

## How to Measure Your Roof Pitch

*Things you'll need:*

- Ladder
- Level
- Tape Measure
- Marker
- Pencil
- Paper

**1. Measure 12-inches on the level & mark.** Mark the length with the marker. Many levels are equipped with a ruler on the side, but marking it will allow it to be more visible.

**2. Climb up to the top of your roof.**

- Make sure the roof is not wet or icy. It is best to walk on a roof when the sun is out and morning dew has evaporated.
- Make sure the ladder does not damage the gutter or side of the roof.
- Ascend the roof. Crouch down or sit, as to minimize the potential for slipping.
- You can measure pitch from any spot.
- Pull out your tape measure about 1 foot or so.

**3. Use your level to measure the roof run.**

- While holding the tape measure with one hand, pick up the level with the other and place the bottom corner on the roof.
- Using the level's corner as your pivot point, hold it parallel with the ground.
- Pivot it up or down until the horizontal vial's bubble is between the two lines.

**4. Measure the rise with the tape measure.**

- Hold the level parallel to the ground and measure the distance from the roof's surface to the level's 12- inch mark.
- Make sure you rotate the tape so it is perpendicular to the level. Write down the rise.

**5. Calculate the roof's slope.** The number you measured with the tape is the roof's rise or pitch -- the amount the roof's height rises over 12 horizontal inches. For example, if you measured 3 inches, the roof's ratio will be a 3:12 pitch. (See illustration).

