

Roofer

Shingle houses and seal flat commercial roofs. Quick to enter, in short supply, hot and high.

TYPICAL PAY

\$64,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$46k to \$92k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**House roofs, commercial flat roofs,
condo towers, re-roofing jobs**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 helps but some employers will take you without it. Math and shop are useful.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks
A roofing contractor or the union hall. Showing up as a labourer for a season is the usual way in.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
With Skilled Trades Ontario, Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, or your province's trades body.
- 4 Work and study** 2 to 3 years
About 4,000 hours in Ontario: roughly 3,500 on the job plus two in-school levels of about 6 weeks at a college or union training centre.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam. The Red Seal endorsement lets you work in any province.

Pros and cons

- + Certified in 2 to 3 years, no debt
- + Employers are short on roofers almost everywhere in Canada
- + Easy to start your own company
- Falls are a leading cause of death on construction sites
- Extreme heat in summer, cold and ice in the shoulder seasons
- Seasonal layoffs in winter in most of Canada

Good to know

A roof lasts 20 to 30 years

Asphalt shingles, the most common roof on Canadian houses, wear out in about 20 to 30 years. Every house in the country needs a roofer at least a few times in its life.

Falls are the number one killer

Falls from height are consistently among the top causes of death and critical injury on Canadian construction sites. That is why Ontario requires working at heights training before you can go up.

Optional boosts

Red Seal endorsement. Flat and low-slope membrane roofing. Metal roofing and cladding. Manufacturer certifications.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Roofers, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Roofer

Skilled Trades Ontario

Alberta Apprenticeship (Tradeseecrets)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/roofer>



Scan for the full clicker