Why Choose Natural Slate Roofing?

ARCHITECTS AND INSTALLERS SEMINAR SERIES

Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America, Inc.
143 Forest Ln, Grove City, PA 16127
SlateRoofers.org
Mail@SlateRoofers.org
Ph: 814-786-7015
Natural quarried roofing slate provides beauty, longevity and tradition, while enhancing the architectural integrity of a community or institution.
Slate is an ecologically-friendly, recyclable natural stone containing NO plastic, petroleum, or asbestos.
Slate deposits exist throughout the world.
Natural roofing slate has been used for thousands of years on all types of buildings, all over the world.
A correctly installed slate roof can easily last 100 years and can realistically last for centuries.
American roofing slate was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 1734 by Welsh immigrants. Commercial production developed in the mid 1800s. The VT roof below is now 169 years old.
North American slate deposits are still abundant. This is Vermont purple, VT green, and New York red slate.
All types of buildings have been covered with slate, from chicken houses to cathedrals.
Many older homes still have original slate roofs. This 1862 roof is 158 years old, made of Vermont slate.
North Americans are proud of our slate roofing traditions and the durability and beauty of our roofing slate.
Various colors of slate are quarried in VT.
Red slate is quarried in NY state.
Virginia slate is “blue gray.”
This is a blend of Vermont slates.
This is a blend of Vermont and New York slates.
This is Canadian black slate.
This is Canadian slate blended with Vermont and New York slates.
This is a blend of Vermont and New York slates.
This is purple slate from Vermont.
These are Vermont purple and Vermont unfading green slates.
This is Virginia slate with a Vermont “semi-weathering gray-green” design.
This is Vermont black slate with a NY red accent.
Chinese, Spanish, Brazilian, and Argentinian slates are also being imported into the US in large quantities.
This is China multi-color slate.
Spanish slates are primarily black.
Welsh slate may be purple or black.
This is Welsh black slate with a VT unfading green design.
Phyllite slate from Argentina.
Fabrication and Manufacturing
This is a slate quarry in Vermont. Most slate rock in the US is extracted from open quarries such as this one.
This 350’ deep PA quarry is carved into solid rock. A worker is circled at the bottom. A block is being hoisted out on a chain.
A large block of slate is shown here being removed from an old PA quarry.
Slate blocks are split according to their grain and cleavage plane.
Smaller blocks are cut using a diamond saw.
The smaller blocks are then split into shingles.
The slate is typically split by hand with hammers and chisels.
Each slate shingle is individually hand made.
Manufacturing stone roofing is a very specialized craft.
The slates are individually squared and trimmed to size.
Nail holes are punched into the slates one at a time. Sometimes the slates are drilled.
The finished shingles are then sorted, palleted, and shipped.
New roofing slates of all sizes, thicknesses, and colors are produced in the US and Canada today.
Installation
The finished shingles are fastened to the roof deck with nails.
Solid board roof decks have a proven longevity under roofing slate and can last a century or two.
Sometimes “slating lath” or “skip sheathing” is used instead of wood boards.
Local lumber was traditionally used under slate roofs in the US.
Planed, kiln-dried lumber is also commonly used. Yellow pine boards are shown here being installed on a bank.
VT unfading green slate was installed on the yellow pine decking with stainless steel nails. This roof could last 200 years.
The top edge of the slates are nailed along chalk lines.
Smooth-shank copper nails are commonly used. Stainless nails may be needed on harder decking material.
Nail holes in standard thickness slates should be punched, not drilled.

Punched nail hole allows nail head to fit inside hole.
A nail head can rub against an overlying slate and eventually wear a hole in it.
The hole caused by the raised nail head can eventually cause a leak.
Planks are used on the roof for safety and to prevent foot traffic on the slates during installation.
A 120-year roof on a cathedral is being re-roofed with slates from Wales and VT.
Roof slate is versatile and can be installed in many styles. The wide variety of colors allows for additional artistry.
A slightly staggered Vermont slate roof.
A PA black “textured” slate roof.
Roof inscriptions are a tradition in the US.
It’s easy to create a landmark roof using contrasting colors of roofing slate.
This roof is made of reclaimed slates.
Even modest buildings can look elegant with an artistic slate roof.
This is a mixed-color graduated slate roof on a chapel built in 1930.
Installation procedures vary from roof to roof.
Proper headlap is critical.
The Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America Inc. has published slate roof installation guidelines for free download.

General Installation Guidelines for Natural Quarried Roofing Slate

Version 1.5, October, 2017

Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America, Inc.
143 Forest Lane, Grove City, PA 16127
Ph: 814-786-7015, Web: SlateRoofers.org, Email: mad@slateroofer.org

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in the Guidelines is provided for educational purposes only. Persons considering adoption of any practices or standards described in these Guidelines should review all pertinent federal, state, local, and contractual regulations, and abide by any applicable building, safety, and health codes related to construction practices or use of equipment. These Guidelines are not intended to be a source of information regarding safety issues associated with roof systems, procedures, techniques, or products, nor do these Guidelines address required or recommended safety procedures relevant to roofing. Users are urged to take all necessary safety measures as outlined in product safety data sheets, OSHA requirements, state regulations, and local ordinances.

By using the information contained in these Guidelines, the user expressly assumes all risk of loss, harm or injury resulting from the use or misuse of such information. Modification to all or parts of the information included in these Guidelines by the user may affect the results, accuracy, reliability or other aspects of the information. The user also acknowledges and accepts the foregoing limitation of liability and disclaimers and agrees the Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America Inc. (SRCA) is not responsible for injuries, claims, losses or damages to the user or third parties arising directly or indirectly from the users’ use of these Guidelines. Under no circumstances shall the SRCA, its officers, or any of its respective partners, directors, employees, agents, associates, or representatives be liable for any damages, whether direct, indirect, special or consequential damages for lost revenues, lost profits, or otherwise, arising from, or in connection with, this publication, or the materials contained herein.

The SRCA may, from time to time, amend or update these Guidelines. Since various construction, roofing, and safety regulations, codes, standards, and practices are subject to change, these Guidelines may be current only as of the original publication date, and users should consult appropriate sources for the most recent versions of all codes, regulations and standards. The use of these Guidelines is intended to be voluntary, and the SRCA assumes no liability in connection with the use or misuse of these Guidelines or information included therein, or in connection with any modifications to the Guidelines by a user, licensee, instructor, sub-contractor, or trainer, and expressly disclaims any such liability or responsibility

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSE TO REPRODUCE

The Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America, Inc., owns all copyrights to these Guidelines. However, these Guidelines may be reproduced, republished, distributed, transmitted, displayed, broadcast, or otherwise disseminated without the need for the express prior written permission of Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America, Inc. These Guidelines may not be sold, leased, or licensed by any entity other than the Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America, Inc.
The SRCA also has a “Fake Slate” web page well worth reviewing.

http://slateroofers.org/Fake_Slates.html
This fake “slate” roof is falling apart. Don’t be fooled into buying false substitutes.
If the “slate” is rubber, plastic, faux, composite, synthetic, or engineered, it’s NOT SLATE!
Rubber shingles are not slate!
Plastic shingles are not slate!
Composite shingles are not slate!
A natural slate roof is the least expensive roof over the lifetime of the roof system.
The SRCA has developed slate roof installation training courses and slate roof repair and restoration training courses, as well as various slate roofing educational seminars.
Please visit our web sites for more information.

Slate Roof Installation Guidelines can be downloaded free online:

- Find additional information at SlateRoofers.org: Contractor List, Source Lists for new slates, salvaged slates, and architectural sheet metal, etc.
- SRCA Training courses are available.
- Additional SRCA educational seminars are also available.
- [http://slateroofers.org/training.html](http://slateroofers.org/training.html)

QUESTIONS?