

TECHNICAL INSIDER

Technical Know-How That Shapes Better Building

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TAKE CARE WITH MINIMUM ROOF SLOPES

Choosing The Right Roof Slope: Why It Matters

Selecting the correct roof slope or pitch is critical for performance and durability – and it’s not as simple as using the manufacturer’s minimum slope recommendation. That minimum is just a starting point and assumes several conditions are met. For any project, you need to consider multiple factors to ensure the roof performs as intended.

Rainfall Intensity, Roof Run and Sheeting Profile

The roof must handle the rainfall intensity for its location and the total roof run length. This isn’t just the roof’s overall length; it’s the combined length of all trays feeding water into the same path, including additional flow from penetrations or higher roof areas. Rainfall intensity varies widely across Australia:

- Melbourne: 187 mm/h
- Perth: 172 mm/h
- Sydney: 262 mm/h
- Brisbane: 306 mm/h

These figures are based on a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability over five minutes. Designers must decide what level of risk for water ingress is acceptable.

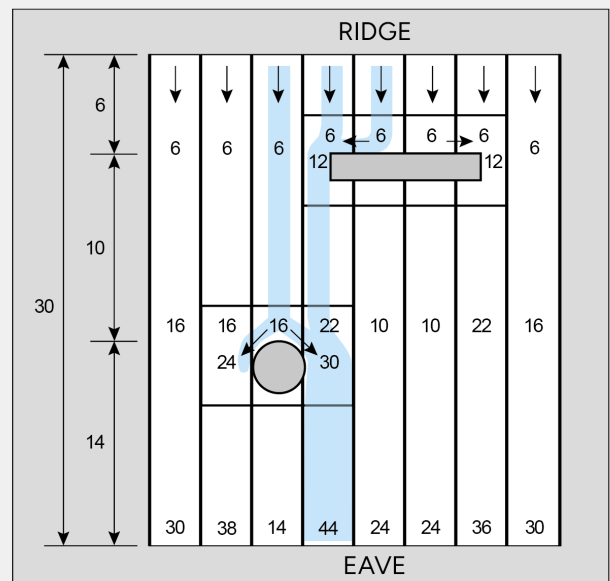
For instance, Monoclad® roofing has a general minimum slope requirement of 2 degrees. In Brisbane, with a design rainfall intensity of 306 mm/h, this slope allows for a maximum roof run length of only 70 m. If penetrations or stepped roof areas increase the effective run length to 100 m, the minimum slope required increases to 5 degrees.

Translucent Sheeting Considerations

Translucent sheets often require steeper slopes due to their flexibility, potential long-term sag, and sheet lapping. Even a small sag can be significant at low slopes of 1–3 degrees.

Minimum Slopes Are Just That, Minimum

Every part of the roof must maintain the correct slope, accounting for construction tolerances and settlement over time. A slope that meets the minimum on paper may fail in practice if these factors aren’t considered.



A typical roof arrangement where two penetrations influence the roof run length in various sheeting pans. Although the nominal roof length is 30m, the Maximum Roof Run Length is 44m in this case.

For more detailed guidance on roof slope and its impact on durability, wind resistance and cost efficiency, refer to the [Stramit Roof Slope Guide](#) or scan the QR code.

