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Putting a new roof over your head?

One of the ways to save money on the cost of home repairs is to do them yourself. As the do-it-yourselfer becomes more skilled, he takes on more complicated projects. If you are one of them, the time may come when you consider reroofing as a do-it-yourself job.

If reroofing is in order and you're considering whether to hire a contractor or do the roof installation on your own, remember that reroofing can be a difficult and hazardous job. Before going ahead, the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association suggests that you ask yourself these questions:

- Can I do the job as well as a professional?
- Am I willing to devote the time and effort to getting the job done correctly?
- Am I comfortable working at heights?

Unless the answer to these questions is yes, you're better off leaving reroofing in the hands of a professional roofing contractor.

Remember that steep-slope and high roofs or those with many angles, dormers or gables are best left to the professional.

To determine the pitch of your roof, measure how many inches it rises for each foot it runs. Roofs with slopes of

four to five inches per horizontal foot are the safest and easiest for the do-it-yourselfer. When the slope is less than four inches per foot, special application procedures are recommended.

If you chose to reroof yourself, ARMA says to be sure to follow these safety procedures:

- Keep people away from the work area.
- Place shingles and tools where they won't slide off the roof.
- Wear rubber-soled construction type shoes for secure footing.
- Apply shingles on clear days when it is warm, but not hot.
- Do not reroof in wet weather or when the temperature is below 40 degrees F.
- Reroof only when the roof deck and existing shingles are dry. Moisture makes roofs slippery and dangerous.
- Lift only light loads.
- Secure ladders top and bottom and keep the roof surface clear of debris.
- Never allow ladders to come in contact with power lines.

For additional information on roofing and what it can do for your home, send 50 cents for "A Homeowner's Guide to Quality Roofing" to ARMA, P.O. Box 3248, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-3248.

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