

Asphalt Shingle Roof Installation JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A roofing crew will install asphalt shingles on a released pitched wood roof at a new low-rise building. The deck and underlayment are already prepared, and conventional fall protection and safe access are installed. This fictional learning example describes planned controls; it records no actual inspection or work authorization.

- The actual slope, surface, anchors and work-position arrangement are evaluated before roof access.
- Roof-load limits, shingle product instructions and fastening details govern staging and installation.
- Tear-off, deck repair, roof-truss work, safety-monitor-only methods and improvised toe boards are excluded.

Questions before work

- Which fall system protects every access and installation position?
- How are shingle bundles loaded and restrained within roof limits?
- What surface or weather conditions require the crew to leave the roof?

Task Hazard Control

1 Release the pitched roof work area

Hazard: A weak deck or incomplete fall system can cause a fall or collapse.

Control: Roofing lead confirms deck/underlayment handover and the selected fall-protection, access and rescue arrangements. Walk only the released protected route; correct exposed holes or unsuitable anchors before work.

Verification: Lead checks the complete access-to-installation route.

Reasoning: Roof preparation and safe work access require separate evidence.

2 Load and stage bundles

Hazard: Heavy bundles can overload the roof or slide onto workers below.

Control: Use the planned hoisting/delivery method and permitted stack locations. Restrain stock for the slope and conditions, keep eaves clear and separate the ground drop zone.

Verification: Material lead verifies load distribution and bundle stability.

Reasoning: Roof slope changes the material's storage behavior.

3 Arrange work positions and tools

Hazard: Poor footing or hose routing can pull a worker off balance.

Control: Use the selected protected work-position arrangement and tool instructions. Route hoses/cords away from travel and fall-system interference; never use an unapproved makeshift platform to compensate for the slope.

Verification: Foreperson checks footing and tool/fall-system interfaces before fastening.

Reasoning: The work position must accommodate the actual slope.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Lay and fasten shingles

Hazard: Fastening, sharp edges and awkward reaching can injure workers.

Control: Follow product layout and fastening details from protected positions. Keep hands outside the nail path, use the actual nailer's safe mode and controls, and advance material without reaching beyond stable footing.

Verification: Installer checks tool operation and product fastening as work advances.

Reasoning: A fastening pattern does not replace nailer or fall controls.

5 Complete transitions and ridge work

Hazard: Changing slope or reaching the ridge can defeat the earlier protection arrangement.

Control: Reassess the protected position before ridge, hip or transition work. Use the system's details and permitted access; hold any task that requires an unplanned anchor transfer or unprotected edge approach.

Verification: Lead verifies protection for each changed work position.

Reasoning: The final roof courses may create a different fall route.

6 Clear and hand over the roof

Hazard: Loose fasteners, offcuts or unsealed work can expose later crews.

Control: Collect debris without sweeping it over the edge, secure remaining materials and communicate incomplete flashing or product sealing work. Leave required access/protection in place for the next task.

Verification: Lead checks the roof and ground zone before release.

Reasoning: Cleanup must maintain the same roof and falling-object protection.

Pause and reassess

- Wet, icy, dusty or wind-affected surfaces impair control.
- Deck, loading or anchor/protection conditions differ from the release.
- Tool, material or ridge transition cannot be managed from protected positions.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Work carefully and wear PPE.

More useful: Use the selected protected work-position arrangement and tool instructions. Route hoses/cords away from travel and fall-system interference; never use an unapproved makeshift platform to compensate for the slope.

Needs improvement: Check that everything is ready.

More useful: Roofing lead confirms deck/underlayment handover and the selected fall-protection, access and rescue arrangements. Walk only the released protected route; correct exposed holes or unsuitable anchors before work.

Decisions that change the analysis

Does roof slope make a warning line sufficient for this job?

Do not apply low-slope roofing options to pitched/steep-slope work by assumption. Select the protection required for the actual slope and operation. This example uses conventional protection planned for every position.

What must the crew record for actual use?

Identify the actual equipment and work boundaries, responsible people, applicable criteria, inspection findings and open actions. Resolve changes with affected crews and obtain required project authorization before work.

Training needs

- Applicable roof fall-protection training, anchor use and task-specific rescue planning.
- Shingle product, load staging and actual roofing nailer instruction.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.501 Duty to have fall protection

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.501>

OSHA 1926.503 Fall protection training

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.503>

GAF Roof system installation resources

<https://www.gaf.com/en-us/roofing-materials/residential-roofing-materials/system-installation>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.