

# What Is the Inside of a Roof Made Of?

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## What's Under Your Shingles?

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Ever wonder what really lies beneath the surface of your roof? While shingles are the first thing you see, there's a whole system underneath working to protect your home from water, wind, heat, and cold. At , we believe every homeowner should understand the basic components that keep their home safe and dry.

## Why It Matters: The Role of Each Layer

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Every layer inside your roof plays a critical role:

1. **Water Resistance:** Prevents leaks and moisture buildup
2. **Energy Efficiency:** Helps maintain a comfortable indoor temperature
3. **Longevity:** A properly layered roof can last decades
4. **Structural Integrity:** Supports the entire roofing system

Understanding what your roof is made of helps you make smart decisions when it comes time for repairs or replacement.

## The Layers Inside a Roof Explained

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Here's a layer-by-layer breakdown of what makes up the inside of a typical residential roof:



### Roof Decking (Sheathing)

The base layer, typically made of plywood or oriented strand board (OSB), attaches to the roof trusses and serves as the foundation for all other layers.

### **Underlayment**

A water-resistant or waterproof barrier installed over the decking. It protects against moisture and is usually made from synthetic felt or peel-and-stick material. Learn more about [roofing underlayment and insulation](#).

### **Ice and Water Shield**

A self-adhering membrane installed in vulnerable areas like valleys and eaves to prevent ice dams and wind-driven rain from seeping in. For winter concerns, check out [how to prevent ice dams](#).

### **Drip Edge**

A thin metal flashing installed at the roof's edge to guide water away from the fascia and into the gutters, protecting your home's structural elements. If you're maintaining your gutters, don't miss our [gutter care tips](#).

### **Starter Shingles**

The first row of shingles installed along the eaves, providing a secure base for the rest of the shingle system. Learn more about [choosing the right shingles](#).

### **Shingles or Roofing Material**

This is the outermost layer visible from the street. Common options include asphalt shingles, metal panels, tile, or composite materials. Explore [different roofing materials](#).

### **Ridge Cap Shingles**

Installed at the peak of the roof, these protect the ridge and provide a clean, finished look while sealing out moisture.



## Roof Ventilation

Ventilation systems, including ridge vents, box vents, and soffit vents, help regulate attic temperature and moisture, preventing mold and extending the roof's life. Learn why [proper ventilation matters](#).

## What to Consider When Choosing Roofing Materials

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Your roofing material matters more than you think. Here's what to consider:

1. **Budget:** Asphalt shingles are affordable; metal and tile offer higher durability.
2. **Climate:** In Utah, materials must withstand snow, heat, and wind.
3. **Appearance:** Choose a style that complements your home.
4. **Ventilation:** Ensure your roof allows for proper airflow.
5. **Insulation:** A good roof adds another layer of energy efficiency to your home.

If you're comparing options, visit our [homeowner's guide to roofing shingles](#) and [different types of roofing materials](#).

## FAQs About Roof Anatomy

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**Q: What is the inside part of the roof called?**

A: It starts with the roof decking, which supports the rest of the roof system.

**Q: What is the material under shingles?**

A: That would be the underlayment, often made of synthetic felt.

**Q: What are the most important parts of a roof?**

A: Decking, underlayment, shingles, and ventilation systems are all essential.

**Q: How long should a roof last?**

A: With proper materials and installation, many residential roofs last 25-50 years. Learn more about [when to replace your roof](#).

At , we don't cut corners. Our roofing systems are built using high-quality components backed by a [50-year warranty](#) on residential work. We pull permits, ensure third-party inspections, and complete most projects within 1-2 days. [Financing is available](#), making a strong roof more accessible than ever.

**Get a Roof That Lasts**

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Understanding what's over your head is the first step—choosing the right contractor is the next. That's why Salt Lake City homeowners trust Vertex Roofing to protect their homes with reliable, expert service. Ready to upgrade your roof with lasting quality and care? [Get your free roof estimate today](#).