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"Shakes consume little manufacturing energy, because much of the work is done by hand," Hyatt states. "Western Red Cedar and Yellow Cedar are naturally durable roofing and siding products that are decay and bug resistant as well as being superior insulators. Certi-label™ shakes and shingles meet Class 3 and 4 impact resistance ratings, and Certigrade® shingles and Certi-Split® shakes withstand wind speeds from 173 to 245 mph."

Hyatt notes that results vary, depending upon building height, location, roof slope and environment. Pressure treated fire retardant shakes and shingles are also available. Western Red Cedar roofs need to breathe, so it's crucial to install a permeable underlayment underneath and use the proper fasteners. According to Costhelper Home & Garden, shingle costs range from \$400 to \$700 per square and shakes from \$600 to \$900 per square. See home.costhelper.com/wood-shingle-roof.html for details.

CLAY AND CONCRETE

Since ancient Roman times, terra cotta (clay) has been utilized as roofing tile material. Ludowici Roof Tile has manufactured terra cotta roof tiles in North America since 1888.

"The durability and architectural beauty of clay tiles make it a popular choice for high profile projects and homes," replies Brian Martucci, Regional Manager - Midwest, Ludowici Roof Tile. "And clay tiles can be made to match any architectural style - from Spanish and Mission, to old world English cottage to modern and sleek. They can even be made to look like authentic shake and slate roofs but without the maintenance."

Martucci notes that while prices can vary from \$325 to \$1,900 per square, depending upon the type of tile profile, glaze and other factors like custom textures, clay roof tiles come with the longest lifespan of any roofing material. Many tile roofs installed by Ludowici at the beginning of the last century are still in place and looking beautiful today. Products are 100% recyclable as they are made of local and natural materials (clay and water) through a unique process which creates no waste. "At the end of their lifespan," Martucci adds, "the tiles can be recycled and used as gravel walkways, filler or filter components for future construction."

METAL

Durable, highly weather resistant, color retention, energy efficient, low maintenance and fire retardant - a metal roof offers homeowners many benefits. Labor and material costs range from \$700 to \$1,200 per

TOP: Stately and beautiful, this home shows Georgian Shingle Tiles using a blend of Clay Red and Clay Red with Moss Green Mix. Photo courtesy Ludowici Roof Tile. Photography: Rob Weber. MIDDLE: Truly magnificent, this white metal roof is energy efficient, fire retardant and low maintenance while offering beautiful curb-side appeal. Photo courtesy Diversified Metal Roofing Company of Anoka. Photography: Bill Anderson. BELOW: Lightweight and interlocking synthetic slate, textured LudoSlate is available in 11 colors for an architecturally striking look. Photo courtesy Ludowici Roof Tile.

square with installation. But with manufacturer warranties up to 50 years, a metal roof should last the life of your home.

"Metal roofs reflects the sun's UV rays by as much as 70% or more and may save up to 40% in heating and cooling energy costs," states Tracy Ellingson, owner of Diversified Metal Roofing Company in Anoka, Minn. "Steel roofing is a green product comprised of 25% to 40% recycled materials, and it's 100% recyclable. Weight varies from 100 to 150 pounds per square. They will not burn, and they are resistant to 160 mph winds."

During heavy rains, a metal roof is quiet and sounds similar to an asphalt roof, however the pitch of the sound may differ. Consider placing snow brakes near entry or walkable areas to prevent large amounts of snow from coming down. "Metal roofs are permanent," Ellingson adds. "In the event of replacing a damaged panel or adding on to your home, they can be difficult to remove."

FIBER CEMENT

For decades, fiber cement tiles have been used as an alternative to slate roofs. When they were initially developed, they contained asbestos to hold the mold for the profile of the tile. The asbestos has been replaced with composites. Today's tiles are made with fiber-wood, cement and clay.

"Fiber cement tiles are lighter than slate and weigh only slightly more than wooden shingles. They are durable, fireproof and are available in many styles, textures, colors and shapes including straight cover slating, or chamfered corners, scalloped, ogee shape and wave pan tiles," explains Darren Opatz, Roofing Sales Specialist at Western Products in Fargo, North Dakota.

Over time, fiber cement tiles can show wear. They are also susceptible to fungal growth. Cost per square range from \$180 to \$300, and installation costs per square vary from \$200 to \$400.

SLATE

Slate is a roofing product that has been utilized for centuries. Long lasting with a beautiful appearance, slate is renowned for its high resistance to the assaults of rain, snow and wind. Environmentally friendly, low maintenance, fireproof, and non-staining, a slate roof will last a lifetime. Costs per square vary from \$350 to \$600, with installation costs ranging from \$300 to \$550.

"Available in unique colors and textures that will enhance any roof, durable slate is the perfect marriage of beauty and practicality," concludes Opatz. "Slate is a natural product, which means that no two pieces are exactly alike. Slight variations in color, texture, thickness and shading enhance its natural beauty, and the combination of appearance and performance sets slate roofs apart from any other roof system."

Whatever your roofing preference, choose a quality product from a reputable dealer. Be sure to hire a licensed contractor for installation. Know your options. Evaluate all the pros and cons. Examine your budget. Factor in the long-term benefits.

Armed with knowledge, you'll be sure to make the right decision about which roofing product will protect your home for years to come. -L&H



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