

Roof Construction

Architecture

Warm roof against cold roof, and why the choice changes where the vents go.

Warm roof

- Insulation above the deck
- Deck stays warm and dry
- No ventilation void needed
- Vapour control below the insulation
- Deeper build-up, higher upstands

Cold roof

- Insulation at ceiling level
- Deck sits in cold outside air
- Must be ventilated, both sides
- Higher condensation risk
- Shallower, cheaper, riskier

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Warm roof is the safer default. Cold roofs work only if the ventilation path is genuinely continuous.

Flat roofs need a fall. Designing at about 1 in 40 usually delivers 1 in 80 finished, once deflection is allowed for.