

Roofing/Gutters/Construction



When pursuing a career in roofing and other general construction there are not many requirements that need to be met. More often than not you do not need a college degree, but like most jobs it would help when getting employed. As a roofer there are a large amount of angles, measurements and numbers that you need to deal with so knowing some basic geometry and algebra is very important. Construction such as roofing is not for everyone; most of the time you are outside for 8-10 hours a day with temperatures sometimes reaching over 90 degrees. As you can imagine, standing on top of a black roof with gloves, long pants and super thick specialty roofing boots doesn't sound like a very good day.



In this picture, the roofer is installing shingles with a nail gun. Like I said, he is wearing a hat, gloves, pants, a black t-shirt, and all of the gear and tool that he would need. That piece of 2x4 that he has if foot has a very important purpose. It is pretty obvious why it is there but basically it is for the roofer to have some footing on the roof so he is less likely to slip. What me and my dad do is use square shaped foam pads from an old leather couch, we would set it on the roof and when you put pressure on it the rough texture of the roof would catch on the foam and it wouldn't move at all.



As shown in the picture you see, working on a roof is not easy and is hard work. I am almost 18 and have already been told I

will probably suffer from chronic back pain down the road because I strained my back while working on a really steep roof and never got it looked at. This career will definitely have a toll on your body.



Now contrary to popular belief the worst part of roofing is not working in the heat, it's not the 8-10 hour days, and it isn't even the muscle pain and soreness that you feel at the end of everyday. The worst part is carrying packs on shingles up the ladder. As you can see in the top-most picture there is no harness, there is no safety net, it's dangerous. Not only is it super dangerous, but each pack of these shingles is about 85-90 pounds each. To keep things running smoothly and not slow anyone down, we are required to carry at least 2 packs of these shingles up at a time. It's hard and exhausting

but it has to be done. There are lift that you attach next to the ladder that will lift them up for

you, but working for a business that my dad created that is local, that is a luxury that we don't necessarily need, or can afford.