

SOLAR-READY FLAT ROOFS: WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE ADDING PANELS



866-ALT-ROOF
WWW.ALTROOFING.COM

HOT TOPIC
AUGUST 2026 ISSUE



As more businesses invest in renewable energy, solar panels have become an attractive way to reduce operating costs and improve sustainability. But before installing a solar energy system, it's important to make sure your **flat roof is ready for the investment**.

At **Alternative Roofing Systems Inc.**, we've seen firsthand how proper planning can help building owners maximize the performance and lifespan of both their roof and their solar system. Here's what you should consider before adding solar panels to your commercial flat roof.

START WITH YOUR ROOF'S CONDITION

One of the biggest mistakes property owners make is installing solar panels on an aging roof.

Solar systems are designed to last 25 years or more. If your roof is already nearing the end of its service life, replacing or restoring it before installation can save you from the expense of removing and reinstalling the panels later.

A professional roof inspection can identify:

- Membrane wear or damage
- Ponding water
- Flashing issues
- Seam separation
- Signs of leaks
- Structural concerns

Addressing these issues before solar installation protects your investment and helps avoid costly future repairs.

CAN YOUR ROOF HANDLE THE EXTRA WEIGHT?

While most commercial roofs can support solar panels, every building is different. A structural evaluation should confirm that your roof can safely handle:

- Solar panels
- Mounting systems
- Wind and snow loads
- Maintenance traffic

Washington's weather conditions—including heavy rain, wind, and occasional snow—make structural planning especially important.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ROOFING SYSTEM

Not all roofing materials perform equally when paired with solar. PVC roofing systems are an excellent choice because they offer:

- Exceptional durability
- Excellent waterproofing
- High reflectivity for improved energy efficiency
- Resistance to UV exposure
- Easy maintenance around solar equipment

If you're replacing your roof before adding solar, selecting a long-lasting commercial roofing system can help ensure both systems reach their full lifespan together.

PLAN FOR DRAINAGE AND ACCESS

Solar panels should never interfere with your roof's drainage system.

Proper design ensures:

- Roof drains remain unobstructed
- Water flows freely off the roof
- Technicians have safe access for maintenance
- Future roof inspections can be completed without removing equipment

A well-planned layout protects both your roofing system and your solar investment.

COORDINATE ROOFING AND SOLAR CONTRACTORS

The best solar projects happen when roofing and solar professionals work together from the beginning.

Coordinating both teams helps:

- Prevent accidental roof damage during installation
- Protect manufacturer warranties
- Ensure proper flashing and waterproofing
- Improve overall project efficiency

Working with experienced commercial roofing professionals before installation helps avoid unexpected issues later.

THINK LONG-TERM

Installing solar panels is a long-term investment, so your roof should be too.

If your roof only has a few years of life remaining, replacing it before adding solar is often the most cost-effective solution. Doing both projects at the same time reduces labor costs and eliminates the need to remove and reinstall panels when the roof eventually needs replacement.

WHY WORK WITH ALTERNATIVE ROOFING SYSTEMS INC.?

At Alternative Roofing Systems Inc., we help commercial property owners prepare their roofs for long-term performance. Whether you need a roof inspection, repairs, a complete replacement, or guidance before a solar installation, our experienced team will help ensure your roofing system is ready for what's next.



SOLAR-READY FLAT ROOFS: WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE ADDING PANELS



866-ALT-ROOF
WWW.ALTROOFING.COM

HOT TOPIC
AUGUST 2026 ISSUE