

OTTAWA ADDITIONS

Materials & Finishes

Questions about building materials, insulation types, siding, roofing and interior finishing for additions

13 Expert Answers from Addition IQ

ottawaadditions.com/construction-brain

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Which roofing ties in cleanly on an Ottawa addition?

Tying a New Roof Into an Existing Home in Ottawa

The cleanest roof tie-in for an Ottawa addition depends on your existing roof pitch, the addition's relationship to the house, and how much visual continuity matters to you — but from a purely technical standpoint, **a continuous slope running in the same direction as the existing roof** is the most reliable and weather-tight connection you can make in Ottawa's climate.

When the addition roof simply extends the existing slope downward or outward, there is no valley, no change in direction, and no junction point where ice and water can accumulate. This is the gold standard for Ottawa, where ice damming is one of the most persistent and damaging roofing problems homeowners face. Ottawa receives over 200 centimetres of snow annually, and any interruption in a roof plane — a valley, a step, a change in pitch — becomes a collection point for snow and ice. A continuous slope eliminates that vulnerability entirely.

Where a continuous slope is not possible — for example, when the addition runs perpendicular to the main house — you will have a **valley junction**, which is the most critical detail in any Ottawa addition roof. This valley must be lined with a minimum 1.5-metre-wide run of ice and water shield membrane, not just standard underlayment. The membrane should extend well up both roof planes and be fully adhered, with no gaps at the low point. Many Ottawa builders use a woven valley installation with architectural shingles, which performs better than a cut valley in high-snow conditions because it distributes water flow more evenly.

For material matching, **architectural asphalt shingles** are by far the most practical choice for Ottawa additions. They cost **\$5.00 to \$8.00 per square foot installed**, they are available in a wide range of colours and profiles, and they can be blended reasonably well with an existing shingle roof even if the original shingles are several years old. A perfect colour match is difficult once the existing shingles have weathered, but an experienced roofer can get close. Budget an additional **10 to 15 percent** on your roofing costs for custom blending and matching work.

Metal roofing is an excellent performer in Ottawa's freeze-thaw cycles and handles snow shedding better than asphalt, but it costs **\$12.00 to \$18.00 per square foot installed** and is difficult to match to an existing asphalt roof. If you are already planning to re-roof the entire house as part of the addition project — which many Ottawa homeowners do — metal becomes a much more attractive option because you can apply it uniformly across the old and new sections simultaneously.

From an Ontario Building Code perspective, the roof structure connecting old and new must be engineered to handle Ottawa's specified **ground snow loads**, which are among the highest of any major Canadian city. The connection point between the existing roof framing and the new addition framing is structurally the most critical

location, and it must be designed so that loads transfer properly without creating a weak point. For any addition over roughly 10 feet wide, a structural engineer's stamp on the roof framing drawings is strongly advisable and may be required by the City of Ottawa's building permit reviewers.

Timing matters enormously in Ottawa. Roof tie-in work should be completed before **mid-October** at the latest, before sustained freezing temperatures make working conditions dangerous and before the risk of an early snowfall exposing your home's interior. If you are planning an addition, aim to have the foundation and framing complete by early September so the roof can be tied in and fully weather-tight before the season turns.

For help finding experienced addition contractors who understand Ottawa's specific roofing and climate demands, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com is a good place to start your search.

Q2

What type of siding is best for a home addition in Ottawa's climate?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- JC Carpentry
- The Granite shop
- L.L. Renovation
- Denys Builds Designs Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q3

Should I use engineered lumber or dimensional lumber for my Ottawa addition?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Homeupgraders
- JC Carpentry
- Geerts Roofing Inc
- Renovo Construction
- Dreamwood Construction & Renovations

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Q4

What roofing material works best for an addition in Ottawa's freeze-thaw climate?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- JC Carpentry
- Denys Builds Designs Renovations
- Steven Labelle - Your Complete Home Renovator
- Renovatios

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Q5

Are triple-pane windows worth it for an addition in Ottawa?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Luxe Painting and Renovations
- JC Carpentry
- Denys Builds Designs Renovations
- Renovatios
- ALTIOR CONSTRUCTION

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Q6

What materials are approved for additions in Ottawa's heritage conservation districts?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- JC Carpentry
- Geerts Roofing Inc
- The Next Reno
- Diamond renovations

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Q7

Is SIP construction a good option for a home addition in Ottawa?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- JC Carpentry
- Joe Imerti Contracting
- Eastern Residential Solution
- Speedy Pete's Inc

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Q8

Should I use fibre cement or vinyl siding to match my Ottawa home's exterior?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Luxe Painting and Renovations
- RenoMotion Inc.
- Joe Imerti Contracting
- The Next Reno
- ALTIOR CONSTRUCTION

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Q9

What vapour barrier system works best for additions in Ottawa's climate zone?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- RenoMotion Inc.
- Dump n Dash Hauling
- Pure Flow Water Solutions inc.
- Estra Design

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Q10

Can I use ICF blocks for my addition foundation in Ottawa?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- JC Carpentry
- ARTEXPRO Tile & Finishes
- Steven Labelle - Your Complete Home Renovator
- Leeds Property Maintenance

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Q11

What is the best flooring option for a sunroom addition in Ottawa?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- RenoMotion Inc.
- BFI Renovations
- Speedy Pete's Inc
- Regimbal

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Q12

Should I use spray foam or batt insulation in my Ottawa addition walls?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Justyn Rook Contracting
- JC Carpentry
- Vanguard Environmental
- Ottawa Caulking
- L.L. Renovation

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What type of exterior sheathing is best for Ottawa's humid summers and cold winters?

Looking for experienced contractors? The Ottawa Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- 613Bins
- RenoMotion Inc.
- Estra Design
- JMY Renovations
- Elie The Carpet Guy Inc.

[View all contractors ?](#)

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