

ROOFING SLATE TERMS

Roof Features	Explanation
Eaves	The lower edge of a roof
Hip	Inclined meeting line of two slopes in a pitched roof forming a salient angle
Mitred Hip	A covering of slates cut to form a mitred joint at the hip and laid with <i>soakers</i>
Ridge	The apex of a pitched roof
Verge	The side of a roof
Valley	The meeting point of two slopes
Margin	The exposed area of a roofing slate
Course	A horizontal row of slates
Ribbon Course	A course that has a different <i>margin</i> to the norm on the same roof
Diminishing Course	Courses that have margins that decrease from the eaves to the <i>ridge</i>
Eaves Course	The first row of full size slates at the <i>eaves</i>
Undereaves Course	The course of short slates below the <i>eaves course</i> finished flush with its lower edge, and of a length to give the correct head lap
Undercloak	Slates fixed beneath battens at <i>verges</i>
Soaker	Small piece of sheet metal, shaped to fit between slates at the joint of the roof surface and a vertical wall, <i>hip or valley</i>

Slate Roofing	Explanation
Roofing	The upper layer(s) of a roof which provides a weatherproof surface
Slating	Laying roofing slates as roofing
Fixing	As above
Cuttings	Slates cut to meet (usually at a Hip or Valley)
Head Nailing	Fixing with nails app. 25mm below the head
Centre Nailing	Fixing with nails just above the head of the course below
Holing/Drilling	Punching countersunk holes in the slates to allow fixing
Back/Face	The upper (visible) surface of the slate (chamfered side)
Bed/Underside	The surface laid onto the battens (un-chamfered side)

