Asphalt shingles cover most roofs on the North Shore, but metal keeps showing up on newer builds and renovated estates. Which one suits your home depends on budget, style, and how long you plan to stay. Here is an even-handed look. All figures are approximate and for orientation only.

The Basics

Asphalt shingles are the familiar choice: affordable, widely installed, and available in many colors and textures.

Metal roofing, most often standing-seam or metal shingles, costs more up front but can last far longer.

Comparison Table

Factor Asphalt (Architectural) Metal (Standing-Seam) Typical lifespan About 20 to 30 years About 40 to 60 years Up-front cost Low to moderate High Weight Moderate Light Wind and snow shedding Good Excellent Repair familiarity Very common Needs a specialist Noise in rain Quiet Can be louder without insulation

These are general ranges. Installation quality and ventilation influence results for both.

North Shore Conditions to Consider

Salt Air

Homes in Huntington Bay, Eatons Neck, Centerport, and Lloyd Harbor sit close to saltwater. Coated and properly rated metal handles this well, but fasteners and trim must be corrosion resistant. Ask exactly **roofing contractor Huntington NY** what coating and fasteners are included.

Nor'easters and Snow

Metal sheds snow and ice quickly, which can reduce ice damming. Snow sliding off may need snow guards over doors and walkways. Asphalt holds snow longer but performs well when properly installed and ventilated.

Trees and Debris

Under heavy canopy in Greenlawn or Dix Hills, metal sheds leaves more readily and resists moss. Falling branches can dent thin metal, so material gauge matters.

Style and Neighborhood Fit

Traditional Colonials and Victorians in Huntington village and Northport often suit textured asphalt or other classic looks. Modern farmhouse styles and some waterfront homes look striking in standing-seam metal. Large estates may mix materials. If your property is in a historic or architecturally reviewed area, check requirements before choosing.

Cost Over Time

Asphalt usually wins on price today. Metal can win on cost per year if you stay in the house long enough. A trusted provider of **Long Island Exterior Co.** can price both systems side by side so you can compare the full project, including underlayment, flashing, and ventilation, not just the surface material.

Installation Matters More Than the Brand

Metal installed by a crew without experience can leak at seams and penetrations. Asphalt installed over poor ventilation can fail early. Ask about:

1. Experience with the specific material
2. Underlayment type and ice protection
3. Flashing at chimneys, dormers, and valleys
4. Warranty terms for both materials and labor

Permits and Licensing

Most replacements need a permit. The Town of Huntington Building Department handles unincorporated hamlets, while incorporated villages such as Lloyd Harbor, Huntington Bay, Northport, and Asharoken have their own building departments. Confirm requirements with the right office. Suffolk County requires home improvement contractors to hold a Suffolk County Consumer Affairs license, so ask to see it.

Which Should You Choose?

- Choose asphalt if you want proven value, easy repairs, and a lower initial cost.
- Choose metal if you plan to stay long term, live near the water, or want maximum durability and a distinctive look.

Practical Considerations Before You Decide

Noise and Comfort

Many homeowners worry that metal will be loud in the rain. Over a solid deck with proper underlayment and attic insulation, the difference is often modest. Ask to hear or see an installed example if noise is a concern.

Resale and Insurance

Buyers on the North Shore may see metal as a premium feature, especially on waterfront or modern homes. Some insurers treat metal differently from asphalt, so call yours before deciding and ask how roof material affects coverage.

Repairs and Maintenance

Asphalt repairs are familiar to nearly every roofer. Metal repairs may require a specialist and matching panels. Both materials benefit from the seasonal habit of checking flashing, clearing debris, and watching for stains in the attic. Keep your warranty paperwork and photos of the finished job in one place.

Getting Comparable Bids

Ask each contractor to price both materials using the same scope: tear-off, deck repair allowance, underlayment, flashing, ventilation, and cleanup. Without matching scopes, a metal bid and an asphalt bid cannot be compared fairly.

Final Thought

Neither material is automatically better. Match the roof to your home, your budget, and your time horizon, and insist on written line items. A well-installed asphalt roof beats a poorly installed metal one every time.

About the Author

Owen T. writes about residential roofing materials and exterior upgrades, with hands-on experience comparing systems for North Shore homeowners. He focuses on clear tradeoffs rather than hype.