temporary roof can be made during the construction period.



The lesson here is a quality roof membrane installed as a temporary roof system makes an effective combined air and vapor roof assembly retarder



The additional cost of a temporary roof is far preferable to shortened roof system life or premature failure.

A temporary roof specification will depend on the watertight integrity required for the building and the length of time before the permanent roof covering can be installed. A temporary roof membrane should be durable enough to withstand weather, traffic or abuse expected during the project without compromising water impermeability.

The specification should state

whether the temporary roof system must be protected to avoid damage by other trades. There should also be provisions for timely communication with the roofing contractor in the event other trades install penetrations or damage the temporary roof system. In such instances, the owner or its agent should notify the roofing contractor immediately so the penetration(s) can be properly flashed or appropriate repairs can be made.

If a temporary roof stays in place as a component of the finished roof assembly, the designer should ensure it is compatible with the permanent roof system and include inspection and repair procedures in the specification. If insulation is used in the temporary roof, it should be examined; wet or degraded insulation must be removed before installing the permanent roof system. Alternatively, procedures for temporary roof system removal and any additional roof deck surface preparation should be specified.

If a temporary roof system is specified, the designer should include provisions for a temporary roof drainage system, which should be designed with the same drainage capacity as the primary drainage system for the finished roof assembly and must prevent the depth of ponding water from exceeding the roof assembly's structural capacity. The necessary drainage capacity and maximum ponding depth are determined by the number, sizes and placement of roof drains, scuppers or gutters and slope of the roof surface to sufficiently drain the roof area.

Retarders

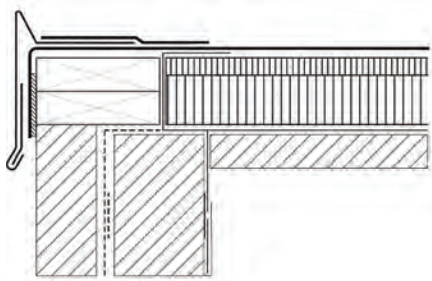
A temporary roof system that stays in place as part of the finished roof

assembly may function as an air retarder and/or vapor retarder.

A roof assembly air retarder is designed and installed to reduce uncontrolled air movement or leakage through a roof assembly. Air leakage in building assemblies occurs through gaps between air-impermeable materials and air-permeable materials when there is an air pressure difference across the assembly. Air leakage can transport significant amounts of water vapor into building assemblies over relatively short time periods. An air retarder may be vapor-permeable or vapor-impermeable depending on the vapor permeabilities of the materials used in its construction.

A roof assembly vapor retarder is designed and installed to significantly reduce the transport of water vapor through vapor-permeable materials when there is a water vapor pressure difference across the assembly; this is water vapor diffusion. Water vapor transport via diffusion happens at a significantly slower rate compared with air leakage, but when a sustained vapor drive persists over a long time period, a building assembly may require a vapor retarder to ensure durability of construction. It's important to note a vapor retarder is not intended to control air leakage unless specific additional conditions are placed on its design and construction.

Water vapor transport through air leakage and diffusion may occur at the same time, and some roof assembly designs intend to provide one system that functions as a combined air and vapor retarder. A system designed and installed as an air retarder and constructed with vapor-impermeable materials will perform both functions.



Vapor retarder assembly at roof-to-wall transition

This is key because an effective air retarder meets a set of strict conditions: It's continuous (has no gaps in air-impermeable materials); it's sealed airtight at laps, transitions and penetrations; it's sufficiently durable to withstand thermal movement and support anticipated wind and other loads without becoming dislodged or degraded; and it does all this for the duration of its anticipated service life.

It's not a trivial matter to design and install a building system that will successfully meet those criteria. Fortunately, roof system designers and roofing contractors developed best practices based on experience that facilitate the construction of such building systems. If you were to exchange "air-impermeable" and "air-tight" for "water-impermeable" and "water-tight" in the set of requirements for an effective air retarder, you would obtain almost the complete set of criteria for a quality roof membrane. Long-term resistance to the elements is the only requirement applicable to roof membranes that wasn't specifically named earlier.

The lesson here is a quality roof membrane installed as a temporary roof system (subjected to inspection and necessary repairs before the completion of the finished roof system) makes an effective combined air and vapor roof assembly retarder. The corollary is a system designed to perform solely as a

vapor retarder does not make an effective temporary roof system.

Additional information about roof assembly air retarder and vapor retarder design and construction is provided in the Condensation and Air Leakage Control section of *The NRCA Roofing Manual: Architectural Metal Flashing and Condensation and Air Leakage Control—2026* and in Chapter 3—Air and Vapor Retarders of *The NRCA Roofing Manual: Membrane Roof Systems—2023*.

Code mandates

Owing to air leakage's significant adverse effects on roof assemblies' energy efficiency and durability, energy codes adopted in the U.S. and Canada provide specific requirements for roof assembly air retarder (air barrier in code language) design, materials and installation practices.

Model energy codes make the designer responsible for determining and documenting the correct materials, locations and detailing of the penetrations and transitions in building air barriers to meet energy code goals for building energy efficiency.

The 2012 edition and later editions of the International Energy Conservation Code,[®] which form the basis of locally adopted energy codes throughout the U.S., contain documentation, material, execution and performance requirements for building air barriers including roof assembly air barriers.

Because average vapor drive across a roof assembly is greater over longer periods in northern climates, Canadian building codes have included requirements for roof "vapour barriers," which are not found in most U.S.-adopted codes except for provisions for

residential building ceiling construction.

NRCA recommendations

In *The NRCA Roofing Manual: Membrane Roof Systems—2023*, Chapter 1—Roof Assembly Configurations, it's recommended to use two-ply, hot-applied built-up roof membranes and single-layer, torch- and hot-applied polymer-modified bitumen roof membranes for temporary roof applications.

For applications over steel decks, NRCA recommends temporary roof systems include compatible mechanically attached substrate boards. The membranes should be adhered in hot-applied asphalt.

Over nailable decks, workers should mechanically attach base sheets and then adhere the temporary roof membrane in hot-applied asphalt. Nailable decks include wood panels, wood planks and wood boards, cementitious wood fiber panels and lightweight insulating concrete.

Over concrete decks, workers should apply a primer before torch- or hot-applying temporary roof membranes.

If a temporary roof system is specified to remain as a roof assembly vapor retarder or air retarder, it should be inspected and repaired to address any damage that could compromise its performance as a vapor retarder or air retarder before the finished roof system is installed.

More information regarding temporary roof systems is available in Appendix 3—Temporary Roof Systems of *The NRCA Roofing Manual: Membrane Roof Systems—2023*. 🏠🔧

MACIEK RUPAR is an NRCA director of technical services.



TAP. SET. TURN.

Scan to see the NEW system in action!

HANOVER[®]
Architectural Products
Where Concrete and Imagination Meet
340 Bender Road, Hanover, PA 17331
717.637.0000 Fax: 717.637.7140
www.hanoverpavers.com

High-Tab Pedestal

©AMERICAN MADE

HANOVER[®]
Architectural Products
Where Concrete and Imagination Meet
340 Bender Road, Hanover, PA 17331
717.637.0000 Fax: 717.637.7140
www.hanoverpavers.com

Elevator[®] Pedestal System

HIGH-WIND PERFORMANCE.
SEAMLESS DESIGN.

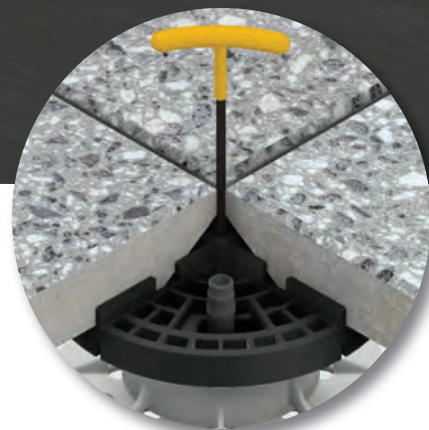
NEW PAVERLOC[™] SYSTEM

Hanover's NEW PaverLoc[™] System features a concealed locking mechanism that delivers a smooth, continuous paver surface appearance.

- Provides wind uplift resistance of -165 psf with no factor of safety
- Withstands winds up to 250 mph
- Patented, user-friendly design is simple and intuitive
- Quick installation - no specialized tools required
- Easy paver removal for roof repairs or replacements
- Paver strength is not compromised or altered

Miami Dade County
approval pending

HANOVERPAVERS.COM >>





THE BEST DON'T WATCH. THEY COMPETE.

NRCA is seeking the best young roofing talent, and the road to the **World Championship for Young Workers** starts at IRE 2027 in Las Vegas.

Winners advance to represent the U.S. on the global stage in Budapest, Hungary.

Step up. Stand out. Compete for your place among the world's elite.

Four disciplines. Two-person teams.
One shot at Team USA.

Learn more!



For sponsorship opportunities, contact
Michael Stack at (847) 493-7554.

Combatting AI cyberattacks

Cybercriminals are using artificial intelligence to find software weaknesses and cause damage. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Chief Technology Officer Bill Jewell says basic security best practices are crucial, and AI tools can be used for good.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce shares the following strategies that can help small businesses build stronger defenses.

1. *Prioritize patch management and testing.* AI can identify and exploit vulnerabilities soon after they are discovered, so businesses must be timely with software updates and have regular security testing.
2. *Evaluate vendors and third-party software carefully.* Both vendors and third-party software can introduce cybersecurity risks. Before signing a contract, ask providers about their patching practices, incident response procedures and support for tools such as multifactor authentication.
3. *Reduce your attack surface.* An "attack surface" is every possible access point cybercriminals can target, such as systems, devices, accounts and applications. Be sure to regularly review and remove unused software.
4. *Use AI-powered security tools to scan your own code.* Companies that develop software can use AI-powered scanning tools to find vulnerabilities during the development process. And, AI-driven cybersecurity platforms can help

monitor networks, find suspicious activity and respond to threats faster.

5. *Have an incident response plan before you need one.* An incident response plan should identify whom to contact during an incident, how to isolate affected systems, how to restore backups and communicate with employees, customers and other stakeholders.

Take Airflow Efficiency Through The Roof

It's all in the Curves



NEW
Deep Drawn Model

The Code Compliant Choice

Advanced Model 477

Until now, there was no way to use an out-of-the-box roof cap for venting dryers. Code disallows screens and requires a damper. Even when modified, other vents are too airflow restrictive.

Seamless Galvalume® Hood

The DryerJack® is the choice specifically designed to meet the demanding needs of clothes dryers. Visit DryerJack.com to learn how the patented curved damper delivers superior efficiency and helps minimize a very serious fire risk.

DryerJack®

INOVATE

888-443-7937
DryerJack.com

DOE analysis finds 2024 IECC could increase costs



adding more than \$127 billion in costs nationwide, according to the agency's website.

DOE says if states choose to update their energy codes to the 2024 IECC, construction costs for a

The Department of Energy released its finding that nationwide adoption of the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code® could increase residential construction costs by more than \$9.2 billion annually compared with 2006 code levels,

typical single-family home could increase by up to \$14,000. According to the DOE, in most states the estimated payback period for energy savings exceeds 10 years, with some exceeding 20 years.

DOE sent a letter to the International Code Council® urging it to emphasize affordability, transparency and fuel-neutral energy efficiency during future code revisions. DOE also recommended removing requirements for on-site energy generation, electric vehicle infrastructure and greenhouse gas avoidance that “increase construction costs, lengthen payback periods and reduce consumer choice.”

Ladder group conducts ladder safety and citations report

The American Ladder Institute has released its Ladder Safety Training and Citations Report, comparing results from 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2026. The survey was conducted by ALI's Education & Outreach Committee and Thomas Associates Inc., Cleveland, and was given to ladder safety training managers and professionals throughout the U.S.

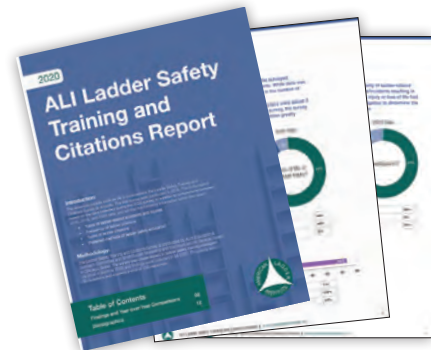
The data shows fewer than 25% of surveyed organizations experience ladder-related accidents/incidents. Respondents who stated an accident occurred were asked whether those accidents resulted in serious injury/loss of life to which 35% replied yes. This is a 2% increase from the 2024 survey.

Sixteen percent of respondents said they were unaware ladder

misuse consistently ranks among the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's top 10 most frequently cited violations during the past five years. Eight out of 10 respondents stated they have not received any ladder-related citations or violations from OSHA during the past 12 months.

The top two reasons stated for the belief that ladder safety training did not reduce OSHA citations during the past year are human error (42%) and insufficient oversight at the job site (33%). The top two identified reasons for the cause of ladder-related incidents are overreaching (35%) and failure to maintain three points of contact (35%).

Twelve percent of respondents stated they do not use any kind of



ladder safety training, and about 21% say they are not required to renew ladder safety training at least once per year, with 20% reporting ladder safety training is not mandated by their organization. Forty-seven percent of respondents reported they believe ladder-safety training could prevent related incidents.

To view the full report, visit americanladderinstitute.org.

2026



NRCA
LEGAL

LEGALCon Live 2026

Oct. 7-8

Omni Hotel | Chicago

Insight. Clarity. Confidence.

Learn from the industry's foremost legal experts—live in Chicago—and leave with a stronger command of the issues shaping your business:

- Business programming
- Contract law
- Legal issues
- Safety considerations
- Technical updates

Register today.



nrca.net/legalcon



A worthy effort

NRCA takes its support for affordable housing to Capitol Hill

by Brad Stine

Nineteenth century philosopher Henry David Thoreau once wrote: “The cost of a thing is the amount of life which is required to be exchanged for it.” This observation now applies to most Americans in 2026 who are working harder than ever to pay for daily items such as groceries, gas, utilities and health insurance. Affordability is the No. 1 issue among voters before November’s critical midterm elections where the balance of power between Democrats and Republicans in Congress is truly a toss-up.

Lawmakers and the Trump administration have taken notice and spent the past six months claiming various “wins” and accusing the other side of driving up the price of daily goods. During a time of extreme partisanship where each party is looking for a slight edge with voters (particularly with independents and the undecided), housing policy is an area in which bipartisanship has emerged and strange bedfellows are the norm.

NRCA has long understood the importance of having an abundance of safe, accessible housing. Given the current political climate, NRCA sensed an opportunity to help shape a budding policy effort that will have real impact on its members and the roofing industry.

Where does NRCA fit in?

There is a significant amount of work to be done to meet the country's shortage of about 1.5 million new housing units needed each year. Therefore, it is critical for the roofing industry to engage government entities when possible. Roofing is an essential \$100 billion sector with nearly 1 million employees that is vital to the construction, repair and maintenance of safe, accessible housing. Without NRCA members providing their services, policymakers will not be able to accomplish their goal of adding to the housing supply.

To that end, NRCA continues to work alongside other organizations that have a vested interest in making it easier for U.S. citizens to purchase homes or afford rent. For example, earlier this year, NRCA partnered with the Real Estate Roundtable to endorse H.R. 2410, the Revitalizing Downtowns and Main Streets Act. This bipartisan bill would provide a federal tax credit to facilitate the conversion of older, underutilized office and other commercial buildings into residential housing.

In addition, NRCA recently joined the Neighborhood Homes Coalition, which is made up of more than 50 national organizations, including housing and community development nonprofits, financial institutions and related trade associations, to advocate for the passage of H.R. 2854/S. 1686,

the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would create a federal tax credit that covers the cost between building or renovating a home in qualifying urban and rural areas and the price at which the home can be sold.

NRCA also showed its commitment to affordable housing on the roofing industry's biggest advocacy stage. For the first time, Roofing Day in D.C. featured affordable housing as one of the advocacy issues discussed with members of Congress and their staffs. Nearly 200 attendees from 33 states engaged with more than 155 congressional offices to advocate about this critical issue, and they specifically requested support for H.R. 2410 and H.R. 2854/S. 1686. Advocating for these tax incentives enabled attendees to highlight the role the roofing industry plays in facilitating more affordable housing for all Americans.

What has been done

After months of back-and-forth negotiations, Congress took a major first step in June by giving overwhelming final approval to the most significant bipartisan housing policy bill in decades: the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act. The 381-page legislation, which became public law one month later, contained nearly 60 individual pieces of legislation to address the nation's housing affordability crisis.

Main tenets of the bill included requiring the Department of Housing and Urban Development to issue best practices regarding zoning and design for cities and states; expanding existing affordable housing programs; easing regulations for development and construction; banning large institutional

investors from buying single-family homes; and relaxing some regulations for community banks to free up more capital to increase mortgage lending.

Since the law's enactment, NRCA has been reviewing the comprehensive housing package to determine its overall effect on the roofing industry. Information will be shared with members accordingly as federal agencies implement this landmark bill.

What you can do

Affordability is the issue that will drive voters to the polls in a few short months. During this time, members of Congress need to hear from their constituents about the importance of continuing to address the housing crisis. Congress must enact commonsense measures to incentivize the conversion of vacant or underutilized commercial property and the construction and upgrading of residential homes across the U.S.

Please take a moment to contact your federally elected officials and request their co-sponsorship of the Revitalizing Downtowns and Main Streets Act and the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act. You can directly email your elected officials through NRCA's grassroots webpage at roofingadvocacy.nrca.net/actionalerts. Please note you must be logged in to access the webpage.

Since 1886, NRCA has been the home for generations of entrepreneurial craftsmen and enterprises who shelter and protect America's families. The organization is one of the construction industry's most respected trade associations and leading authority in the roofing industry for information, education, technology and advocacy. NRCA and its members have subsequently earned a

deep respect from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. Roofing has a great story to tell and finds itself in an excellent position to help continue to shape the next great public policy effort in Washington D.C. 🇺🇸🌟

BRAD STINE is NRCA's director of federal affairs.

Lawsuit alleges roofing company scammed homeowners

Attorney General Ken Paxton (R-Texas) recently announced a lawsuit against Rubinsky Roofing LLC, Dallas, saying the company allegedly targeted north Texas consumers with aggressive sales tactics and deceptive business practices, leaving numerous homeowners with unfinished roofing projects after collecting thousands of dollars in payments, according to KERA News. The company is not an NRCA member.

A *Dallas Morning News* investigation report, which was submitted in the lawsuit, detailed allegations from homeowners who said they lost a combined estimated \$500,000 through roofing projects Rubinsky Roofing did not complete.

The lawsuit states homeowners reported “a repeated pattern of aggressive sales tactics, pressure to sign contracts, upfront payment demands, ever-changing excuses for work delays and work that is never completed.”

The lawsuit also accuses Rubinsky Roofing of misleading homeowners about the need for roof repairs, concealing fees and using harassment tactics to pressure customers into contracts. State investigators say complaints indicate a pattern affecting numerous Texans, including the elderly.

The attorney general's office is seeking temporary and permanent injunctions to stop Rubinsky Roofing from continuing its business practices, as well as restitution for consumers and civil penalties under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Wisconsin companies celebrated for workplace safety

The Wisconsin Safety Council, the state's leading provider of safety training, announced the winners of the organization's 32nd annual Workplace Safety Awards. The program recognizes organizations across Wisconsin for outstanding achievement and excellence in workplace safety, health and injury prevention.

The annual Workplace Safety Awards honor employers that demonstrate a strong commitment to workplace safety. The 2026 award recipients represent a wide range of industries, company sizes and communities dedicated to keeping employees safe at work.

NRCA member Great Lakes Roofing Corp., Germantown, Wis., was among the recipients under the construction category.

The awards were presented at the Wisconsin Safety Council's Annual Conference in April at the Wisconsin Dells.

For a complete list of winners, visit wisafetycouncil.org.



Safety + Health survey reveals safety equipment statistics

Safety + Health magazine recently conducted a PPE Pain Point study for 2026 that showed more than two out of three employers have difficulty getting new workers to consistently follow proper protocols for personal protective equipment.

The study was a collaborative effort among employers from manufacturing, construction and transportation industries. Reportedly, 56% of workers don't want to wear protective equipment; 48% do not believe it's necessary; and 38% believe it makes jobs more difficult.

When purchasing PPE, more than four out of five respondents consider comfort the most important factor, followed by durability (79%) and cost (66%). Thirty-eight percent of respondents said sizing challenges have been a problem, especially for women.

Additionally, 10% of respondents said they use some types of PPE longer and/or select lower levels of protection in response to tariff increases. According to the International Safety Equipment Association, a 10% reduction in PPE use could lead to 143 more workplace fatalities, nearly 47,000 additional injuries and a \$2.2 billion cost to the economy.

JOIN THE BUILDING ELITE.

Answering the need to establish a standard of qualifications and practice in the building enclosure industry, IIBEC offers several robust credential programs. IIBEC credential holders have demonstrated extensive knowledge and proved their expertise through examination, character reference, and professional experience. Credential holders are required to complete annual continuing education requirements and follow a code of ethics for the objectivity of service.



André Coppin, RRC, RRO
Seattle, WA



Registered Roof Consultants (RRCs) are independent roofing experts with industry- wide knowledge of materials performance and design requirements. An RRC is knowledgeable of every facet of the roof construction process and serves as the building owner's councilor for matters on both existing and new construction. The demand for the RRC credential continues to grow as the industry recognizes the value of the RRC's quantified skill set.

GCK EXAM: ? 90 QUESTIONS ⌚ 4 HOURS

RRC EXAM: ? 60 QUESTIONS ⌚ 4 HOURS

Registered Roof Observers (RROs) are roofing quality assurance observers who monitor the construction process and report roofing project compliance with approved construction specifications and best-practice installation procedures. An RRO is an on-site monitor for the design team. The RRO's vigilance helps keep construction on track with milestone tasks, deadlines, and budget. The RRO credential is the preferred standard of practice for quality assurance professionals.

RRO EXAM: ? 75 QUESTIONS ⌚ 3 HOURS

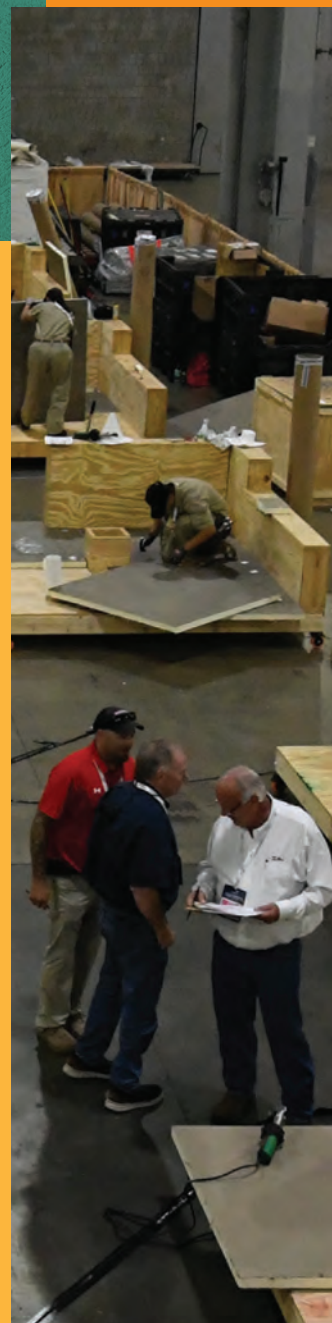
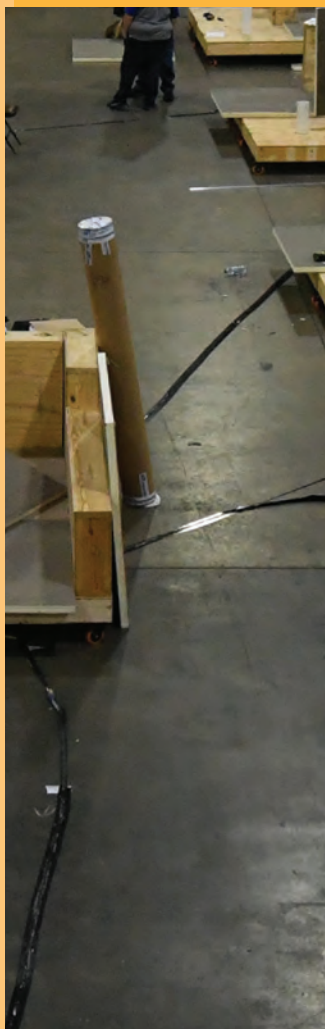
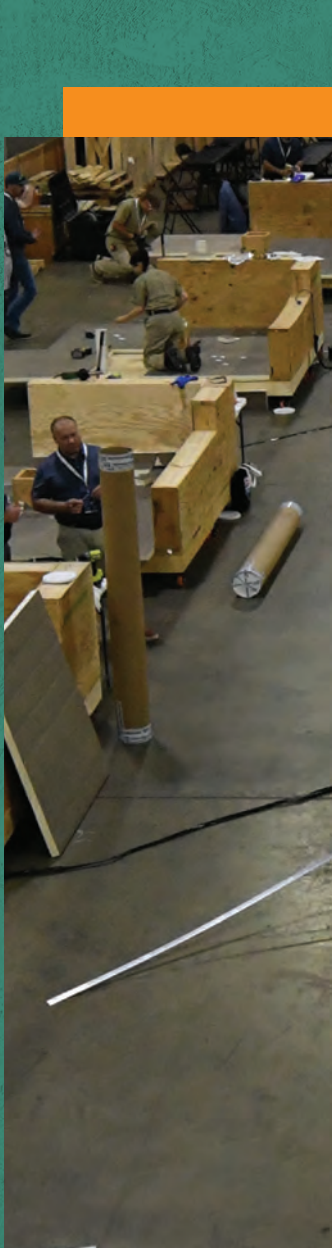


FROM PAST TO FUTURE



SkillsUSA® holds its fourth annual commercial roofing competition

by Josephine Burnham





Karley Wickman from Iowa learns about safety equipment.



Alberths Figueroa from Texas installs insulation.

In 1965, SkillsUSA created the National Leadership & Skills Conference, the highest recognition of excellence in career and technical education. The event brings together thousands of students, industries, instructors and more in an attempt to celebrate the accomplishments of young people preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

This year, 22 competitors from 18 states participated in the fourth annual commercial roofing competition during SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference hosted in Atlanta in May.

Mason Miller, Larned, Kan., received first place in the high school category. Nathan Luz-Santos, Lebanon, Tenn., received second place, and Austin Gibson, Greenville, S.C., received third place.

In the college/post-secondary category, Sean McWilliams, Wellsville, N.Y., received first place. John Prophete, Ocoee, Fla., received second place, and Adam Thornton, Macon, Ga., received third place.

First-place winners received \$1,500; second-place winners received \$1,000; and third-place winners received \$750. First-place winners also received a champions belt, branded backpack and tools, a tool chest, and a Leister hot-air welder for the student's school. Second- and third-place winners also received branded backpacks and hand tools.



Roofing competition winners from left to right: John Prophete, Nathan Luz-Santos, Sean McWilliams, Mason Miller, Adam Thornton and Austin Gibson



Dominic Rodriguez from Florida installs insulation.



SkillsUSA's fourth annual commercial roofing competition booth



Contestant orientation



Karley Wickman from Iowa installs insulation.

The commercial roofing contest was not part of SkillsUSA until 2023 when Bob Morgan, president of Upstate Roofing & Painting LLC, Rochester, N.Y., and his colleague, Craig Clark, executive director of Allegany County Industrial Development Agency, Belmont, N.Y., became involved in New York State SkillsUSA (Virginia and Florida were already participating at this time).

Morgan attended Alfred State College—State University of New York, Alfred, N.Y., where Clark was a professor and served as Morgan's instructor and mentor during the 1990s. Clark was acting as New York State SkillsUSA director and vice president at Alfred State College when NRCA needed help kickstarting the roofing side of the competition in New York.

"When NRCA decided to introduce roofing into the SkillsUSA competition and needed contractors to start a grassroots campaign, I wanted to be part of it," Morgan says. "I knew Craig and the New York SkillsUSA and Alfred State College teams would jump on board with the idea."

Both Morgan's and Clark's efforts to further education outreach for the roofing industry have realized great success. Alfred State College has taken home a medal every year since the roofing competition debuted at SkillsUSA. McWilliams, the first-place winner in the college/post-secondary education category, currently is a student at Alfred State College.

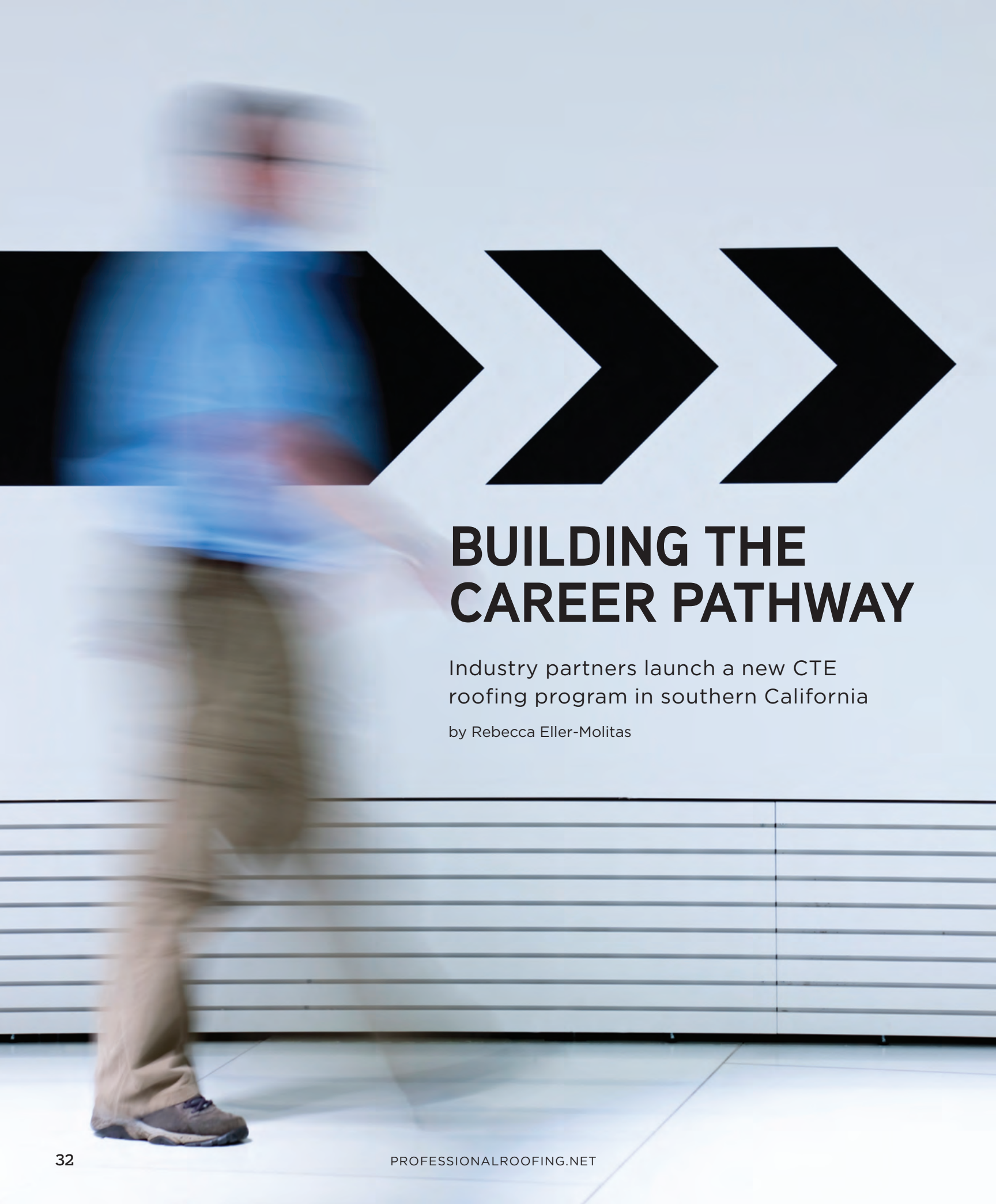
"Our school won the state's competition with the assistance of training and materials from Bob's company," Clark says. "Because of this excellent partnership and support, Alfred State College has medaled all three years in the national competition, taking gold twice."

Support for the state-level competition and Alfred State College students has continued with current SkillsUSA Director Jeffery Stevens, dean for the School of Applied Technology at Alfred State College, and Aaron Gross, field superintendent at Upstate Roofing & Painting, teaching students the skills needed to medal in the competition.

Morgan continues to support Alfred State College students by providing materials, access to tools and training for the competition, ensuring each participant's time at SkillsUSA is advantageous and helps catapult him or her to a successful career in roofing or other trade industries.

For more information, visit skillsusa.org and mark your calendar for next year's National Leadership & Skills Conference June 21-25, 2027. 🌐📅🏆

JOSEPHINE BURNHAM is *Professional Roofing's* editorial assistant.



BUILDING THE CAREER PATHWAY

Industry partners launch a new CTE
roofing program in southern California

by Rebecca Eller-Molitas



IT has become evident that traditional hiring practices are not producing an adequate supply of motivated candidates who understand a career in roofing can offer meaningful work, a family-sustaining wage and pathways to advancement. To help address this reality, a newly created roofing program at the Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education center in southern California is taking a fresh approach to the roofing industry's persistent workforce problem of filling available roles.

The initiative brings together Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education, Baldwin Park, Calif.; the Roofing Contractors Association of Southern California; and NRCA member BEST Contracting Services Inc., Gardena, Calif., a specialty contractor employer partner.

The program

The initiative launched in January and demonstrates how an adult education program, backed by an industry association and an engaged employer, can build a more intentional pathway to roofing careers.

The initiative's 400-hour career and technical education program is conducted in three academic quarters and is designed to prepare students for entry-level roofing work. Training includes steep- and low-slope systems, installation and replacement, repairs, leak detection, storm damage restoration and regular maintenance. Students learn to use common tools and earn Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification (OSHA 10).

At press time, there were five adult students enrolled. Learners attend classes Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 4-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The schedule was designed to meet the needs of adult learners who often work other jobs while upskilling for a new career. Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education's first group of roofing graduates is expected to complete the program in October.

How it started

For RCA of Southern California's Executive Director Vickie Sharples, the need for this program was obvious.

Association members need workers, and the organization had clearly identified a strategic goal to be part of the solution. However, the program didn't begin through a perfectly planned rollout. It began through timing, relationships and readiness to commit resources to making this new endeavor a success.

While Sharples was working with a personal contact in the school district to find space for an NRCA intentional training class, Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education staff learned about Sharples' involvement in the roofing industry. As the school offers training programs in the construction industry, including electrical, plumbing and HVAC, their conversation broadened to other possibilities.

"When Vickie articulated her vision of a roofing training program, we knew our student base already had demonstrated strong interest in construction trades," says Jeff Palmer, a teacher on special assignment overseeing CTE programs at Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education.

Still, the school conducted thorough labor market research to confirm the program was needed in southern California. The research showed a definite need, and they heard a clear message: The roofing industry wants to hire.

Making it a reality

One of the first obstacles faced when developing the program was finding the right instructor. The teacher needed significant roofing experience, enthusiasm for guiding the next generation of professionals and willingness to go through the process of becoming a credentialed adult education instructor in California.

This is where BEST Contracting Services became essential. The company had been seriously considering its role in workforce development. Jesse Torres, chief administrative officer for BEST Contracting Services, said the company had grown from a mom-and-pop-style business to one of the larger roofing contractors in California.

"With that growth came higher expectations from employees, vendors, industry partners and particularly higher expectations of ourselves," Torres says.

BEST Contracting Services realized the opportunity



to give back to the industry by becoming a more active participant in developing the next generation of roofing contractors. The missing piece was Mike Jimenez, superintendent at BEST Contracting Services, who has nearly 40 years of experience. Jimenez not only had field credibility but he also had the time and passion to teach. He previously discovered a love for giving back through education by providing training for interns and employees in the company's service department.

When he crossed paths with Sharples, the opportunity to teach roofing at the Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education school was exactly the type of contribution Jimenez was hoping to make, and his employer fully supported his efforts.

"If Jimenez wanted to help build the program, our company fully supported him," Torres says.

That support was invaluable because the teaching commitment involved working evenings and Saturdays, providing documentation, making recommendations regarding the program and conducting interviews.

Classroom lessons

Now in the classroom, Jimenez teaches students more than roofing vocabulary. He has an infectious passion for roofing as a long-term career and talks with learners about how this field has allowed him to build a good life and support a family.

Jimenez tells his students roofing work is more than tearing off and installing a roof—it's a trade that gives people skills they can carry with them.

Jimenez also talks openly about the rhythm of construction work, including busy seasons, slow periods and the importance of sticking with the trade

long enough to build opportunity and a reputation as a dedicated employee.

Jimenez learned early on not all students respond well to textbook-heavy instruction.

"Some learners are more receptive to digital, visual and hands-on learning," Jimenez says. "In addition to traditional textbooks, I use NRCA's

Training for Roof Application Careers materials to engage learners in new content before moving into an adjoining lab classroom or outdoor area for hands-on practice."

Early signals suggest the program can provide value for contractors as students have already begun applying for jobs in roofing.

According to Sharples, RCA of Southern California has seen enthusiasm from members, including financial support for workforce development efforts.

What's next

Torres describes workforce development as a long game not a quick fix.

"For BEST Contracting Services, investing in training isn't just about filling immediate job openings," he says. "It's about strengthening the industry and positioning roofing as an excellent trade for individuals searching for a meaningful career."

That long-term view is important because educational programs need more than verbal support to become successful.

"Successful workforce initiatives require real buy-in, which may include support from management teams, money, materials and staff time," Torres says. "The people doing the work can tell whether the commitment is genuine."

The roofing course initiative showcases the important and unique role associations can play in developing the roofing industry's future workforce. Although an individual contractor may struggle with the time or resources needed to support a program, an association can spread the effort across several interested companies by drawing small amounts of time, money, materials and expertise from multiple members rather than placing the full weight on one employer.

RCA of Southern California has supported the program through industry connections, advisory input, instructor recruitment and help with materials and safety training. Sharples stresses schools need to know the roofing industry will not simply ask them to "teach roofing" and then fade into the background to wait for graduates.



To learn about NRCA's Training for Roof Application Careers, visit nrca.net/workforce-development.





Sharples says the industry can be most valuable by remaining involved as an active supporter while also respecting the education partner's expertise and constraints.

Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education staff were impressed with Sharples' proactive approach. When asked what the industry needs to know before approaching an educational institution to start a similar program, Palmer suggests associations lean on their members for help as RCA of Southern California members have been extremely supportive in an advisory capacity, especially in terms of developing curriculum.

"RCA of Southern California members were already aware of the National Center for Construction Education and Research's Roofing 1 and Roofing 2 curriculum developed with NRCA, as well as NRCA's TRAC programs," Palmer says. "They also recognized the importance of industry trends students should be exposed to in the classroom."

Palmer says Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education staff noted the strong industry support they received when creating the program, which included materials, supplies, time and expertise.

Veronica Valenzuela, Ed.D., director of adult and community education at Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education, suggests industry members approach education with the understanding that these programs may take time to begin.

For example, Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Council on Occupational Education. Before she can begin a new program, the school must seek approval through its board of education. Once approved, the school must pursue approval through the accrediting agencies.

Valenzuela, Palmer and Andrew Stager, Ed.D., assistant director of adult and community education at Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education, all shared the desire to bring in more students and introduce them to the

various roles and opportunities available in roofing.

Many students who enroll in adult education view the training as their second—and perhaps final—chance at a lasting, rewarding career. Often, the students have previous experiences in roles where they lacked opportunity to grow and advance. Adult education students want to know they are committing to a career with a future. And telling the roofing industry story can help them see it as the perfect fit.

More to come

The Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education roofing program is still new, and its final outcomes will continue to reveal themselves. So far, students have learned about the program primarily through Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education's advertising efforts that have included an open house and advertising on its website and billboards. In an ideal world, the roofing industry would begin to refer potential employees to similar programs so they could become ideal candidates for employment.

Adult education providers exist across the U.S. Many are experienced with offering CTE programs, and they are already serving adults looking for better jobs, stable careers and practical training. These programs are often searching for partners in the roofing industry.

"No other program at Baldwin Park Unified School District Adult & Community Education has had the backing we have had from the roofing industry," Valenzuela says. "That says a lot."

NRCA is exploring ways to partner with adult education schools on a national level and will provide more information about how to get involved in your community. In the meantime, contact me at rmolitas@nrca.net if you have questions about how to start a roofing education program in your neighborhood. 📞🌐🔗

For more information about the National Center for Construction Education and Research's roofing program, go to professionalroofing.net



REBECCA ELLER-MOLITAS is NRCA's director of CTE engagement.



DRIVES **GROWTH**

FOR YOUR PEOPLE. FOR YOUR BUSINESS.
FOR WHAT'S NEXT.



Discover the
benefits that
power your
growth.

nrca.net/benefits



INFORMATION

NETWORKING

EDUCATION

ADVOCACY

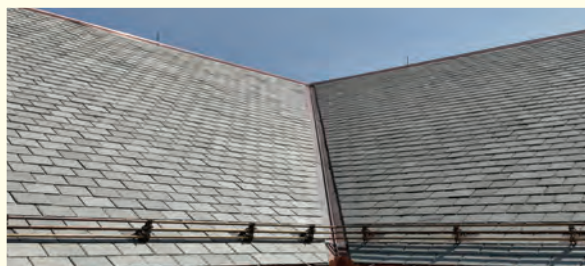
COMPLIANCE

SUPPORT

Centennial roofing

Renaissance Historic Exteriors
restores Blessed Sacrament
Catholic Church in Illinois

by Chrystine Elle Hanus



On Sept. 14, 1924, founding members of The Parish of the Blessed Sacrament in Springfield, Ill., gathered in a 6-acre oat field to hold their first mass for thousands of attendees. One year later, the parish opened a school and fundraised for building a church on the field. Construction was delayed during the Great Depression, but Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church eventually opened on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 1930.

Top to bottom: Wide shot of church; copper gutters were shaped and installed to match the original configurations; brass snow guards complete the new roof system.



The church roof under construction

Project name: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Project location: Springfield, Ill.

Project duration: January-July 2024

Roofing contractor: Renaissance Historic Exteriors, Belvidere, Ill.

Roofing materials: Copper and slate

Copper distributor: Revere Copper, Rome, N.Y.

Slate manufacturers: Hilltop Slate Inc., Middle Granville, N.Y.; Vermont Natural Slate,[®] Wells, Vt.

Roofing manufacturers: GCP Applied Technologies, Alpharetta, Ga.; M8Technology, Fresno, Calif.

As the parish approached its 100-year anniversary, the Gothic-style church underwent significant renovations to preserve its original 1930 appearance. Renaissance Historic Exteriors, Belvidere, Ill., was selected as the roofing contractor to replace the slate roof system and restore all copper gutters and downspouts.

“The journey of restoring the roof began with a promise to respect its history, protect its structure and renew its glory,” says Robert Raleigh, president of Renaissance Historic Exteriors. “Every step of the process was undertaken with care, precision and a reverence for the building and community.”

The first step

In January 2024, the Renaissance Historic Exteriors team began restoration work. From the beginning, its goal was ensuring safety for workers and pedestrians while minimizing disruptions for parish staff and church attendees.

“I was pleased to see how flexible Renaissance Historic Exteriors was in adjusting to interruptions such as funerals and special services,” says the Rev. Jeffery Grant, pastor emeritus for Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. “Also, the church is located adjacent to the parish school. They took special care to make sure the worksite was safe and were thoughtful of the neighbors in such matters as not blocking the street and keeping things cleaned up.”

The team began the demolition process by removing the 100-year old roofing slate and copper flashings and gutters from the upper steep-slope roof areas. The existing stainless-steel crosses remained in place and were protected with tarps for the project’s duration.

“The team worked tirelessly to create a safe working environment,” Raleigh says. “Heavy machinery was carefully positioned on plywood, preventing any damage to the sacred grounds,

and debris was removed daily, keeping the job site as pristine as the church itself. The aim was to honor the church not only in what was built but also in how it was treated during the work.”

Lightning protection cables were detached as needed; cables in good condition were saved for reinstallation. The existing copper pocket flashings behind the towers on the northwest and northeast sides of the north-facing parapet wall were removed, and underlayment and valley metal were placed in a dumpster. The existing parapet wall flashings on the east and west parapet walls were removed and recycled.

The same approach was applied to the lower steep- and low-slope areas.

“The slate was carefully pried free along with flashings, crickets and saddles, ensuring the old roof was respectfully decommissioned to make room for the new roof,” Raleigh says.

The existing flat-seam copper, counterflashings and flashings along walls, head walls, crickets and saddles were removed. Existing copper gutter systems and underlayment also were removed and placed in dumpsters.

Next, the team applied Grace Ice & Water Shield® self-adhering underlayment along the first 3 feet of roof eaves, in valleys, along parapet walls, over flat-seam roof areas and around roof penetrations followed by two layers of TU43 LayfastSBS® 43-pound polymer-modified asphalt underlayment with laps staggered with self-adhering underlayment laps.

Installation

The new roof systems included 20-ounce copper sheet and roofing slate materials.

Copper

Renaissance Historic Exteriors craftsmen soldered copper flat-seam panels over the lower east and west low-slope roof areas. Each panel was carefully locked in place to match the church’s original appearance. Copper valley flashing also was installed along all existing valleys, and copper

step flashing was installed at the end of each course of slate along all wall-to-roof transitions.

The copper work continued along the ridge and hips, where copper hip and ridge caps were installed in lieu of saddle-style slate hip and ridge caps.

Copper pocket flashings were installed behind the towers to direct rainwater around the structure, and copper crickets were installed behind the buttresses along the lower aisle roofline.

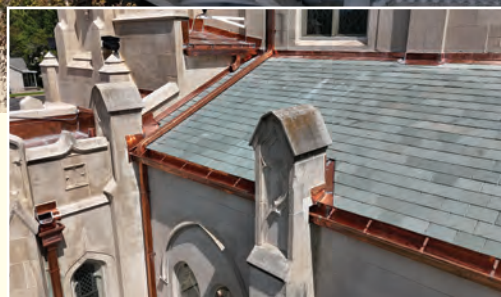
Copper counterflashings and apron flashings were installed along the wall-to-roof abutments. Along the eaves of the slate roof areas, the team placed new 20-ounce copper cant strip covers, giving the roof a finished edge.

For the gutter system, the Renaissance Historic Exteriors team crafted copper gutters and downspouts that were shaped and installed to match the original configuration. On the lower sections of the roof, heavy-duty hangers were installed to securely anchor the gutters and downspouts.



Top to bottom: Underlayment was placed over flat-seam roof areas, around roof penetrations and along roof eaves, valleys and parapet walls; Renaissance Historic Exteriors craftsmen soldered copper flat-seam panels on the low-slope areas and installed slate on steep-slope areas.





Top to bottom: Aerial view of new slate roof system; 18- by 10-inch slate tiles were used on all upper steep-slope areas; for the lower roof, 20- by 10-inch tiles were used.

Slate

The next step was installing 18- by 10-inch Vermont Natural Slate tiles in Semi Weathering Gray Green on all upper steep-slope roof areas.

“These were anchored with copper slating nails or corrosion-resistant fasteners, ensuring the roof would stay firmly in place even in the face of the harshest weather,” Raleigh says.

Team members then moved to the lower roof, where workers installed new 20- by 10-inch Vermont Natural Slate tiles with a 4-inch headlap using copper slating nails and corrosion-resistant fasteners. On the areas over the bay windows on the east and west ends of the transepts, new 18- by 10-inch slate was installed with a 3-inch headlap.

Over the lower ring of the apse with a 10:12 slope on the south elevation, the team installed new 18- by 10-inch Vermont Natural Slate tiles.

“The apse with its steep slope was given due attention with new slate carefully affixed to every facet, preserving the elegance of the church’s architectural design,” Raleigh says.

After slate installation, the team installed a UL-listed Class II lightning protection system with new conductors to replace the original system that no longer was UL-compliant.

“This system, designed to safeguard the church in the event of a storm, was installed with precision and care,” Raleigh says.

The final step was installing new brass Alpine SnowGuards along selected eave locations to prevent snow damage to the surroundings.

Another 100 years

In July 2024, the Renaissance Historic Exteriors team completed work on Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Throughout the restoration, the church remained open, allowing the parish to continue to serve the community while work was underway. Every detail from the copper flashings to the roofing slate was a blend of form and function, protecting the church while honoring its history.

“More than that, the church roof is now a symbol of care—a careful process of demolition, rebuilding and renewing that reflects the love and respect the community has for this sacred space,” Raleigh says.

Because of Renaissance Historic Exteriors’ meticulous craftsmanship, dedication to historical details and adherence to the project timeline, Blessed Sacrament Parish successfully kicked off its centennial celebration with a Saturday vigil mass Sept. 14, 2024, in a newly restored church on the field where its history began 100 years ago.

“As with many historical buildings, renovations are not easy projects,” Grant says. “The work took several months to complete. Renaissance Historic Exteriors provided the expertise we needed. They helped us choose slate that matched the original, duplicated the copper gutters and downspouts and paid attention to details, making sure everything was authentic as possible for our centennial celebration.”

For its work on Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Renaissance Historic Exteriors was selected as a 2026 NRCA Gold Circle Awards winner in the Outstanding Workmanship: Steep-slope category.

“Throughout the restoration, the doors remained open, a symbol of the church’s enduring mission and a reminder of the faith and community that continue to thrive within,” Raleigh says. “The roof above now stands strong, a silent guardian over the congregation that will continue to find solace beneath it for generations to come.” 🏡🔧🌟

CHRYSTINE ELLE HANUS is *Professional Roofing’s* associate editor and an NRCA director of communications.



STAND UP TO YOUR MONSTER TO-DO LIST? ☒

SAVE MONEY? ☒

Small business owners' to-do lists can add up. So see if you can save money on a commercial auto quote at **ProgressiveCommercial.com**.

PROGRESSIVE
COMMERCIAL



Get a quote online in
as little as 8 minutes



What went wrong

Understanding the
differences between
roofing disputes
is crucial

by Trent Cotney

Editor's note: This article is for general educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

An owner reports a leak. A general contractor demands a repair. A manufacturer sends a punch list. An insurer asks for an explanation. In each instance, you will ask yourself: What went wrong and who must fix it? Legally, the answer often depends on whether the matter involves a construction defect claim, a warranty claim or both. The distinction matters because different legal theories trigger different deadlines, notice obligations, defenses and business risks.

What they are

A construction defect claim generally alleges a contractor's work failed to comply with the contract, plans, specifications, applicable codes, industry standards or the standard of care.

A claim may involve defective installation, design-related issues,

water intrusion or alleged failure to meet a required performance standard.

A warranty claim, by contrast, usually arises from an express promise a particular product, assembly or scope of work will perform for a defined period under stated conditions.

Although the same roof leak may give rise to both claims, the two are not identical. Treating them as interchangeable can cause you to miss critical defenses or assume obligations the contract does not impose.

Construction defect claims tend to focus on the original construction event. The claimant often argues a roof system contained a defect when installed even if the resulting damage did not become visible until months or years later. The alleged defect may arise from workmanship. It may arise from substrate conditions, design documents or failure by another trade to protect the completed work. These claims often involve multiple parties because the roof is part of a larger building system. Design consultants, manufacturers and contractors may all have roles that require analysis.

Warranty claims focus more narrowly on the promise made after installation. You may provide a workmanship warranty that covers labor or installation for a defined period. A manufacturer may provide a material warranty that covers defects in the roofing product itself. In some roofing projects, the owner may also receive a no dollar limit warranty, commonly known as an NDL warranty. An NDL warranty usually represents a manufacturer-backed commitment to repair leaks caused by covered defects in the warranted roof system subject to the warranty's exclusions and conditions. Each

warranty has its own language. The warranty document, not the label placed on it, controls the scope of the obligation.

The distinctions

Statute of limitations and statute of repose issues often create the most important distinction between defect claims and warranty claims.

A statute of limitations generally states the time within which a lawsuit must be filed after a claim accrues. Accrual may depend on when the defect occurred, when the claimant discovered it or when the claimant reasonably should have discovered it. A statute of repose generally creates an outside deadline tied to a specific event, such as substantial completion or completion of an improvement to real property. Unlike many limitation periods, a repose period can bar a claim even before the owner discovers the problem.

These rules vary significantly by state, and some states apply different periods to written contracts, negligence claims, indemnity claims, warranty claims and claims involving improvements to real property.

Warranty deadlines require separate analyses. A workmanship warranty may require notice within a defined number of days after discovery of the problem. A manufacturer's warranty may require written notice to the manufacturer before any repair is performed. An NDL warranty may require the owner to maintain the roof, restrict alterations, pay inspection fees, use approved contractors or notify the manufacturer of leaks within a stated period.

A lawsuit filed within the general statute of limitations may still fail if the claimant did not comply with the warranty's notice conditions. Likewise, a warranty may expire even though a broader defect claim remains theoretically possible under state law. You should avoid assuming a 10-year warranty creates 10 years of open-ended responsibility for every roof-related issue.

Notice requirements deserve close attention. Many construction defect statutes require a

claimant to provide notice before filing suit. These statutes may require an opportunity to inspect, offer repairs or provide a written response within a defined timeframe. Contract documents may impose additional notice duties. General conditions often require prompt written notice of claims, concealed conditions, nonconforming work or warranty issues.

Manufacturer warranties typically require strict compliance with claim submission procedures. If you receive an informal text message, field complaint or service call, do not treat that communication casually. The form and timing of notice may determine whether you can preserve rights against upstream or downstream parties.

Documentation

Documentation often decides the outcome. A construction defect claim requires a record of what the contractor was asked to build and what the contractor actually built. The relevant documents usually include the contract, plans, specifications, submittals, shop drawings, approved product data, requests for information, change orders, daily reports, photographs, inspection reports and pertinent correspondence. You should preserve project schedules, meeting minutes, delivery tickets, manufacturer technical letters and notices regarding site conditions. These materials help establish whether the alleged problem was caused by the roofing work, design, substrate, another trade, later maintenance, storm damage, unauthorized access or owner-directed changes.

Warranty documentation is different but equally important. You should preserve the executed warranty, any manufacturer warranty application, inspection reports, final approval correspondence, service records, maintenance instructions and any documentation showing warranty conditions were satisfied. For manufacturer and NDL warranties, confirm whether the manufacturer inspected the roof, accepted the installation, issued the warranty or required corrective work before issuance. If the manufacturer issued the warranty after inspection,

that fact may become important when later allegations challenge your installation. It does not eliminate all risk, but it may help clarify who accepted the roof system and under what conditions.

Warranties

The difference between workmanship warranties and manufacturer warranties is especially important in roofing. A workmanship warranty generally addresses the contractor's labor. It may cover leaks or failures caused by improper installation during the warranty period. It usually does not cover defects in the materials, design errors or damage caused by others. You should draft workmanship warranties carefully so they identify the covered work, duration, remedy, exclusions and procedure for making a claim. Vague warranty language can transform a limited service obligation into a broader dispute over building performance.

A manufacturer warranty typically covers only the manufacturer's product. Material warranties often address manufacturing defects in membranes, shingles, coatings, insulation, fasteners or accessories. They may exclude improper installation or substrate defects. Some manufacturer warranties cover only replacement material and do not cover labor. Others provide enhanced coverage if the contractor installs a full system using manufacturer-approved components and the manufacturer issues a specific system warranty. You should avoid describing a manufacturer warranty in a way that expands the manufacturer's actual written commitment or implies you independently guarantee the manufacturer's obligations.

NDL warranties require careful explanation because owners often misunderstand them. An NDL warranty may sound like a complete guarantee of the roof, but it remains a written contract with conditions, exclusions and claim procedures. It often covers leaks resulting from covered defects in materials or workmanship within the warranted roof system. It may exclude damage from other

trades, rooftop equipment, structural defects, unusual weather events, improper maintenance, unauthorized repairs, chemicals, foot traffic or owner modifications. When talking with building owners, clarify NDL coverage comes from the warranty issuer and depends on the terms of the issued warranty. Do not promise NDL coverage until the manufacturer has accepted the roof and issued the warranty.

Construction defect claims also differ from warranty claims in the measure of damages. A defect claimant may seek repair costs and other damages arising out of the defect. Insurance may become involved if the claim alleges property damage caused by an occurrence though coverage depends on policy language and governing law. A warranty claimant may have more limited remedies. Many warranties restrict the remedy to repair, replace or refund. Some disclaim consequential damages. Some require the claimant to allow inspection before repairs occur. Understanding the available remedy helps you evaluate exposure and avoid overcommitting during early communications.

Help yourself

Your response should differ based on the type of claim. If a defect claim arrives, immediately preserve evidence, place insurers on notice when appropriate and control communications. Avoid admitting fault before investigation and performing repairs in a way that destroys evidence or impairs claims against others. When emergency repairs are necessary, photograph conditions and preserve removed materials when practical.

When a warranty claim arrives, first identify the warranty at issue, review the written warranty and follow its procedures. If the warranty requires notice to the manufacturer, do not bypass that process. If the warranty excludes damage caused by others, document existing conditions. However, a service visit should not become an admission that you remain legally responsible for all observed conditions.



You also should distinguish warranty service from an uncompensated investigation. You may choose to inspect a roof to preserve goodwill or satisfy a warranty duty. That does not mean you must perform free diagnostic work for unrelated damage or disputes. Contracts and warranty forms can address this issue directly.

For example, a workmanship warranty can state covered warranty repairs will be performed at no charge, but investigative work, testing or repairs for excluded conditions may be billed at standard rates. The warranty can also require the owner to provide safe access, maintenance records, leak locations, photographs and a written description of the claimed condition. These provisions help manage expectations and reduce disputes over service calls.

Note that many warranty claims fail because the building owner did not maintain the roof. Clogged drains, punctures and unreported leaks can convert a minor issue into a significant loss. Manufacturer and NDL warranties often require periodic maintenance and may require records showing maintenance occurred. You should provide written maintenance recommendations at closeout and consider offering maintenance programs when appropriate. A clear maintenance record helps preserve warranty rights and defend against claims caused by neglect or later damage.

Contracts can reduce confusion before a dispute arises and should define substantial completion, final completion, warranty commencement and warranty expiration. Contracts should identify whether you provide a workmanship warranty and whether any manufacturer warranty will be issued separately. Contracts also should state manufacturer warranties are governed solely by the manufacturer's written terms.

When speaking with owners, avoid oral statements that conflict with the written warranty and require prompt written notice of leaks or alleged defects. You also should reserve the right to inspect before repair and include reasonable exclusions for damage caused by others, lack of maintenance and other reasons beyond your control.

Closeout procedures provide a practical risk management tool. At project completion, deliver warranty documents and maintenance guidelines and confirm whether the owner received the manufacturer warranty and what, if any, conditions remain outstanding. If the manufacturer requires a final inspection, track completion of that inspection and retain the results. If an owner declines recommended work, ventilation improvements, drainage corrections or related repairs, document the declination in writing. Later disputes often turn on whether the roofing contractor warned the building owner and whether the owner accepted the risk.

Know the difference

The overlap between defect claims and warranty claims requires disciplined communication. An owner may call a leak a warranty issue because the roof is still within the warranty period. A claimant's lawyer may call the same leak a construction defect to pursue broader damages. An insurer may characterize the loss differently for coverage purposes. A manufacturer may treat the problem as excluded damage caused by another trade. You should not accept the claimant's label without analysis. A better approach is to identify the asserted facts and the available remedies.

In roofing disputes, the legal category matters as much as the physical condition. Construction defect claims usually look backward to determine whether the work complied with the contract and applicable standards when performed. Warranty claims look to the written promise that governs performance after completion. Contractors who understand the difference can respond faster and reduce the risk that a service issue becomes a larger legal dispute. A disciplined approach will not prevent every claim, but it can place you in the best position to resolve legitimate issues and defend against overstated demands. 🛠️🔍

TRENT COTNEY is NRCA's general counsel and partner and construction team leader at Adams and Reese LLP, Tampa, Fla.

Another Premium Roof Installation

with


SHARKSKIN[®]
The Ultimate Roof Underlayment



Code Compliance

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
APPROVED



Florida Building Code



ICC-ES

- No VOC's
- LEEDS
- Green
- Recyclable



APPROVED




SHARKSKIN[®]
The Ultimate Roof Underlayment



877.742.7507
www.sharkskinroof.com



WHAT DOES IT COST?

A NEW EDITION OF NRCA'S ROOFING CONTRACTORS EQUIPMENT COST SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE

by Nick Gallagher

The accountability, use and operating costs of equipment, including trucks, cranes and small tools, play an important role in a roofing company's profitability because incorrectly calculating equipment cost rates can have negative consequences.

NRCA recently released a new edition of its *Roofing Contractors Equipment Cost Schedule* that includes many of the most commonly used tools and gear in roofing operations. The publication also offers guidance for calculating equipment costs for your roofing business, including depreciation, major repairs, interest, taxes, storage and insurance.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

NRCA's equipment

cost schedule is a digital publication that can help you make informed decisions when setting roofing equipment cost rates. It includes descriptions of pieces of equipment as they are commonly sold; their selling prices; and monthly, weekly, daily and hourly expense rates.

The cost rates established for equipment represent an estimated average of conditions under which the equipment is expected to operate. The equipment costs are based on the average list prices of known suppliers, free onboarding from their points of manufacture plus 10% for freight.

The prices and rates are provided as a guide to be used only when estimating direct costs. The prices and rates do not account for operating and maintenance costs or profit. Therefore, adjustments may be required for particular conditions, such as weather, job locations and length of a construction season. The costs also do not consider loading, erecting, operating or dismantling equipment; fuel; lubricants; expendable items; wages or transportation of operating crews; or general business expenses. Sales and use taxes also

ITEM	DEPRECIATION PERCENT	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS PERCENT	INTEREST, TAXES, STORAGE AND INSURANCE PERCENT	TOTAL COLUMNS 1, 2 AND 3 PERCENT	AVERAGE USE NUMBER OF MONTHS PER YEAR	PERCENTAGE OF COST OF EQUIPMENT PER MONTH
Trucks	33	12	12.5	57.5	8	7.2

Figure 1: Schedule to Arrive at Expense per Month Chart

DESCRIPTION	COST	MONTH	WEEK	DAY	HOURLY
1/2-ton pickup, extended cab, V8 gasoline, 6,400 GVWR	\$66,843.00	\$4,832.19	\$1,691.27	\$628.18	\$77.32
Week: $\$4,832.19 \times 0.35 = \$1,691.27$ Day: $\$4,832.19 \times 0.13 = \628.18 Hour: $\$4,832.19 \times 0.016 = \77.32					

Figure 2: Calculated weekly, daily and hourly rates

are not included. All these items should be considered when calculating actual costs.

UPDATES

The following changes have been made to better reflect costs roofing contractors incur when using equipment:

- *Costs:* The most apparent change is the values of average costs have been updated to more accurately reflect the current marketplace.
- *Equipment updates:* New items have been added to stay current with evolving technology in the industry.
- *Depreciation percentages and average use:* The conservative average number of months per year a roofing contractor can reliably use equipment, along with the average lifespan of each listed item, were evaluated. Adjustments were then made to the schedule values used to calculate the monthly expense.

HOW COSTS ARE DETERMINED

Cost schedules for each piece of equipment are calculated by first determining the percentage of the equipment's total cost charged per month. This is accomplished by using the Schedule to Arrive at Expense per Month Chart (see Figure 1). This percentage is based on several factors for each item

including expected useful life, number of months it can be used per year, and related expenses such as maintenance, repairs, insurance, taxes and storage.

Then, the monthly expense percentage is applied to the product's average cost to calculate the monthly expense shown in the equipment cost tables. This monthly figure serves as the basis for calculating the corresponding monthly, weekly, daily and hourly values displayed alongside the total.

Using trucks as an example (see Figure 1), the useful life is estimated to be three years. Therefore, 33% annual depreciation is listed in Column 1. The average use in months per year (Column 5) is estimated from industry averages (eight months). Maintenance and repairs are estimated to be 12%, and interest, taxes, storage and insurance are estimated to be 12.5%.

The total percentage of depreciation (Column 1); maintenance and repairs (Column 2); and interest, taxes, storage and insurance (Column 3) is about 57.5 (Column 4). When divided by the estimated average use in months per year (eight), the total expense percentage is about 7.2 (Column 6). Therefore, for our trucks example, the monthly rate is \$4,832.19 ($\$66,843.00 \times 0.072$). The weekly, daily and hourly rates (see Figure 2) are calculated by multiplying the monthly rate by the following percentages, respectively: 35%, 13% and 16%.

GET IT FOR NO COST

The updated electronic version of NRCA's *Roofing Contractors Equipment Cost Schedule* is available free for NRCA members and can be downloaded at shop.nrca.net. Nonmembers may purchase or download the document. 

NICK GALLAGHER is an NRCA director of technical services.

MANUFACTURER NEWS

GAF Roofing Academy hits 3,000 job placements

GAF, Parsippany, N.J., announced its roofing academy has placed more than 3,000 graduates into the workforce nationwide. The GAF Roofing Academy is a tuition-free, no-degree-required training program that prepares individuals for careers in roofing to help address the industry's workforce shortage.

The milestone comes as demand for skilled labor continues to grow. To meet the rising demand, the U.S. construction industry will need a 30.7% increase in labor in 2026, according to GAF. The GAF Roofing Academy aims to help contractors find qualified talent while creating economic opportunity for workers entering the trades.

"Programs like the GAF Roofing Academy give our students real-world skills and an immediate pathway into the workforce," said Justin Mathis, building trades director of North American Trade Schools in Baltimore. "This kind of partnership is exactly what our community needs to help individuals find stable careers and make a lasting impact."

ATAS announces Project of the Year Awards



Private residence



International Dark Sky Discovery Center

ATAS International Inc., Allentown, Pa., has announced the winners of its annual Project of the Year Awards, which recognizes projects that reflect innovation and craftsmanship throughout the industry.

The following NRCA members contributed to a category win:

ABC Supply Co. Inc., Beloit, Wis., distributor for the first-place win in the residential roof category for a private residence in Margate City, N.J.

Global Roofing Group, Phoenix, installer, and McCarthy

Building Companies, Richardson, Texas, general contractor, for the first-place win in the accents category for the International Dark Sky Discovery Center in Fountain Hills, Ariz.

For a full list of winners, visit atas.com/press-releases.

Polyglass sponsors Hands & Hearts Gala

Polyglass U.S.A. Inc., Deerfield Beach, Fla., sponsored the Hands & Hearts Gala in May. Hosted by Boca Helping Hands, Boca Raton, Fla., the annual fundraising event benefits children, individuals and families facing economic hardship throughout Palm Beach County, Fla.

The gala brings together community leaders, donors and supporters for an evening dedicated to Boca Helping Hands' mission of addressing hunger while creating pathways to long-term self-sufficiency.

In 2025, the organization provided more than 3.5 million meals across Palm Beach County through pantry services, hot meals programs and weekend food assistance for children.

Polyglass hosted employees and guests at the gala and participated in silent and live auctions in support of the organization's programs.

Polyglass' sponsorship reflects the company's ongoing commitment to supporting local communities that create a positive, lasting impact.



Elevate™ releases LEED credit guide

Elevate, Nashville, Tenn., part of the Amrize family, has released a LEED v5 Credit Guide, one of the first roofing-specific resources to help architects, designers and builders navigate the updated LEED framework ahead of LEED v4 and v4.1 registrations sunsetting June 30, 2027.

With the rating system's shift from relying on documentation to measurable performance, roofing now plays a more direct role in achieving the LEED v5 impact goals: climate action through decarbonization, quality of life and ecological conservation and restoration. By outlining how the roof directly applies to each category, this resource helps project teams consider roofing decisions early in the planning process.

The Elevate LEED v5 Credit Guide provides a comprehensive overview explaining how roof systems intersect with each LEED v5 category, including Integrative Process, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Project Priorities. The guide is available at elevatecommercialbp.com.



PROTECT YOUR CREW UNDER THE HARD HAT

Roofing is demanding work.

NRCA provides mental health tools that help companies recognize warning signs, start conversations and connect workers to life-saving assistance, including:

- Suicide prevention training (free for NRCA members)
- Toolbox Talks in English and Spanish
- Posters, stickers and fact sheets in English and Spanish
- Man Therapy — a hub of manly personalized mental health resources

And more!

Get your mental health resources now!



nrca.net/mentalhealth

OTHER NEWS

Roofing talent needed to represent Team U.S.A.

NRCA is seeking the best young roofing talent in the U.S. to represent Team U.S.A. at the World Championship for Young Roofers in Budapest, Hungary, in November 2027.

The International Federation of the Roofing Trade, a global organization representing the roofing industry, hosts the annual World Championship for Young Roofers. The international competition with a 60-year history is open to roofing workers aged 28 and younger who will compete against peers from around the world in four disciplines: slate/tile, low-slope roofing, metal panel and façade.

Each Team U.S.A. entry consists of two competitors, one mentor/coach and one discipline per team.

The Team U.S.A. Qualifying Competition will take place on the show floor during the 2027 International Roofing Expo® Feb. 16-17, where each team will compete in one of the selected disciplines. NRCA will provide tools, materials and access to the show floor tournament for competitors and coaches. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodations at the IRE.

To participate in the qualifying competition, applicants must be employed by an NRCA member company, be 28 years old or younger as of Dec. 31, 2027, have a valid U.S. passport and be able to travel internationally, and hold NRCA PROCertification® credentials in their discipline or demonstrate equivalent skill and experience.

The winning teams from the Team U.S.A. Qualifying Competition at IRE are expected to train during the months leading up to the World Championship for Young Roofers at their participating contractor's location. NRCA will provide training materials but will not directly train teams. Teams should plan for a total training commitment of at least one to two weeks (40-80 hours) spread over eight months.

Selected teams will travel to Budapest for seven to eight days. NRCA will provide all participation costs for team members going to Budapest, including attire, meals, airfare and hotel accommodations; tools and materials in Budapest; and materials and plans to practice on championship-style mockups at team members' facilities.

If you have skilled installers ready to represent the U.S. on the world stage, complete an application for the qualifying competition by Nov. 20. Applicants will be notified by Dec. 11 so they can make travel arrangements to the IRE. For more information, contact teamusa@nrca.net.

CDA presents copper in architecture awards

The **Copper Development Association** has announced its 2026 North American Copper in Architecture Award winners. To be eligible, projects must have been located in the U.S. or Canada and completed within the past three years. The categories include restoration/renovation, new construction and custom fabrication and are judged by a panel of industry experts based on system design, copper alloy integration, craftsmanship and excellence in innovation or restoration.

The following NRCA members contributed to category wins:

Butcher & Butcher Construction Co. Inc., Rochester Hills, Mich., sheet metal contractor for Arlington Conservatory, Birmingham, Mich., in the new construction category.

Greenwood Industries Inc., Worcester, Mass., sheet metal contractor for Quincy Public Safety Headquarters, Quincy, Mass., in the new construction category.

MG McGrath Inc., Maplewood, Minn., sheet metal contractor for University of Minnesota Fraser Hall chemistry undergraduate teaching lab, Minneapolis, in the new construction category.

Mahan Slate Roofing Co. Inc., Springfield Mass., sheet metal contractor for Seelye Hall Cupola Restoration, Northampton, Mass., in the restoration category.

A complete list of winners is available at copper.org/applications/architecture/awards/winners.php.



Arlington Conservatory



Quincy Public Safety Headquarters



Fraser Hall



Seelye Hall

NRCA NEW MEMBERS

ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS/CONSULTANTS

City of Port St. Lucie, Port St. Lucie, Dallas
Common Arts, Long Beach, Calif.
Domeier Architects Inc., San Diego
MC & Associates Construction and Waterproofing
Inspection Services, Carlsbad, Calif.
MTD and Associates LLC, Baltimore
NSTCS, Dallas
Sagoma Contracting Services, Houston
Stoa Group LLC, Hammond, La.

CONTRACTORS

A-Denver Roofing Inc., Lakewood, Colo.
American Roofing Professionals, Trussville, Ala.
Apex Roofing Consultants LLC, Centennial, Colo.
C.J. Deans Roofing Inc., Raleigh, N.C.
Certified Roofing and Construction LLC, Dallas
Coastal Roofing Solutions LLC, Crawfordville, Fla.
DeSoto Roofing LLC, Hernando, Miss.
DG Roofing Inc., St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Diablo Roofing Inc., Hayward, Calif.
Douglas J. Wooliver & Sons Inc., Lanesborough, Mass.
Elsa Roofing Co. Inc., St. Augustine, Fla.
Hornet Roofing and Exteriors, Pueblo, Colo.
Ledegar Roofing Co. Inc., La Crosse, Wis.
Loyalty Roofing & Construction LLC, Nixa, Mo.
LT Consultants LLC, Millersburg, Ind.
Martin Tomlinson Roofing Company, Dallas
Old World Craftsmen Inc., Lake City, Fla.
Precision Roofing Solutions, Tampa, Fla.
Premier Roof Systems Inc., Harrisville, N.Y.
Remedy Roofing Inc., Katy, Texas
Ridge Runner Construction LLC, Derry, N.H.
Rob's Roofing LLC, Phoenix
RoofTop101, San Marcos, Texas
Service Works Commercial Roofing LLC, Tampa, Fla.
Shelter Construction Services LLC, Danville, Va.
Stone Age Slate & Tile Roofing LLC, Haughton, La.
Stout Roofing LLC, Woodinville, Wash.

Stryker Construction Inc. DBA Stryker Sheet Metal,
Gladstone, Ore.

Supreme Roofing LLC, Palatine, Ill.
Titan Ridge Roofing & Solar, Columbia, Mo.
Top Crew Construction, Fort Worth, Texas
Veteran Roofing Systems, Columbia, Tenn.
Vulcan Roofing, Nashville, Tenn.
WOOF ROOFS LLC, Phoenix

INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL

1 Exam Prep, Coconut Creek, Fla.

MANUFACTURERS/MANUFACTURER REPS

Metal Brake Services LLC, Charlotte, N.C.
Tampa Metal Works Inc., Tampa, Fla.
VaproShield LLC, Gig Harbor, Wash.

MEMBER BRANCHES

CHEM LINK Inc., Schoolcraft, Mich.
DaVinci Roofscapes LLC, Lenexa, Kan.
Schefers Roofing Co., Grain Valley, Mo.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Bureau of Claim Scene Investigations, Casselberry,
Fla.
Young's Roofing Inc., St. Louis, Mo.



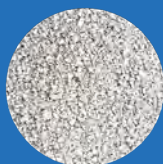
SOPREMA

Protecting Your Building, Preserving Your World.



ECO₃ TECHNOLOGY

Now Available in White!



Every 200 squares of 3M™ granule-surfaced membrane can offset the approximate emissions generated by driving 8,500 miles per year.



SOPREMA.US



SOPREMA

Building for Life

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

9

Virtual CERTA Train-the-trainer

NRCA

Online

Contact: NRCA's Customer Service Department
(866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722) or
info@nrca.net
nrca.net

27-29

Western Roofing Expo 2026

Western Roofing Expo

Las Vegas

Contact: Western Roofing Expo
(800) 725-0333, (650) 938-5441
or info@wsrca.com
westernroofingexpo.com

OCTOBER

7-8

LEGALCon Live

NRCA

Chicago

Contact: NRCA's Customer Service Department
(866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722) or
info@nrca.net
nrca.net

7-9

METALCON

Metalcon

Orlando, Fla.

Contact: Metalcon
(617) 965-0055 or registration@
metalcon.com
metalcon.com

14

Virtual CERTA Train-the-trainer

NRCA

Online

Contact: NRCA's Customer Service Department
(866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722) or
info@nrca.net
nrca.net

18-20

2026 IIBEC Building Enclosure Symposium

International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants

Indianapolis

Contact: IIBEC
(800) 828-1902
bes2026.iibec.org

21-23

Texas Roofing Conference

Roofing Contractors Association of Texas

Grapevine, Texas

Contact: RCAT Customer Service
(512) 251-7690 or rcat.net/
contact-us
rcat.net

28-30

China International Roofing and Waterproofing Expo

China National Building

Waterproof Association

Beijing, China

Contact: Vivian Yan
vivian.yan@cnwb.net
chinaroofexpo.cn

28-30

Win the Storm 2026

Win the Storm LLC

Dallas

Contact: Win the Storm
(781) 227-8676
winthestorm.com

NOVEMBER

4-5

Fall Protection Trainer Course for Roofing

NRCA

Elgin, Ill.

Contact: NRCA's Customer Service Department
(866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722) or
info@nrca.net
nrca.net

9-12

NRCA Fall Committee Meetings/ Roofing Alliance Member Meeting

NRCA

Nashville, Tenn.

Contact: NRCA's Customer Service Department
(866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722) or
info@nrca.net
nrca.net

18

Basic Rooftop Propane Torch Training

NRCA

Elgin, Ill.

Contact: NRCA's Customer Service Department
(866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722) or
info@nrca.net
nrca.net

NRCA staff member passes away



Ambrose

Cheryl Ambrose, who served as **NRCA's** vice president of enterprise risk management, passed away July 15. She joined the NRCA staff in 2021.

Cheryl was dedicated to NRCA and the roofing industry and helped strengthen NRCA's safety outreach and efforts. Her commitment to the health and welfare of the industry's workforce was tremendous and unwavering. She was also a kind and caring friend to those fortunate to know and work with her.

She is survived by her husband, Jeffery; her siblings, Bryan and Maury, and their spouses, Sandra and Brent; her children, Derek, Jolene and Jeffery; and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Northern Neck Heritage Arts Center at P.O. Box 579, Heathsville, VA 22473 with the memo: Spinners and Weavers Guild.

UP THE LADDER

MuleHide Products Co. Inc. has hired **Daniel Kline** as territory manager for the Alabama-Mississippi region.



Kline

Weddle & Sons Inc. has appointed **Erik Zadrozny** as chief revenue officer of their newly partnered FirstRidge company.



Zadrozny



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ROOFING INNOVATION

We are a full systems manufacturer and we stand on our 4 Pillars of Roofing.

**ADVANCED
BITUMEN TECHNOLOGY**
Premium APP & SBS
Membranes

Advanced Bitumen
Technology Systems


STRONGHOLD™

StrongHold Single Ply
Systems

**STORM
BREAKER™**

Storm Breaker Roof
Coating Systems


REPAIR BOSS

RepairBOSS - Full
line of service and
maintenance products
for roofing contractors.

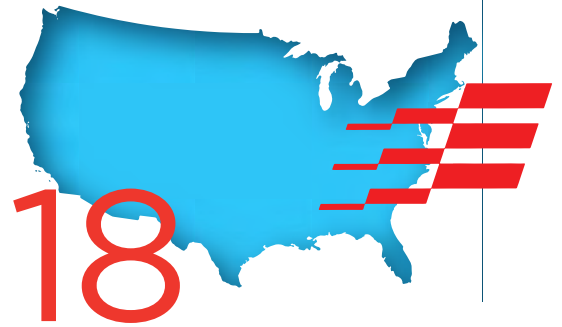


We value our contractors, and we strive to bring irreplaceable value to them - from our team.

26%

The cost added to the average price of a single-family home from government regulations, taxes and fees in 2026

Source: National Association of Home Builders



The number of states with participants in **SkillsUSA® 2026**

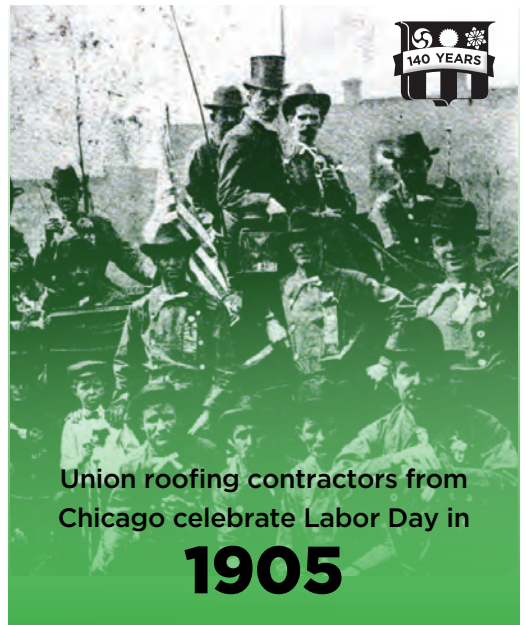
To read more about this year's competition, see page 28.

2nd place

Where roofing ranks among most hazardous jobs in the U.S.

To learn more about the importance of safety education, see page 32.

Source: oshaeducationcenter.com



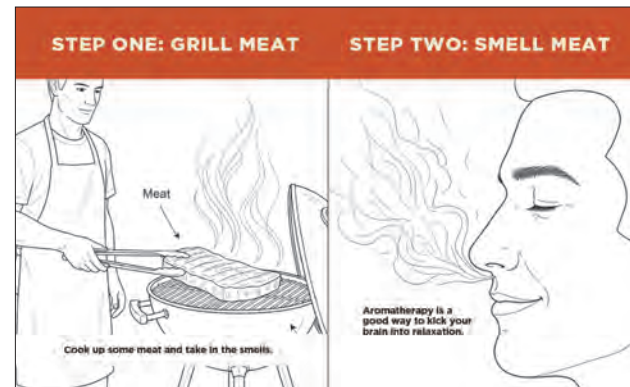
Union roofing contractors from Chicago celebrate Labor Day in

1905

Aromatherapy is a good way to kick your brain into relaxation.

Take in the smells and **focus on your breath.**

Scan to learn more about Mantherapy x NRCA





UNLOCK YOUR ROOF'S FULL POTENTIAL

Without the right components, a roof's performance is locked away. The Owens Corning® Total Protection Roofing System®^ is your key to building better — releasing a roof's power to seal, defend, and breathe.

See the system at OwensCorning.com/TPRS



^ Excludes non-Owens Corning® roofing products such as flashing, fasteners, pipe boots and wood decking.

THE PINK PANTHER™ & © 1964–2026 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. All Rights Reserved. © 2026 Owens Corning. All Rights Reserved.



SRS DELIVERS POWER FOR THE FUTURE

SRS Distribution is a leading provider of premium solar solutions, delivering top-quality products from industry-leading vendors. We are committed to supporting installers with accurate deliveries, robust supplier relationships, and exceptional customer service. Our expertise in both **ROOFING & SOLAR** makes us the ideal distribution partner for your projects.



THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF



Solar Roof



Built To Deliver Pro Contractor Solutions

Contact your local branch for more information • srsdistribution.com