

Fixing Recommendations

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Project:
Client:
Slate Type:

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Laying Slates

Slates should be graded and fixed in accordance with BS 5534: Code of Practice for slating and tiling: Part 1, and BS 8000-6 Workmanship on building sites: Part 6: Code of Practice for slating and tiling of roofs and claddings.

Lay the slates with the tails of the slates aligned and with slightly open butt joints (approx. 5mm). Use slates of consistent thickness in any one course. Use extra wide slates (slate & half generally) at ends of courses to maintain bond and ensure that cut slates are as large as possible. Do not use half slates, or cut slates less than 150mm wide. Size of nails for the slates should be generally 35-40mm x 3.35mm (not less than 15mm penetration into the batten). Slates should be fixed with two nails or three for extra wide slates.

It is essential that the slates are graded on the ground into 3 - 4 separate grades. The thickest slate should be used on the lower section of the roof, the medium size for the middle section, and the thinnest for the top section. Broken, twisted and damaged slates are the fourth grade. These should be put to one side, and may be dressed or cut and used where short lengths of slate are required, where deemed suitable, such as at under eaves, ridge courses or as half slate at junctions etc. While being graded, slates should be tapped for sound to detect any possible flaws.

Slates should be cut with a guillotine or proprietary slate cutting tool.

Holing

Although slate will be supplied preholed, when there is a need to hole the slate on site, i.e. slate & a half, slates should be holed one at a time from the underside of the slate towards the face. This will allow a countersink to form on the face of the slate to accommodate the nail when fixed. Holes should be punched using a proprietary holing tool.

Nails

Natural slates should be fixed with two copper or stainless steel nails with a head diameter not less than 10mm and must allow a penetration of at least 15mm into the timber batten. Our recommendation is a nail equal to 3x the thickness of the slate +15mm and a gauge of 3.35. Copper nails should be shanked.

Batten

Batten should comply with BS5534: part 1 and should be graded softwood timber, treated and free from knots & twists, size 50x25mm. Each batten should not be less than 1200mm long & should be nailed to rafters at centres not exceeding 600mm. Joints should be square cut, butted centrally on supports and must not occur more than once in any group of four battens on any one rafter/support.

Underlay

Underlay should be in accordance with recommendations of BS5534: Part 1

Slate & Half

Slate and a half should be used at the verge on every other course to maintain the break bond sequence.

