



Roofs serve an important utilitarian purpose: keeping rain, snow, and debris out of the house. But they also add to a home's character and style. The material of roof is an important element of design and an indication of how long the roof will last. A slate roof, for example, can last from 70 to 125 years and is relatively expensive; whereas an asphalt tile roof is less expensive and will last typically from 15 to 20 years.

Bonnet

Bonnet roofs are similar to a hip roof with a different pitch and gables at the top



Cross Gable

Cross gable roofs have two or more gable rooflines that intersect. A house with a basic rectangular shape and therefore



more gable rooflines that intersect. A house with a basic shape, but a house with a cross gable roof can have a more complex layout.

Front Gabled

Front-gabled houses have a gable roof and the front door is under the area at the front and back of the house beneath the pitched roof that - it is typically triangular. A gable roof is very common and has two sloping a central ridge.



gable. The gable is follows the roofline planes that meet in

Gambrel



Either front- or side-faced; used in [Dutch Colonials](#). Gambrel roofs have a shallow slope over a steep slope. It is typical of the Dutch colonial architectural style and also frequently seen on barns.

Hipped

Hipped roofs slope in four directions. The "hip" is the angle formed where two sloped sides meet. This roof is used with many different architectural styles and is said to stand up to hurricane winds better than a gable roof.



where two sloped sides meet to stand up to

Pavilion Hipped



Pavilion-hipped roofs have four sloping planes that meet in a single point. They are sometimes also called pyramid-hipped roofs and are typically used on smaller buildings such as a [garage](#) or pool house.

Mansard

Mansard roofs have four sloping sides, like a hipped roof, and each side has a shallow slope over a steep slope, similar to a gambrel roof. There are almost always dormers in a mansard roof. Mansard is named after the French architect Francois Mansart (1598-1666), who was known to use this style of roof. This roof style was particularly popular in the latter half of the 19th century, and is often seen on [Victorian](#) row houses.



Side-gabled

Side gabled is descriptive word. Examples can be seen in many



for a house with its front door under the side of a gabled roof. residential styles, from a [ranch house](#) to a [Georgian house](#).

Salt Box

Saltbox roofs are typical of colonial architecture in New England. A saltbox house is two stories high in the front and has a low sloping roofline in the back of the house. It is named after its resemblance to saltboxes used in colonial times.



saltbox house is two stories high in the front and has a low sloping roofline in the back of the house. It is named after