

“Up On Top” News

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Criteria For LEED Roofing

The main requirement of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) roofing outlined by the United States Green Building Council is to minimize the urban heat island effect produced by remodeling existing buildings or by employing green practices in new construction.

Urban heat islands occur in metropolitan areas because most of the natural vegetation has been replaced by buildings and surfaces that absorb heat, ultimately causing surrounding air temperatures to rise. Traditional building practices such as waterproofing and using concrete and asphalt, which absorb the sun's rays and also increase energy usage inside buildings.

When roofing meets LEED requirements it earns one point in the USGBC rating system to qualify a structure as a green building. Additional points may be earned depending on how much the roofing material affects indoor energy consumption.

Solar Reflective Index (SRI)

of roofing must be at least 78 for new construction. Emissivity rating, which is the ability of a material to emit energy by radiation, must be a minimum of .90 for existing buildings when measured over at least 75 percent of a roof's surface.

A vegetated roof covering at least 50 percent of the area can also be used to meeting minimum LEED requirements.

In addition to reflectivity ratings, roofs may receive additional LEED rating points if they are constructed with recycled or locally manufactured materials. If the sum of post-consumer recycled content along with one-half of pre-consumer recycled content is at least 10 percent of the total value of materials used, then the roof will qualify for Materials and Resources 4.1 for Recycled Content Credit.

Credit 5.1 for Regional Materials awards an additional point if 10 percent of roofing materials used to be extracted, processed, or manufactured within 500 miles of the construction site.

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