InterNACHI Roofing Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- **Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,**
- **Improve accuracy and speed,**
- **Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and**
- **Approach the exam with greater confidence.**

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here’s how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don’t just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There’s no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

1. What are the two types of asphalt impregnated mats used in asphalt shingles?

A. Wood and Fiberglass

B. Cellulose Material and Fiberglass

C. Plastic and Fiberglass

D. Cellulose and Polyester

2. What is the expected lifespan of asphalt shingle (architectural) roofing?

A. 20 years

B. 30 years

C. 40 years

D. 50 years

3. How should the drip edge be installed on the rakes versus the eaves?

A. Under roofing paper on both

B. Over roofing paper on eaves and under on rakes

C. Under roofing paper on rakes and over on eaves

D. Both under roofing paper

4. What commonly causes small dimples or circular depressions on asphalt shingles?

A. Sun exposure

B. Wind damage

C. Hailstones

D. Improper installation

5. Which of the following is considered a ventilation problem for asphalt shingles?

A. Pooling water

B. Excessive heat buildup

C. Inadequate insulation

D. Incorrect shingle type

6. What is a key characteristic of a shake compared to a shingle?

A. More uniform in appearance

B. Machine-cut on all sides

C. Less finished look

D. Thicker and heavier

7. How are open soffits characterized?

A. By their enclosed design

B. By their lack of bottom enclosure

C. By being attached to walls

D. By their decorative features

8. Which type of roofing is appropriate for very low-pitched or flat roofs?

A. Tile roofing

B. Metal roofing

C. Roll roofing or built-up roofing

D. Shingle roofing

9. When reporting on an asbestos cement tile roof, the inspector should do what?

A. Ignore the roof material

B. Note the roof material

C. Recommend immediate replacement

D. Advise on safety protocols

10. Which of the following would not contribute to rafter spread?

A. Lack of collar ties

B. Over-spanned rafters

C. Adequate knee walls

D. Too many layers of roof coverings

Answers

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. C

Explanations

1. What are the two types of asphalt impregnated mats used in asphalt shingles?

A. Wood and Fiberglass

B. Cellulose Material and Fiberglass

C. Plastic and Fiberglass

D. Cellulose and Polyester

The two types of asphalt impregnated mats used in asphalt shingles are cellulose material and fiberglass. Cellulose is often derived from recycled paper products and provides a sturdy and cost-effective base for shingles. It offers good performance in terms of flexibility and tear resistance, making it suitable for various roofing applications. Fiberglass mats, on the other hand, are composed of strands of glass fibers and offer enhanced strength and resistance to moisture. This type of mat provides significant advantages, such as improved durability and fire resistance, compared to traditional cellulose mats. Together, these materials create a reliable foundation for asphalt shingles, ensuring they can withstand environmental stresses and provide long-lasting protection to the underlying roof structure. The use of both cellulose and fiberglass caters to different performance requirements and preferences among manufacturers and consumers, leading to a robust variety of asphalt shingles available on the market.

2. What is the expected lifespan of asphalt shingle (architectural) roofing?

A. 20 years

B. 30 years

C. 40 years

D. 50 years

The expected lifespan of architectural asphalt shingles is generally around 30 years. These shingles are designed to be more durable and weather-resistant than traditional three-tab asphalt shingles. The high-quality materials used in architectural shingles, such as the thicker profile and added granules, contribute to their longevity. Additionally, factors like proper installation, maintenance, climate conditions, and ventilation can influence their actual lifespan, but under typical conditions, 30 years is a reasonable estimate for their durability and effectiveness. This is why the answer indicating a 30-year lifespan aligns well with industry standards and is considered correct.

3. How should the drip edge be installed on the rakes versus the eaves?

A. Under roofing paper on both

B. Over roofing paper on eaves and under on rakes

C. Under roofing paper on rakes and over on eaves

D. Both under roofing paper

Installing the drip edge correctly is essential for effective water management on a roof. The right approach is to position the drip edge under the roofing paper on the rakes and over the roofing paper on the eaves. When the drip edge is placed under the roofing paper on the rakes, it ensures that any water that runs down the roof is directed away from the edge of the roof and towards the gutter or away from the structure. This setup prevents water from seeping under the roofing material and helps to protect the underlying structure, which is crucial on the vertical sections of the roof. Conversely, by installing the drip edge over the roofing paper on the eaves, it acts as a barrier, directing water that runs down the roof into the gutter system. This configuration is particularly important at the eaves where water runoff occurs most frequently. This method of installation ultimately enhances the roof's ability to manage water effectively and protects both the roof itself and the underlying layers from potential water-related damage.

4. What commonly causes small dimples or circular depressions on asphalt shingles?

A. Sun exposure

B. Wind damage

C. Hailstones

D. Improper installation

Small dimples or circular depressions on asphalt shingles are commonly caused by hailstones. When hail impacts the surface of the shingles, it can create indentations where the hail strikes. This can damage the integrity of the shingles, leading to potential leaks if left unaddressed. Hail damage is often recognizable by these distinct depressions and can be an important concern during home inspections, especially in areas prone to severe weather. Sun exposure can cause issues like fading and granule loss but is not responsible for creating dimples or circular depressions. Wind damage typically results in tearing or lifting of shingles rather than indentations. Improper installation might lead to various issues such as lifting or inadequate sealing but would not typically cause dimpling. Understanding hail damage and its effects on shingles is crucial for effective roof inspections and maintenance.

5. Which of the following is considered a ventilation problem for asphalt shingles?

A. Pooling water

B. Excessive heat buildup

C. Inadequate insulation

D. Incorrect shingle type

Excessive heat buildup is identified as a ventilation problem for asphalt shingles due to its significant impact on the lifespan and effectiveness of the roofing materials. When there is insufficient ventilation in the attic or roof space, trapped heat can increase temperatures significantly. Elevated temperatures can lead to thermal cycling, which may cause shingles to age prematurely, warp, or crack. Inadequate ventilation can interfere with the proper functioning of the roofing system, resulting in an environment where moisture can accumulate, leading to potential issues like mold growth or condensation. Adequate ventilation allows for a balanced air circulation that helps regulate temperature and prevent excessive heat buildup, thereby protecting the shingles and prolonging the roof's overall lifespan. Recognizing and addressing excessive heat buildup is vital for maintaining the roofing system's integrity and performance, making it critical in the context of asphalt shingle roofs.

6. What is a key characteristic of a shake compared to a shingle?

A. More uniform in appearance

B. Machine-cut on all sides

C. Less finished look

D. Thicker and heavier

A key characteristic of a shake compared to a shingle is that shakes typically have a less finished look. This distinction arises from the manufacturing processes of each. Shakes are usually split from logs, which gives them a more rustic, natural appearance with irregular edges and textures, while shingles are often machine-cut and have a uniform shape and smooth finish. This inherent difference in their production leads shakes to exhibit characteristics of variation and a more organic feel, aligning with the less finished look highlighted in the correct answer. This contrast plays a significant role in their aesthetic appeal and applications in roofing, where the choice may reflect desired architectural style or functionality.

7. How are open soffits characterized?

A. By their enclosed design

B. By their lack of bottom enclosure

C. By being attached to walls

D. By their decorative features

Open soffits are characterized by their lack of bottom enclosure. Unlike closed soffits, which feature a solid bottom that conceals the rafters and any insulation or ductwork within, open soffits do not have a ceiling or bottom material. This design allows for ventilation and promotes airflow in the attic or eaves, which can help with temperature regulation and moisture control. Open soffits are often found in styles that emphasize visibility and airflow, making them an important element in certain architectural designs. The absence of an enclosed bottom means that the underside of the roof structure is left exposed, which is the defining characteristic of open soffits.

8. Which type of roofing is appropriate for very low-pitched or flat roofs?

A. Tile roofing

B. Metal roofing

C. Roll roofing or built-up roofing

D. Shingle roofing

For very low-pitched or flat roofs, roll roofing or built-up roofing is the most suitable option. This type of roofing system is specifically designed to accommodate low slopes, as it can effectively handle water drainage and moisture issues that are commonly associated with such roofs. Roll roofing is typically made from asphalt-saturated materials that are lightweight and easy to install, making it ideal for roofs that are not steeply pitched. Built-up roofing, which consists of layers of roofing felt and asphalt, provides durability and additional protection against leaks, further enhancing its effectiveness on low-pitched surfaces. In contrast, other roofing materials, such as tile, metal, and shingle roofing, are generally better suited for traditional pitched roofs. These materials often require a certain degree of slope for proper water drainage and are not as effective at managing water on flat or very low-pitched roofs. Therefore, choosing roll roofing or built-up roofing ensures that the roofing system is not only compatible with the roof's design but also optimized for performance and longevity.

9. When reporting on an asbestos cement tile roof, the inspector should do what?

A. Ignore the roof material

B. Note the roof material

C. Recommend immediate replacement

D. Advise on safety protocols

Noting the roof material is crucial when reporting on an asbestos cement tile roof because accurate identification and documentation of roofing materials are essential for safety and regulatory compliance. Asbestos cement tiles can pose health risks if disturbed, as they may release asbestos fibers into the air, leading to serious respiratory conditions. By documenting the presence of asbestos cement tiles, the inspector provides critical information that informs any necessary follow-up actions, such as recommending further inspection by a qualified asbestos abatement professional or advising homeowners on maintenance practices that avoid damage to the material. This thorough approach helps ensure that the potential risks associated with asbestos are communicated properly, enabling informed decisions regarding the roof's condition and safety. While promoting safety protocols or recommending replacement may be appropriate in certain contexts, understanding the material type and clearly noting it in the report allows for better risk assessment and management regarding the specific properties of the roofing material.

10. Which of the following would not contribute to rafter spread?

A. Lack of collar ties

B. Over-spanned rafters

C. Adequate knee walls

D. Too many layers of roof coverings

The choice indicating that adequate knee walls would not contribute to rafter spread is accurate because knee walls provide additional vertical support at the eaves of a roof. These walls effectively help stabilize the rafters and prevent them from spreading apart under lateral loads. By placing vertical load-bearing structures near the rafter's base, they resist the outward force that could cause rafter spread, which typically occurs when the roof structure experiences excessive outward pressure from snow loads, wind, or the weight of the roofing materials. In contrast, the other factors listed can lead to rafter spread. The lack of collar ties can allow the rafters to move apart without any lateral restraint, creating a risk for structural failure. Over-spanned rafters are more prone to flexing and bending under load, which can also lead to spread. Similarly, having too many layers of roof coverings adds weight to the rafters, increasing the potential for them to spread if there are no supporting features like knee walls or collar ties in place to counteract this added load.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://internachiroofing.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!