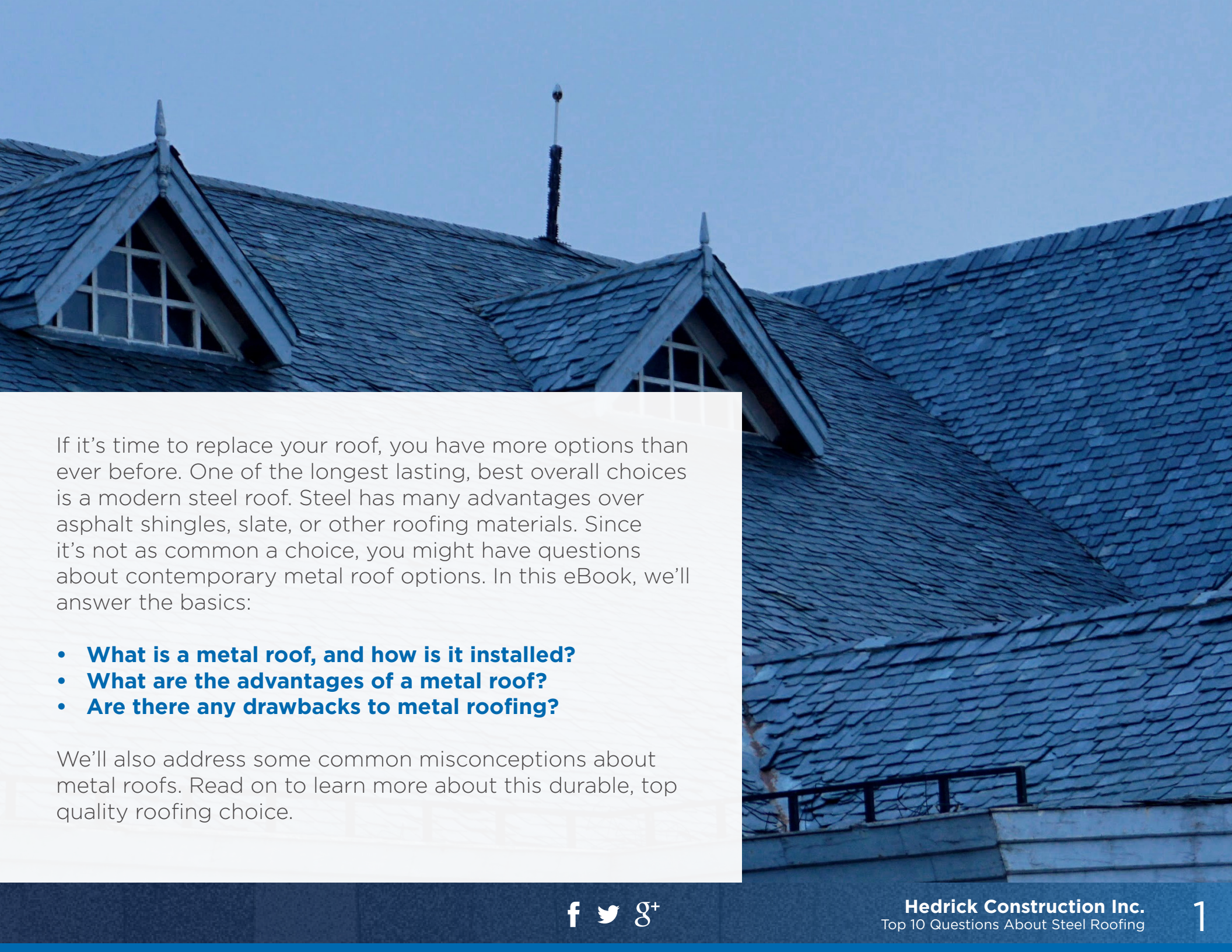




# THAT'S SO METAL

**TOP 10 QUESTIONS ABOUT STEEL ROOFING**





If it's time to replace your roof, you have more options than ever before. One of the longest lasting, best overall choices is a modern steel roof. Steel has many advantages over asphalt shingles, slate, or other roofing materials. Since it's not as common a choice, you might have questions about contemporary metal roof options. In this eBook, we'll answer the basics:

- **What is a metal roof, and how is it installed?**
- **What are the advantages of a metal roof?**
- **Are there any drawbacks to metal roofing?**

We'll also address some common misconceptions about metal roofs. Read on to learn more about this durable, top quality roofing choice.

# TOP 10

## QUESTIONS ABOUT STEEL ROOFING





# 1. What is a residential metal roof made of?

When you think of a metal roof, it's likely you think about some kind of barn or shed with a corrugated metal roof or a warehouse with exposed metal sheet roofing. **Residential metal roofing is made of 24- or 26-gauge rolled steel sheets with a metallic, rust-preventing coating and a baked-on paint finish.** Steel roofing products can be coated with either zinc (referred to as “galvanized” steel) or a mixture of aluminum and zinc (called “galvalume” or “zincalume”). The aluminum/zinc mix typically lasts longer because it is more resistant to corrosion, but it is more expensive. The coatings are offered in several thicknesses; thicker coating will last longer and costs more.

**In addition to the coating, metal roofs usually have an additional decorative finish.** Paint finishes vary in quality; a low-quality paint or coating may fade or chalk. A premium certified paint coating can help reflect UV light and will stay beautiful with little to no maintenance. Stone-coated steel is a very popular type of steel roofing product. It has a thin layer of stone permanently adhered to the metal. This gives it many of the aesthetic, decorative qualities of stone while maintaining the advantages of steel and improving its corrosion resistance.



## 2. Why would you choose a steel roof?

**Depending on the quality of the metal, steel roofs can last up to 70 years and come with warranties ranging from 20 years to a lifetime.** A steel roof resists fire, insects, and severe weather and effectively seals out moisture to prevent problems like mold, mildew, and rot. Rain and snow easily slide off of a steel roof's slick surface, so it's less likely to form ice dams in the winter. A coated steel roof also reflects sunlight instead of absorbing it into the home and protects your home from damaging UV radiation.

**Steel roofs handle storms and hail better than any other type of roofing material, withstanding winds up to 140 mph!** This is due partly to their construction; the metal panels are installed in an interlocking, overlapping pattern and screwed down in an "x" pattern. This allows them to withstand extreme weather conditions and not blow off as easily as basic asphalt shingles. The overlapping pattern also creates a pocket of air that provides extra insulation to the home. This can increase your home's energy efficiency, making it more comfortable and efficient all year round.

**Unlike asphalt roofs, which require regular inspection, maintenance, and repairs, steel requires very little maintenance.** It creates a much stronger protective barrier between your home and the outside environment, resisting environmental damage and maintaining its durability. A steel roof can last a lifetime, eliminating the need to replace those asphalt shingles every 20 years or so.





### 3. Won't a metal roof be ugly?

**Many homeowners are concerned that a metal roof will make their home look like a warehouse or barn.** While some people want a rustic look, today's modern steel roofing can be designed to look just like almost any other traditional roofing materials, including asphalt, slate, shake, cedar, or clay. This means you can have a roof that's both beautiful and durable enough to withstand the elements. You can choose from a variety of colors, textures, shapes, and designs to match the style of your home. Stone-coated steel products can look almost identical to budget-breaking slate roofs (which are also heavy, prone to cracking, and require more upkeep). Whatever your aesthetic preferences or the requirements of your homeowner's association covenants, you're sure to find something to suit you among the wide range of metal roof styles and finishes.





## 4. Won't the roof be loud? I hate the noise of pinging metal.

**In addition to the custom fabrication and design, there's another big difference between the metal roofing used on sheds or warehouses and that used in residential applications: the installation.** If you look up in a warehouse, barn, or shed, you can likely see straight through to the exterior roof. This lack of insulation or underlayment allows the sound to resonate and travel through the interior space of the building.

**Installing a solid sheathed roof deck under metal roofing products has a damping effect on the sound.** When something like rain or hail comes into contact with the roof, the sound vibrations are absorbed into the layers below. In home roofs, metal roofing is installed on a solid plywood deck, just like that used under asphalt shingles. The same air pockets between the panels that make them resistant to the elements also provide extra insulation to help deaden sound. Any additional layers between the metal roof and your living space, including decking underlayment, moisture barriers, attic insulation, and a sheetrock ceiling, can also help keep any noise from reaching the interior of your home.



## 5. Will it make my home very cold (or hot)?

You might worry that heat from your home will escape through the attic in the winter or that the roof will get very hot in the summer sun, raising your home's temperature. This couldn't be farther from the truth! The biggest factor in maintaining a comfortable home temperature in the winter is having adequate insulation in your attic floor so that heat doesn't transfer up from the home and dissipate through the attic and roof.

**Installing a steel roof is a great way to keep the heat out of your home and lower your cooling expenses during the warm months of the year.** Significantly less heat is admitted into homes with this type of roofing because the metal actually reflects solar heat (unlike dark asphalt roofs, which absorb it). Metal has been found to reduce heat flow through the roof by 45%, resulting in a 25% savings in summer cooling costs. The coating on steel roofs also defends homes against harmful ultraviolet radiation. Plus, the same pockets of air that are between the overlapping panels that make the roof durable and damp sound also provide an extra layer of insulation to keep the home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.





## 6. Isn't a steel roof heavy?

You may worry, especially if you have an older home, that your house can't support a metal roof.

**Actually, contemporary steel roofing products are very lightweight—less than two pounds per square foot installed. By comparison**, a fiber cement shingle roof weighs in at about six pounds per square foot; a concrete or clay tile roof can run a whopping six to fifteen pounds per square foot! Stone-coated steel roofing products can give your home the look and feel of traditional, decorative roofing products without the need for additional bracing, framing, or supports.

## 7. Will it attract lightning strikes?

**It's actually just a myth that a metal roof will increase the risk of your home being struck by lightning during a storm!**

Lightning discharges electricity from the clouds to the ground by striking the highest point in its area of reach. If there aren't trees or power lines near your house, that high point may be your roof—regardless of what it's made of. If your roof does get struck by lightning, the lightning will disperse through the home's structure and into the ground. Asphalt shingle roofs are susceptible to damage from lightning, and they are made of combustible materials, making them more likely to catch fire. A metal roof may actually makes your home safer because it's non-flammable! Because of its durability and non-flammability, metal is actually a preferred roofing material in areas with a lot of lightning and thunderstorm activity—like Iowa! You should also take precautions like installing a lightning rod, which can help avoid damage to your home and roof in case of lightning strikes.





## 8. Is a metal roof good for the environment?

**In addition to saving energy (and money on heating and cooling costs), steel has other eco-friendly advantages.** A big one is its durability; its longer lifespan translates into less waste. Asphalt is made of petroleum and fiberglass and has a short life span—around 15–25 years in contrast to up to 70 for steel. As a result, nearly 1 million tons of asphalt roofing ends up in landfills every year! Many metal roofing products are composed of recycled materials and can be easily recycled again at the end of your roof's life. Our steel roofing is composed of up to **50% recycled material**.

A highly reflective and highly emissive painted or granular-coated metal roof, like most stone-coated steel roofing products, can contribute to reducing urban air temperatures. Many urban and suburban areas experience elevated temperatures compared to rural surroundings. This phenomenon is known as an “**urban heat island**.” Even smaller cities, suburbs, and towns can be heat islands. Having a “cool roof” helps reduce overall urban temperatures, which helps reduce energy consumption both in your own home and in your community.





## 9. Will my insurance costs go down?

**Your homeowner's insurance company may give you a discount on your policy premiums for installing a steel roof.**

Steel is a fire-resistant material, which lowers the risk of fire in your attic and elsewhere in the home. Since a metal roof is also extremely effective at sealing moisture out of your home, it has the added benefit of reducing your risk of mold and mildew, which can pose serious health risks in addition to causing extensive damage to your home. Steel roofing systems have up to 150-mph wind ratings, meaning they can stand up to sustained high winds or wind gusts equal to an F2-rated tornado!

**Metal roofs also address one of the top weather-related insurance issues in Iowa: hail.** Contrary to popular misconceptions, they actually withstand hail better than asphalt shingle or other types of roofs. Today's metal roof systems usually undergo "UL 2218 Impact Resistance testing" and are rated to withstand the highest, most severe level (Class IV). Metal roofing products that are certified in this way are classified as the most impact resistant on the market, which makes many homeowners eligible for insurance discounts. Unlike asphalt shingles, the impact resistance of steel roofing doesn't diminish as the roof gets older. Plus, most metal roof systems come with warranties that neither the material structure nor the coatings on the surface of the metal will be damaged by hail.





## 10. Can I afford a metal roof?

**Although steel roofs are initially more expensive than many other roofing choices, over the long run they can be much more economical.** With long lifespans and minimal maintenance costs, metal roofs can be very affordable if you intend to stay in your home for a long time. While asphalt shingles are initially very affordable, they require regular maintenance and repair and last an average of only 15-25 years. Plus, metal roofs better maintain their original appearance rather than wearing down over time.



# CONTACT US!

The roofing professionals at Hedrick Construction will help you choose a metal roof that's perfect for your home and have it expertly installed. Contact us today to talk about your options and set up an appointment for a consultation and free estimate.

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