What's in a Colour?...
What the colour of your roof means for you!

Your roof is an important part of the aesthetics of your home, even though as the home owner you probably don't pay a great deal of attention to your roof (because you can't see it most of the time!). Regardless, every person that approaches your house notices your roof. The colours that you choose for your roof, gutters, fascias, eaves and downpipes all play an important role in the overall appearance of your home. But, the colour of your roof isn't all about making sure your house looks good! There are a few other factors to consider as well, so let's take a look at all of these.

How does my Roof Colour make my House 'Look Good'?

If you are building a new home or changing the colour of your roof with a complete roof restoration project, it is important that you think about the colour you will choose for your new roof. If you have a brick home, a great place to start is by looking at the colours in your bricks. Once you have identified the primary colour and tone in your bricks, you can look for this same colour in the roofing material. If your home is painted, the colour of the roof should be decided upon before any other exterior colours are chosen. The colour of your roof acts as a base (or top!) for the remainder of the home.

When it comes to the other elements of your roof like the gutters, most colour consultants will agree that the gutters should be the same colour as your roof. This is because we don't really want to draw attention to the gutters! Downpipes are also purely functional, so choosing a colour that is the same as the exterior wall is often the way to go if you are trying to make them less noticeable. When choosing the colour for your fascia though, finding a contrasting colour works really well, particularly if it is in the same tone as the gutters and roof, but a few shades darker.

But Roof Colour Means More than Just 'Looking Good' Doesn't it?

There is a reason why a lot of houses out there tend to have a lighter coloured roof. As with a car or clothing, a darker roof will absorb more heat. In the sunny Sunshine State, this is something we really need to keep in mind when designing or restoring our roof. As much as we love our air-conditioners in summer, we need to be mindful of energy consumption and the environment. The best way to do this is to try to keep our homes naturally cool and

warm each season. Lighter colours are much more reflective than darker shades, so try to opt for a roof colour which is a few shades lighter and you will happily notice a change in your home's temperature! Be careful to not go too light though! The glare from a white roof can cause just as much trouble as a dark roof, so a neutral colour like a light-medium grey or taupe is a great option.

But, you are probably thinking… surely the colour of my roof isn't the only factor in the temperature of my house inside!?!?! And you are correct! There are lots of things that come into play when determining whether your house will be notoriously 'hot' or 'cold'. The level of insulation in your home, and the overall design and layout of the home also play a large role in the inside temperature. Insulation in particular is your best bet to a naturally warmer house in winter and naturally cooler home in summer.

If you're still not convinced that the colour of your roof has anything to do with temperatures (and as a result the environment) though, then consider this… Dr Steven Chu, a Nobel Prize winner and the US Secretary of Energy, has declared that universally making roofs, roads and footpaths light-coloured could reduce global warming by conserving energy and reflecting sunlight. Dr Chu goes further to say that this simple step would be the equivalent of taking every car in the world off the road for 11 years!

Now THAT is something worth thinking about when choosing the colour of your roof!!

Sources:
- *"Eco-living: How the Colour of your Roof may Help Rein in Global Warming"*, Ninemsn.
- *"What Roof Colour for my Home?"*, HiPages.