



## Commonly Used Terms: Low Slope Roofing

**Built-up Roof:** A flat or low sloped roof consisting of multiple layers of asphalt or bitumen and ply sheets. A properly installed BUR has a service life of 20-30 years.

**Coping:** The capping or covering the top of a wall. A coping may consist of stone, brick, tile, slate, metal or wood. It is a form of waterproofing but it also serves a decorative element.

**Deck:** The surface over the structural framing that the roofing material is applied to.

**Drip Edge:** A non-corrosive, non-staining metal such as copper or aluminum used along the eaves and rakes to allow water run-off to drip clear of the sides of the building.

**Eaves:** The edge of the roof parallel to the ground. Eaves typically project beyond the side of the building holding rain water away from walls.

**Flashings:** The system used to seal membrane edges at walls, expansion joints, drains, gravel stops and other places where the membrane is interrupted or terminated.

- **Base Flashing:** That portion of the flashing attached to or resting on the deck and extending vertically on a penetration or wall to seal the edge of the membrane.
- **Counter Flashing:** That portion of the flashing attached to a vertical surface to prevent water from migrating behind the base flashing.
- **Plumbing Vent Flashing:** The membrane or metal flashing that extends around the soil or waste stack where it penetrates the roof membrane.
- **Through Wall Flashing:** Metal or membrane built into a wall to act as a barrier directing water away from openings in exterior walls such as window and door openings and where walls meet intersecting rooflines.

**Gravel Stop:** A flanged copper device, designed to provide a continuous finished edge for roofing materials and to prevent loose aggregate from washing off the roof.

**Membrane:** A flexible or semi-flexible material, functions as the waterproofing component in roofing or waterproofing assembly, and whose primary function is the exclusion of water.

**Parapet:** A barrier which is an extension of the wall at the edge of a roof, which extends above the roof line. Parapets can also be found on a terrace or balcony.

**Pitch:** The degree of roof incline expressed as the ratio of the rise, in inches, to a span or run of 12 inches.

**Pitch Box:** A flanged open bottom enclosure made of sheet metal, plastic or rubber placed around a penetration through the roof, filled with grout and bituminous or polymeric sealants to seal the area around the penetration.

**Sleeper:** Wood plastic or metal dunnage placed on a flat roof onto which roof top equipment is supported or fastened. In some cases they are covered in metal or membrane waterproofing.

**Tapered Insulation:** Rigid sheet insulation manufactured with a specific slope. It is placed under a waterproofing membrane to create a positive pitch to drains or gutters. Its purpose is to eliminate ponding water.

**Valley:** Internal angle formed by the intersection of two sloping planes.



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