



## Commonly Used Terms: Slate/Tile Roofing (PAGE 1)

Properly installed and maintained, slate and tile roofs can (depending on the variety) provide 150 years of service. A quality roof repair will pay for itself over the lifetime of the building; specially trained skilled craftsmen are required for installation and maintenance. The best tile and slate will crack or come loose under various circumstances. It is important to catch these problems as they occur and repair or replace them as soon as possible so that further damage does not occur. Producing, installing and maintaining slate roof tiles has little impact on the environment.

**Roof Styles:** Roof slopes greater than 4 inches per foot.

- **Gable Roof:** A type of roof containing sloping planes of the same pitch on each side of the ridge, contains a gable at each end.
- **Gambrel Roof:** A type of roof containing two sloping planes of different pitch on each side of the ridge. The lower plane has a steeper slope than the upper, contains a gable at each end.
- **Hipped Roof:** Contains planes of the same pitch that slope down to the eaves on all four sides.
- **Mansard Roof:** A type of roof containing two sloping planes of different pitch on each of four sides. The lower plane has a much steeper pitch than the upper, often approaching vertical, contains no gables.
- **Shed Roof:** A roof containing only one sloping plane, has no hips, ridges, valleys or gables.

**Closed Valley:** Shingles, slate or tile cross over or meet tightly in the valley covering the flashing completely.

**Coping:** The capping or covering on the top of a wall. A coping may consist of stone, brick, tile, slate, metal or wood. It is a form of waterproofing but it also serves a decorative element.

**Course:** A row of shingles, slate, tile or roll roofing that runs the length of the roof.

**Cricket [Saddle]:** A peaked "half diamond" construction at the back of a chimney to prevent accumulation of snow and ice and to deflect water away.

**Deck:** The surface over the structural framing that the roofing material is applied to.

**Dormer Styles:** Protrude from the plane of the roof to allow space for a window.

- **Hipped Dormer:** Roof is formed by three sloping planes that converge at the ridge of the dormer.
- **Shed Dormer:** Has a flat roof with one sloping angle.
- **Gable Dormer:** The roof is formed by two sloping planes that come together forming a peak.
- **Eyebrow Dormer:** The roof is an upwardly curved continuation of the plane of the roof.
- **Barrel Dormer:** Typically made out of standing seam metal, the roof is curved over the top of the dormer; the radius can range from a slight curve to a half circle.

**Drip Edge:** A non-corrosive, non-staining metal such as copper or aluminum used along the eaves and rakes to allow water run-off to drip clear of underlying construction.

**Eaves:** The edge of the roof parallel to the ground. Eaves typically project beyond the side of the building holding rain water away from walls.



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**Flashings:** The system used to seal membrane edges at walls, expansion joints, drains, gravel stops and other places where the membrane is interrupted or terminated.

- **Apron Flashing:** Copper flashing that covers the intersection at a sloping roof with a vertical wall, such as the lower side of a chimney.
- **Base Flashing:** That portion of the flashing attached to or resting on the deck and extending vertically on a penetration or wall to seal the edge of the membrane.
- **Counter Flashing:** That portion of the flashing attached to a vertical surface to prevent water from migrating behind the base flashing.
- **Plumbing Vent Flashing:** The membrane or metal flashing that extends around the soil or waste stack where it penetrates the roof membrane.
- **Step Flashing:** Metal flashing application method used where a vertical surface meets a sloping roof plane, such as at a rising wall.
- **Through Wall Flashing:** Metal or membrane built into a wall to act as a barrier directing water away from openings in exterior walls such as window and door openings and where walls meet intersecting rooflines.
- **Valley Flashing:** Metal flashing material where two slopes meet. Valleys need an extra level of protection because they are a weak spot more prone to leakage due to the increased volume of water that flows through it and the interruption in roofing material where the two planes are joined.

**Gable:** The upper portion of a sidewall that comes to a triangular point at the ridge of a sloping roof.

**Ice Back-up:** Is caused by the combination of heat loss, frozen precipitation and below freezing outdoor air temperatures. When warm air escapes the living spaces and melts the snow on the roof, the liquid travels down to the edge of the roof where it refreezes into a dam. When more melting snow hits the dam it can't run off the edge of the roof. The melted water has no place to go but back-up under the roofing and then down the interior walls.

**Open Valley:** Shingles, slate or tile are trimmed in line with the valley; they do not cross the valley, leaving the valley metal flashing exposed.

**Parapet:** A barrier which is an extension of the wall at the edge of a roof, terrace or balcony which extends above the roof line.

**Pitch:** The degree of roof incline expressed as the ratio of the rise, in inches, to a span or run of 12 inches.

**Pocket:** Typically a metal waterproofing system installed where irregular elements such as; dormers or chimneys intersect the plane of the roof creating areas where ice and snow can collect.

**Rake:** The inclined edge of a sloped roof over a wall.

**Ridge:** The top of a roof, at the junction of two sloping sides.

**Soffit:** The finished underside of the eaves.

**Underlayment:** Membrane installed underneath slate, tile and copper usually consisting of asphalt saturated felt, a self adhering modified bitumen membrane or synthetic paper that keeps the building water tight during construction and provides secondary weather protection in the event of severe weather, flashing failure or roofing failure.

**Valley:** Internal angle formed by the intersection of two sloping planes.



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