



DuraShield Roofing Madison Details Why Homeowners Are Switching from Cedar Shakes to DaVinci Composite Roofs

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Homeowners across Wisconsin and northern Illinois are increasingly replacing traditional cedar shake roofs with DaVinci composite alternatives due to maintenance costs, durability concerns and insurance challenges, according to insights from DuraShield Roofing Madison.

The shift stems from issues associated with natural cedar materials, which require ongoing care in variable climates. DuraShield Roofing Madison, a certified installer of DaVinci Roofscapes products, outlines this trend through its examination of roofing performance and long-term considerations.

Natural cedar shakes attract property owners with their rustic appearance and wood texture. However, these roofs involve regular inspections for damage, annual cleanings to address moss, mold and insects, and applications of sealants or preservatives. Damaged shingles often lead to repairs, contributing to time and expense.

Cedar materials face vulnerabilities from weather. Moisture can cause rot, decay and mold, while heat leads to warping and splitting. UV exposure from sunlight degrades wood fibers, and hail or wind can crack or dislodge shingles, resulting in leaks. In areas with fluctuating weather, these factors often require interventions.

Cedar shake roofs typically last 20 to 30 years, though this can extend to 40 to 50 years with proper maintenance, according to roofing industry sources. Environmental conditions, ventilation issues or installation factors can further reduce longevity, leading to earlier replacements.

Fire susceptibility adds to cedar roofing concerns. Untreated cedar shakes are flammable, increasing risks in dry conditions or wildfire-prone areas. Embers, sparks or lightning can ignite the material, potentially leading to property damage.

Insurance data highlights challenges with cedar roofs. According to industry reports, 60 percent of national insurers either refuse coverage for homes with wood roofs or impose strict limitations. This stems from elevated risks of fire and storm damage, particularly for aged or dry materials. In Wisconsin, policyholders often face requirements to replace cedar roofs to retain coverage, or shifts to actual cash value policies that account for depreciation.

By comparison, DaVinci composite roofs use polymer-based materials that replicate the color and texture of natural cedar. These roofs involve no routine maintenance and resist fading, cracking, rotting and insect issues without staining, sealing or tile replacements.

DaVinci products handle storms, heat, freezing temperatures, hail and winds, with a Class 4 impact rating and Class A fire rating. Their design incorporates recyclable materials and reduces waste in production, while the longer lifespan limits replacement frequency.

These composite roofs carry a lifetime limited warranty for defects like cracking or fading, transferable upon property sale. With an expected lifespan of 50 years or more, they offer potential cost savings over time through decreased repairs and maintenance, as noted in roofing industry analyses.

DuraShield Roofing Madison is one of the select contractors in the area certified to install DaVinci composite roofing products. As a Madison roofing company established in 2003, it provides services including roof repairs, replacements, inspections and 24/7 emergency responses for residential, commercial and multi-family properties.

The company's service area covers southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. This reach allows property

owners access to various roofing options, from asphalt shingles and metal systems to slate, tile and flat roofs such as EPDM and TPO.

Beyond DaVinci installations, DuraShield maintains certifications as an Owens Corning Preferred Contractor and GAF Certified installer, reflecting its use of materials from established manufacturers. Product warranties extend from 25 to 50 years, backed by workmanship guarantees.

Storm damage evaluations form a central service, with inspectors assessing effects from wind, hail and other elements. This assists homeowners during weather transitions that can affect roof structures.

"Homeowners are identifying the maintenance and risk factors of cedar shakes," said Anthony B. Walsh, CEO of DuraShield Roofing Madison. "DaVinci composite roofs are an alternative that involves less upkeep."

The company also handles energy-efficient metal roofing, tile options and flat systems for commercial buildings. It holds an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and collaborates with groups including Habitat for Humanity and The Salvation Army.

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DuraShield Roofing & Contracting

At DuraShield, we take pride in our commitment to quality workmanship and exceptional customer service. Our roof installers undergo continuous training to keep their knowledge of best practices up-to-date so we can guarantee quality workmanship.

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