



## Field Exercise: Steep Roofing Instructions

Allow yourself roughly two hours for this Exercise, which includes Parts A and B. For Part B you'll need daylight.

### Part A

Visit a roofing supply store (or building supply store) and look at samples of as many different roofing materials as you can, including –

- asphalt shingles
- wood shingles and shakes
- slate
- clay tile
- concrete tile
- fiber cement shingles
- metal shingles and panels
- roll roofing

Pick them up, turn them over, get to know them. Many inspectors collect samples of different materials. Look at the fasteners used on the various materials. Ask for help if necessary.

Roofing suppliers can provide valuable information. Ask:

- What materials are most popular?
- Why?
- What fasteners are most popular?
- Why?
- What kinds of failures do they see in each material?
- How long does each material last?

You get the idea. This can be a very helpful discussion.

### Part B

Review the following questions, then go out into the area where you'll be inspecting and look at several roofs (at least 10). Note – Don't use binoculars without the homeowner's permission. He or she may call the police!

1. What roofing materials did you see?
  - ☐ asphalt shingles
  - ☐ concrete
  - ☐ wood shingles
  - ☐ fiber cement

- ☐ wood shakes
- ☐ metal shingles
- ☐ slate
- ☐ sheet metal
- ☐ clay
- ☐ roll roofing

Your visit to the supplier should help with this. In some cases you may not be sure what the material was. That's okay. We're just getting started.

2. What was the most common roofing material you saw?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What slopes did you see? (Remember, a 12 in 12 roof is 45°)  
\_\_\_\_\_ in 12 to \_\_\_\_\_ in 12
4. a. Are you going to climb roofs during your inspection?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
b. If so, what slope do you think it is safe to climb? (6 in 12 is about the steepest for many people)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find any of these problems? (This will be tough because you're looking from the ground. That's okay. Do the best you can.)
  - Old
  - Damaged
  - Patched
  - Missing pieces
  - Exposed fasteners
  - Slope too low
  - Exposure too great
  - Overhangs too big/too small at rakes/eaves
  - Poor alignment (shingles or joints)
  - Underlayment missing
  - Watertight membrane missing
  - Wrong flashing materials
6. What else did you notice?
  - Were there any roofs you could see from all 4 sides? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Were some sides in worse shape than others? \_\_\_\_\_
  - If so, can you guess why? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Pick the roof you got the best look at. Write a point-form narrative report that includes –
  - a description of the roofing materials (e.g., asphalt or wood shingles)
  - your evaluation of its condition
  - recommendations to a client
  - any limitations to your inspection