

Roofer interview questions

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What to expect

Roofer interviews are practical and safety-focused. Employers want to confirm you can handle the physical demands, follow safety protocols without being told twice, and think through problems on-site rather than waiting for instructions.

- **Safety:** Questions checking your understanding of fall-prevention measures, harness use and site safety protocols, since roofing has significant height-related risk.
- **Technical/process:** Questions about how you'd approach measuring, cutting, installing or inspecting roofing materials and systems.
- **Scenario:** Judgement questions about weather, structural surprises or client disputes that come up mid-job.
- **Behavioural:** Past-experience questions about teamwork, problem-solving and handling physically demanding or high-pressure days.

Expect an informal but structured conversation, often on-site or in a site office rather than a boardroom. It typically opens with your ticket and licence status (White Card, working at heights), moves into technical and safety questions, then a couple of scenario or behavioural questions, and closes with practical details like availability and transport to sites.

1. Talk me through how you'd inspect an existing roof for leaks or structural faults before starting a repair.

Why they ask

This checks whether you have a systematic inspection process rather than jumping straight into repair work, which is a common way faults get missed.

How to structure your answer

Walk through your process step by step: what you check first, what tools you use, and how you decide what needs further investigation.

Example answer

"I start from the ground with a visual check for sagging, damaged tiles or rust, then get up safely with harness and ladder secured to check flashing, valleys and penetration points where leaks usually start. I look for water staining, soft spots underfoot and gaps in guttering. If I find anything unclear, like a soft patch that might mean rotted decking underneath, I'll check from inside the roof space if there's access, then note findings and photos before quoting the repair."

2. What fall-prevention measures do you use on a typical residential job, and how do you decide what's needed?

Why they ask

Roofing has one of the highest injury risks in construction, so employers need confidence you take height safety seriously without needing constant supervision.

How to structure your answer

Explain your decision process based on job type and height, referencing specific equipment and standards.

Example answer

"It depends on the roof pitch and height. For most single-storey residential jobs I'll use a secured harness with an anchor point rated for the load, plus edge protection or scaffolding where the roof pitch makes footing unstable. I check the anchor points and harness condition before every use, not

just at the start of the job. On steeper or higher roofs I'll also look at whether scaffolding needs a certified installer, and I always follow the site's safe work method statement rather than assuming yesterday's setup still applies."

3. Describe a time you found a problem on a job that wasn't part of the original brief. What did you do?

Why they ask

Roofers regularly uncover structural issues, rot or code non-compliance that wasn't part of the original quote, and employers want to know you'll flag it properly rather than ignore it or overstep.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

"I was reroofing a section of a house and pulled back the old tiles to find rotted timber battens underneath that hadn't been visible from the ground inspection. The original job was just a tile replacement, but laying new tiles over rotted battens wouldn't have held. I stopped, took photos, and called the site supervisor to explain what I'd found and why it needed addressing before we continued. We got sign-off for the extra work, replaced the battens, and finished the reroof properly. The client was glad it was caught before the new tiles went down rather than after."

4. A client is unhappy that a repair is taking longer than quoted because of unexpected weather delays. How would you handle that conversation?

Why they ask

This tests client-facing judgement under pressure, which matters since roofers often deal directly with homeowners on residential jobs.

How to structure your answer

Explain the judgement call you'd make in the moment and how you'd balance honesty with keeping the client on side.

Example answer

"I'd explain plainly that roofing work can't safely continue in unsafe wind or rain conditions, and that pushing ahead risks a worse outcome like a poorly sealed roof. I'd give a realistic revised timeframe rather than guessing to make them feel better, and if there's any exposed area I'd make sure it's temporarily weatherproofed so they're not left with a bigger problem while we wait it out."

5. How do you read a set of blueprints or site plans to work out material requirements for a roofing job?

Why they ask

Accurate material estimation affects both cost and whether the job runs smoothly, so employers want to see you can translate plans into practical quantities.

How to structure your answer

Walk through your process from reading the plan to arriving at a materials list.

Example answer

"I start by checking the roof plan for pitch, dimensions and any unusual features like valleys, hips or multiple levels, since these affect both material quantity and waste allowance. I calculate the total roof area, then work out sheet or tile coverage based on the manufacturer's specifications, adding extra for cuts and overlaps. I cross-check flashing and guttering lengths against the plan's elevations before finalising the order, so we're not short on-site or over-ordering."

6. This role involves physically demanding work in all weather. How do you manage that day to day?

Why they ask

Roofing has real physical demands and the employer wants confidence you can sustain the pace and conditions, not just handle a single tough day.

How to structure your answer

Give a brief, honest answer about how you pace and prepare, backed by a concrete example if relevant.

Example answer

"I make sure I'm properly hydrated and take breaks in the shade when it's hot, and I dress for the conditions rather than pushing through discomfort, since that's when mistakes happen. I've worked full days on steep-pitch roofs in summer heat before and the key for me is pacing the physical tasks like carrying materials up, rather than rushing, so I'm still sharp for the technical parts of the job later in the day."