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Roofing & Exterior

Garage roofing, siding, soffit, fascia, eavestroughs, and exterior finishing for NB's snow loads and Maritime weather

23 Expert Answers from Garage IQ

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Q1

How do I install snow guards on a garage metal roof in Fredericton NB?

Snow guards are essential for metal garage roofs in Fredericton — without them, accumulated snow can slide off in dangerous sheets that damage gutters, landscaping, vehicles, or injure people below. Metal roofing's smooth surface and excellent snow-shedding properties become a liability when large amounts of snow release suddenly.

Understanding Fredericton's Snow Load Requirements

Fredericton typically receives 2.4 to 3.2 kPa ground snow load (roughly 50-65 pounds per square foot), and metal roofing can accumulate significant snow depth before releasing. The Fredericton area's freeze-thaw cycles create particularly hazardous conditions — snow partially melts during sunny winter days, then refreezes into dense, heavy sheets that can slide off with tremendous force. A 24x24 garage roof can release 2-4 tons of snow in a single avalanche event.

Snow Guard Types and Placement

Pad-style snow guards are the most common choice for residential garage metal roofing. These small metal or plastic devices attach directly to the roof panels and create friction points that hold snow in place, allowing it to melt gradually rather than sliding off in sheets. For a typical garage roof in Fredericton, install snow guards in multiple rows — the first row 12-18 inches up from the eave edge, with additional rows every 6-8 feet up the roof slope.

Bar-style snow guards consist of continuous metal bars that span across the roof width, held by brackets attached to the roof panels. These are more effective for heavy snow loads but cost more and require more attachment points. They're particularly useful for garage roofs with steep pitches (8/12 slope or greater) where snow sliding forces are highest.

Installation Process and Attachment Methods

The attachment method depends entirely on your metal roofing type. Standing seam metal roofs use clamps that attach to the seam without penetrating the roof membrane — these are the preferred method because they maintain the roof's watertight integrity. Exposed fastener metal roofing (corrugated or ribbed panels) requires snow guards that screw directly through the panel into the roof deck below.

For exposed fastener installation, use self-drilling screws with EPDM rubber washers, and always screw into the "high" part of the panel (the ridge, not the valley) where the screw compresses the metal against solid roof decking. Pre-drill holes slightly smaller than the screw diameter to prevent panel distortion. Apply a small bead of roofing sealant under each snow guard base before screwing down — this prevents water infiltration around the fastener.

Spacing and Pattern Considerations

Snow guard spacing depends on roof pitch, panel type, and expected snow load. For Fredericton's climate, a typical pattern uses snow guards spaced 24-36 inches apart horizontally and installed in rows 6-8 feet apart vertically. Steeper roofs need closer spacing because sliding forces are higher. The first row should be positioned 12-18 inches up from the eave — too close to the edge and they won't hold the snow effectively, too far up and snow can still slide off the lower section.

Pay special attention to valleys, dormers, and roof-to-wall transitions where snow drifting concentrates additional load. These areas may need double rows of snow guards or closer spacing to handle the increased snow accumulation.

New Brunswick Climate Considerations

Fredericton's variable winter weather creates unique challenges — rapid temperature swings can cause snow to become dense and heavy, increasing the load on snow guards. Ice dams are also common where garage roofs meet heated house walls, and snow guards help prevent the sudden release of ice-laden snow that can damage gutters and create safety hazards.

The installation season matters in Fredericton — install snow guards during dry weather when roof surfaces aren't icy or covered with snow. Late fall (October-November) or early spring (March-April) are ideal timing. Never attempt to install snow guards on a snow-covered or icy roof.

When to Hire a Professional

While snow guard installation might seem straightforward, hire a professional roofer for this work. Working on metal roofing requires proper safety equipment, experience with different panel types and attachment methods, and knowledge of which products work best in NB's climate. Incorrect installation can create leak points that won't show up until spring, and improperly spaced snow guards can actually make snow sliding more dangerous by creating larger release zones.

A professional installation typically costs $3-$8 per linear foot of snow guards, including materials and labour. For a typical two-car garage, expect $800-$1,500 for a complete snow guard system.

Find roofing contractors experienced with metal roofing and snow guard installation through the New Brunswick Construction Network — proper installation protects your investment and ensures safe snow management throughout Fredericton's long winter season.

Q2

How do I paint or restain cedar siding on a garage in Edmundston New Brunswick?

Cedar siding on your Edmundston garage can be painted or restained, but the approach depends on the current condition and whether it's been previously treated. Cedar is naturally rot-resistant and beautiful, but northern New Brunswick's harsh winters and temperature swings from -30°C to +30°C demand proper preparation and high-quality coatings for long-lasting results.

Assessing Your Cedar Siding First

Before choosing paint or stain, examine the current condition closely. If your cedar has been previously painted, you'll need to either strip it completely to return to natural wood (expensive and labor-intensive) or prepare it properly for repainting. Previously stained cedar can usually accept new stain after proper cleaning and light sanding. Raw cedar that's weathered to gray can be restored to its natural color with oxalic acid (wood bleach) or accepted as-is under a semi-transparent stain that works with the weathered look.

Check for any loose, split, or damaged boards that should be replaced before coating. Cedar in Edmundston faces significant moisture from snow buildup against the garage foundation, spring melt cycles, and summer humidity from the Saint John River valley. Any boards showing rot, extensive splitting, or loose knots should be replaced with new cedar or a compatible wood species.

Painting Cedar Siding

Painting provides the longest-lasting protection in Edmundston's climate — expect 12-15 years before repainting with high-quality acrylic latex paint. **Start with a high-quality oil-based or shellac primer specifically designed for cedar.** Cedar contains tannins that will bleed through water-based primers, causing brown stains to appear through your finish coat within months. Kilz Original, Zinsser Cover Stain, or Benjamin Moore Fresh Start are proven primers for cedar in Maritime climates.

For the finish coat, choose 100% acrylic latex paint rated for Canadian climates. The paint should be rated to -40°C for flexibility during Edmundston's winter temperature swings. Sherwin Williams Duration, Benjamin Moore Aura, or similar premium paints perform well on cedar siding. Darker colors absorb more heat and can cause cedar to expand and contract more dramatically, potentially leading to paint failure — medium tones tend to last longer.

Restaining Cedar Siding

Staining preserves cedar's natural beauty while providing protection, but requires more frequent maintenance — plan to restain every 4-6 years in Edmundston's climate. **Semi-transparent stains work best for previously stained cedar,** allowing the wood grain to show while providing UV and moisture protection. Solid-color stains offer more protection but hide the wood grain entirely.

Oil-based stains penetrate deeper and generally last longer than water-based, but water-based stains have improved significantly and offer easier cleanup and lower VOCs. Sikkens, Cabot, and Olympic all make stains specifically formulated for Canadian climates. The key is choosing a stain with good UV protection and mildew resistance — cedar naturally resists rot, but surface mildew can develop in humid conditions.

Preparation and Application Timing

Proper preparation is critical for either paint or stain success. **Power wash the siding 2-3 days before coating** to remove dirt, mildew, and loose wood fibers, allowing time for complete drying. Sand any rough areas with 80-120 grit sandpaper, and spot-prime any knots or resin bleeding areas with shellac-based primer regardless of whether you're painting or staining.

Timing is crucial in Edmundston's climate. Plan your project for late spring through early fall when temperatures are consistently above 10°C and humidity is moderate. Avoid painting or staining in direct sunlight, on very hot days (above 30°C), or when rain is forecast within 24 hours. Early morning or late afternoon application often provides the best conditions.

Maintenance and Longevity

Painted cedar requires less frequent maintenance but more intensive work when it's time to repaint. Plan to wash the siding annually and touch up any small chips or cracks immediately to prevent moisture infiltration. Stained cedar needs more frequent attention — annual inspection and spot treatment of any areas showing wear, with full restaining every 4-6 years.

When to Hire a Professional

This is an excellent DIY project if you're comfortable working on ladders and have the time for proper preparation. The materials for a typical two-car garage run $300-$800 depending on product choice. However, **hire a professional if your garage is more than one story, has complex trim details, or if the existing coating is failing extensively.** Professional painters in the Edmundston area charge $4-$8 per square foot for cedar siding preparation and coating, including materials.

Need help finding painting contractors familiar with cedar siding? Browse professionals in the New Brunswick Construction Network directory for experienced exterior painters in the Edmundston region.

Q3

What is the best roof colour to reduce snow buildup on a NB garage?

Dark-colored roofing materials like charcoal gray, dark brown, or black are the most effective at reducing snow buildup on New Brunswick garage roofs. These colors absorb more solar radiation, creating slightly warmer surface temperatures that help snow melt and slide off more readily than light-colored roofing.

The science behind this is straightforward: dark surfaces absorb 80-90% of solar energy while light surfaces reflect most of it away. Even during New Brunswick's cloudy winter days, enough solar radiation reaches the roof to create a meaningful temperature difference. A dark asphalt shingle roof can be 10-20 degrees warmer than a white or light gray roof on a sunny winter day, which translates to faster snow melting and better snow shedding.

Metal roofing in dark colors provides the best snow-shedding performance for NB garages. The smooth surface combined with the heat absorption of dark metal creates ideal conditions for snow to slide off in sheets rather than accumulating. Charcoal, dark bronze, or forest green metal roofing are popular choices that balance snow performance with curb appeal. The steep pitch typical of metal roofs (6/12 or steeper) also helps gravity move snow off the roof before it can build up to problematic depths.

However, roof color is just one factor in snow management. **Roof pitch matters more than color** — a steep roof (8/12 pitch or greater) in any color will shed snow better than a low-slope roof (4/12 or less) regardless of color. Many NB garage builders recommend 6/12 to 8/12 pitch specifically for snow shedding, especially in northern communities like Bathurst, Edmundston, and Campbellton where snow loads can exceed 4.0 kPa.

Ice and water shield placement is critical regardless of roof color. NB building code requires ice and water shield membrane at least 36 inches up from the eave edge, but experienced roofers often install 48-72 inches of coverage on garages. Dark roofs that shed snow effectively can actually increase ice dam risk if the melted snow refreezes at the eaves, so proper underlayment protection is essential.

Avoid very light colors like white, cream, or light gray if snow buildup is a primary concern. While these colors can help reduce summer cooling costs in southern climates, they provide no winter benefit in New Brunswick and can actually contribute to snow accumulation. Light-colored roofs stay cold, allowing snow to bond to the surface rather than melting and sliding off.

Consider your garage's exposure and surroundings. A garage with southern exposure benefits more from dark roofing than one shaded by trees or facing north. Attached garages should coordinate with the main house roof color, but if you're building a detached garage specifically for snow performance, prioritize function over perfect color matching.

The most practical approach combines dark roofing color with proper pitch and quality installation. A dark gray or black architectural shingle roof at 6/12 pitch will handle NB snow loads effectively while remaining affordable and widely available through local suppliers.

Need help finding a roofing contractor experienced with NB snow conditions? Browse roofing professionals through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory who understand the specific requirements of Maritime winter weather and can recommend the best roofing system for your garage project.

Q4

Should I install heat cables on my garage roof edge to prevent ice dams in NB?

Heat cables (roof de-icing cables) can help prevent ice dams on garage roofs in New Brunswick, but they're treating the symptom rather than the root cause. Ice dams form when heat escapes through the roof, melting snow that then refreezes at the cold eaves, and the best long-term solution is proper insulation and ventilation rather than electric heating.

Understanding Ice Dams on NB Garage Roofs

Ice dams are particularly problematic on attached garages in New Brunswick because the garage roof often connects to the heated house, creating temperature differentials that melt snow unevenly. When snow melts on the warm upper portion of the roof and refreezes at the cold eaves, it creates an ice barrier that backs up water under the shingles. This is especially common where garage roofs have shallow pitches (4/12 or less) and inadequate insulation between the garage ceiling and the roof deck above.

Heat cables work by maintaining a channel of melted ice along the roof edge and in gutters, allowing water to drain rather than backing up. In New Brunswick's climate, where temperatures regularly cycle above and below freezing throughout the winter, this can be an effective short-term solution. However, heat cables consume significant electricity — typically 5-8 watts per linear foot — so a 40-foot garage roof edge costs $50-$120 per month to operate during the heating season.

When Heat Cables Make Sense

Heat cables are most justified on **attached garages with living space above** where the roof deck is exposed to heated air from below. If your garage has a bonus room, apartment, or storage loft above it, and especially if that space is heated, heat cables can prevent the expensive water damage that results from ice dam backup. They're also worthwhile on garages with **complex roof lines** — valleys, dormers, or areas where the garage roof meets the house wall — where snow drifts accumulate and create heavy ice dam conditions.

Better Long-Term Solutions

The most effective approach is addressing the heat loss that causes ice dams in the first place. **Proper ceiling insulation** (R-32 to R-50 in heated garages or garages with living space above) prevents warm air from reaching the roof deck. **Continuous soffit and ridge ventilation** keeps the roof deck cold by circulating outside air through the attic space. **Air sealing** around electrical penetrations, pot lights, and the garage-to-house connection prevents warm air infiltration that creates hot spots on the roof.

For attached garages, pay special attention to the **roof-to-wall connection** where the garage roof meets the house. This area often lacks proper insulation and air sealing, creating a thermal bridge that melts snow and

contributes to ice dams. Professional insulation contractors can retrofit spray foam or rigid foam in these areas to eliminate the heat loss.

Installation and Maintenance Considerations

If you decide to install heat cables, choose **self-regulating cables** that automatically adjust their heat output based on temperature — they use less electricity and last longer than constant-wattage cables. Install them in a zigzag pattern along the roof edge, extending 12-18 inches up from the eaves, and continue the cables down through gutters and downspouts to ensure complete drainage. Professional installation costs $8-$15 per linear foot in New Brunswick, including the cables, clips, and electrical connection.

Heat cables require annual maintenance — checking for damaged sections, clearing debris, and ensuring proper electrical connections. They typically last 8-12 years before requiring replacement, and they must be removed before any roofing work.

The Bottom Line

Heat cables are a reasonable solution for garage ice dam problems, especially on attached garages with complex roof lines or living space above. However, they're most cost-effective when combined with proper insulation and ventilation improvements that address the underlying heat loss. For a typical two-car attached garage in New Brunswick, expect to spend $800-$1,500 for professional heat cable installation, plus $200-$400 annually in electricity costs.

Need help finding a contractor who can assess your garage's insulation and ventilation needs? New Brunswick Garages can match you with professionals who understand ice dam prevention in our Maritime climate.

Q5

What is the lifespan of LP SmartSide siding on a garage in the NB Maritime climate?

LP SmartSide siding typically lasts 30-50 years on NB garages when properly installed and maintained, with the key factor being consistent paint maintenance every 8-12 years. This engineered wood siding performs well in New Brunswick's Maritime climate because it's manufactured to resist moisture absorption and dimensional movement better than traditional wood siding.

Performance in NB's Maritime Climate

LP SmartSide handles New Brunswick's challenging conditions quite well. The product is engineered with zinc borate for termite and fungal resistance, and treated with a proprietary SmartGuard process that helps it resist moisture infiltration — critical in our humid Maritime environment. Unlike solid wood siding that can cup, warp, and split through NB's freeze-thaw cycles, SmartSide maintains dimensional stability through temperature swings from -30°C winters to +30°C summers.

The siding's OSB core is designed to shed moisture rather than absorb it, which is particularly important in coastal NB communities where salt air and persistent humidity can accelerate wood deterioration. However, like any wood-based product, the factory primer and finish coat are your primary protection against moisture penetration.

Maintenance Requirements for Maximum Lifespan

The 30-50 year lifespan depends entirely on paint maintenance. LP SmartSide comes pre-primed but requires a quality topcoat within 180 days of installation. In NB's UV-intense summers and moisture-rich environment, that topcoat typically needs refreshing every 8-12 years. Coastal properties may need repainting closer to the 8-year mark due to salt air exposure, while inland garages often reach 12 years between paint cycles.

Failure to maintain the paint finish dramatically shortens lifespan — exposed SmartSide can begin showing moisture damage within 2-3 years of paint failure. The edges around windows, doors, and trim boards are most vulnerable to moisture infiltration and should be inspected annually for paint integrity.

Installation Factors Affecting Longevity

Proper installation is crucial for achieving maximum lifespan in NB. The siding must be installed over a weather-resistive barrier (house wrap), with proper flashing at all penetrations and trim intersections. In our wet climate, any gap that allows water behind the siding can cause the OSB substrate to swell and delaminate.

Clearance from grade is particularly important — SmartSide should be installed at least 6 inches above grade, and 8 inches is better in areas with heavy snow accumulation. Many NB garage installations fail prematurely because the siding was installed too close to grade, allowing snow, ice, and splash-back moisture to contact the bottom edge.

Comparison to Other Siding Options

For context, vinyl siding in NB typically lasts 30-50 years with minimal maintenance but can become brittle in extreme cold. Fiber cement (HardiePlank) lasts 50+ years but costs significantly more upfront. Traditional wood siding requires painting every 5-8 years and typically lasts 20-40 years depending on species and maintenance.

When to Consider Professional Assessment

If your SmartSide siding is approaching 15-20 years old, have a contractor inspect for paint adhesion, caulk integrity around trim, and any signs of moisture infiltration. Catching maintenance needs early extends lifespan significantly and prevents costly repairs. Any areas showing wood fiber exposure, edge swelling, or delamination need immediate attention to prevent further deterioration.

Need help finding a siding contractor experienced with LP SmartSide maintenance? New Brunswick Garages can connect you with professionals familiar with this product's specific requirements in our Maritime climate.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- R.e.j Construction
- Thirty Four Renovations
- Gionetterenovations

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Q6

How do I install a skylight in a garage roof in Quispamsis NB without leaks?

Installing a skylight in a garage roof is a complex roofing project that requires professional installation to prevent leaks, especially in New Brunswick's challenging climate. While the skylight itself can be purchased by homeowners, the roof cutting, flashing, and weatherproofing should be done by an experienced roofer familiar with NB's heavy snow loads, ice dams, and freeze-thaw cycles.

Skylight selection is critical for New Brunswick conditions. Choose a skylight rated for your area's snow load (2.4-4.8 kPa depending on location in NB) and designed for steep-slope roofing. Fixed skylights are more weatherproof than operable ones, but ventilating skylights can help with garage moisture and summer heat. Quality brands like Velux, Fakro, and Columbia offer models specifically engineered for Canadian climates. For a typical garage, a 22.5" x 46.5" or 30.5" x 30.5" skylight provides good natural light without compromising roof structure.

The installation process involves cutting through roof sheathing, shingles, and potentially trusses or rafters. This is where professional expertise becomes essential. The roof opening must be precisely sized and positioned to avoid structural members when possible. If a truss or rafter must be cut, engineered headers are required to carry the load around the opening. In Quispamsis, with its proximity to the Bay of Fundy and exposure

to Maritime storms, the structural integrity of your garage roof cannot be compromised.

Flashing and weatherproofing are the most critical aspects for leak prevention. NB's freeze-thaw cycles, ice dams, and driving rain make skylights vulnerable to water infiltration if not properly sealed. Professional installation includes step flashing integrated with the roofing underlayment, ice and water shield extending well beyond the skylight opening, and proper integration with the existing roof drainage. The skylight's curb must be properly sealed to the roof deck, and all flashing must be layered correctly so water flows over each successive layer toward the gutters.

Ice dam protection is especially important in the Quispamsis area. Skylights create thermal breaks in the roof that can contribute to uneven snow melting and ice dam formation. The installation should include ice and water shield extending at least 36 inches beyond the skylight opening in all directions, and potentially heated cables or improved attic ventilation to prevent ice buildup around the skylight well.

Interior finishing requires attention to moisture control. The skylight shaft from the roof down to the garage ceiling should be insulated to prevent condensation. If your garage is heated or insulated, use vapor barrier on the warm side and ensure proper air sealing around the skylight frame. Uninsulated garages are actually easier - the skylight can open directly to the garage space without a finished shaft, reducing complexity and leak potential.

Timing matters for skylight installation in New Brunswick. Schedule the work for dry weather between May and October when temperatures are consistently above freezing. Roofing work in winter is possible but adds cost and complexity. The roof opening exposes your garage to weather during installation, so experienced contractors will have tarps and temporary coverings ready.

Common leak points to avoid include inadequate flashing at the head and sides of the skylight, gaps between the skylight curb and roof deck, and insufficient ice and water shield coverage. Many leak problems develop 2-3 years after installation when sealants begin to fail or ice dams test the flashing system. Quality installation with mechanical fasteners and layered flashing systems prevents these delayed failures.

For a typical garage skylight installation in the Quispamsis area, expect to pay $800-$2,000 for the skylight unit plus $1,500-$3,500 for professional installation, depending on roof complexity, accessibility, and interior finishing requirements. This includes cutting the opening, installing flashing and weatherproofing, integrating with existing roofing, and basic interior trim work.

When to hire a professional: Always hire an experienced roofer for skylight installation. The combination of structural modifications, complex flashing details, and NB's severe weather conditions makes this a job where mistakes are expensive and potentially dangerous. Look for contractors with specific skylight installation experience and current WorkSafeNB coverage.

Need help finding a professional roofer experienced with skylight installation? New Brunswick Garages can match you with qualified contractors in the Quispamsis area through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- R.e.j Construction
- Thirty Four Renovations
- Gionetterenovations

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Q7

Can I install vinyl siding on my garage myself in Dieppe NB?

Yes, installing vinyl siding on your garage is a reasonable DIY project for homeowners with basic carpentry skills and the right tools. Vinyl siding is one of the more forgiving exterior cladding materials, and garage walls are typically simpler than house walls with fewer windows, doors, and complex angles to navigate.

DIY vinyl siding installation on a typical two-car garage in Dieppe can save you $3,000-$6,000 in labour costs compared to professional installation. The materials for a 24x24 garage run approximately $2,000-$4,000 depending on siding quality and trim requirements. Most homeowners with weekend availability can complete a detached garage siding project in 2-3 weekends, working at a comfortable pace with proper planning.

The key to successful vinyl siding installation is understanding expansion and contraction. New Brunswick's temperature swings from summer highs around 25°C to winter lows of -25°C mean vinyl siding moves significantly throughout the year. Each 12-foot panel can expand and contract up to 3/8 inch over this temperature range. This is why vinyl siding has slotted nail holes and must never be nailed tight — leave 1/32 inch gap between the nail head and the siding, and center nails in the slots to allow movement. Panels that are nailed too tight will buckle in summer heat or crack in winter cold.

Essential tools for DIY vinyl siding include a circular saw with a fine-tooth blade (or vinyl siding blade), utility knife with fresh blades, chalk line, level, measuring tape, hammer or pneumatic nailer, and a zip tool for panel removal and adjustment. You'll also need a ladder or scaffolding system appropriate for your garage height — safety is paramount when working above ground level. A snap-lock punch is helpful for creating tabs when cutting panels, and aviation snips work well for detailed cuts around outlets or fixtures.

Start your installation at the back of the garage where mistakes will be less visible, and work toward the front. Install starter strip level around the entire perimeter, then work bottom to top, overlapping each course by about 1 inch. The bottom edge of each panel locks into the top edge of the panel below it — you should hear a distinct snap when properly engaged. **In Dieppe's coastal location, pay extra attention to wind resistance** — the Bay of Fundy creates persistent winds that can get behind loose siding panels and cause damage.

Critical details that trip up DIY installers include properly flashing around the service door and any windows, creating neat corners with corner posts or J-channel, and managing the transition where siding meets the roof line. The garage door opening requires careful measurement and cutting — most overhead doors have their own trim system that the siding butts against. **Never rely on caulk to seal gaps** — vinyl siding is designed to shed water through proper overlapping and flashing, not sealed joints.

Hire a professional if your garage has complex architectural details, multiple roof lines, or if you're uncomfortable working on ladders. Also consider professional installation if your garage needs new house wrap or sheathing repairs — these structural elements should be addressed by experienced contractors who understand NB's moisture management requirements. Professional installation typically includes a 5-10 year workmanship warranty and ensures proper building envelope details that DIY installations sometimes miss.

Timing matters in New Brunswick — avoid installing vinyl siding in extreme cold (below -10°C) when the material becomes brittle and prone to cracking during cutting and handling. Spring through fall installation allows the siding to acclimate to seasonal temperature ranges and settle into its expansion zones naturally.

Need help finding a professional if you decide against DIY? New Brunswick Garages can match you with experienced siding contractors in the Dieppe area who understand Maritime climate requirements and proper vinyl installation techniques.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- R.e.j Construction
- Thirty Four Renovations
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Q8

What roof pitch is best for a garage to handle heavy snow loads in Edmundston NB?

A roof pitch of 6:12 or steeper is the best choice for a garage in Edmundston, where snow loads are among the heaviest in New Brunswick. At 6:12 pitch, the roof rises 6 inches for every 12 inches of horizontal run, creating an angle steep enough to shed snow naturally rather than allowing it to accumulate to dangerous weights. For garages in the Edmundston and Madawaska County area, many experienced builders recommend going to 8:12 or even 10:12 pitch for optimal snow shedding.

Edmundston sits in northern New Brunswick where ground snow loads can reach **4.0 to 4.8 kPa** — roughly 80 to 100 pounds per square foot — which is significantly higher than what garages in southern NB communities like

Saint John or Moncton need to withstand. At these loads, a low-slope roof (anything below 4:12) becomes a serious liability because snow simply sits on the roof, compacting and adding weight with each successive storm. A single heavy winter can deposit thousands of pounds of snow on a garage roof that was not designed for it, and the result is sagging trusses, cracked sheathing, or in worst cases, complete roof collapse.

The steeper you go, the more effectively snow slides off, but there are practical trade-offs. A 6:12 pitch provides a good balance between snow shedding, interior headroom, and construction cost. If you plan to use the attic space above your garage for storage or a bonus room, an 8:12 or steeper pitch gives you usable headroom while keeping snow loads manageable. However, steeper roofs require more framing material, more sheathing and roofing, and taller gable walls — expect to add **$1,500 to $4,000** to total garage cost when moving from a 4:12 to an 8:12 pitch on a standard two-car garage.

NB Building Code and Truss Engineering

Regardless of the pitch you choose, the roof trusses or rafters for any garage in Edmundston must be **engineered for the local ground snow load** as specified by the National Building Code of Canada and referenced by the NB Building Code. Your truss supplier will design the members for your specific location, span, and pitch — never use generic truss designs from online plans that may have been calculated for lighter snow regions. The truss engineering certificate is a required document for your building permit application in most NB municipalities.

For garages in Edmundston, pay particular attention to **snow drift zones**. If your garage is attached to the house, or if a taller structure is nearby, wind-driven snow can accumulate in drifts that impose loads two to three times the ground snow load on the lower roof. These drift zones require heavier trusses or additional structural support, and your building inspector will look specifically for this engineering detail.

Ice and water shield membrane should be installed at least 36 inches up from the eave edge per code, but in Edmundston's climate, experienced roofers typically extend coverage to 48 or even 72 inches to protect against ice dams. Pair this with proper attic ventilation — soffit vents and a ridge vent — to keep the roof deck cold and minimize ice dam formation.

When choosing roofing material for a steep-pitch garage in northern NB, **metal roofing** is an excellent option because it sheds snow more effectively than asphalt shingles. However, you will need snow guards or snow rails above doorways and walkways to prevent sudden avalanches of snow sliding off the smooth metal surface. A standard two-car garage roof in Edmundston, framed at 6:12 pitch with engineered trusses and architectural shingles, typically costs **$8,000 to $14,000** for the complete roof system including trusses, sheathing, underlayment, ice and water shield, shingles, and ventilation.

This is not a DIY project. Roof pitch selection, truss engineering, and installation for heavy snow load areas require professional expertise. A qualified garage builder or general contractor familiar with northern NB conditions

will ensure your trusses are properly engineered, braced, and fastened to handle Edmundston's demanding winter loads. Get matched with a garage contractor for a free estimate through New Brunswick Garages.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- R.e.j Construction
- Thirty Four Renovations
- Gionetterenovations

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Q9

What siding material is most durable for a garage in the Maritime climate of New Brunswick?

Fibre cement siding (HardiePlank) is the most durable siding material for a garage in New Brunswick's Maritime climate, offering superior resistance to moisture, wind, temperature extremes, and impact. While it costs more upfront than vinyl or engineered wood, its 40 to 50-year lifespan and minimal maintenance requirements make it the best long-term investment for NB homeowners who want their garage cladding to outlast the elements.

New Brunswick's Maritime climate is uniquely demanding on exterior building materials. The combination of **high humidity year-round**, persistent coastal winds, freeze-thaw cycles that can swing temperatures 20 degrees in a single day, salt air exposure in coastal communities, and heavy precipitation means that siding materials face more stress here than in most other Canadian provinces. A siding material that performs well in Ontario or Alberta may deteriorate significantly faster on a garage in Saint John, Shediac, or Bathurst where salt-laden wind and moisture are constant companions.

Fibre cement siding (commonly sold as HardiePlank or James Hardie brand) costs **$8 to $14 per square foot installed** in NB, which puts it at the premium end of the spectrum. However, it is completely rot-proof, insect-proof, fire-resistant, and dimensionally stable across NB's extreme temperature range. It does not expand and contract noticeably with temperature changes the way vinyl does, and it will not delaminate or swell with moisture exposure like some engineered wood products can if their paint seal is compromised. For a standard two-car garage with approximately 1,200 square feet of wall area, expect to pay **$9,600 to $16,800** for fibre cement siding fully installed.

Vinyl siding at **$4 to $8 per square foot installed** is by far the most popular garage siding in NB, and for good reason — it is affordable, maintenance-free, and comes in a wide range of colours. Modern premium vinyl (0.046-inch thickness or greater) handles NB's climate reasonably well and can last 30 to 40 years. The main drawback is that vinyl becomes brittle in extreme cold and can crack if struck by debris during winter storms or when clearing snow near the garage. In high-wind coastal areas like the Bay of Fundy shoreline, vinyl panels can work loose if not installed with proper nail spacing and wind-rated clips.

LP SmartSide (engineered wood siding) at **$6 to $12 per square foot installed** offers a middle ground — more realistic wood appearance than vinyl, excellent impact resistance, and good durability when properly maintained. The critical factor in NB's wet climate is keeping the paint seal intact. Engineered wood siding requires repainting every 8 to 12 years, and any exposed edges, cut ends, or paint damage must be sealed promptly to prevent moisture infiltration. In coastal NB communities with high salt exposure, this maintenance cycle may need to be shortened.

Board and batten siding (wood or engineered wood) at **$8 to $16 per square foot installed** is popular for detached garages and workshops in rural NB, providing a classic agricultural aesthetic. Real wood board and batten requires staining or painting every 5 to 8 years in NB's climate, but when maintained, it can last decades and develops attractive character with age.

For NB garages specifically, the most important installation detail regardless of siding material is the **weather-resistive barrier (housewrap)** behind the siding. In NB's wet, windy climate, rain can be driven upward and behind siding panels. A properly installed housewrap with taped seams, properly integrated window and door flashing, and a drainage gap behind the siding ensures that any moisture that penetrates the cladding drains harmlessly away rather than being trapped against the sheathing.

For most NB homeowners building a new garage, the practical choice is premium-grade vinyl siding for budget projects or fibre cement for those who want maximum longevity. A professional siding installer familiar with NB's Maritime conditions will ensure proper flashing, housewrap integration, and fastening for your chosen material. Find garage construction contractors through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory at newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com.

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Q10

How much does it cost to reshingle a garage roof in Moncton NB?

Reshingling a garage roof in the Moncton area typically costs $2,500 to $6,500 depending on garage size, shingle quality, and whether the existing shingles need to be stripped. A standard single-car garage (12x20 to 14x24) runs $2,500 to $3,800, while a two-car garage (24x24 to 24x30) costs $3,800 to $6,500 for a complete reshingle with architectural asphalt shingles.

The biggest factor affecting cost is whether your roofer can install new shingles over the existing layer or needs to strip the old shingles down to bare sheathing first. The NB Building Code allows a maximum of **two layers of asphalt shingles** on a roof. If your garage already has two layers, or if the existing shingles are severely curled, buckled, or deteriorated, a full tear-off is required. Stripping adds **$1.00 to $2.50 per square foot** to the project cost, which works out to roughly $600 to $1,500 extra on a typical two-car garage roof. In many cases, experienced Moncton roofers recommend stripping regardless because it allows inspection of the sheathing, replacement of any rotted plywood, and proper installation of new underlayment and ice and water shield.

For the Moncton and Greater Moncton area (including Dieppe and Riverview), typical reshingle costs break down as follows. **Asphalt architectural shingles** run **$4 to $7 per square foot installed**, which is the standard choice for most residential garages. These shingles come with 25 to 30-year warranties and are available from major brands like IKO, BP, and CertainTeed at Moncton building supply stores including Kent, Home Hardware, and specialty roofing suppliers. **Premium designer shingles** with heavier weight and longer warranties (40 to 50 years) cost $6 to $9 per square foot installed but are generally not necessary for a garage roof unless you want the garage to match a premium-shingled house.

Ice and water shield membrane is a critical component of any garage reshingle in Moncton and is required by code at a minimum of 36 inches from the eave edge. Given Moncton's susceptibility to ice dams — temperatures hovering around freezing are common in the Petitcodiac River valley during late fall and early spring — most experienced local roofers extend the ice and water shield to 48 or 72 inches. This membrane adds roughly **$1.50 to $3.00 per linear foot of eave** to the project but provides essential protection against ice dam water infiltration.

A complete reshingle quote for a Moncton garage should include removal and disposal of old shingles (if stripping), inspection and repair of sheathing, installation of synthetic underlayment, ice and water shield at eaves and valleys, new drip edge flashing, architectural shingles, ridge cap shingles, and proper ventilation components (ridge vent and soffit vents if not already present). **Flashing around any pipes, vents, or roof-to-wall connections** (critical for attached garages) should be replaced with new flashing rather than reused.

The best time to reshingle a garage in Moncton is **May through October** when temperatures are warm enough for shingle adhesive strips to seal properly. Shingles installed in cold weather may not seal until the following spring,

leaving them vulnerable to wind lift during winter storms. Most Moncton roofing contractors are busiest in July and August, so booking in May, June, September, or October may get you a slightly better price and faster scheduling.

Always get three or more quotes from local roofing contractors for your garage reshingle. Prices in the Moncton area can vary 25 to 40 percent between contractors for identical scope, and written quotes allow you to compare material specifications, warranty terms, and included work items. A garage reshingle is a project that should be handled by a professional — working at height with proper safety equipment, correct installation technique, and knowledge of NB's ice and water shield and ventilation requirements all affect the roof's long-term performance. Browse garage and roofing contractors in your area through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory at newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com.

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Q11

Should I use metal roofing on my garage in Fredericton for snow shedding?

Yes, metal roofing is an excellent choice for a garage in Fredericton, particularly for its superior snow-shedding properties and long lifespan in the Saint John River valley's climate. Metal roofing costs more upfront than asphalt shingles but delivers 40 to 60 years of service compared to 25 to 30 years for architectural shingles, making it a strong long-term investment.

Fredericton receives substantial snowfall each winter, and the city's location in the Saint John River valley produces temperature swings that create challenging conditions for garage roofs. Daytime warming followed by overnight freezing can turn accumulated snow into heavy ice layers on asphalt shingle roofs, adding significant dead weight and creating conditions ripe for ice dams. **Metal roofing sheds snow far more effectively** because the smooth, low-friction surface allows snow to slide off under its own weight before it compacts and bonds to the roof. This keeps the structural load on your garage trusses well below the engineered design load and dramatically reduces ice dam formation.

In Fredericton, **metal roofing for a garage costs $7 to $14 per square foot installed**, compared to $4 to $7 for asphalt architectural shingles. For a standard two-car garage (24x24) with approximately 700 to 800 square feet of roof area, that translates to roughly **$5,600 to $11,200 for metal** versus **$3,200 to $5,600 for shingles**. The price difference narrows considerably when you factor in the fact that you will likely need to reshingle the garage once or twice during the lifespan of a single metal roof.

The two main types of metal roofing used on NB garages are **standing seam** and **exposed-fastener panels**. Standing seam is the premium option — concealed fasteners, cleaner appearance, better weather tightness, and longer lifespan — but it costs $10 to $14 per square foot installed. Exposed-fastener panels (ribbed or corrugated) are more affordable at $7 to $10 per square foot and are the most common choice for detached garages and workshops throughout the Fredericton area. Both types shed snow effectively.

There is one critical consideration with metal roofing and snow shedding: snow guards. When snow slides off a smooth metal roof, it comes down in heavy sheets that can damage anything below — vehicles parked near the garage, landscaping, fencing, walkways, or even people. You must install **snow guards or snow rails** above any doorways, walkways, adjacent driveways, or neighbouring property lines. Snow guards cost $300 to $1,000 installed on a typical garage roof and are not optional in an urban or suburban Fredericton setting where people and vehicles regularly pass near the garage.

For Fredericton's climate specifically, metal roofing offers several additional advantages beyond snow shedding. Metal is impervious to the freeze-thaw cycling that gradually deteriorates asphalt shingles, it handles the river valley's occasional high winds better than shingles (most metal roofing systems are rated for 120 to 180 km/h winds), and it sheds rain quickly during Fredericton's wet spring seasons. Metal roofing is also fire-resistant, which is a benefit if your garage stores gasoline, propane, or other flammable materials.

The main drawbacks to consider are **noise and condensation**. Rain and hail are louder on metal roofing, though this is typically not a concern for an uninsulated garage where some noise is expected. If your garage is insulated or has a finished ceiling, proper insulation between the roof deck and the interior will dampen sound effectively. Condensation can form on the underside of metal roofing in NB's humid climate — a vapour-permeable underlayment (such as synthetic breathable roofing felt) between the sheathing and the metal panels helps prevent this moisture from dripping onto stored items.

Metal roofing installation is a professional job, particularly for standing seam systems that require specialized tools and training. Even exposed-fastener panels need precise installation — incorrect screw placement, missing or misaligned sealant washers, and improper overlap at panel joints are common DIY mistakes that lead to leaks. Hire a roofing contractor experienced with metal installation in the Fredericton area. Need help finding a professional garage builder? New Brunswick Garages can match you for free through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

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Q12

What is the best soffit and fascia material for a garage in Saint John New Brunswick?

Aluminum soffit and fascia is the best choice for a garage in Saint John, offering excellent resistance to the city's coastal moisture, salt air, and persistent winds while requiring virtually zero maintenance over its 40 to 50-year lifespan. For homeowners who want a premium option, fibre cement fascia paired with aluminum vented soffit provides even greater durability and a more substantial appearance.

Saint John's location on the Bay of Fundy creates one of the most demanding exterior environments in New Brunswick for building materials. The combination of **salt-laden air, high humidity, driving rain, fog, and temperature swings** from coastal weather patterns means that soffit and fascia materials on a garage must resist corrosion, moisture infiltration, and UV degradation far more aggressively than in inland NB communities. Materials that perform adequately in Fredericton or Woodstock may deteriorate noticeably faster in Saint John's coastal exposure.

Aluminum soffit is the standard choice for NB garages and costs **$4 to $8 per linear foot installed** for the soffit panel, J-channel, and F-channel trim. It comes in vented and solid configurations — for a garage in Saint John, use **vented soffit panels** to provide continuous airflow through the attic or roof cavity. This ventilation is essential for preventing condensation buildup in the roof structure and reducing ice dam formation during NB's freeze-thaw cycles. Aluminum soffit will not rot, warp, crack, or attract insects, and it requires no painting or staining. The baked-on factory finish holds its colour for decades, even in Saint John's salt air.

Aluminum fascia (also called fascia capping or fascia wrap) covers the exposed wooden fascia board with a pre-finished aluminum sheet, protecting the wood from moisture, rot, and paint failure. It costs **$5 to $10 per linear foot installed** and is typically done at the same time as soffit installation. For a standard two-car garage, the combined

soffit and fascia package runs approximately **$1,500 to $3,500 installed** depending on the garage dimensions and how much detail work is needed at corners, returns, and roof transitions.

Vinyl soffit and fascia is a more affordable alternative at **$3 to $6 per linear foot installed**, and it resists moisture well. However, vinyl has two significant drawbacks in Saint John's climate. First, it becomes brittle in extreme cold and can crack if struck by ice, snow, or debris during winter storms. Second, vinyl expands and contracts more than aluminum with temperature changes, and in Saint John's coastal wind, improperly fastened vinyl soffit panels can work loose and rattle or blow off entirely. If budget is the primary concern, vinyl is acceptable, but choose a heavier gauge and ensure your installer uses proper fastening with expansion allowance.

Wood soffit and fascia — whether natural cedar, pine, or spruce — gives a garage a traditional appearance but requires ongoing maintenance in Saint John's wet climate. Expect to repaint or restain every 4 to 6 years, and inspect annually for rot, peeling, and insect damage. Cedar is the most rot-resistant wood option and can perform well for 20 to 30 years with diligent maintenance, but the long-term labour cost of repainting makes it significantly more expensive than aluminum over the garage's lifespan.

Fibre cement fascia boards (such as HardieTrim) offer premium durability — they are rot-proof, insect-proof, and dimensionally stable in Saint John's humidity. At **$8 to $14 per linear foot installed**, they cost more than aluminum fascia capping but provide a thicker, more substantial profile that looks like real painted wood. Fibre cement fascia paired with aluminum vented soffit is a popular high-end combination for NB garages where appearance and longevity both matter.

Regardless of material, proper installation details are critical in Saint John. **Drip edge flashing** must be installed between the fascia and the roof sheathing edge to prevent water from wicking behind the fascia. Soffit panels must be securely fastened to resist Bay of Fundy wind uplift. And all joints, corners, and transitions should be tight to prevent wind-driven rain from penetrating the soffit cavity and reaching the roof sheathing.

Soffit and fascia installation on a garage is best handled by a professional who can ensure proper ventilation ratios, secure fastening for wind resistance, and clean trim work at transitions. Find local garage construction contractors through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory at newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com.

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Q13

How do I prevent ice dams on my garage roof in Miramichi New Brunswick?

Preventing ice dams on a garage roof in Miramichi requires addressing the root cause — heat escaping through the roof deck — through a combination of proper insulation, adequate ventilation, and protective ice and water shield membrane at the eaves. Ice dams form when warm air inside the garage melts snow on the upper portion of the roof, and the meltwater refreezes at the cold eave overhang, creating a dam that backs water up under the shingles and into the roof structure.

Miramichi's winter climate is particularly prone to ice dam conditions. The Miramichi River valley experiences frequent **temperature fluctuations around the freezing point** during late fall, early spring, and even during midwinter thaw events. These freeze-thaw cycles — combined with heavy snowfall and NB's typical snow loads of **2.4 to 3.6 kPa** in the Miramichi area — create ideal conditions for ice dam formation. An insulated, heated garage is most vulnerable because heat rises to the ceiling and warms the roof deck, but even unheated garages can develop ice dams if the attic space traps solar heat or has poor ventilation.

The Three-Part Defence Against Ice Dams

Insulation is the first line of defence. If your garage is heated or attached to the house, the ceiling must have sufficient insulation to prevent warm interior air from reaching the roof deck. For heated garages in NB, a minimum of **R-32 ceiling insulation** is recommended, with R-50 being ideal. The insulation must be continuous with no gaps, compressed areas, or voids — even small thermal bridges allow enough heat transfer to melt snow on the roof above. Pay particular attention to areas around light fixtures, electrical boxes, and any penetrations through the ceiling. If your garage has a finished ceiling with inadequate insulation, adding blown-in cellulose or fibreglass through the attic access can significantly reduce heat transfer for **$1,500 to $3,000** on a two-car garage.

Ventilation is the second essential component. A properly ventilated garage attic stays cold in winter, matching the exterior temperature so that snow on the roof does not melt prematurely. The standard approach is a **balanced ventilation system** with intake vents at the soffits and exhaust at the ridge. The NB Building Code requires a minimum ventilation ratio of **1:300** (1 square foot of net free ventilation area for every 300 square feet of attic floor area) when a vapour barrier is present, or 1:150 without one. For a 24x24 garage, that means roughly 2 square feet of total vent area, split equally between soffit intake and ridge exhaust. Ensure soffit vents are not blocked by insulation — install **rafter baffles (ventilation chutes)** in each rafter bay to maintain a clear air channel from soffit to ridge above the insulation.

Ice and water shield membrane is the third layer of protection. This self-adhering rubberized membrane is installed directly on the roof sheathing before the shingles and creates a watertight barrier even if water backs up behind an ice dam. The NB Building Code requires ice and water shield at least **36 inches up from the eave edge**,

but in Miramichi's climate, experienced local roofers routinely extend coverage to 48 or 72 inches — and on lower-pitched roofs, some install it across the entire roof deck. This is your last line of defence and is particularly important on garage roofs where the pitch may be relatively low.

For an existing garage with recurring ice dam problems, there are several practical steps you can take. **Clear snow from the lower 3 to 4 feet of the roof** after heavy snowfalls using a roof rake — this removes the raw material that forms dams. Never use a shovel, pickaxe, or salt on the roof, as these damage shingles and flashing. **Check that your soffit vents are clear** and that blown-in insulation has not blocked the airflow path. **Seal any air leaks** between the garage interior and the attic — gaps around the attic hatch, wiring penetrations, and light fixture openings are common culprits.

If your garage has persistent ice dams despite having reasonable insulation and ventilation, the problem may require professional assessment. A roofing contractor or building envelope specialist can identify the specific heat loss paths and recommend targeted solutions. Find local roofing and garage contractors through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory at newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com.

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Q14

What snow load rating does a garage roof need in the Bathurst NB area?

A garage roof in the Bathurst area must be designed for a ground snow load of approximately 3.6 to 4.4 kPa (roughly 75 to 92 pounds per square foot), making it one of the heavier snow load zones in New Brunswick. The exact design load for your garage roof will be calculated by a structural engineer or truss designer based on the ground snow load for your specific location, plus adjustments for roof shape, slope, exposure, and potential snow drift accumulation.

Bathurst and the surrounding Chaleur region in northern NB receive heavy, persistent snowfall throughout the winter season, which typically runs from November through April. Unlike southern NB communities where periodic thaws reduce snow accumulation on roofs, Bathurst's colder temperatures mean that snow tends to **stay on the roof and compact** over the winter, building up layer after layer. By late February or March, a garage roof in Bathurst can easily be carrying the equivalent of several months of accumulated snowfall.

The **National Building Code of Canada** specifies the ground snow load values that engineers and truss designers use as their starting point. For the Bathurst area, the specified ground snow load (Ss) is approximately **3.6 to 4.0 kPa** with an associated rain load (Sr) of roughly **0.4 kPa**. The actual roof snow load calculation takes the ground snow load and adjusts it using several factors. A **basic roof snow load factor (Cb)** accounts for the probability of full ground snow accumulation on the roof. A **wind exposure factor (Cw)** may reduce the load slightly for exposed sites or increase it for sheltered ones. A **slope factor (Cs)** reduces the design load for steeper roofs that shed snow. And critically, an **accumulation factor (Ca)** increases the load in areas where snow drifts — such as where a lower garage roof meets a taller house wall, or in valleys and parapets.

For a simple detached garage with a gable roof at 6:12 pitch in an open suburban lot in Bathurst, the design roof snow load typically works out to roughly **2.5 to 3.5 kPa** (52 to 73 pounds per square foot) after all factors are applied. However, for an attached garage where the garage roof meets the house wall, **drift loading** can push local loads to **5.0 to 7.0 kPa** or higher in the drift zone immediately adjacent to the wall. This drift zone requires heavier trusses or additional structural reinforcement, and it is one of the most commonly under-designed areas in residential garage construction.

What does this mean in practical terms for your garage? **Every roof truss or rafter must be engineered for Bathurst's specific snow loads.** Pre-fabricated trusses from a truss manufacturer (such as those supplied through NB building supply dealers) will come with an engineering stamp certifying they are designed for your location, span, spacing, and loading requirements. This engineering certificate is a required document for your building permit application. Never use generic truss designs downloaded from the internet or from plans designed for a different snow load region — a truss designed for Moncton's lighter snow load could fail catastrophically under a Bathurst winter.

The connection between the trusses and the wall top plates is equally important. **Hurricane straps or engineered truss-to-plate connectors** ensure the roof structure transfers snow loads down through the walls to the foundation without relying solely on toenails, which can pull out under heavy loading. Your building inspector will check for these connectors during the framing inspection.

Roof pitch matters significantly for snow load management in Bathurst. A steeper pitch (6:12 or greater) sheds snow more effectively and reduces the sustained load on the structure. Low-slope roofs (3:12 or 4:12) accumulate more snow and sustain higher loads throughout the season. For garages in the Bathurst area, most

experienced builders recommend **6:12 pitch minimum**, with 8:12 being preferable for larger spans.

This is entirely a professional undertaking. Structural design for NB snow loads requires engineering calculations that account for your specific location, garage dimensions, roof geometry, and exposure conditions. A qualified garage builder or general contractor working with an engineered truss supplier will ensure your garage roof is designed to safely carry Bathurst's demanding snow loads for decades. Get matched with a garage contractor for a free estimate through New Brunswick Garages.

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Q15

Is James Hardie fibre cement siding a good choice for a garage in NB winters?

James Hardie fibre cement siding is an excellent choice for a garage in New Brunswick's winters, offering superior durability against freeze-thaw cycles, moisture, wind, and impact compared to vinyl or engineered wood alternatives. HardiePlank and HardiePanel products are specifically manufactured with a formulation designed for cold climates (the HZ5 zone designation covers all of New Brunswick), making them one of the most winter-resilient siding options available.

New Brunswick garages face punishing winter conditions — temperatures regularly dropping to **-20 to -30 degrees Celsius**, repeated freeze-thaw cycles throughout the season, wind-driven snow and ice, and persistent moisture from the Maritime climate. These conditions are hardest on siding materials that absorb moisture, because water trapped inside the material expands when it freezes, causing cracking, delamination, and accelerated deterioration. **Fibre cement siding absorbs minimal moisture** compared to wood or engineered wood products, and the HZ5 formulation used in NB includes additives that further improve freeze-thaw resistance. James Hardie warranties their HZ5 products for 30 years, and real-world performance in similar cold-climate Canadian communities shows lifespans of 40 to 50 years with proper maintenance.

At **$8 to $14 per square foot installed** in New Brunswick, fibre cement is the premium option for garage siding. For a standard two-car garage with approximately 1,200 square feet of exterior wall area, expect a total installed cost of **$9,600 to $16,800**. This is roughly double the cost of vinyl siding at $4 to $8 per square foot installed, and 30 to 50 percent more than LP SmartSide engineered wood at $6 to $12 per square foot. The higher upfront cost is offset by fibre cement's longer lifespan, lower maintenance requirements, and superior performance — you will repaint fibre cement every 12 to 20 years compared to every 8 to 12 years for engineered wood, and you will never need to replace cracked or warped panels the way you sometimes must with vinyl after severe cold snaps.

The key advantages of Hardie siding for an NB garage include complete resistance to rot and mould (critical in NB's humid Maritime climate), zero susceptibility to insect damage (carpenter ants and wood-boring insects are common in NB), Class A fire resistance (important for garages that store flammable materials), and excellent impact resistance (it will not crack from flying debris, ice, or accidental contact the way vinyl can in extreme cold). The product also holds paint extremely well, maintaining a clean, finished appearance far longer than wood or engineered alternatives.

There are a few practical considerations specific to NB installations. **Fibre cement is heavy** — a 12-foot HardiePlank board weighs roughly 2.5 pounds per square foot, compared to less than half a pound for vinyl. This means installation requires two people for most boards, and the garage wall framing must be sound with solid nailing surfaces at proper spacing (16-inch on-centre stud spacing is standard and works well with Hardie products). **Cutting fibre cement produces silica dust**, which requires proper respiratory protection — installers should use P100 respirators and either shear-type cutting tools or circular saws with dust collection.

Hardie siding must be installed with proper clearances and flashing in NB's wet climate. The bottom edge of the lowest board should be at least **6 inches above finished grade** to prevent splash-back moisture damage. All butt joints must have flashing behind them or be caulked with a flexible, paintable sealant. And the weather-resistive barrier (housewrap) beneath the siding must be properly installed with taped seams and integrated flashing at all openings — this is your garage's true moisture defence, and Hardie siding performs best over a well-detailed housewrap installation.

One important note: fibre cement siding should not be installed when temperatures are below freezing because the sealants and caulking used at joints and trim do not cure properly in cold weather, and the boards are slightly more brittle when very cold, increasing the risk of cracking during handling. Plan your installation for the warmer months — **May through October** is the ideal window for fibre cement siding installation in NB.

Fibre cement installation is a professional job. The weight, cutting requirements, and precision flashing details make this a poor candidate for DIY on a garage. Experienced installers who are familiar with Hardie products and NB's climate-specific requirements will ensure a result that lasts decades. Find garage construction contractors through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory at newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com.

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Q16

How long do asphalt shingles last on a garage in the New Brunswick Maritime climate?

Standard architectural asphalt shingles typically last 20 to 25 years on a garage roof in New Brunswick's Maritime climate, which is roughly 5 to 10 years shorter than the manufacturer's 25 to 30-year warranty suggests. The combination of heavy snow loads, freeze-thaw cycling, ice dam stress, UV exposure, and persistent Maritime moisture accelerates shingle deterioration compared to milder climates, making NB one of the toughest environments in Canada for asphalt roofing.

The primary factor that shortens shingle life in NB is the **relentless freeze-thaw cycle**. During a typical NB winter, temperatures cross the freezing point dozens of times, and each cycle allows moisture to penetrate microscopic cracks in the shingle surface, freeze, expand, and widen those cracks further. Over 15 to 20 winters, this process gradually breaks down the asphalt binder that holds the granule surface together, leading to granule loss, curling edges, and eventually exposed fibreglass mat. You will notice increasing amounts of granules in your gutters and downspouts as the shingles age — this is the most visible sign that the protective surface is wearing away.

Snow load and ice dam stress are the second major factor. NB garages carry substantial snow loads — **2.4 to 4.8 kPa depending on location** — and the weight of compacted snow and ice sitting on shingles for months at a time compresses and deforms them. Ice dams, which form when heat escaping through the roof melts snow that refreezes at the eaves, force water underneath shingle edges and accelerate deterioration of both the shingles and the underlayment. Garages that experience recurring ice dams can see shingle failure in as few as 15 years in the eave and valley areas.

The **quality of the shingle** makes a meaningful difference in NB. Economy-grade three-tab shingles, which are occasionally used on garages to save money, may last only **15 to 18 years** in NB's climate. Standard **architectural (dimensional) shingles** from brands like IKO, BP, and CertainTeed — the most commonly available brands at NB building supply stores — perform significantly better, lasting **20 to 25 years** with proper installation. **Premium heavyweight architectural shingles** with 40 to 50-year warranties may last **25 to 30 years** in NB conditions, though no shingle truly reaches its rated warranty life in the Maritime climate.

Several factors influence whether your garage shingles land at the shorter or longer end of that range. **Roof pitch** matters — steeper roofs shed snow and water more quickly, reducing moisture exposure and extending shingle life. A garage roof at 6:12 or steeper will generally outlast a low-slope 3:12 roof by several years. **Ventilation** is equally important — a properly ventilated garage attic (balanced soffit intake and ridge exhaust) keeps the roof deck temperature stable, reduces ice dam formation, and prevents moisture buildup that deteriorates shingles from below. **Colour** plays a role as well — darker shingles absorb more solar heat, which accelerates aging of the

asphalt binder, though the effect is modest compared to climate factors.

Proper installation is perhaps the single biggest determinant of shingle longevity in NB. This includes correct ice and water shield coverage at the eaves (minimum 36 inches, preferably 48 to 72 inches in NB), proper underlayment over the entire roof deck, correct nail placement and count (most manufacturers require 4 to 6 nails per shingle in high-wind zones), adequate starter strip installation at eaves and rakes, and proper flashing at all roof-to-wall connections, valleys, and penetrations. A shingle installation that cuts corners on any of these details will fail years sooner than a properly installed roof.

To maximize the lifespan of your garage roof shingles, keep the roof clear of debris and overhanging branches that trap moisture, ensure gutters and downspouts are functioning properly, rake heavy snow accumulations from the lower portions of the roof to reduce ice dam risk, and address any missing, lifted, or damaged shingles promptly before water can penetrate the underlayment.

When your garage shingles reach the 18 to 22-year mark in NB, start budgeting for replacement. A complete reshingle on a two-car garage in NB typically costs **$3,800 to $6,500** with architectural shingles, or consider upgrading to **metal roofing** at $7 to $14 per square foot for a 40 to 60-year solution that eliminates the shingle replacement cycle entirely. Browse garage and roofing contractors in your area through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory at newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com.

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Q17

Should I add ice and water shield to my garage roof in Riverview NB?

Yes, ice and water shield is strongly recommended for any garage roof in Riverview, and in fact it is partially required by the NB Building Code. At minimum, code requires a self-adhering ice and water shield membrane extending at least 36 inches up from the eave edge on all sloped roofs. However, given Riverview's

specific climate conditions, most experienced NB roofers will recommend extending that coverage to 48 or even 72 inches from the eave.

Riverview sits in the Petitcodiac River valley, which brings a combination of heavy snowfall, frequent freeze-thaw cycles, and sustained cold that makes ice damming a serious concern on garage roofs. Ice dams form when heat escaping through the roof melts snow on the upper portion of the roof, and that meltwater refreezes at the colder eave edge. The resulting ice ridge traps water behind it, forcing it under shingles and into the roof sheathing. On an unprotected roof, this leads to rot in the plywood decking, water stains on the garage ceiling, and potential mould growth that you may not discover for years. Ice and water shield is a rubberized, self-sealing membrane that prevents this water from reaching the sheathing even when it gets past the shingles.

Why Extra Coverage Makes Sense in Riverview

For a typical garage roof in the Riverview area, the cost of upgrading from the code-minimum 36-inch eave coverage to full coverage on the lower 4-6 feet of the roof adds only **$300 to $600 in materials** for a two-car garage. Considering the cost of repairing water-damaged roof sheathing and trusses — easily **$2,000 to $5,000 or more** — the extra membrane is one of the best-value upgrades you can make during a garage build or re-roof.

There are a few specific situations where you should consider even more aggressive ice and water shield coverage. If your garage has a low-slope roof (4/12 pitch or less), the entire roof deck should be covered because low-slope roofs are far more vulnerable to wind-driven rain and ice dam backup. If your attached garage has a valley where the garage roof meets the house roof, that entire valley should be lined with ice and water shield from top to bottom, as valleys concentrate both water flow and snow accumulation. Similarly, any area where a garage roof meets a vertical wall — common on attached garages — needs ice and water shield extending at least 24 inches up the wall and out onto the roof surface.

When choosing an ice and water shield product, look for a self-adhering membrane with a minimum thickness of 40 mils. Grace Ice & Water Shield, Blueskin, and Resisto are common brands available through NB building supply stores. The product should be applied directly to clean, dry roof sheathing before any roofing felt or synthetic underlayment is installed, and it must be installed when temperatures are above 5 degrees Celsius for proper adhesion — another reason to time your garage build during the warmer months.

One important note: ice and water shield is a secondary defence, not a substitute for proper attic ventilation and insulation. If your garage is heated or insulated, ensuring adequate soffit-to-ridge ventilation is the primary way to prevent ice dams from forming in the first place. The membrane is your backup protection for when conditions overwhelm even a well-ventilated roof, which happens regularly during NB's heaviest winters.

For a project like this, your roofer should be specifying the ice and water shield coverage as part of their quote. If a contractor's quote only mentions the code-minimum 36 inches, ask them to price the extended coverage — any

experienced NB roofer will understand exactly why you are asking. If you are planning a new garage build or re-roof in the Riverview area, New Brunswick Garages can match you with local contractors who understand these Maritime climate requirements.

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Q18

What colour siding hides wear and fading best on a NB garage?

Medium-toned earth colours — think clay, khaki, sage green, and pewter grey — hide wear, fading, and dirt accumulation far better than very dark or very light siding colours on a New Brunswick garage. These mid-range tones strike the ideal balance between showing less UV fade over time and disguising the dust, pollen, and road grime that NB's seasonal weather deposits on exterior surfaces.

The reason colour choice matters so much for NB garages comes down to the province's climate extremes. New Brunswick's intense summer UV exposure, combined with heavy rain, salt air near the coast, and freeze-thaw cycles that stress every exterior surface, accelerates fading and weathering on siding far more than what homeowners in milder climates experience. Very dark colours — black, dark brown, deep navy — absorb the most UV radiation and show fading within 5 to 8 years, often developing a chalky, washed-out appearance on the sun-facing side of the garage while the shaded side remains darker, creating an uneven look. Very light colours like white and cream hide fading well but show every speck of dirt, mould, and green algae growth, which is a persistent problem in NB's humid Maritime climate.

The **material you choose** also affects how well a colour holds up. Vinyl siding is the most common garage cladding in NB, running **$4 to $8 per square foot installed**, and modern vinyl formulations include UV stabilizers that have dramatically improved fade resistance over the past decade. Premium vinyl lines from manufacturers like Kaycan, Gentek, and Royal offer colour-through technology where the pigment extends through the full thickness of the panel rather than just the surface, so even if minor surface wear occurs, the colour underneath matches. For

vinyl, medium tones in the grey, tan, and green families perform best long-term in NB conditions.

If you are using **LP SmartSide or HardiePlank fibre cement siding** on your garage — running **$6 to $14 per square foot installed** — colour longevity depends heavily on the paint quality. Factory-applied finishes on these products carry 15-year colour warranties, while field-applied paints may need refreshing every 8 to 12 years. With painted products, you have the flexibility to choose any colour, but sticking with medium tones still means the inevitable fade between repaintings is less noticeable.

A few practical tips for choosing your garage siding colour in NB. First, **match or complement your house** — a garage that clashes with the main dwelling hurts curb appeal and resale value, so bring a sample of your house siding colour when shopping. Second, **consider the sun exposure** of your garage — a south-facing or west-facing garage takes the most UV punishment, so if your garage has significant sun exposure, lean toward lighter and more fade-resistant tones. Third, **avoid trendy colours** unless you are prepared to reside or repaint in 10 to 15 years — neutral earth tones remain attractive across decades while fashionable colours like teal, burgundy, or charcoal can date a property quickly.

For garages near the coast — Saint John, Shediac, or the Bay of Fundy communities — salt spray adds another layer of wear. In these areas, vinyl siding in mid-toned colours is typically the best performer because it does not corrode, does not need painting, and rinses clean with a garden hose each spring. Regardless of colour, a yearly wash-down after winter removes accumulated salt and grime before it can cause surface damage.

If you are building a new garage or re-siding an existing one, getting a few quotes from local contractors will help you compare material options and colour warranties side by side. New Brunswick Garages can connect you with siding contractors in your area through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

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Q19

How do I match my garage siding to my house in Rothesay New Brunswick?

The most reliable way to match your garage siding to your house in Rothesay is to identify your existing siding's manufacturer, product line, and colour code, then source the same product for your garage build. If your house siding is less than 15 to 20 years old, there is a good chance the exact product is still available or that the manufacturer offers a current equivalent in the same colour family.

Start by examining a piece of your existing house siding for manufacturer stamps or markings. On vinyl siding, you will often find the brand name, product code, and colour name embossed on the back or nailing strip of a panel — you may need to carefully lift the bottom edge of a panel to read this information. Common brands installed on Rothesay homes include Kaycan, Gentek, Royal, Mitten, and CertainTeed. Once you have the manufacturer and colour name, contact a local NB building supply store — Kent Building Supplies, Home Hardware, or a specialty siding supplier — and they can look up whether that exact product is still in production. If the colour has been discontinued, manufacturers often provide a cross-reference to the closest current match.

If your house siding is older and you cannot identify the manufacturer, **take a sample piece to a siding supplier** for a visual match. Cut a small section from an inconspicuous area — behind a downspout or at the back of the house — and bring it to the store. Keep in mind that the sample from your house will have faded over the years, so a perfect colour match to the existing siding may actually look noticeably different from the original colour. Many Rothesay homeowners in this situation choose to install new siding on both the garage and the most visible house walls (typically the front face), creating a uniform appearance across both structures for an additional **$3,000 to $6,000** depending on the area covered.

Matching the profile is just as important as matching the colour. Siding comes in different profiles — Dutch lap, traditional lap (clapboard), board and batten, shakes, and various exposure widths. A colour match with the wrong profile will still look mismatched from the street. Measure the exposure width of your existing siding (the visible portion of each panel from the bottom edge to where the next panel overlaps) and note the profile style. Standard double-4 and double-5 Dutch lap are the most common profiles on Rothesay homes.

Rothesay is an established community with a mix of housing styles from older heritage homes to newer builds, so architectural consistency matters for property values. If your house has **wood clapboard or cedar shingle siding**, matching with the same natural material on the garage provides the most authentic look but requires ongoing maintenance — repainting or restaining every 5 to 8 years in NB's Maritime climate. Fibre cement products like **HardiePlank** at **$8 to $14 per square foot installed** can replicate wood profiles with far less maintenance, though the texture and shadow lines differ slightly from real wood.

For attached garages, matching is essentially mandatory — the garage becomes a visual extension of the house, and mismatched siding looks like an afterthought. For detached garages, you have more flexibility. A common approach in Rothesay is to use the **same colour but a complementary profile** — for example, matching the house colour in a board-and-batten profile on a detached garage to create visual interest while maintaining colour harmony. Another popular approach is matching the garage body colour to the house trim colour, creating a coordinated but distinct look.

A few NB-specific considerations for your siding match. First, make sure whatever product you select for the garage is rated for NB's temperature range — panels expand and contract with temperature swings of 50-plus degrees between summer and winter, so proper installation with adequate expansion gaps at trim and corners is essential. Second, if your house faces the prevailing southwest wind, the garage siding on that same exposure will weather at a similar rate, helping the two structures age together visually.

A local siding contractor familiar with Rothesay homes can help you identify your existing product and source the best match. New Brunswick Garages can connect you with experienced siding professionals in the Rothesay and greater Saint John area through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

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Q20

What eavestroughing is best for a garage in the Sussex NB freeze-thaw climate?

Heavy-gauge aluminium seamless eavestroughing in a 5-inch K-style profile is the best choice for most garages in Sussex, NB, offering the ideal combination of freeze-thaw durability, corrosion resistance, and affordability. For garages with steep roofs or large roof areas, upgrading to 6-inch seamless aluminium provides additional capacity for NB's heavy spring runoff and summer downpours.

Sussex sits in the Kennebecasis River valley, where winter temperatures regularly swing between mild thaw conditions and hard freezes. This constant freeze-thaw cycling is brutal on eavestroughing — water that pools in gutters freezes into solid ice, expanding and pushing against the gutter walls, then thaws and refreezes repeatedly throughout the winter. Lightweight or poorly installed gutters crack, pull away from the fascia, and eventually fail under these conditions. The key to long-term performance in Sussex is choosing a gutter system that can withstand this ice cycling without deforming.

Seamless aluminium gutters in 0.027-inch gauge (standard residential) or preferably **0.032-inch gauge** (heavy-duty) are the clear winner for NB garage applications. Seamless construction eliminates the joints found in sectional gutters — those joints are the first failure point, as ice expansion pushes sections apart and creates leaks. A seamless gutter is formed on-site from a continuous coil of aluminium, custom-cut to the exact length of your garage roof edge, so the only joints are at corners and downspout connections. Professional installation of seamless aluminium eavestroughing on a typical two-car garage in the Sussex area runs **$800 to $1,500**, depending on the number of corners and downspout runs.

Hanger spacing is just as important as the gutter material itself. Standard gutter installation uses hangers every 24 to 32 inches, but for a Sussex garage that will carry ice and snow loads, insist on hangers every **18 inches maximum**. Hidden hangers with screws (not nails or spikes) provide the strongest attachment to the fascia and are far more resistant to the pulling force of ice-laden gutters. This closer spacing adds only $100 to $200 to the total installation cost but dramatically reduces the risk of gutters pulling away from the building during winter.

Downspout sizing and placement deserve careful attention on a Sussex garage. Use 3x4-inch rectangular downspouts rather than the smaller 2x3-inch size — the larger downspouts handle heavy runoff better and are less likely to clog with debris or freeze solid during the transition months. Each downspout should discharge water at least **4 to 6 feet away from the garage foundation** via a downspout extension or splash block. In Sussex's clay-heavy valley soils, water pooling near the foundation is a recipe for moisture infiltration and, in severe cases, frost heaving of the garage slab.

There are a few other gutter options worth mentioning. **Steel gutters** are stronger than aluminium and resist ice deformation better, but they are heavier, more expensive at **$1,200 to $2,000 for a two-car garage**, and will eventually rust in NB's wet climate unless they are galvanized and maintained. **Vinyl gutters** are inexpensive at **$400 to $800 installed** but perform poorly in NB's freeze-thaw conditions — the plastic becomes brittle in cold temperatures and cracks under ice loads, often failing within 5 to 10 years. They are not recommended for Sussex or anywhere else in NB. **Copper gutters** are beautiful and virtually indestructible but cost **$3,000 to $6,000** for a garage — generally overkill unless you are matching an existing copper system on a heritage home.

Regarding **gutter guards**, they can be worthwhile if your garage is near mature trees, but choose a model rated for snow and ice climates. Micro-mesh guards work best in NB because they keep debris out while allowing water

through, and they do not create an additional surface for ice dams to form on. Budget **$5 to $12 per linear foot** for quality gutter guards professionally installed.

For best results, have your eavestroughing installed by a professional who fabricates seamless gutters on-site. They will ensure proper slope toward the downspouts (a quarter-inch drop per 10 feet is standard), secure attachment to the fascia, and correct downspout placement for your specific garage layout. New Brunswick Garages can help you find gutter and roofing contractors in the Sussex area through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

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Q21

Do I need a ridge vent on my garage roof in New Brunswick?

Whether your NB garage needs a ridge vent depends primarily on whether the garage is insulated, heated, or has a finished ceiling — if any of these apply, then yes, a ridge vent paired with soffit vents is strongly recommended and often required by code. For a simple uninsulated, unheated detached garage with open rafters, a ridge vent is not strictly necessary, but it still provides meaningful benefits in NB's climate.

The purpose of roof ventilation is to allow air circulation through the attic or rafter space, which serves two critical functions in New Brunswick. First, it removes moisture that would otherwise condense on the underside of the roof sheathing during cold weather, leading to rot, mould, and premature sheathing failure. Second, it equalizes the temperature across the roof surface, which helps prevent ice dams — one of the most common and damaging roofing problems in NB's climate. When warm air from a heated or insulated garage rises and heats the upper portion of the roof, snow melts and refreezes at the cold eave edge, creating ice dams that force water under the shingles. Proper ridge-and-soffit ventilation keeps the entire roof deck cold, preventing this melt-refreeze cycle.

For insulated or heated garages, the NB Building Code requires a minimum ventilation ratio of **1:300** (one square foot of net free ventilation area for every 300 square feet of insulated ceiling area), with the ventilation split roughly 50/50 between intake at the soffits and exhaust at the ridge. A continuous ridge vent paired with continuous perforated soffit panels is the most effective and balanced way to achieve this airflow. For a typical 24x24 two-car garage, that works out to approximately 2 square feet of total net free ventilation area — about 1 square foot at the soffits and 1 square foot at the ridge. Most continuous ridge vent products provide 18 square inches of net free area per linear foot, so a 24-foot ridge vent provides ample exhaust capacity.

For uninsulated, unheated garages, ventilation is less critical from a code standpoint, but NB's Maritime humidity still creates condensation issues even in unheated spaces. During spring and fall when daytime temperatures warm the garage interior and nighttime temperatures drop below the dew point, moisture condenses on metal tools, vehicles, and the underside of the roof sheathing. A ridge vent and soffit vents create passive airflow that carries this moisture out, extending the life of the roof sheathing and reducing rust and mildew on garage contents. The cost of adding a ridge vent during a new garage build or re-roof is only **$200 to $500** in materials and labour — a modest investment for meaningful moisture protection.

If your garage has a bonus room or loft space above, proper ventilation becomes absolutely essential. The ceiling of the living space must be insulated, and the space between the top of the insulation and the underside of the roof sheathing must be ventilated from soffit to ridge. Baffles (also called rafter vents or chutes) should be installed in every rafter bay to maintain a clear air channel from the soffit intake to the ridge exhaust. Without this continuous airflow, moisture accumulates in the roof assembly, leading to sheathing rot and potential mould problems that are expensive to remediate — typically **$3,000 to $8,000** to replace damaged sheathing and correct the ventilation on an existing garage.

A common mistake on NB garages is installing a ridge vent without adequate soffit intake, or blocking the soffit vents with insulation pushed too tightly against the roof sheathing. The ridge vent can only exhaust air if there is a clear path for replacement air to enter at the soffits. Every soffit bay should have either continuous perforated soffit panels or individual soffit vents, and if the garage is insulated, baffles must keep the insulation from blocking the airflow path.

Ridge vent installation is straightforward during a new build or re-roof — the roofer cuts a narrow slot along the ridge and caps it with the vent product, which is then shingled over for a clean appearance. Retrofitting a ridge vent on an existing garage is also possible but should be done by a professional roofer who can cut the slot accurately without damaging the ridge board or trusses. If you are building or re-roofing a garage in New Brunswick, New Brunswick Garages can connect you with local roofing contractors who understand NB's ventilation requirements.

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Q22

What is the best roofing underlayment for a garage in the Oromocto NB area?

The best roofing underlayment strategy for a garage in the Oromocto area combines self-adhering ice and water shield membrane at the eaves, valleys, and penetrations with a high-quality synthetic underlayment over the remaining roof deck. This two-product approach provides the maximum protection against NB's ice dams, wind-driven rain, and heavy snow loads while keeping costs reasonable.

Oromocto sits along the Saint John River in south-central New Brunswick, where winters bring consistent snow accumulation, regular freeze-thaw cycles, and the potential for significant ice damming. The NB Building Code requires **ice and water shield extending a minimum of 36 inches up from the eave edge** on all sloped roofs, but experienced Oromocto-area roofers typically recommend **48 to 72 inches of coverage** from the eave. This extended coverage protects against the ice dam backup that is common when snow melts on the upper roof and refreezes at the colder eave. For a typical two-car garage, the ice and water shield portion of the underlayment costs **$300 to $700** depending on coverage area, with premium products like Grace Ice & Water Shield, Blueskin, or Resisto running **$1.00 to $1.50 per square foot**.

For the **remainder of the roof deck above the ice and water shield zone**, synthetic underlayment has become the clear standard over traditional #15 or #30 asphalt-saturated felt paper. Synthetic products like GAF FeltBuster, Titanium UDL, or Sharkskin outperform felt in virtually every category that matters in NB's climate. They are lighter, stronger, and far more resistant to tearing during installation and under wind stress. They do not absorb water or wrinkle when exposed to rain, which matters because NB weather can change rapidly and a partially shingled garage roof may sit exposed overnight. They also provide better traction for roofers working on the surface, improving safety. Synthetic underlayment runs **$0.15 to $0.30 per square foot** for materials, adding approximately **$150 to $300** to a two-car garage roof.

Why Felt Paper Falls Short in NB

Traditional **#15 felt paper** was the standard underlayment for decades, and it still meets minimum code requirements. However, it has significant drawbacks in NB's climate. Felt absorbs moisture and wrinkles when wet, creating bumps under the shingles that are visible from the ground. It tears easily in wind, meaning any delay in shingling can leave the roof deck exposed. And it deteriorates rapidly under UV exposure — if your garage project is delayed and the underlayment sits exposed for more than a few weeks, felt can degrade to the point of needing replacement. **#30 felt** is heavier and more durable than #15 but shares the same moisture absorption problems. For these reasons, synthetic underlayment is worth the modest price premium for any NB garage.

A few additional underlayment details specific to the Oromocto area. If your garage has **valleys** where two roof planes meet, or areas where the garage roof meets a house wall (common on attached garages), these should be

covered with ice and water shield, not just synthetic underlayment. Valleys concentrate water flow, and wall-to-roof connections are prime locations for ice dam backup and wind-driven rain infiltration. **Pipe flashings, exhaust vents, and any other roof penetrations** should also have ice and water shield extending at least 12 inches in all directions around the penetration.

For garages with **metal roofing** rather than asphalt shingles — a popular choice in the Oromocto area for its snow-shedding properties — a high-temperature synthetic underlayment is recommended. Metal roofing can reach surface temperatures above 75 degrees Celsius in summer sun, and standard underlayment products can degrade under sustained heat. Products labelled for use under metal roofing, such as Sharkskin Ultra or Titanium PSU-30, are designed for this application.

The total underlayment cost for a two-car garage in the Oromocto area, including ice and water shield at the eaves and valleys plus synthetic underlayment on the remaining deck, typically runs **$500 to $1,000** — a fraction of the overall roofing budget but one of the most important layers in protecting your garage from NB's demanding climate. Any reputable roofing contractor will specify these products as part of their quote. If you need a roofer for a garage project in the Oromocto area, New Brunswick Garages can match you with local professionals through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

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Q23

How do I protect my garage siding from salt spray near the Bay of Fundy?

Protecting your garage siding from Bay of Fundy salt spray starts with choosing the right cladding material and follows through with regular maintenance — vinyl siding is the most salt-resistant common option, while wood and some metals require significantly more attention in coastal NB environments. Salt spray is corrosive, persistent, and driven by the strong winds that sweep across the Bay of Fundy, so passive material

resistance is your first and most important line of defence.

Vinyl siding is the best-performing affordable option for garages near the Bay of Fundy. It does not corrode, does not absorb salt, and does not require painting. Salt deposits rinse off with a garden hose or a gentle pressure wash each spring. At **$4 to $8 per square foot installed**, vinyl is also the most budget-friendly cladding. Choose a premium grade with a minimum thickness of 0.044 inches — thicker panels resist wind-driven impacts better, and the Bay of Fundy coast is known for strong sustained winds that can flex and crack thinner vinyl. Ensure the installation includes proper J-channel, trim, and flashing details to prevent salt-laden water from reaching the sheathing and framing behind the siding.

Fibre cement siding (HardiePlank) at **$8 to $14 per square foot installed** is another excellent choice for coastal NB garages. The material itself is impervious to salt — it will not corrode, rot, or degrade from salt exposure. However, the factory-applied or field-applied paint finish is the vulnerable layer. Salt spray accelerates paint chalking and fading, so fibre cement siding near the Bay of Fundy may need repainting every 8 to 12 years rather than the 15 to 20 years typical for inland locations. When repainting, use a high-quality **100% acrylic exterior paint** rated for coastal environments — products from manufacturers like Benjamin Moore, Sherwin-Williams, or Dulux that are specifically formulated for salt and UV resistance.

Wood siding requires the most maintenance near the Bay of Fundy. Salt spray penetrates paint film and natural stains, accelerating wood degradation. If you choose wood — perhaps to match a heritage home or achieve a specific architectural look — use **naturally rot-resistant species** like eastern white cedar or western red cedar, and apply a penetrating marine-grade stain rather than a film-forming paint. Penetrating stains do not peel or blister when salt moisture gets beneath them, unlike paint which lifts and traps moisture against the wood. Plan on restaining every 3 to 5 years in a coastal NB location, compared to every 5 to 8 years inland.

Metal siding and trim are vulnerable to salt corrosion if not properly finished. If your garage uses any metal components — aluminium fascia, steel corner trim, metal soffit panels — ensure they are factory-coated with a baked-on finish rated for coastal exposure. Bare or lightly coated steel will develop rust streaks within a few years of Bay of Fundy salt exposure. Stainless steel and aluminium fasteners should be used throughout — galvanized fasteners eventually corrode in salt environments, leaving rust stains on the siding.

Beyond material selection, there are several practical steps to protect any garage siding in a coastal NB location. **Annual washing** is the single most important maintenance task — rinse the garage exterior with a garden hose or low-pressure washer every spring to remove accumulated winter salt. Pay attention to the side facing the prevailing wind, which takes the heaviest salt deposition. **Inspect caulking and sealant joints** around windows, doors, and trim annually, as salt accelerates caulk degradation. Replace any cracked or missing caulk with a high-quality exterior sealant. **Maintain a clearance of at least 6 inches** between the bottom of the siding and the ground or

any hard surfaces — this prevents salt-laden splash-back from reaching the siding during rainstorms. **Landscaping buffers** — hedges, fences, or windbreak plantings on the salt-spray side of the garage — can significantly reduce the amount of salt reaching the siding, though this depends on your property layout and wind patterns.

If you are building a new garage near the Bay of Fundy or replacing siding on an existing coastal garage, a contractor experienced with Maritime construction will understand these considerations. New Brunswick Garages can connect you with siding and construction professionals in the Bay of Fundy region through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

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