Keeping costs down in valley

Every move you make during the course of a working day affects your bottom line. Effectiveness and efficiency are key to improving your bottom line.

Dan Perkins, a metal roofer in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, was the recipient of a simple tip that saves his crews hours — or even days — on a residential roofing job.

"Instead of using 10-foot valley pans, we run them out of the roll former to the length we need," he says. "Our 10-foot valley pans had to be hemmed at the seams. (**Photo 1**) We had cleats screwed down every 4 inches to the edges of the valley pans on 1-inch x 3/16-inch butyl tape. Then we'd fold the shingles (or panels) over the cleats."

Perkins says this was an effective method, but it wasn't efficient — too time consuming. He estimates his crews save anywhere from 2-4 hours per valley by running valley pans off the roll former. "On some of the big log homes we've done, there can be 400 feet of valleys," he says. "So we end up saving ourselves about 80 hours of work."

After running the panels to the length of the valley, crews re-bend the male and female legs into the hems. (**Photo 2**) The cleats on the hems are nailed to the deck and the shingles or pans are folded over the hems (**Photo 3**).

"You just save a lot of time with this method," Perkins says. "That's why it's important to take the details into consideration when bidding a job. Bidding the details is where you make money and lose money. You can't just go by square footage."

Dan Perkins is owner of Dan Perkins Construction in Ishpeming, Mich. He says he is always looking for a better way to install a better metal roof. Each issue, Metal Roofing Magazine *will feature a detail Perkins has worked on, and the better methods discovered to get the job done.* ■
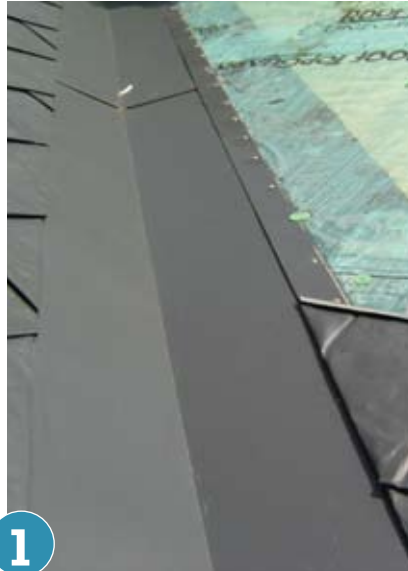
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

See something you like or would do differently? Got a better way? Share it with the editors. Write to **Metal Roofing Magazine**, 700 East State St., Iola, WI, 54990-0001, or e-mail jim.austin@krause.com