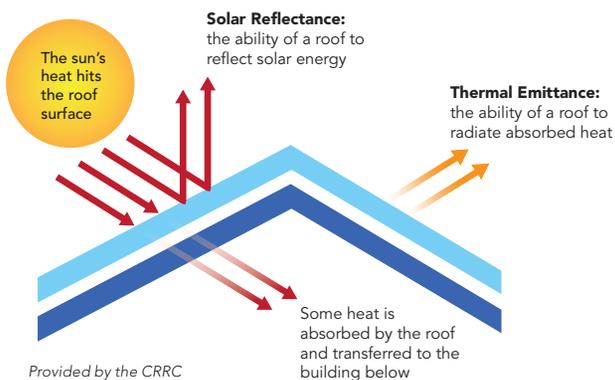


# » COOL ROOFS

## WHAT IS A COOL ROOF?

The term “cool roof” refers to a roofing product with high solar reflectance (SR) and thermal emittance (TE) properties. These properties help reduce electricity used for air conditioning by lowering roof temperatures on hot, sunny days. *Solar reflectance* refers to a material’s ability to reflect the sun’s solar energy back into the atmosphere. *Thermal emittance* provides a means of quantifying how much of the absorbed heat is rejected for a given material. Both properties are measured from 0 to 1 and the higher the value, the “cooler” the roof.



Coating for a low-sloped roof  
Photo credit: DNG Group

## WHAT IS THE SOLAR REFLECTANCE INDEX (SRI)?

SRI combines SR and TE in an equation. It allows for trade-offs between SR and TE values used under the prescriptive compliance approach. SRI values range from 0 to 100, with the higher value, the better.

[www.energy.ca.gov/  
title24/2008standards/sri\\_calculator/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2008standards/sri_calculator/)



## COOL ROOF REQUIREMENTS

The Cool Roof Rating Council (CRRC), at [www.coolroofs.org](http://www.coolroofs.org), is the sole entity the California Energy Commission recognizes for certifying the solar reflectance and thermal emittance values of roofing products. Only reflectance and emittance values listed within the CRRC’s Rated Products Directory may be used to meet cool roof requirements. Products that meet CRRC certification requirements will feature the CRRC label.



A residential cool roof  
Photo credit: Cool Metal Roofing Coalition



A nonresidential cool roof  
Photo credit: Cool Metal Roofing Coalition

## BENEFITS OF COOL ROOFS:

- Energy and cost savings can be 20% depending on materials, climate zone, and electricity rates.<sup>1</sup>
- Improved occupant comfort
- Compliance with building energy standards and green energy programs
- Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions
- Lasts longer than standard roofs

## DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT FOR A RE-ROOF?

It depends. Check with your local building department; however you must demonstrate compliance with the Energy Standards roofing product requirements for a re-roof. A permit is required for any construction project valued at over \$500 in labor and materials.

1. LBL.gov



Cool Roof tile samples  
Photo Credit: Eagle Roofing

## COOL ROOF MATERIALS

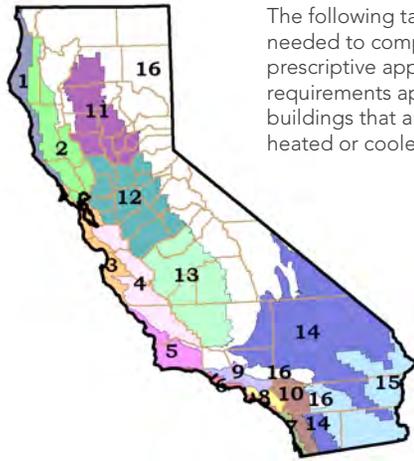
There are numerous materials in a wide range of colors that meet cool roof requirements. As shown on this brochure, tile, metal, and coating materials may meet cool roof requirements.

## THE 2008 BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR COOL ROOFS

There are two approaches for compliance: the *performance* approach refers to how the entire home complies with energy efficiency standards using certified computer modeling programs, and the *prescriptive* approach, has specific requirements for each part of the building (insulation, windows, etc.). For cool roof compliance, you must show:

- Solar reflectance values based on their reflectance properties after three years (known as “aged, or weathered, reflectance”) as opposed to their initial values. If aged solar reflectance values are not available, the following formula may be used:  
 $R_{aged} = 0.2 + 0.7 [R_{initial} - 0.2]$   
 $*R_{initial}$  = solar reflectance from the Cool Roof Rating Council directory
- Thermal emittance values
- Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) as an alternative to solar reflectance and thermal emittance values

What are the minimum requirements to demonstrate compliance with the Building Energy Efficiency Standards?



The following tables show values needed to comply under the prescriptive approach. These requirements apply only to buildings that are mechanically heated or cooled.



For alternatives and exceptions to these requirements:

# California COOL ROOFS

2008 Building Energy Efficiency Standards

## CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

Energy Standards Hotline:  
(916) 772-3300  
title24@energy.state.ca.us

## MORE ABOUT COOL ROOF REQUIREMENTS

[www.title24learning.com](http://www.title24learning.com)  
[www.energyvideos.com](http://www.energyvideos.com)  
[www.coolroofs.org](http://www.coolroofs.org)

CEC-400-2012-003-BR

### RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

	CLIMATE ZONE	AGED SOLAR REFLECTANCE	THERMAL EMITTANCE	SRI
<b>L</b>	13 & 15	0.55	0.75	64
<b>&lt;5</b>	10-15	0.2	0.75	16
<b>≥5</b>	1-16	0.15	0.75	10

### NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

	CLIMATE ZONE	AGED SOLAR REFLECTANCE	THERMAL EMITTANCE	SRI
<b>L</b>	2-15	0.55	0.75	64
<b>LH</b>	10,11,13,14,15	0.55	0.75	64
<b>&lt;5</b>	2-16	0.2	0.75	16
<b>≥5</b>	1-16	0.15	0.75	10

### ROOF CHARACTERISTICS

- L** Low-sloped
- LH** Low-sloped for highrises, residential, hotels, motels
- <5** Steep-sloped and roofing product density <5 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>
- ≥5** Steep-sloped and roofing product density ≥5 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>



Photo credit: MCA Tile

Tax credits and rebates may be available for cool roofs. Check with your local utility company and the IRS.