

3 Main Styles of Metal Roofing

(with their pros & cons)



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If you need a new metal roof, or if you are considering switching from asphalt shingles to a metal roof, you may be overwhelmed by the metal roofing options available.

Don't worry - we are here to help!
In this article, we list three of the main types of metal roofing available, along with their pros and cons.

We trust this helps answer your roofing questions, and if you have any questions, please contact the team at
K. Graber Construction!





Standing Seam Metal Roofing

(Hidden Fastener)

Every roof has to be fastened to the roof deck in one way or another. Asphalt shingles, for example, are nailed to the roof deck.

Hidden fastener metal roofing, on the other hand, has panels that snap together and hide the fastening system from view.

Pros of Standing Seam

First, it is less likely to leak because the metal roofing snaps together and keeps the fasteners hidden underneath the metal roof itself.

Second, because standing seam is so watertight, it can be used on lower roof pitches than other metal roofing styles.

While most metal roofing styles can't be used on a roof pitch under 3/12, standing seam can be used the whole way down to a 1/12 pitch.

Third, standing seam is considered a premium metal roofing. It is usually made from thicker metal and finished with a PVDF paint system.

Fourth, standing seam metal is custom made for your project. It is typically fabricated and bent to the exact length needed for your project.

And fifth, standing seam roofs allow the metal to expand vertically. Why is this a big deal?

Other styles of metal roofing that fasten directly to the roof deck do not have this capability.

When the weather gets hot, the metal starts to heave and buckle if there isn't room for expansion. In some scenarios, this can cause the screws that hold down the metal to begin to loosen, allowing water to seep in around them.

Cons of Standing Seam

Standing seam isn't the best option in every category, though.

First, a major downside of standing seam metal roofs is that they take a long time to install.

Second, standing seam roofing is more challenging to install. If you want a standing seam roof, it's time to call in a professional. Don't try this one by yourself.

And third, standing seam roofs are typically more expensive when purchasing parts and materials.



Corrugated Metal Roofing

(Exposed Fastener)

The second style of metal roofing is exposed fastener roofing, also called corrugated metal roofing. As the name suggests, the main difference in this roofing style is that the metal is attached to the roof with exposed screws.

But there's a lot more to this roofing system than a fastening system. Let's take a look at the pros and cons that exposed fastener systems bring to the table.

Pros of Exposed Fastener Systems

First, exposed fastener systems are straightforward to install, and parts can be found at most hardware stores.

Second, the metal roofing panels are wider than standing seam panels, meaning installation time is faster, and it requires less time to trim pieces.

Third, exposed fastener roofing is one of the cheaper metal roofing options when it comes to material cost.

And fourth, exposed fastener panels are stronger than standing seam panels, so they are better for applications when you need to span from purlin to purlin.

Cons of Exposed Fastener Systems

Though exposed fastener systems outperform standing seam in terms of cost, standing seam is usually considered superior.

First, because it uses exposed fasteners, each screw creates a hole in the metal and a potential leak spot. Even though the screws have rubber washers, there is potential for water to seep in over time.

Second, because the roofing panels are screwed directly to the roof deck, there is less flexibility for expanding and contracting with changing temperatures and weather.

And third, they don't do well on roof pitches that are less than 3/12.



Interlocking Modular Panel Metal Roofing

Interlocking modular panel metal roofing is a metal roofing system created to replicate different styles of roofs. They take the key concepts from standing seam metal and make a few fundamental changes.

Pros of Interlocking modular panels

First, just like standing seam, interlocking modular panels utilize a hidden fastener system.

Second, the way the panels interlock on all four sides makes them incredibly watertight. Third, interlocking panels can be stamped or coated to replicate other roofing styles, so they are highly customizable and can be made to look like asphalt shingles.

And fourth, because the metal panels have so much texture and ribbing, they can often be placed directly over an old roofing system.

Cons of Interlocking Modular Panels

If modular panels are so watertight and customizable, why aren't they used more often on metal roofs?

First, they are one of the most expensive metal roofs to purchase.

Second, like standing seam roofing, they are complicated and labor-intensive to install.

And third, they are not recommended to be installed on a roof with a less than 3/12 pitch.

Conclusion

There's a lot to consider when it comes to metal roofing, but now you have more knowledge to decide which roofing is best for you.

And remember, there's nothing better than talking in person with your local metal roofing contractor!

If you are looking for a new metal roof, or want to replace your old roof and live in North or Central Indiana, contact us at K Graber Construction today.

We install the different metal roofing products discussed in this article, and we would love to help you choose and install the metal roof that is right for your home or business.

We work hard to be a trustworthy contractor, and we are more than happy to let you see our previous work or talk to former customers.

Contact us today to see how we can help with your metal roof. We look forward to meeting you!

