Understanding the Importance of Trusses in Roofing Systems

by Chantay Smithingell

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Roofing materials, including the sheeting and flashings, are a massive dead load, which if not supported properly can collapse and damage interior furniture or injure building occupants. Thanks to trusses, this group of dead loads remains unwavering for as long as the building stands. Hidden within the ceiling above the deck, trusses play a major role in keeping every home a safe place to live in.

A truss is a structural element composed of straight members or tendons designed to receive and transfer the roof loads to the support below the deck. Its direct carrier, the ceiling joists, receives its load plus the load it carries and transfers them to the connecting beams and columns. Depending on the roof size, several trusses are required to adequately hold the roof sheeting without causing any deflection. The distance between trusses is measured according to the pitch of the roof and the number of rafters to be installed.

A roof truss may come in different materials and shapes depending on the type of roofing it will support. Typical gable-type roofing may consist of triangular trusses with all tendons straight, while dome-shaped roofing may require arc-shaped trusses with some tendons curved out. Home roof trusses are usually made of lumber while trusses for large buildings or facilities are made of steel bars and plates.

The tendons of a wood truss are often connected by bolted metal plates at the nodes, while those of a metal truss are connected by either bolted or welded metal plates. The arrangement of each tendon is well-defined to distribute load evenly toward the underlying supports. Forming the frame across the roof plane, which the trusses are expected to support, are the rafters, pieces of wood or metal that provide a surface where the roofing materials will be attached.

Without the trusses, the roof will not have shape and stability. Like the bodyâ€™s skeletal system, the trusses serve as the roofâ€™s framework. As long as the trusses are secure, roofing companies Columbus Ohio and other industrialized cities recommend can still conduct roof repair or reroofing. Damaged trusses translate to ineffective roofing system.

When leaking occurs on the roof, it can drip down the trusses and hasten their deterioration. Wooden trusses rot easily in a constantly moist environment, while metal corrodes under the same condition. Before roofing companies in Columbus Ohio agree to replace the roofing materials, they check for any truss damage that may compromise their output.

To learn more about the vital parts of roofing systems, which roofing companies in Columbus Ohio carefully check before any remodeling, visit ehow.com. This website provides interesting instruction on how to care for your roofing and tips on finding the right roofing company.

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Chantay Smithingell - About Author:
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