



Quality control: J.D. Candler Roofing trains its crews on top of its own building.

Roofers learn on the roof

Of life's three basic necessities — food, clothing and shelter — we tend to think least about the roof over our heads. That is, until it leaks.

A sound roof is something everyone takes for granted.

Ken Krelchelt, president of J.D. Candler Roofing and a Beverly Hills resident, says that where roofs are concerned, appearances often can be deceiving.

When Krelchelt acquired Candler Roofing in 1984, he learned very quickly that work habits, which affect final quality, varied greatly from contractor to contractor.

Each seemed to have his own way of putting on a shingled roof. Some did a great job, while others did poor work. This variation in quality was due mostly to the fact that crews weren't properly trained in good roofing practices, he found.

Safety also has been a major concern. In recent years, state and federal governments have mandated strict regulations that roofers must follow.

"Since work habits impact both quality and safety, it became clear to us that improvements in both areas could only come about by instituting standard ways of doing things," Krelchelt said.

So Candler Roofing trains its own roofers on the roof.

Before working on residential jobs, Krelchelt's crews undergo an orientation period on the roof.

There, they have the opportunity to look at specific details common to the average roof and to acquire the skills necessary for completing a quality job.

Most roofs fail because of poor workmanship on the perimeter edge, the starter at the lower edge of the roof, penetrations through the roof and flashing.

"It's not the shingles, it's the detail work," said Chuck Yannetta, general superintendent for Candler Roofing. "We're working to expand each worker's knowledge and instill good work and safety habits."

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