



Your complete guide to
**Choosing the perfect
roof for your renovation**

How to put the finishing touch to your dream home.

THE ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD IS THE PINNACLE OF YOUR HOME.



The roof over your head is the pinnacle of your home.

It's easy to think that your roof exists to simply keep out the elements.

But in fact, the roof of your home is vital to its structural integrity. It's also an essential part of your home's overall design and will attract a lot of attention from the street.

If you're renovating, you want a roof that compliments the dream you're building. It needs to be the right style and tie in with your surroundings. It needs to be durable and appropriate for the Australian climate. And you'll want to make sure you work with a roofing specialist who guarantees their work, so once your roof adorns your home, you won't have to give it another thought for decades to come (except to admire its beauty of course!)

Choosing the perfect roof for your renovation requires research which can add up to a substantial investment of time and money. Because we understand that it's better to get it right the first time so you avoid maintenance or aesthetic issues down the track, we've created this guide to take some of the guesswork out of the process.

We'll walk you through the options for upgrading your roof and how to choose the right style and colour. We'll also aim to clear up some myths about metal roofing and share why we think it's a good choice for almost any project.

Whatever your style, we hope you'll be inspired by the options available for your roof in colour material and design, and we'll give you a few tips for choosing a reliable contractor.

Let's make your roof the perfect finishing touch to your home renovation.



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Choosing the perfect high performance roof

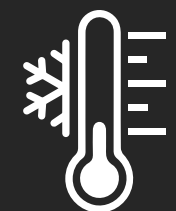
The perfect roof will ensure that your home is energy efficient, comfortable, secure, and absolutely stunning to look at. The roofing materials that you choose will be based on the finish you want, any technical or structural requirements you have, and your budget. Environmental factors, such as climate and location, will also impact the choice of materials you use, as well as the pitch of the roof.

Here's the 5 top factors you need to consider when planning your roofing project.

01.

UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE

Roofing designs have to allow for the realities of the Australian climate.



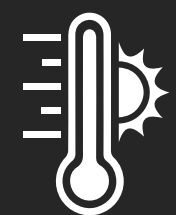
Cold Climates

If your roof will regularly have to contend with freezing temperatures, raised heel trusses can prevent water from pooling and turning to ice, which can damage your roof.



Snow

If you live in an area of significant snowfall, a steeper pitch will stop snow from settling on the roof and causing structural issues due to the weight.



Hot Climates

Hotter climates are hard on roof materials, too. Too much heat can cause cracking, fading, or other aesthetic damage. If you live in a climate of hot summers and cold winters, your roof also needs to be able to expand and contract without sustaining damage over the long term.

Material choices should be made with climate in mind. For example, metal roofing is renowned for being able to soak in heat with ease and reflect it outwards. This not only saves energy, but also ensures that the roof won't degrade because of temperature and exposure to the sun.



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02.

INSULATION IS ESSENTIAL

While we're talking about climate, we have to note that insulation is a big part of roofing, particularly in climates that are cold in winter and hot in summer—like most of Australia's southern states!

Insulation helps to regulate the temperature inside your home, so that it's comfortable in both summer and winter. Insulation can also cut down on rain noise on a metal roof.

Insulation is easy and cost effective to install. Roofs can be insulated in a number of ways, such as with Sisalation® paper, Bradford Anticon wool, or ceiling bats (like Pink® Batts®). These options can also be used in combination with each other.



To learn more about the insulation we use, download this handy guide.

Bradford Anticon Wool

03.

CHOOSE A LOW-MAINTENANCE APPROACH

You can increase the lifespan of your roof and guttering, save money, and reduce the likelihood of pests and vermin making a home in your new roof when you choose to install Gutter Guard.

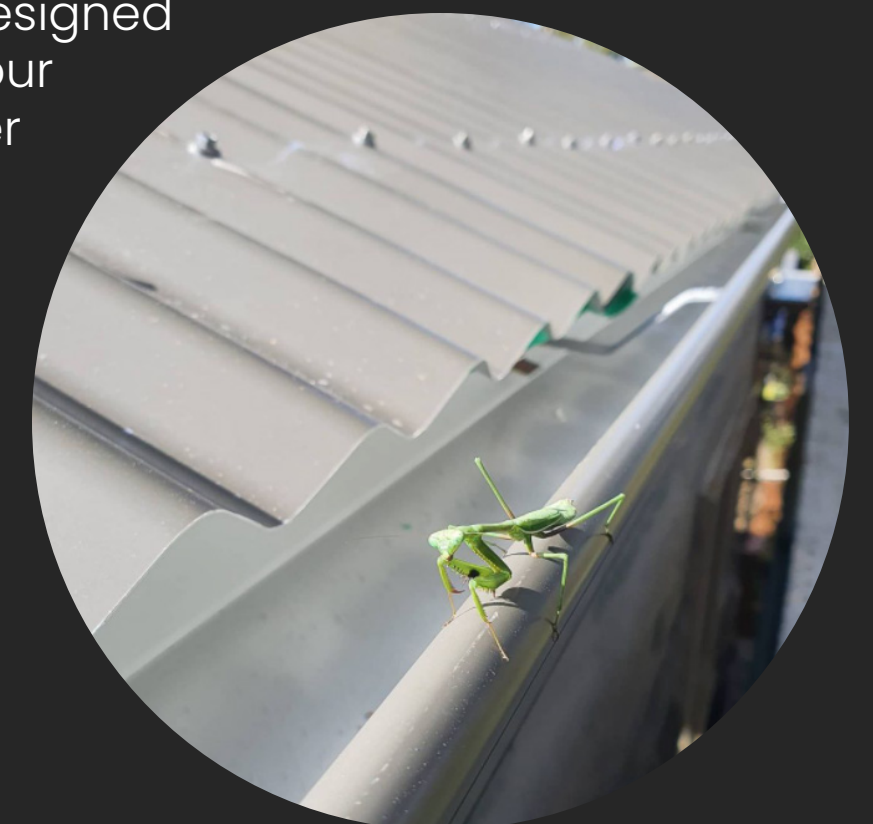
Including Gutter Guard as part of your roof installation saves you money, as you don't need to cover the additional labour cost of having a tradesman return to your property and put up safety equipment again after the main job is finished. Gutter Guard can also help cut down on maintenance, as it stops debris from clogging your gutters.

We recommend that you clean your gutters every six months. Gutters that are clogged with leaves and debris stay wet for exceptionally long periods. This moisture severely degrades the protective finish of the guttering and paves the way for corrosion to become an issue.

Clogged gutters that don't perform as they are designed to when it's raining also have another effect on your home that isn't always visible. An overflow of water from clogged guttering doesn't just fall onto the ground; it flows back into your roof cavity. Too often, the damage of rotting timber isn't noticed until it's too late.

Gutter Guard will also blend seamlessly with your roof, combining form with function.

Gutter Guard Brochure



04.

SKYLIGHTS

Skylights are a practical and aesthetic addition to your roof.

They allow much-needed daylight to flood a dim room, and they can add a dynamic design element.

Gone are the days when a skylight was a boring cut-out in your roof that merely let in some sunlight. With a bit of imagination, skylights can enhance the ambiance of any room while increasing energy efficiency.



05.

COLLECTING AND USING RAINWATER

For many renovations, installing a rainwater tank will be a requirement.

If you already have a water efficient house and garden, rainwater tanks are a great way to realise even more water savings. In addition to the water savings, you'll also save money. In most areas, rebates are available on the cost of rainwater systems (unless you're required by law to have one).

Getting the most out of your rainwater system, starts with your roof and there are two things to consider.

First, you will need to choose a

compatible roof material. Steel is the perfect choice.

Second, you'll need to make sure you have a decent roof area to collect water from. You can maximise the collection area by using underground, or above ground tanks that use a 'wet downpipe' system.

You'll also want to make sure you have a decent tank capacity— 3,000 litres or more is recommended if you have the space. You may have to install a minimum-sized tank to qualify for rebates.





Choosing the Perfect Style

Now that you've considered some of the performance elements of the perfect roof, we can move on to the really fun part!

In the next few sections, we'll look at the importance of design elements in your roofing project such as style, colour and materials..

There are many different styles of roof.

It's important that the design of your roof is appropriate for your particular circumstances, because the shape of your roof will generally determine what materials you use. For example, a curved roof can easily be created with steel, while cement and terracotta suit roofs with solid lines.

And while there's no doubt that a roof has a huge impact on the look of your home, this doesn't mean that you should automatically choose to make your roof the standout feature of your house design.

It all depends on your particular home.

For example, grand, modern home designs can become awe inspiring when teamed with a roof structure that makes a real statement.

Keeping within the integrity of the architectural period and style of a traditional home will restore its former beauty, while an understated home can be lifted to something really special with a more functional roof design over a purely decorative one.

Here's a quick guide to the most common roof styles.



GABLED ROOF

A gabled roof has two sloping sides that meet each other at the top, or ridge of the roof. Traditional gabled roofs are symmetrical, with two identical angles on both sides, forming a triangle when viewed from the front of the building.



HIP ROOF

Common in Australia, hip roofs work on many different building designs, and the roof pitch can vary. They often have shady eaves and offer strength and resilience against strong winds. While they are more difficult to build than a gabled roof, the walls that support a hip roof are easier to build as they are all at one level.



FLAT ROOF

They might look completely flat, but flat roofs actually have a pitch of 10 degrees. If you choose this style, waterproofing will be important. If a flat roof leaks, the damage can go unnoticed while the water gets in and rots or weakens both the roof and the building itself. A flat roof is a great choice for a rooftop living area or roof garden.



SKILLION ROOF

A skillion roof features a single, flat surface with a steeper and more noticeable pitch. They add a dramatic effect to a modern, seaside or industrial-style home. In Australia, it's also known as a shed roof and is popular on modern buildings and house extensions as it's economical and quick to install. Skillion roofs don't have the drainage problems of roofs with less pitch.



CURVED ROOF

Curved roofs give you an opportunity to add a softer, rounder look to your home. Most commonly made of steel, the metal roof sheeting is custom bent to allow for the curve. Curved roofs may feature small curved elements to replace sharp edges, or they may be entire, uniformly curved surfaces that span the whole roof.



CLERESTORY ROOF

A clerestory roof has a vertical wall that sits between two sloping sides. It can be symmetrical, with a hipped or gable-style design, or it can be asymmetrical, resembling something like a skillion roof. It's main feature is the row of clerestory windows that sit in the vertical panel between the two sloping roof planes. Clerestory roofs allow natural light to flow into the building while maintaining your privacy. When they are designed correctly, they can also reduce energy consumption by allowing for effective passive heating and cooling.



Choosing the Perfect Materials

The style of roof you choose will influence the type of material you're able to use (and vice versa). Roof style and materials choices go hand in hand and you'll need to consider them together, particularly if you have a specific vision for your home.

Let's take a look at the different materials, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Metal Versus Tiled Roofing

- While tiles have long been a very popular roofing material, in our experience, metal can't be beaten as a superior roofing solution for any building

TILE ROOFING

Tiles have been used as a roofing material for centuries. Tiles are generally made of hardwearing materials such as terracotta, slate, and cement.

A tiled roof is a very popular and safe option, especially for smaller projects. It's also often second nature for people who have grown up with traditional tiled roofs to choose the same thing for their own homes.

Advantages

- ✓ Since roof tiles have been around for a very long time, they have continually been improved and modified.
- ✓ Tiles now come in a range of colours, shapes, and sizes and there are even different thickness options to choose from.

Disadvantages

- ✗ Tiles, particularly concrete ones, do have a few downsides. They can degrade and crack over time, especially if they are subjected to abrupt changes in weather. Given Melbourne's infamous four seasons in one day climate, it's worth considering an alternative to tiles.
- ✗ External factors are always going to play a role with roofing, and mould build-up tends to be a major point of contention with traditional tiles. This may require continual maintenance—and we don't think that roofing costs should become a routine expense!



METAL ROOFING

The main material used in metal roofs is steel. It can be galvanised or coated with an alloy of zinc, magnesium, and aluminium. It offers the opportunity to make a statement with your roof, or you can choose a style and colour that blends in with the natural environment.

The type of steel you choose depends on a number of factors, including where you live. For example, if your home is within sight of the beach, the galvanised option is one option that will stand up to the salty conditions with less chance of corrosion. However, it can be more expensive than products like COLORBOND®'s Ultra steel.

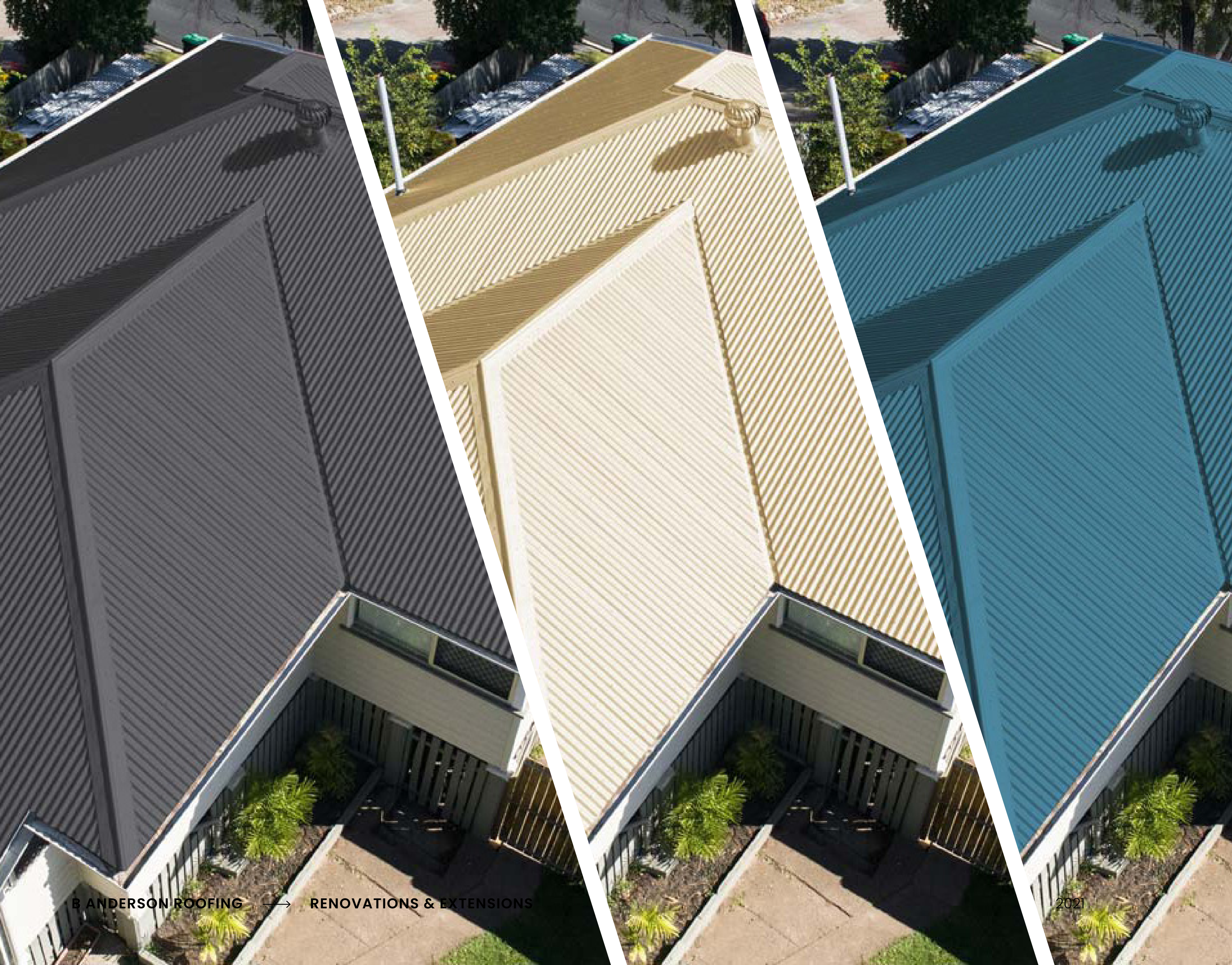
Advantages

- ✓ Metal roofs are cost effective, energy efficient, durable, and weather resistant. They have a Class A fire rating, can be heat reflective, and suit either modern or traditional house designs.
- ✓ Metal roofing comes in a range of different colours, and can even be repainted—a bonus if you decide you'd like something different a few years after installation. Because metal is highly durable and lasts for decades, you're quite likely to get tired of the colour before you actually need to replace a metal roof!
- ✓ Metal roofing is also ideal for Australian conditions. When properly insulated, a metal roof can reflect heat in summer and keep your home warmer in winter. It is more fire resistant than many other roofing choices, which can be particularly important in bushfire-prone areas. Another bonus of metal roofing is that it is light, and therefore places little strain on the structure of your home. And because it can be custom shaped, it is a suitable material for many styles of roof.
- ✓ While most people who decide on a metal roof will choose one of the steel-based options, copper roofing is another metal roofing choice you can consider. Although it looks great and is very durable, copper is less popular because of the higher cost.

Disadvantages

- ✗ Generally, a metal roof won't cost more to install than other types of roofing. However, the initial installation cost can be higher when building in coastal areas or when metals such as copper and galvanised steel are required.
- ✗ But these costs are generally offset by the longevity of the metal roof and the lack of serious maintenance required. And while it's not really a con, it's important to note that a metal roof will require different fixings than a traditional tile roof because it is lighter.





WHY WE CHOOSE BLUESCOPE STEEL

We use Australian-made COLORBOND® and ZINCALUME® products for all of our roofing projects.

They are strong, look beautiful and are guaranteed for 30 years when installed in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.

BlueScope Steel has been designed and created with the harsh Australian climate in mind. When installed professionally, COLORBOND® and ZINCALUME® metal roofing will outlast the rest of the building and will require very little maintenance.



Choosing the Perfect Look

When choosing the perfect roof, it's important to consider the size of your home as well as the rest of the exterior and your landscaping.

Your roof needs to be sympathetic to your home and its surroundings and the look and feel you choose has the potential to pull each element into a harmonious whole - with a little thought of course!

YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

One of the most important considerations when deciding on a roof is which look will best suit the style of your home.

Modern architecture may not lend itself to a traditional hip roof, for example, while the angles of a skillion roof might look just right. The same goes for a modest suburban home; a fancy curved roof is likely to look out of place, whereas the clean lines of a metal hip roof in a complementary colour will seamlessly fit in with the whole.

Of course, you also need to consider the colour and material of your exterior. Brick, render, stone, and weatherboards work well with metal or tile roofs. And colour (which we look at next) will be key.

Remember that you're going to have to live with your roof for a long time. While you might initially like a look that's striking, such as an unusual combination of colours, it can be a better idea to aim to enduring style, rather than following a fashion trend.



YOUR HOME'S LANDSCAPING

Believe it or not, you also have to consider your landscaping when making a choice about your roofing.

Extensive gardens with a riot of colour in bloom look great with a deep coloured roof, while a darker, neutral shade complements minimalist lawns and gravel pathways beautifully.

The roof, landscaping, and exterior all have to flow together. As there is no way of hiding an unattractive roof, it's important to get the right advice and think about all of these elements before you make your final decision.





Choosing the Perfect Colour

Now that we've gone through roof styles and looks, considerations, it's time to think about what finishes and colours will suit your tastes and the style of your home.

What's right for me?

As we've already mentioned,, while your roof is a major factor in the overall look of your home, it's only one component of your home's exterior. So, it needs to tie in seamlessly with the overall style.

When choosing a roof design, colour, and finish, you need to look at your home and the surrounding environment as a whole.

Whether your home is modern or traditional, the choices you make about the colours and finishes of the fixed elements of your home—such as external walls and roof—will need to stand the test of time. There is nothing more timeless than your natural and surrounding environment, so look no further than your location, your city, and the countryside or urban elements around you for clues and inspiration as to what colours, applications, and finishes to use on your home.

Cityscapes offer a cool palette of charcoal, silver, steel, bronze, and grey.

The seaside offers unlimited shades of blue, green, and sand.

The rural countryside can create a warm and inviting look with its greens, reds, straw tones, and earthy browns.

If you're tempted to choose the latest trending colours for your home, think about introducing them into the interior of the house instead. Walls, carpets, rugs, upholstery, and cushions are relatively easier—and more cost effective—to add and subtract than structural elements as trends (and even seasons) change.

To explore the range of COLORBOND® colours available for your roof, download the COLORBOND® Product Brochure and Colour Chart.

[VIEW COLORBOND PRODUCT BROCHURE & COLOUR CHART](#)





Finding inspiration

There are so many free resources you can use for research and inspiration—and you don’t need to travel far.

Take a walk around your own suburb and take note of the homes and buildings that you love.

Notice the common themes you are drawn to, such as style, designs, applications, and colours. You may want to take photographs for reference, or even take colour pencils and a notepad along to sketch any further ideas that spring to mind as you allow your creativity to flow.



Visit your local library and borrow books on design and colour



Visit your local real estate agent and get a copy of their sales brochure.

Online resources are also limitless.

There’s an unlimited source of design inspiration online, and most of it is free! Look for blogs, free online magazines (such as The Design Files and Homelife), products, colour charts, and awe-inspiring images all over the web.. Each site leads you to another as you discover new ideas and uncover more sources of inspiration.

Product samples and swatches

You can order product samples and colour swatches online, or visit a display centre or showroom that has qualified specialists to give you advice.



Making sense of colour chaos

Once you’ve collected inspiration, you’re going to want to find a way to organise it.

Sort through images of the houses and buildings you like and group them into similar styles. This will allow you to clearly see which style suits the look you want and whether it ties in with your canvas.

Once you have a preferred style, sort through the samples you have collected. Use the process of elimination to narrow down your choices.

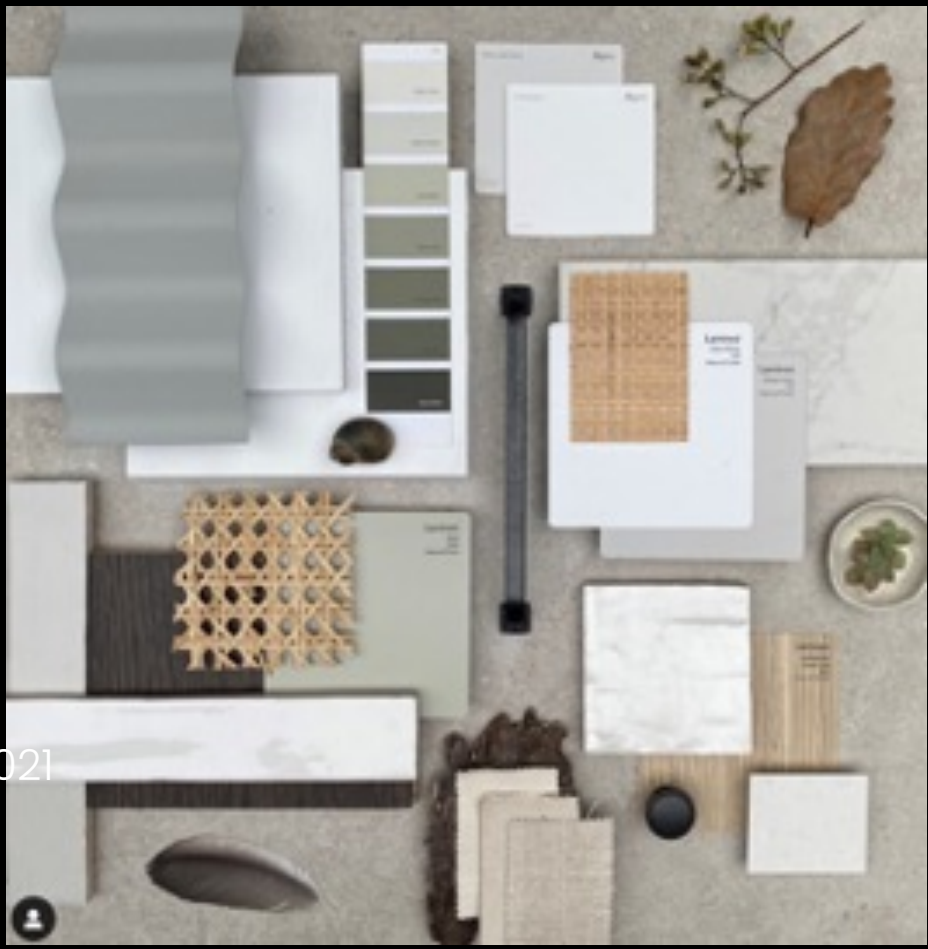
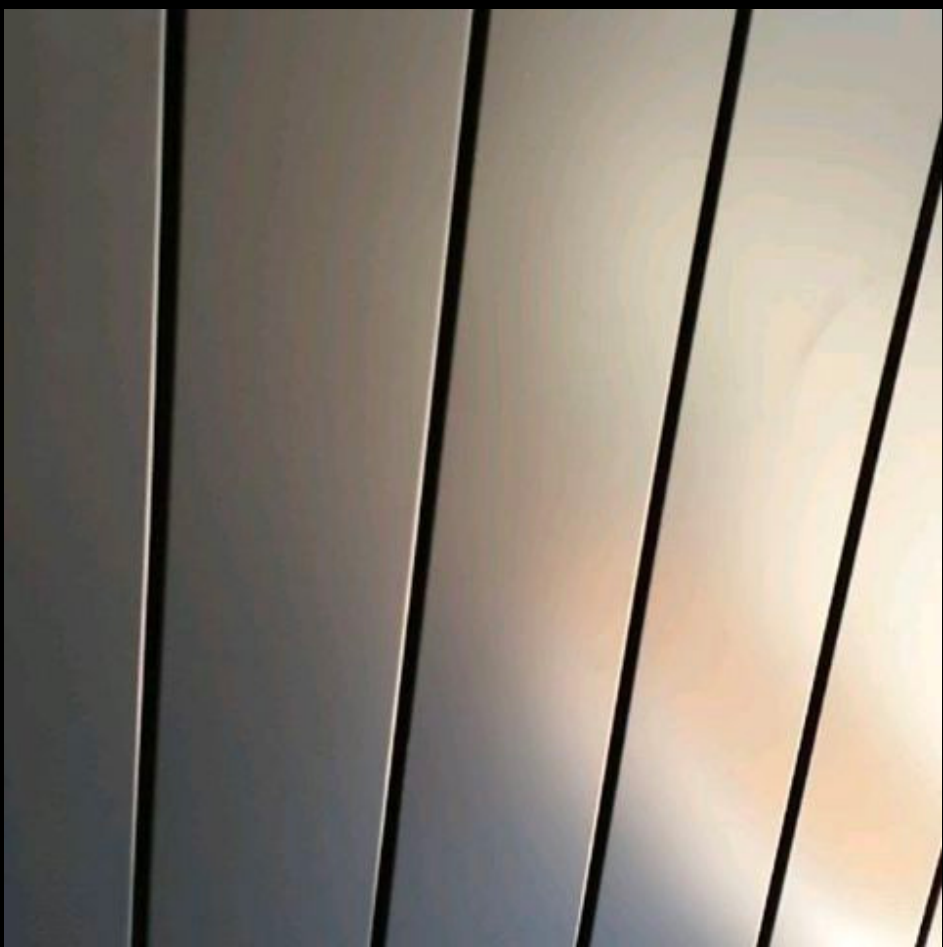
Once you have a clearer idea of what colours and finishes you are after, return to the product showrooms or display centres to discuss your choices with the showroom consultants. Often, the people working in these showrooms are qualified professionals with many years of training and experience, so they can be a great help when you’re making your decision.

While you’re probably feeling inspired by all the designs and colours that are available, let’s have a quick word about finding the right roofing contractor before you dive into your roofing project.



Pinterest

If you're looking online for inspiration, then Pinterest is a great way both to search for inspiration and to organise what you find. We've got plenty of inspiration on our Pinterest here.





Choosing the Perfect Craftsman

Hiring the right contractor is vital to the success of your project. One of the best ways to select a roofing contractor is to ask friends or family for recommendations. You can also search for roofing contractors online, in your local paper, or through professional associations such as the Master Plumbers Association.

Every professional should be able to provide you with a website as a starting point. Check their testimonials on their Google My Business Profile and Facebook and use Instagram and Pinterest to see projects they have recently completed so you know they can deliver on the roof style and design you want. You'll also get an idea of what your finished product may look like and get a sense of whether the contractor is trustworthy and will install your roof correctly.

I've Short-Listed a Few Contractors... Now What?

Meet with each contractor.

You will need to meet with each contractor on site for a comprehensive assessment of the work to be undertaken. If you have a working drawing of your home, you should provide your roofing contractor with a copy.

Get a written quote.

It is imperative that you get a written quote before any work is done. The quote should tell you exactly what is going to happen during the building process, detail exactly how much it is going to cost, and outline the terms and conditions.

Only accept a fixed price contract.

You should only accept a fixed-price contract. However, if costs need to be added during the project due to agreed additions, you should obtain a variation to the agreement in writing before the work is undertaken to make sure that you can afford the additions you're requesting..



How do I evaluate a quote?

All quotes are not created equal. In fact, they can vary by thousands of dollars. It might be tempting to make a decision based solely on cost, but problems with your installation will only become apparent after the work has been completed and your contractor has been paid.

The brand of materials and fixings used, the warranties offered, the guarantees on workmanship, the post-installation service, and the experience of the roofing contractor are all factors you need to consider when choosing a contractor.

For example, a quotation that includes safety scaffolding will total thousands of dollars above a quote that doesn't. Some unscrupulous contractors will try to get away without providing the appropriate workplace health and safety measures. But if an accident occurs on your property, you could be help liable.

Read more about the National Code of Practice for the prevention of falls in house construction [here](#)..

Providing the roofing contractor with a clear definition of what you want included in your quotation and asking that all roofing contractors conform to your requirements is the best way to ensure that you are comparing apples to apples. If a roofing contractor suggests a variation to your requirements, discuss the reasons why; if you feel the reasons are valid, ask all the contractors you have short-listed to add the same variation to their quotes.

Three quotations are sufficient to make a decision.

Will I Need To Obtain a Permit?

You won't need to obtain a permit for a re-roof, a roofing repair, or a roof rejuvenation. If you are building a completely new dwelling, then a building permit is required from your local council.



What Happens Once the Work Is Complete?

A reputable roofing contractor will guarantee their workmanship and use quality materials with a long manufacturer's warranty. If any problem does come up for whatever reason, your roofing contractor should fix it. You also need to make sure that you will be able to reach your roofing contractor again in the future, in case any problems arise.

Ensure that your tradesman is a licensed professional. Only a licensed plumber can insure your project and issue you with a certificate of compliance for the completed work.

To check whether your roofing contractor is licensed, you can simply visit the Plumbing Industry Commission website.

Why Does My Roofing Contractor Need a Licence?

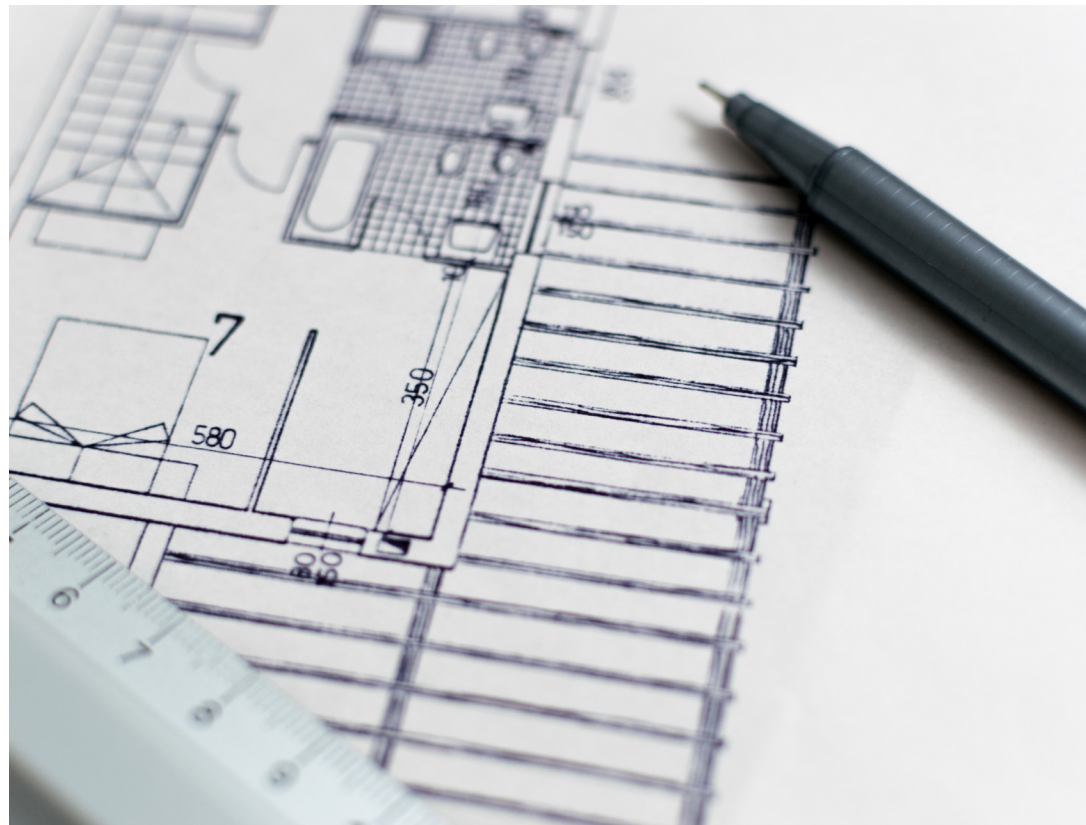
In Victoria, all plumbing work with a value of \$750 or more requires a compliance certificate to be provided to the person for whom the work is done. The \$750 value includes all labour, as well as parts and appliances, regardless of who purchases them.

Only a licensed plumber can issue a compliance certificate. A compliance certificate is the means by which a licensed plumber can self-certify that the plumbing work complies with all legislative and insurance requirements.

Please – don't ever let an unlicensed plumber install your roof.



PUTTING TOGETHER A TRUSTED RENOVATION TEAM



Your architect

Your renovation dreams are all about the big picture and architects are experts in going from the big picture to the little details. They can translate your vision into a plan or give you that vision that you have been searching for – maximising light, space and functionality.



Building designer

The larger and more complex a project becomes, the more benefit you can get from having a building designer on your team. They can help make sure your build complies with the minefield of planning and council regulations, and give you advice through the entire building process.



Planning consultant

If you are starting a renovation that requires complex planning approvals, it can pay to bring a planning consultant on to your team. Paying for their expertise in negotiating regulations and approvals at the start can speed up your build and save you in the long run.



Craftsmen

The perfect roof for your project starts with finding the perfect craftsman.



The perfect roof completes the perfect home

Roofing projects are momentous undertakings. You need to do a lot of research, have some patience, and think about what you need (and want) in a roof.

The roof that's perfect for you will depend on your personal taste, your location, the local climate, and the style of your house. One of the key things to remember, is that regardless of whether you own a Federation beauty or an architecturally designed piece of modernity, your roof is there to protect your property and your financial investment.

It's easy to become caught up in the aesthetics of a project. While the look of your roof is important, what matters most is that your new roof is structurally sound—and will remain so for decades to come.



Now is the best time to get started

Even if you're only in the planning stage of your project, you can still speak to a professional about the specifics of your roof. It's a perfect opportunity to gather the information that will ensure you avoid costly mistakes. And we'd love to help.

Book a no obligation Discovery Call with us today.

Book your NO OBLIGATION Discovery Call with us Today

When you have a 10-minute discovery call with us, you'll get:

- A professional review of your working drawings
- The opportunity to discuss your project in detail with a roofing specialist
- Proven strategies to avoid the biggest mistakes we see home renovators make when undertaking a new roof installation.

At the end of the call you can decide whether you'd like us to provide a free quote for your COLORBOND Metal Roofing... or not!



Your discovery call bonus

The Ultimate Renovation Expense Tracker.

As a bonus for booking a discovery call with us, we'll also send you our ULTIMATE RENOVATION EXPENSE TRACKER (completely obligation free.) It's the ultimate tool to take the financial stress out of planning and managing your renovation.

After 30 years of serving homeowners who have been project managing their renovations, we noticed that our clients who didn't have access to the right financial management tool to plan, organise and track their project soon became disorganised and overwhelmed.

This affected their decision making and enthusiasm for the project, and even compromised their health. We've undertaken thousands of COLORBOND roof installations, and have discovered that when our clients are free from financial stress, their entire project runs more smoothly.

The result is your dream home delivered on time and within budget. Save yourself endless renovation heartache by tracking estimates vs costs, recording payments to trades and suppliers and even reconciling your bank statement during your project.

BOOK MY DISCOVERY CALL



B . A N D E R S O N

ROOFING