



METAL ROOF AND SIDING MATERIAL SELECTION OVERVIEW



There's More To Metal Than Meets The Eye

Did you know there are several important attributes to consider when selecting metal for your home?

Here is an overview of important considerations when selecting metal siding and roofs for your home.

BASE METAL

COMMON OPTIONS...

- ✓ Metal
- ✓ Aluminum

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: The most common material for metal roofing is steel, due to its mix of performance, longevity, and price. Aluminum is a popular alternative, and often used in applications requiring heightened corrosion resistance. See the next section for more detail on corrosion resistance.

Aluminum is a softer material compared to steel. As it is softer, a thicker aluminum may be required to provide the needed performance and this can drive up product price.

HOW TO LEARN MORE: → [Metal Roof Buyer's Guide](#) - see page 11 → [Ask Steelscape](#) → [Check with your product manufacturer for the types of metal they offer.](#)

RESISTANCE FROM RUST

COMMON OPTIONS...

- ✓ Zinc Coating
(TruZinc®, also called galvanized)
- ✓ Aluminum-Zinc Coating
(ZINCALUME®, also called Galvalume®)
- ✓ Thicker paint for extreme environments
- ✓ Aluminum

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Steel is coated with one of two options to provide long term resistance from corrosion. These are either zinc coating (Steelscape's TruZinc®) and aluminum-zinc coating (Steelscape's ZINCALUME®). This added layer underpins why steel can last so long once properly installed.

In most environments, aluminum-zinc coating provides longer protection than galvanized and carries the benefit of a warranty. This warranty guarantees the metal will not rupture or fail structurally.

For locations with extreme corrosion resistance needs, such as those very close to salt water, it is often recommended to use a thicker paint or aluminum as the base metal. For these applications we recommend consulting Steelscape or a product fabricator prior to selecting your material.

HOW TO LEARN MORE: → [ZINCALUME](#) (PDF) → [TruZinc](#) (PDF) → [Ask Steelscape](#)

MATERIAL STRENGTH

COMMON OPTIONS...

- ✓ Steel:
29ga (Thinnest)
26ga
24ga
- ✓ Aluminum:
0.032" (Thinnest)
0.040"

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Metal thickness influences product performance by making the metal more resistant to bending and flexing. Roofs in high wind or snow environments may require a thicker material to achieve building code requirements.

Steel and aluminum are available in a variety of thicknesses called 'gauge'. Common gauges (ga) for residential installations are 26ga and 24ga for their favorable combination of performance and price. For some value conscious applications, such as sheds, which trade off performance for price, thinner 29ga material is used. Aluminum thickness is represented in inches and common thicknesses are 0.032" and 0.040".

Your roofing contractor should know the needs of your location or local building codes and which material thickness is suitable.

Homeowners should note, the metal thickness can be a driver of product price – the thicker the metal, the more expensive the solution.

HOW TO LEARN MORE: → [Talk to your roofer and product fabricator for a solution that meets your performance and budget needs.](#)

PAINT

COMMON OPTIONS...

- ✓ Good - Polyester
- ✓ Better - SMP
- ✓ Best - PVDF
- ✓ Is it a “Cool” paint?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Paints provide visual appeal and resistance from damage, such as UV light and corrosion. There are three paint families for metal roof and siding products ranging from good to best. Each system varies by performance, cost, longevity, and warranty coverage. The most common for residential applications, is the middle ground product called SMP.

Most paints used on metal come standard with “cool” technology which offers improved sunlight reflectance, reducing the build up of heat within homes.

When selecting a color, note there is no industry standard for color names. Always compare physical samples to make sure you are selecting the right color for your project.

HOW TO LEARN MORE: → [Metal Roof and Siding Color Guide](#) → [Metal Roof Buyer's Guide](#) → [Single Skin Metal Siding Design Guide](#) → [Product Guide](#)

DESIGN OPTIONS

COMMON OPTIONS...

- ✓ **Metallic Paint**, such as *Copper Penny* or *Silver Metallic*.
- ✓ **Texture**, such as *Steelscape's Rawhide* and *Rustic Rawhide*®.
- ✓ **Prints**, such as *Steelscape's Rustic*, *Aged Metallics* and *Textured Rustics*.
- ✓ **Specialty Clears**, such as *Steelscape's Vintage*®

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Modern paint technology has evolved significantly to provide homeowners with greater color and finish choices to help fulfill their visions.

Metallic Paint – When illuminated by sunlight, these have a noticeable sparkle due to mica pigments. Common colors are silver, copper and champagne.

Textured Paint – Some paints have a textured finish to provide a distinct look and to help reduce the glare from the sun.

Print Designs – Printed designs can be applied to metal to create distinctive finishes or to create finishes that recreate other natural effects, such as rust, without the performance drawbacks.

Specialty Clears – Translucent colored resins provide visual depth and a unique finish that interacts dynamically with natural light.

Matte Finishes – Matte finishes feature microscopic texture to significantly reduce gloss and sheen.

HOW TO LEARN MORE: → [Virtual Color Palette](#) → [Product Guide](#) → [Metal Roof and Siding Color Guide](#) → [Request Samples](#) → [Ask Steelscape](#)

WARRANTY

COMMON OPTIONS...

- ✓ **How long is the warranty?**
- ✓ **What is covered?**

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Specifiers should always ensure they understand the length of the warranty being offered and what it covers. Material based warranties, such as those offered by Steelscape, cover finish performance or corrosion resistance only. Warranty length and coverage will vary based on the paint system used. Finish warranty coverage may include film integrity (painted finish is consistent and is free from blistering or cracking), and resistance to color fade or chalking (the loss of pigments in the color).

Warranties for panel performance, panel quality, or roof weathertightness, are the responsibility of the panel fabricator and roofing contractor. To avoid confusion, request a summary of the end-user warranties being offered by the contractor as part of the bid process.

HOW TO LEARN MORE: → [Documentation Library](#) - see Warranties → Talk to your roofer about the warranties offered as part of the bid. → [Ask Steelscape](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE LINKS:

- [Metal Roof and Siding Glossary and FAQ](#)
- [Project Gallery](#)
- [Color Visualizer](#)
- [Service Offer Manual](#)
- [Steelscape YouTube Channel](#)
- [Sustainability and Regulatory Guides](#)
- [Request Samples](#)
- [Ask Steelscape](#)

QUICK TIP

Always ensure you understand the environment of the installation.

Most metal is interchangeable between roofs and siding, however specific environmental conditions or structural performance needs may directly affect material selection. For example, proximity to salt water may impact the paint system selected. Alternatively, a thicker base metal may be needed to achieve minimum snow or wind load building code requirements. Always discuss these considerations when selecting a preferred material.

