



Metal Roofs: Dos and Don'ts

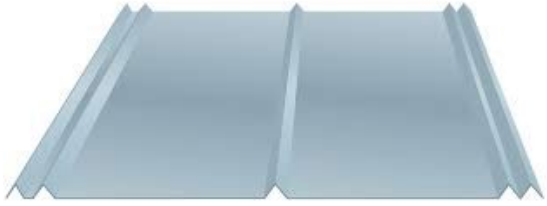

Understanding the Historic Design Guidelines

Roofs are among the most prominent and defining features of a home. The shape, slope, material, and orientation all contribute to the character of a building.

There is historical precedent for metal roofs on many Lakeland homes and owners are understandably drawn to these durable, heat-reflecting coverings. However, not all metal roofs are created equal.

The approved types of metal roofing in Lakeland's Historic Districts are **5V crimp** and **standing seam** metal roofing. 5V crimp is named for the 5 bends in the metal that allow for snug overlapping. Standing seam is named for the regularly spaced channels that hide its fasteners. However, it's important to know the difference between **flat-panel** and **striated** varieties.

Which type of metal roofing should you choose?

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| <p>✔ Flat-panel 5V crimp and standing seam metal roofing are appropriate for use in historic districts. The metal is smooth between the crimped or standing channels, creating a crisp, simple look.</p> |  |
| <p>✘ Striated metal roofing has “stiffening ribs” along each panel. It is common on warehouses and industrial structures and is <u>not</u> appropriate for use in historic districts.</p> <p>NOTE: It cannot be approved by the city's Design Review Board. (Design Guidelines, pages 195-196, chapter 6.1.5 Roof Materials)</p> |  |

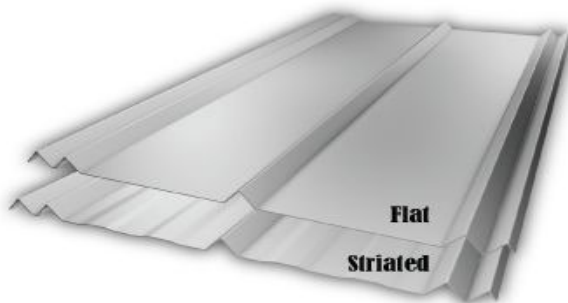
What is the difference?

In a nutshell: **oil canning**. Traditional metal roofs respond to temperature changes by expanding or contracting slightly. Depending on light conditions and viewing angle, this can cause them to appear slightly wavy and distorted – an effect known as “oil canning.”



Oil canning is a cosmetic phenomenon that has no impact on the structural integrity of the roof and often diminishes over time as metal settles and adapts. However, when metal roofing resurged in popularity in the 1980s, some homeowners were not prepared for this effect and complained, causing roofing manufacturers to develop ribbed panels as an alternative that would be less likely to flex.

There is little to no difference in cost between flat-panel and striated 5V crimp and standing seam roofing. However, there is a significant aesthetic difference. The industrial look of ribbed or striated panels is not consistent with historic homes and can diminish their value.



A final word from historic preservation experts

“Metal roofing without oil canning would look as unnatural as wood without grain, a tree without bark, or a beach without sand. Oil canning is simply the natural surface texture of metal roofs.”

- *Steve Mouzon, author of Traditional Construction Patterns*

“Oil canning is not unlike patina. It is an effect that lends itself to an authentic, historic appearance.”

- *Emily Foster, City of Lakeland Historic Preservation Planner*