**What?**

In October 2023, Baltimore City enacted an ordinance specifying cool roof requirements for newly constructed buildings and additions to existing buildings.

- **Low slope roofs** (<2:12) must have a minimum 3-year-aged Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) of 78, as determined by the Cool Roof Rating Council.
- **Steep slope roofs** (>2:12) must have a minimum 3-year-aged SRI of 25.

For all details and exceptions, see the [completed ordinance](#).

**Why?**

Modeling shows that if 80% of low-sloped roofs in Baltimore are converted to cool roofs over the next 20 years, it would have the potential to reduce summer peak temperature by 2.5°F, avoid over 6 million metric tons of CO2e emissions, and provide almost $9 in benefits and cost savings for every $1 spent.

**Urban Heat Island Mitigation**

Cool roofs are engineered to reflect more sunlight and heat back to the atmosphere, decreasing building heat gain and the radiation of heat into cities.

**Building Energy Efficiency**

- In buildings with air conditioning, cool roofs can save energy and money by improving building energy efficiency and decreasing cooling needs.
- In buildings without air conditioning, cool roofs can increase occupant comfort and safety.

**Roof Surface Life Extension**

Higher solar reflectance decreases roof temperatures, which may extend roof service life due to reduced thermal expansion.

**How to comply?**

If your roof is in need of replacement, OR if you are constructing a new building, consult the CRRC’s [Rated Product Directory](#) to browse your options.

- **Under the “Product Market” filter, select “End-Users”**
  - **Low-slope or steep-slope roof?**
    - Low-slope
      - Filter by an aged SRI of 78
    - Steep-slope
      - Filter by an aged SRI of 25

**Resources**

- [CRRC Rated Product Directory](#)
- [EPA’s Using Cool Roofs to Reduce Heat Islands](#)
- [Smart Surfaces Coalition Website](#)