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## SBC Roof Series: Low Sloped Roofing Systems

A low slope roof refers to a roofing system with a relatively gentle incline or pitch. Typically, a roof is considered low slope if it has a slope of 2:12 or less, meaning that for every 12 inches of horizontal run, the roof's rise is 2 inches or less.

Here are some key characteristics and considerations for low slope roofs:

1. **Utilization of Membrane Roofing:** Low slope roofs are often covered with a membrane roofing system, which may consist of materials such as ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM), thermoplastic olefin (TPO), or polyvinyl chloride (PVC). These materials are designed to provide a waterproof barrier and are well-suited for low slope applications.
2. **Limited Water Shedding:** Due to the gentle slope, low slope roofs may have limited natural water shedding capability. Proper design and installation are critical to ensure effective drainage and prevent water ponding.
3. **Regular Maintenance:** Low slope roofs require regular inspection and maintenance to address issues such as ponding water, debris accumulation, and potential membrane damage.
4. **Installation Considerations:** Installation of low slope roof systems requires attention to specific design requirements, including proper sealing details, flashings, and edge treatments to ensure watertightness.
5. **Consideration of Rooftop Equipment:** Low slope roofs often support rooftop equipment such as HVAC units, which must be properly installed to avoid compromising the integrity of the roofing system.
6. **Drainage Systems:** Effective drainage systems, including internal drains, scuppers, and gutters, are crucial for managing water runoff on low slope roofs.
7. **Insulation Requirements:** Proper insulation is essential for low slope roofs to manage temperature differentials, prevent condensation, and enhance energy efficiency.

Low slope roofs are common in commercial and industrial buildings, as well as in some residential applications. Proper design, installation, and maintenance are essential for ensuring the long-term performance and durability of low slope roof systems.



\* Check with a licensed roofing contractor for additional information.