

Before you choose natural slate, you should know...



General Characteristics of Natural slate:

Slates is formed from sedimentary deposits of clay and silt subjected to the intense heat and geologic pressures of mountain building. The result is a dense, high-strength Stone that tends to Split into smooth, even sheets. High quality roofing slate consists mainly of mica, quartz, and chlorite. The surface texture of slate is directly related to how easily it cleaves into thin sheets. Slates that cleaves readily have a smoother surface, the others are rougher.

Aside from the aesthetics, Natural Slate is one of the best roofing material in the world and provide the following benefits :

Fire Protection:

Unlike other roofing material, slate tiles are naturally fire resistant. Slates are non-combustible.

Environmentally Friendly:

It is 100% Natural. Unlike asphalt single roofs that need replacement every 20 years, it is fair to say that slate tile roofs are changed every century.

Resistance:

Slates are particularly resistant to attack by severely polluted atmosphere (eg: acid rain). Slates are highly resistant to frost, heat and rapid temperature change. Slates are naturally designed to withstand all type of weather conditions such as hail or thunderstorms.

Durability:

Natural qualities give to the slates an extremely long life. Most slate tile roofs last for 100 years which explain the low maintenance of the roofs.

Test Reports:

Roofing Slates must be tested and certified by international laboratories such as CE, NF, ATG or ASTM.

be natural® slates have been all specified in accordance with CE and ASTM certifications.

Colours:

Many options in colors exist. The most popular are Black, Grey, Purple and Green.

It is important to distinguish 2 type of slates. The FADING which will change color over the years and the UN-FADING Slates which will keep the same color forever.

Bear in mind that be natural® only supply UN-FADING slates.

Rust and Pyrits:

All natural slates contain iron pyrites. Some are reactive and may "rust". Some will not move at all.

In most of the cases, rusting is purely an esthetic consideration and does not affect the performance of the slate. When it "rusts" most people understand this to be a natural weathering process.

Please keep in mind that slates with high percentage of reactive pyrites can affect the waterproofing on the roof in the long term. To be sure, check the track record of the slate over a longer than 5 years period.

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Grading:

It is a time consuming process that dramatically affects the final result. We recommend before fixing the slates to sort into 3 grades of different thicknesses.

The thickest grade should be used for the courses nearest the eaves.

The thinner grades should be used as work progresses towards the ridges

Twisted slates should be cut for half slates and used for valleys or chimneys.

Pre-holed or Un-holed:

Roofing slates could be supplied unholed when it is fixed with slate hooks and could be pre-holed when it is fixed with copper nails.

Pre-holed slates should be drilled or punched individually to the required dimensions.

For your information, USA, Ireland, Australia and the UK use pre-holed slates on their roofs, France, Germany, Benelux and Spain use unholed slates.

Thickness:

Thicker slate cost more than thinner slate partly due to the higher freight cost component. All other factors being equal, the roof aesthetic results different. The thicker slate will give a more textured and more character to the roof. The thinner slate will give a more uniform look.

Weight:

Watch the weight of the slate depending on your roof structure. The thicker is the slate, the heavier is your roof.

Remember the mass volume of the slate is $0,0028 \text{ Kg/cm}^3$.

(For example, for a piece of slate of 50x30x0,7mm the weight will be: $50 \times 30 \times 0,7 \times 0,0028 = 2.94\text{kgs}$ or 6,55 Lbs for a 20"x12"x1/4")