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## Q *What does the term recover mean?*

A The roofing industry uses the term “recover” to mean the installation of a new roofing system over an existing one. Advantages of this approach are cost savings associated with not having to remove and dispose of the current roof covering, the reduction of materials sent to landfills, and because the existing roof layer stays in place, the interior is protected from potential water damage while the new roof is being installed. An important issue to address prior to any recover process is whether moisture is present within the existing system. Trapping water is a problem that often occurs with improperly installed recover projects leading to dry-rot and/or mold growth if not corrected. Also, steep sloped roofs frequently suffer aesthetically due to the previous roof layer being visible depending on the type of new roof system covering it.

A key factor determining the feasibility of a recover project is establishing how many roof layers are currently in place. Most building codes allow a maximum of two roof systems on a structure, usually due to the weight associated with the roofing materials. Other code-related issues are wind up-lift and fire resistance, which the building's insurance carrier may also influence through specific requirements.

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