It is a thin strip of metal along the edge of your roof, and you have probably never looked at it. Yet drip edge is one of the small components that separates a roof that lasts from one that rots at the eaves. If a quote you received lists it, or leaves it out, here is what that means.

What Drip Edge Is

Drip edge is a pre-formed metal flashing, usually L-shaped or T-shaped, installed along the roof's edges. At the eaves (the lower edges), it sits under the underlayment and over the fascia. Along the rakes (the sloped side edges), it sits over the underlayment. Shingles then overhang the metal slightly.

What It Actually Does

1. **Directs water into the gutter.** Without it, water can cling to the underside of the shingle edge and curl back toward the fascia board.
2. **Protects the deck and fascia edges.** Exposed wood edges absorb moisture and rot over time.
3. **Stiffens the edge.** Shingles at the perimeter are more supported and less likely to droop.
4. **Blocks pests.** It closes gaps where insects or small animals might enter.
5. **Helps resist wind.** A solid edge gives wind fewer places to lift roofing.

On older Huntington homes, you can sometimes see the result of missing drip edge: peeling paint on fascia, dark stains under the gutter line, or soft wood at the eaves.

Why Building Codes Require It

Residential building standards used across New York State generally call for drip edge on roofing contractor Huntington NY asphalt shingle roofs because it is a low-cost way to prevent edge water damage. Many older houses were built before this was routine, which is why drip edge is often absent when a roof is stripped. Requirements and details can change, so confirm what applies to your address instead of relying on a general summary.

Your contractor should be familiar with what the local building office expects. The Town of Huntington Building Department covers unincorporated hamlets such as Huntington Station, Greenlawn, and Dix Hills. Incorporated villages including Northport, Lloyd Harbor, Huntington Bay, and Asharoken have their own building departments, and each can answer questions for its area.

Common Drip Edge Materials

The information below is approximate and for general planning.

Material Typical Lifespan Best For Cautions Aluminum Moderate to long Many homes, including coastal areas Can dent; keep away from direct contact with some metals Galvanized steel Moderate Budget-conscious jobs May rust, particularly in salt air Copper Very long Historic or high-end homes Higher cost; should be installed with compatible fasteners Painted or coated metal Moderate to long Matching trim or siding Finish quality varies

For homes near the harbor in Centerport, Lloyd Harbor, Eatons Neck, and Huntington Bay, corrosion-resistant choices are worth discussing, as salt air tends to attack bare steel faster.

Installation Details That Matter

A good drip edge installation depends on more than having the product on site. Pay attention to the following:

- **Order of layers.** At the eaves, metal goes under the underlayment; along the rakes, it goes over. Reversing this can channel water in the wrong direction.
- **Overlap.** Sections should overlap by a few inches and be fastened securely.
- **Fasteners.** Corrosion-resistant nails, spaced properly, keep the edge tight.
- **Gutter relationship.** The metal should extend enough to send water into the gutter, not behind it.
- **Corner cuts.** Neat mitered corners reduce gaps.

Is It Included in Your Quote?

Drip edge is one of the items worth checking when comparing estimates. One bid might include all-new drip edge on every edge, while another says nothing and plans to reuse old material or skip it. Ask each contractor to list it in writing alongside underlayment, flashing, ventilation, and decking terms. A trusted provider of *Long Island Exterior Co.* should be glad to answer this directly and point to where it appears in the proposal.

Can Drip Edge Be Added Later?

It is much easier to install during a replacement, when the shingles and underlayment are already off. Adding it to an existing roof usually means disturbing the edge shingles, which is why it is often left until the next reroof if it was missed. If you do not have it and your roof has years left, watch the fascia and eaves for signs of moisture.

Mature Trees, Gutters, and Edges

Many North Shore properties have mature tree canopy that drops leaves and seeds into gutters. When gutters clog, overflow can find its way behind the edge no matter how good the drip edge is. Regular gutter cleaning is the natural partner to a well-installed edge.

Hiring Considerations

Verify that any contractor holds a Suffolk County Consumer Affairs home improvement license and has proof of insurance. Ask for a written scope, a clear warranty, and references. Be cautious of pressure tactics or demands for large upfront payments.

Final Thought

Drip edge is inexpensive compared with the damage it prevents. When you review roof replacement proposals, treat it as a quick test: if the details at the edge are clear and complete, the rest of the proposal is often thoughtful too.

About the Author

Tom B. is a freelance writer who has spent years working with residential roofing contractors on the East Coast. He enjoys explaining small roof components in plain language so homeowners know what to look for in an estimate.