



908-925-0007

405 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
LINDEN, NEW JERSEY 07036
JDAVIDROOFING.NET

Green Roofs: What are they?

You've probably heard some of the innovative ways people are combating high energy costs in their homes and businesses. One popular method is installing solar panels on roofs, which helps alleviate electricity costs.

Another method gaining popularity is to install green (garden) roofs. A green roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with live vegetation, such as grass and plants. Also known as "living roofs", green roofs serve several purposes for a building, such as absorbing rainwater, providing insulation, creating a habitat for wildlife, and helping to lower urban air temperatures and combat the heat island effect.

Green roofs clearly benefit the environment, but what about commercial property owners considering installing them for their businesses? Green roofs can extend the life of a roof and also reduce heating and cooling costs, since the garden above is, at minimum, an additional layer of cooling insulation. Still, they are at least 40% more expensive to install, at least for now.

As green roofs gain in popularity, the materials will become cheaper to produce and more widely available. Cities like Chicago, San Francisco, and more recently, New York have begun installing green roofs on municipal buildings and encouraging local retailers to do the same. As the network of green roofs continues to grow, the benefits increase exponentially.

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Joseph David Roofing can assist you in safeguarding your capital investment. A roof is often neglected because it can't be seen; out of sight, out of mind. But if even a small leak occurs, it can severely impact the inside of a building and drain productivity and profit from any business. By beginning a roof maintenance plan, you will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are proactively maintaining your roof and controlling your costs. Wouldn't it be nice being able to budget each year what the maintenance will mean to the bottom line? No more inconvenience to occupants. No more surprises or emergency funds taken from one area to support a failing roof. Just you, in control of your building's most important feature.