CASE STUDY

KUHL SOLUTIONS TO CLIENT PROBLEMS

KUHL CASE #3

Minneapolis Cedar Roof Comparisons

Four Most Common Cedar Roofs Installed in Minneapolis

Here is a super basic description of the most common cedar roofs installed in Minnesota. We offer much deeper info on each in other Kuhl Case Studies.

16" Machine Sawn Shingles

18" Tapersawn Shakes

24" Medium Hand-Split Shakes

24" Heavy Hand-Split Shakes

16" Machine Sawn Shingles (Lifespan 17-21 Years)

Cedar shingles are used for both roof and side wall applications and offer a lighter, more refined appearance than hand-split shakes. Certain architectural home styles are more appropriate for Sawn Shingles which is the primary reason they are chosen in our experience. On average, this material ranges from 1/4" to 3/8" thick at the butt end and is installed with 5"courses. Expect to get between 17 and 21 years of service out of an unmaintained Cedar Shingle roof in Minnesota. Approximately 13% of Twin Cities cedar roofs are done in Machine Sawn Shingles.

18" Tapersawn Shakes (Lifespan 19-24 Years)

The least common material we see in the Twin Cities, the Tapersawn Shake is essentially a hybrid between a common 24" shake and a 16" shingle. We frequently urge clients to consider using Tapersawn Shakes instead of 16" shingles because they offer the same clean, architectural appearance but are substantially thicker. Remember, when it comes to cedar roofing, thicker is better (all else held equal of course). On average, this material ranges from 5/8" to 3/4" thick at the butt end and is installed with 7"courses. Expect to get between 19 and 24 years of service out of an unmaintained Tapersawn Shake roof in Minnesota. Approximately 1% of Twin Cities cedar roofs are done in Tapersawn Shakes, but that percentage increases each year as more people become familiar with it.

24" Medium Hand-Split Shakes (Lifespan 19-24 Years)

The most common cedar roofing material used in Minnesota, Medium Shakes are the workhorse of the industry. They are the go-to choice for home builders primarily because it is the most affordable wood roof one can find. The wide variations in quality from one load of Medium Shakes to the next also allows roofers to cut costs significantly, thus creating the perception of more value and increasing the likelihood Mediums will be selected (over tapersawn or hand-split heavy shakes, for example). On average, this material ranges from 1/2" to 5/8" thick at the butt end and is installed with 10"courses. Expect to get between 19 and 24 years of service out of an unmaintained Medium Shake roof in Minnesota. Approximately 70% of Twin Cities cedar roofs are done in Medium Shakes.

24" Heavy Hand-Split Shakes (Lifespan 25-30 Years)

The second most common cedar roofing material used in Minnesota. We encourage our clients to consider Heavy Shakes whenever possible because they offer substantially more long-term performance for a small increase in cost up front. From the ground most people can not tell the difference between Medium and heavy Shakes other than a general increased perception of quality because they have more meat. On average, this material ranges from 3/4" to 7/8" thick at the butt end and is installed with 10"courses. Expect to get between 25 and 30 years of service out of an unmaintained Heavy Cedar Shake roof in Minnesota. Approximately 16% of Twin Cities cedar roofs are done in Heavy Hand-Split Shakes.