

## **Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs] Get Expert Answers on Metal Roofing**

Freedom Metals is proud to be the metal roofing experts serving Central Pennsylvania and beyond. To help our customers get the best results from their decision to install metal roofing, we offer expert answers you may need on your metal roofing project.

### ***What are the benefits of metal roofing versus shingles?***

Metal roofing is a permanent roof system. Metal is lighter than shingles, more resistant to wind and hail than shingles, and sheds snow and ice better. Metal is fireproof, offers many color options, and is easy to install.

### ***What tools should be used to cut metal?***

Tin snips, hand-held shears, or electric nibblers are ideal tools for cutting metal roofing and siding.

Improper cutting of the metal interferes with the galvanizing process, which will eventually cause rusting at the edge of the panel. While not recommended, if you use a power saw, it is imperative that the panel be turned exposed-side down, away from other unused or unapplied panels. Metal shavings may become embedded in the surface of the sheet, and if left alone, will quickly rust.

Cutting the metal using an electric saw may also cause metal burs. These burs will eventually cause rust at the edge of the panel. This will void any warranty. Panels should be thoroughly brushed after cutting to remove any particles of metal and caution should be taken that filings from cutting do not settle on the other panels.

### ***Can I store my metal outside?***

All metal roofing and siding should be stored in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. Water build up from condensation, moisture, and rain is not good. It is the primary cause for white rust to start on stacked galvanized and painted steel panels. Prolonged storage time is not recommended; however, if this is unavoidable, the following precautions should be taken:

1. Panels should be unbanded and stood on end against an interior wall, with the bottom ends spread out, off the ground, on blocks.
2. If moisture is found, each panel should be dried thoroughly.
3. If outside storage is unavoidable, one end of the panels should be slightly elevated for proper drainage. Cover bundles with a tarp, allowing circulation. A properly draped canvas tarpaulin, that allows air flow, is an example of a good protective cover. Never cover metal with plastic, for this promotes sweating and condensation.

Failure to follow these steps may result in a set storage stain and premature white rust, for which Freedom Metals cannot be held responsible.

***How much coverage does a panel provide?***

The Ag panel is a 36" net coverage steel roofing and siding panel. The panel has five ¾" high major ribs at 9" on center and eight intermediate stiffening ribs. The anti-siphoning side lap with purlin bearing edge improves the weather seal.

***What is the weight of your 28-gauge metal?***

The weight is 2.1 pounds per linear foot.

***What kind of paint is used on the 28-gauge metal?***

The Valspar Weather XL paint system has a silicone-protected polyester finish over ceramic/inorganic pigment combination to give it a highly durable color. These pigments are combined with proprietary polymers to provide optimum resistance to color and appearance changes caused by exposure to the elements. Colors have been tested over time to meet performance expectations.

***What kind of warranty comes with your 28-gauge prime material?***

The panel has a Valspar Weather XL siliconized-polyester paint system over a corrosion resistant substrate coating. This paint system offers a 40-year limited warranty on the metal products.

***What kinds of screws are used to apply metal?***

Fastgrip™ screws are the original drill screws designed for attaching metal building panels to a wood frame structure. Fastgrip™ screws are designed with a mechanical galvanized bonded washer that creates a lifetime seal. These screws are engineered to screw in the flats of the panel. Always keep your drills and drivers clean of accumulated paint remnants.

***What is the proper screw pattern?***

Proper application of the screws is in the flat, not in the rib, one screw beside each rib. In other words, four screws per row, two feet on center.

***Why use Fastgrip™ screws instead of nails?***

Fastgrip™ screws provide maximum holding power. Panel movement around the fastener due to wind and snow load is also eliminated. The inherent tendency of wood fibers to return to their original position actually draws Fastgrip™ screws tighter.

***What is the recommended overlap when splicing panels?***

Overlap the panels 16" on a roof pitch of 2/12 and under.  
Overlap the panels 8" to 12" on a roof pitch of 4/12 and over.

***What is the recommended minimum and maximum overhang on the gable and eave ends?***

Typically, a 1' overhang makes a roof more aesthetically pleasing. Other than aesthetics, there are no real advantages one way or the other. On eave ends, we recommend a 1.5" panel overhang if installing a gutter, and 3" to 6" without a gutter.

**Can metal be used on a flat roof?**

A roof with less than a 3/12 pitch may accumulate water at the bottom of the panel at the eave end. Although the panel is chemically treated to avoid metal rusting, it is inevitable that, over time, the moisture may soften the paint and peel back 2" to 3". Apply butyl tape to your panel seams. You may also notch the ends of your panels and bend downward to allow water run-off.

***What is the minimum roof pitch?***

New construction should allow a minimum slope of 3/12 pitch.

***What are the benefits of insulating a metal roof?***

Warm air pockets forming under a metal roof may cause condensation. Insulation serves as an excellent vapor barrier. There are several types of insulation that will deter your metal roof from sweating. Please consult your salesperson for some recommended insulation products.

***What metal panel is used for interior ceiling and/or walls?***

Interior liner or secondary metal is generally used for interior use.

***What is the difference between your single-rib profile and standing seam roofing?***

To properly answer this question, we must define each panel and look at a comparison.