You sign for a new roof in Huntington and the paperwork mentions a warranty. Then another warranty. They are two different promises from two different parties, and confusing them is how owners end up with a leak and nobody willing to fix it. Here is what each one covers, what it leaves out, and what to ask before you sign.

Two Warranties, Two Promisors

A roof has two basic parts: the materials *roofing contractor Huntington NY* and the labor that puts them on. Each has its own warranty.

- **Manufacturer warranty:** The company that made the shingles, underlayment, or other products promises that the products themselves are free of defects.
- **Workmanship warranty:** The contractor who installed the roof promises that the installation was done correctly.

Most leaks on a new roof trace back to installation, not to a defective shingle. That is why the workmanship warranty deserves as much attention as the one printed on the shingle wrapper.

What a Manufacturer Warranty Usually Covers

Terms vary by product line, so read the actual document. In general, a manufacturer warranty addresses:

- Manufacturing defects in the shingles
- Premature failure of the material under normal conditions
- Sometimes wind resistance up to a stated speed, if installed per instructions

Common limits

- Prorated coverage, where the payout shrinks over time
- Exclusions for storm damage, hail, fallen limbs, and acts of nature
- Conditions about ventilation, number of layers, and approved accessories
- Registration requirements, sometimes with a deadline
- Coverage that often pays for replacement material, not the labor to install it

What a Workmanship Warranty Usually Covers

A workmanship warranty is the contractor's written promise to fix problems caused by their installation. It may cover:

- Leaks from flashing, penetrations, or valleys installed incorrectly
- Fasteners driven too high or too low
- Poor sealing at chimneys and walls
- Ventilation or ridge details done wrong

Its length is set by the contractor, and there is no single standard. Some offer a few years, some offer much longer. A longer number only helps if the company is still in business and willing to answer the phone.

Side-by-Side Comparison

Factor Manufacturer Warranty Workmanship Warranty Who backs it Product maker Installing contractor What it covers Material defects Installation errors Typical length Varies by product, often long but prorated Set by the contractor, varies widely Pays for labor Often limited Usually yes, for covered problems Common weakness Exclusions and conditions Contractor going out of business Transferable Sometimes, with limits Depends on the contract

These are approximate, typical patterns. Your documents control.

Enhanced and System Warranties

Some manufacturers offer upgraded coverage when a contractor installs a full system of their products, including shingles, underlayment, starter strips, ridge caps, and vents. These can include broader terms and sometimes cover labor for a period. They usually require the contractor to meet certain qualifications and to register the job. Ask whether you are being offered a basic warranty or an upgraded one, and what the contractor had to do to qualify.

How Local Conditions Affect Claims

Long Island weather tests both warranties. Nor'easter winds can lift poorly nailed shingles. Salt air near Huntington Bay, Eatons Neck, and Cold Spring Harbor can corrode flashing and fasteners. Heavy tree canopy in Dix Hills and Greenlawn keeps surfaces damp and invites debris. When a claim is filed, the manufacturer may ask whether wind damage fell within the rated limits, and the contractor may be asked whether the installation followed the product instructions. Keep photos and records.

Ventilation and Warranty Language

Many shingle warranties tie coverage to adequate attic ventilation. If your attic is poorly vented, a claim can be limited or denied years later. Ask your contractor to document the ventilation plan in the contract so there is a record.

Questions to Ask Before You Sign

1. Which manufacturer warranty applies, and is it basic or enhanced?
2. Who registers it, and when?
3. How long is the workmanship warranty, and what does it exclude?
4. Is either warranty transferable if I sell the house?
5. Does the workmanship warranty cover leaks, labor, and materials?
6. How do I file a claim, and who answers it?

Licensing and Local Offices

Suffolk County requires home improvement contractors to hold a Suffolk County Consumer Affairs license, so ask to see it before any contract is signed. Roof replacements normally involve a permit. In unincorporated hamlets such as Huntington Station, Greenlawn, and Dix Hills, contact the Town of

Huntington Building Department. In incorporated villages such as Lloyd Harbor, Huntington Bay, Northport, and Asharoken, the village has its own building department. Confirm with the right office.

Putting It in Writing

Warranty promises made in conversation do not count. A trusted provider of *Long Island Exterior Co.* should hand you both warranty documents in writing, explain the exclusions in plain language, and answer questions without hurrying you.

Final Thought

The manufacturer stands behind the product, and the contractor stands behind the work. A strong roof needs both, along with a paper trail. Keep your contract, warranty registration, and photos together in one folder, because you may need them years from now.

About the Author

Nora L. is a home improvement writer with years of experience around residential roofing contracts and warranties. She writes plain guides to help homeowners understand the fine print before they commit.