



BALTIMORE COOL ROOF ORDINANCE

What?

In October 2023, Baltimore City enacted an ordinance specifying cool roof requirements for **newly constructed buildings** and **additions to existing buildings**.

- **Low slope roofs** (<2:12) must have a minimum 3-year-aged Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) of **78**, as determined by the Cool Roof Rating Council.
- **Steep slope roofs** (>2:12) must have a minimum 3-year-aged SRI of **25**.

For all details and exceptions, see the [completed ordinance](#).

Why?

Modeling shows that if 80% of low-sloped roofs in Baltimore are converted to cool roofs over the next 20 years, it would have the potential to reduce summer peak temperature by 2.5°F, avoid over 6 million metric tons of CO₂e emissions, and provide almost \$9 in benefits and cost savings for every \$1 spent.

Urban Heat Island Mitigation

Cool roofs are engineered to reflect more sunlight and heat back to the atmosphere, decreasing building heat gain and the radiation of heat into cities.

Building Energy Efficiency

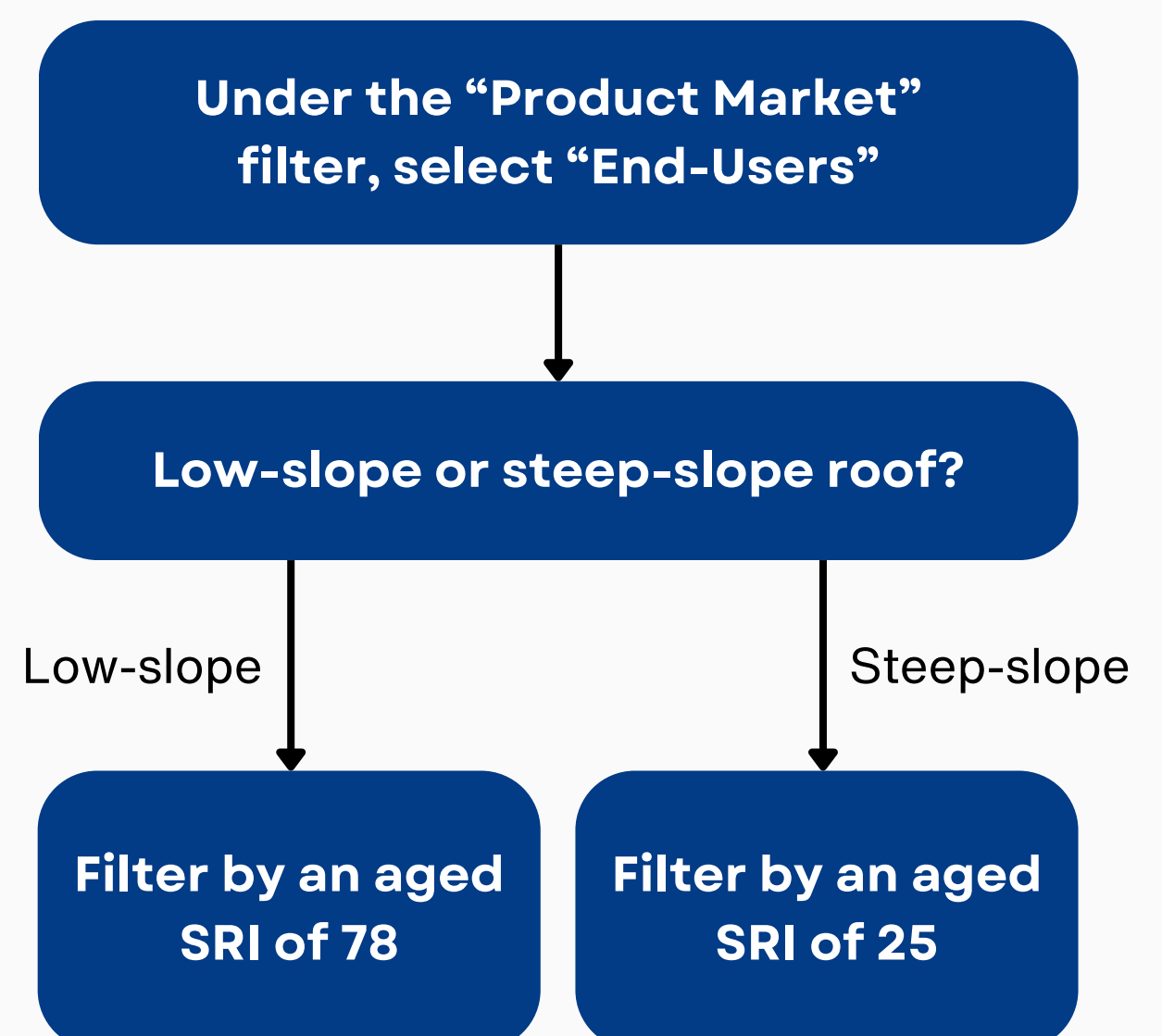
- In buildings with air conditioning, cool roofs can save energy and money by improving building energy efficiency and decreasing cooling needs.
- In buildings without air conditioning, cool roofs can increase occupant comfort and safety.

Roof Surface Life Extension

Higher solar reflectance decreases roof temperatures, which may extend roof service life due to reduced thermal expansion.

How to comply?

If your roof is in need of replacement, OR if you are constructing a new building, consult the CRRC's [Rated Product Directory](#) to browse your options.



Resources

- [CRRC Rated Product Directory](#)
- [EPA's Using Cool Roofs to Reduce Heat Islands](#)
- [Smart Surfaces Coalition Website](#)