

TECHNICAL INSIDER

Takeoffs in Construction

ISSUE 4 | OCTOBER 2026



TAKEOFFS IN CONSTRUCTION

WHAT IS A TAKEOFF?

A takeoff uses project drawings and specifications to determine the quantities, dimensions and types of materials required for a construction project.

For a metal roof, for example, drawings and specifications may identify the required roof cladding profile, thickness, fixing pattern, batten supports and their spacing. Software can also assist with calculating material requirements.

In many cases, customers complete their own takeoff and provide Stramit with a list of materials for quotation. Where quantities have not been determined, our takeoff team can use suitable drawings or dimensioned sketches to estimate the required materials.

The accuracy of a takeoff depends on the quality and completeness of the information provided. Clear drawings, dimensions and specifications help our team prepare a more accurate estimate. For example, a hand-drawn sketch with limited dimensions may not provide enough information for an accurate takeoff.

WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN A TAKEOFF?

For Stramit products, a takeoff may include roof cladding, wall cladding, structural, insulation, fasteners, flashings and rainwater products, depending on the project.

ROOF CLADDING

The roof shape, dimensions and pitch all affect the quantity and length of roof cladding required.

The roof pitch is particularly important when determining sheet lengths, as a plan view alone does not show the actual length along the roof slope. For example, at a 15° roof pitch, the sheet length increases by a factor of 1.035 and the hip length increases by a factor of 1.439. Allow an additional **50 mm** of sheet length for overhang into the gutter.

The roof width and selected cladding profile are also required to determine the number of sheets. Minimum roof pitch requirements should be checked for the selected profile. For example, Stramit® Corrugated is not suitable for roof pitches below 5°.

For some roof configurations, including hipped roofs, sheet offcuts may be reused in another section of the roof to help reduce material waste. This process is commonly referred to as blocking.

Sheets should be laid against the direction of prevailing weather where possible.

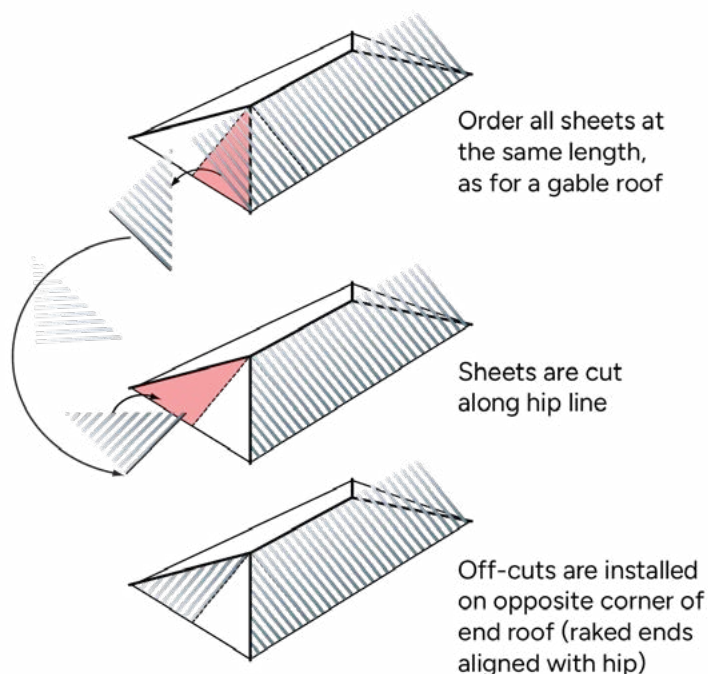


Figure 1. Example of blocking sheet offcuts on a hipped roof

TAKEOFFS IN CONSTRUCTION

STRUCTURAL

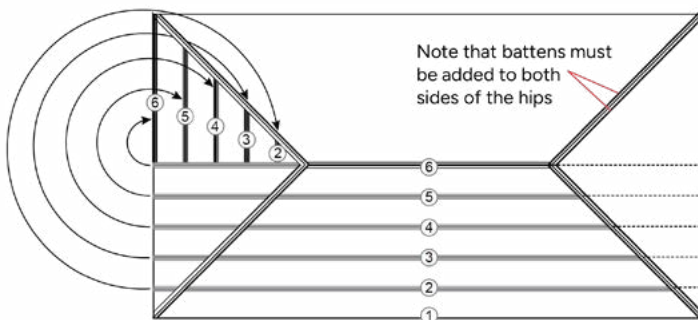
For an accurate estimate, the roof cladding spans and corresponding batten spacing are required.

For an approximate estimate, total batten length may be calculated by multiplying the roof area by 1.5. The batten length for a triangular section of roof will generally be around half that of a rectangular section of the same width and length.

Raked sheets require support at their ends and this should be included in the takeoff. Allowance should also be made for overlapping battens where required, with an additional 15% suggested in the original technical guidance.

Where practical, offcuts from one area may also be used elsewhere on the roof, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Example of batten layout and use of offcuts



FASTENERS

Each roof cladding profile has a minimum number of fasteners required at each batten support. Refer to the relevant Stramit Product Technical Manual for fixing requirements.

Consider allowing an additional 15% for fasteners at edges and flashings, as well as for dropped or damaged fasteners.

Different components may require different screw sizes and lengths, so make sure these variations are included in the takeoff. Where clip-fixed decking is used, the required number of clips should also be determined.

FLASHINGS

A roof can require a range of flashing types, including ridge flashing or roll top ridge, hip capping, valley gutters, barge capping, soaker flashings and apron flashings.

Sufficient project detail is required to accurately determine the size and quantity of each flashing.

Refer to *Stramit's Roof and Wall Flashing Detail Guide* for further information.

RAINWATER PRODUCTS

Rainwater products can include fascia, gutters, downpipes and associated accessories.

The gutter type and number of downpipes required depend on factors including the roof catchment area and rainfall intensity at the building location.

Other items to consider may include:

- fascia brackets
- gutter brackets and snap clips
- corner brackets
- stop ends
- downpipe nozzles
- downpipes
- offsets
- astragals
- shoes.

TAKEOFFS IN CONSTRUCTION

WALL CLADDING

Openings such as windows and doors can affect wall cladding quantities and sheet lengths. Sheet orientation, including horizontal or vertical installation, can also change the takeoff.

For example, vertically installed wall cladding may require shorter sheet lengths above windows and other openings.

Check the minimum and maximum sheet lengths available for the selected product.

As with roofing, consider the quantities and dimensions required for batten supports, fasteners, insulation, brackets or clips and flashings.

Depending on the building design, flashings may be required at:

- corners
- mid-wall connections
- vertical sheet connections
- the base of the wall
- penetrations
- the top of the wall.

Refer to *Stramit's Roof and Wall Flashing Detail Guide* for further information.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

A takeoff uses project drawings and specifications to determine the quantities, dimensions and types of materials required for a construction project.

Before requesting or completing a takeoff:



Make sure drawings are clear and legible.

Drawings need to contain enough detail to determine material requirements.



Check relevant site dimensions.

Accurate dimensions help improve the accuracy of the takeoff.



Consider roof penetrations carefully.

Do not automatically deduct small penetrations from the roof cladding area, as sheets may continue around them.



Allow for potential material damage.

Consider an appropriate allowance when estimating quantities.



Check available product lengths.

Confirm the minimum and maximum lengths available for the products required.

Need a takeoff estimate for your next project?

A well-prepared takeoff can help minimise waste, improve quotation accuracy and ensure correct materials are used. If you require assistance with your next project, the Stramit takeoff team can prepare an estimate from suitable drawings, plans or dimensioned sketches.



Contact the team at
takeoffs@stramit.com.au.