ROOF COATINGS - Roof Types

HOW TO IDENTIFY WHAT TYPE OF ROOF MY RV HAS:

Visual Inspection

Look at the surface from a ladder or rooftop access:

- ***Rubber*** (EPDM) **–** Matte, slightly textured black or white surface; feels like a rubber inner tube; seams are visible and glued/taped
- ***TPO*** (Thermoplastic Polyolefin) – Bright white, smoother and shinier than EPDM; seams are heat-welded (look for a slight ridge)
- ***Fiberglass*** – Hard, rigid, glossy surface; often has a gel coat finish; may show crazing (fine cracks) with age
- ***Aluminum*** – Shiny metallic panels with visible rivets or screws along the edges and seams

Contact the Manufacturer

If you have the VIN or model number, a quick call or email to the manufacturer (or a dealer) can confirm the exact roof material.

Check Your Owner's Manual or RV Documentation

The roof material is almost always listed in the specs section of the manual or on a sticker inside a cabinet or near the entry door.

Touch Test

- ***Rubber*** (EPDM) feels soft and pliable, almost like a balloon
- ***TPO*** feels firmer and more plastic-like
- ***Fiberglass*** is completely rigid
- ***Aluminum*** is hard and will have that distinctive metallic sound when tapped

Look at the Age and Brand

- ***Older RVs*** (pre-1990s) are more likely to have aluminum or fiberglass
- ***Most RVs*** from the 1990s–2000s use EPDM rubber
- ***Newer RVs*** (2010s+) increasingly use TPO

Check the Edges and Trim

Look at where the roof meets the sidewalls — rubber roofs typically have a drip rail with the membrane tucked underneath, while fiberglass and aluminum roofs tend to have a more seamless or riveted transition.

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