When Your New Hampshire Roofing Contractor Starts Talking Animals

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Article published on February 27th 2012 | Home Improvement

When animals get into the attic, they cause all sorts of damage to the entire roofing system and everything under it. However, when roofers talk about animals and roofing, sometimes they are not forms of roofing damage at all. In fact, they may be referring to parts of the roof that may need attention. Next time your roofer starts talking about alligators, butterflies, and other animals, he may be referring to one of the following:

Alligatoring: Asphalt shingles tend to crack after years of being exposed to harsh elements; roofers refer to this as alligatoring. This is the process where the asphalt shingles or surface shows cracks as a result of losing its moisture, similar to soil during drought. It is called as such because the cracks tend to resemble the hide of an alligator. Letting this problem last for too long will eventually lead to severe roofing failure.

Butterfly roof: Traditional roofs are typically designed with the gables sloping upward; but the opposite happens with a butterfly roof. In a butterfly roof, the two gables slope downward like a pair of mountain slopes with a valley between them. During rain, the valley between the two gables act like a gutter, collecting rainwater and directing the water downward. It is called so because the two gables sloping downward somehow represent the wings of a butterfly.

Cricket: The cricket in roofing New Hampshire residents have is responsible for protecting the gap between the chimney and the roof from seeping moisture. It is shaped like a mini roof, diverting rainwater like when you put a pillar in the middle of a flowing river. This allows the home to have a chimney for their house without offering any means of entry for different forms of precipitation. Why it is called a cricket is still a subject of debate.

Fishmouth: If alligatoring indicates too little moisture in roofing shingles, a fishmouth indicates too much moisture. This is characterized by a part of a shingle slightly raised to form a mouth apparently similar to the mouth of a fish. New Hampshire roofing contractors say a fishmouth indicate severe moisture problem in the roof. The problem can be solved either by fixing the moisture problem or replacing the shingles.

Saddle roof: While the word "saddle" can also refer to the cricket, it is also associated with a unique New Hampshire roofing design. Construction of this kind of roof involves a great deal of geometry knowhow because of its intricate design, believed to be shaped like a saddle of a horse. Saddle roofs are close to rare in residential housing.

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Article Keywords:
new hampshire roofing, roofing new hampshire

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