

Letters

The following excerpts were taken from comments posted on JLC's website (jlconline.com) in response to the indicated articles.

Solar Skeptics?

"Deck Mounting a Photovoltaic System," 2/13

Nice article, but it just makes it clearer that the buyers are probably the "bobos" of *Bobos in Paradise* [David Brooks' *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There*, published in 2000] who think they are "green" but just have to have monster kitchen stoves and such.

Our 2,702-square-foot house in southern California is a good example of why the payoff is never. We use about \$1,000 per year of electricity, and that is with an electric cooktop; electric ovens; two bedrooms as offices with a computer network, copier, and so forth; my old tube radio restoration and playing hobby; and an electric heater in the master bathroom. We do not believe in waste, so turn unused lights off, but make zero special effort to save power. The \$39,000 system featured, even if the owners used the government to steal 50% of the cost from other taxpayers and ratepayers, could never be anything but a big expense, unless they somehow use radically more electricity than we do. Plus, the inverters and such in these systems will eventually fail and need service — probably just replacement, as there are fewer and fewer electronic service people, adding to the cost. — *Stephen Masek*

Often some important points are missed in the rush to install solar panels. Not only does there need to be closer collaboration and understanding between roofing contractors and solar-panel teams and insurers, but currently you will find that all of your roofing warranty has evaporated as soon as the solar guys start work. Remember that nice 20/40-year roofing warranty you paid so much for? Well,

that's now toast with a solar install.

Look very carefully at how these systems affect any roofing repair work and insurance. — *Pete Baston*

Roof Rules

"Roofers Face Flood of New State Laws," JLC Report, 2/13

Here's a rule that way too few roofers seem to adhere to: Don't leave asphalt shingles or felt paper in contact with — or within one inch of — double wall gas flues. Also, make sure to orient the flue into the middle of the roof-decking cutout, rather than trying to make it work with your row of shingles. — *mbishton*

Good Idea

"Roof Truss Repair," Q&A, 1/13

I recommend to clients that if an engineer designs a repair and certifies the installation, a copy of the repair design and certification should be put in a closed plastic bag and stapled to the truss. Plus keep the originals around for disclosure when selling, and pass it on to the buyer at closing. If an inspector goes up in the attic and sees a truss repair and the certification is right there with the repair, it becomes a non-issue note in the report. — *StuBrooks*

Totally. If it is not stapled to the truss it is a call-out for me. — *inspectordeck*

KEEP 'EM COMING!

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