



Roofing Takeoff Before You Order

Shingles are only one line in a roofing order. Measure the roof, then check the layers and water-management details that make the takeoff complete.

A roof order fails when it stops at bundles. The dependable workflow turns the actual roof geometry into a complete weather-management scope.

Worked example from the live calculator

For a 2,000 sq ft 6/12 moderate roof, the live roofing calculator converts the slope to 2,236 sq ft and recommends 25.7 squares, or 78 bundles, including 15% waste.

Measure sloped area, then add honest waste

Footprint is not roof area on a pitched roof. Convert pitch to sloped area, then calculate squares and waste for valleys, hips, rakes, and cuts. A simple roof and a cut-up roof of the same footprint should not receive the same waste allowance.

Count the layers that protect the deck

Underlayment, fasteners, starter, ridge material, and ice-and-water protection have their own coverage rules. The underlayment engine makes these quantities visible before ordering, when a missed roll is cheap to correct rather than a delay on install day.

Finish the water and air path

Attic ventilation balances intake and exhaust, while gutters carry roof runoff away from the building. Neither is solved by the shingle count. Check both when the roof scope changes, particularly when adding ridge vent or changing drainage paths.

Key takeaway. A roofing takeoff begins with squares but ends with a complete water, air, and fastening scope.

Assumptions

- Field measurements and manufacturer coverage requirements control over a preliminary quantity estimate.

Sources

- Manufacturer installation instructions
- IRC roof and attic provisions, verify local adoption

Frequently asked questions

Why is pitch important if I know the house footprint?

Pitch adds surface area. Ordering from footprint alone understates shingles and underlayment.

Can leftover bundles be returned?

Often, but policies and dye-lot availability vary. Correct measurement is cheaper than depending on returns.

Does this replace a roof inspection?

No. It does not diagnose deck condition, flashing failures, or code-specific requirements.

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