

Traditional cozy natural wood shingle and shake

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Wood shingle and shake, which are traditional roofing material in North America, characterize inherent warmth and romantics, as well as show the natural cottage style but elegances. Therefore, up to now they are still popular on the roofing market, which are the first choice on some new constructions. As we have known the individual cases some community only accepted these kinds of roof.

Nevertheless they dominated the market in North America. But with the emerging of asphalt shingle and concrete tile, the market got very competitive. Plus the original wood shingle and shake material is different from the old time in the last 10 to 20 years. We will simply introduce the material and application to let everybody know the scenario. Basically wood roof is shingle or shake. Traditionally the former is sawn product. The rear is hand split. But nowadays both mainly come down from machine. The difference is that shake looks rougher and commonly larger and thicker than shingle. Both are from cedar, cypress or red wood and can be classified as 4 grades. The first is blue label which comes from heartwood and no knots, 100% end grain. The second is red label that is mostly the same as blue label but small portion sapwood with flat grain and few knots allowed. The third and forth are for inferior structure for example shed roof and wall. Only the first and second can be used on the roof. To select the material properly is so critical that it decides the quality of the roof. In the old times, the material came from the long life mature trees. They had generated enough resin inside to defend weather and organism. They can have 25 to 50 years effective roof life depending on installing in various climate locations. But in the last 10 to 20 years, because there are few eligible trees and the government preservation, people cut the trees are not mature enough to make the shingle and shake, which caused the roof failed only in more than 10 years. Certainly there are high quality products on the markets, also some even pre-treated to avoid UV damage and organism growing. You only need to think about the cost when you build or replace a roof.



In order to increase the life of roof application, something we could do regularly. 1st, check the roof valley and gutter before raining season every year, clean the leaves and debris to avoid them holding the moisture and mold growing, which can cause leaking; 2nd, check the top roof downspouts to drain the water direct to lower gutter, otherwise it may cause the washed roof premature failure; 3rd, once there is mold or moss growing, use the lower concentrated bleach to wash it away; 4th, check the ridge caps which is more vulnerable to weather and replace the cracked or missed pcs; 5th, check the roof shingle or shake of crumple, crack or displaced pcs which is weak points to water leaking. If the repair is over 15% of the roof area, please consider replacement.