

Rafter Overhangs (Dealing with Deterioration)

There are three ways to try to deal with deteriorated rafter overhangs.

A. Repair the rafters to the extent possible and cover with a cap of some kind to try to eliminate further deterioration.



B. If the deterioration has made repair impossible, the Board has approved cutting off the ends of the rafter overhangs. The picture below shows how such rafters should be cut.



C. If the deterioration has made repair of the existing rafter ends impossible, but you want to preserve the rafter end design, a more dramatic repair is possible. Ed Seale has provided the following pictures and description of the approach he used to maintain the original design.

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This system provides pretty much a permanent fix since it is impermeable. However, as you can see, it is a lot more labor intensive than the current stopgap fixes.

I did not want to just cut off the beam ends for aesthetic reasons. For irreparable damage this will fix it permanently.



First step: Cut off all bad stuff



Install 3 long sturdy lag screws
Apply heavy coats of wood preservative



Make a form for pouring new beam ends. This part takes some time to make but is reusable over and over (in my case 17 beam ends)

Use old beam ends to make a pattern for mold. (I sandblasted wood for some grain texture but this is optional.)



Attach mold to cut off beam end. Pour in mortar mix which flows around lag bolts. When it sets up it locks new beam end in place.



I made a groove between wood beam and new beam end which is filled with silicon caulk to further seal the joint.



Give it a coat of paint. It will never rot again. This is a labor-intensive process but, for me it was worth it. If I have other beams go bad, I now have the form ready to go.

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Incidentally, Ed Seale might be interested in sharing the mold, IF he could be sure he would get it back in good condition. If you're interested, give Ed a call.