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# Sustainable Roofing Buyers' Guide | Earth911.com

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## Sustainable Roofing Buyers' Guide

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For most people, buying a new roof is one of the most important and expensive maintenance decisions for their biggest investment. For many homeowners, the cheapest option is always the default choice while others choose a style they like and leave the details to a contractor.

It's not always easy to find out who makes your roofing material. It can be even harder to find out if they recycle or work to minimize their environmental impact. But the impact of our roofing choices, both on our homes and on the environment, is too great to ignore.

We've researched roofing materials and manufacturers to make [buying an eco-friendly roof](#) easier. Our results are far from comprehensive, but as more consumers begin to demand this information, more manufacturers will begin to provide it. When they do, we'll update our sustainable roofing results.

## Materials

In this article, we consider the merits of the most common manufactured roofing materials. Natural roofing materials are not manufactured, so they are not included in the comparison chart.

### Asphalt Shingle

Asphalt is the cheapest option. It is so common that many people assume you are talking about asphalt shingles when you talk about roofing.