

Heritage Register Roofing Types

Slate/ tile type	Description	Geographic areas
CLAY TILES		
Not machine-made		
1.1 Peg Tiling	Hand-made clay plain tiles with large holes for use with wooden pegs (also used with mortar torching)	South and east of the M4 Corridor from The Wash to the Bristol Channel (south east of the Limestone Belt)
1.2 York Peg Tiling	Large format hand-made clay plain tiles with large holes for use with wooden pegs (also used with mortar torching)	Yorkshire region, centred around York
1.3 Plain Nib Tiling	Hand-made clay plain tiles with single or multiple nibs but with no holes for nailing, usually fixed with torching or selective spot bedding	Midlands and some Eastern Counties
1.4 Pan Tiling	Hand-made single-lap Roman and pantiles with notches or mitres laid to a fixed gauge, with or without torching	Eastern counties from Moray Firth to Kent, Bridgewater area and some isolated estates
SMALL RANDOM SLATES		
Where setting out involves a small number of size-lengths and a large number of courses		
2.1 Limestone Slates (Also known as stone tiles)	Head-fixed (nails or pegs) laid dry or with spot bedding	Area from Dorset to Lincolnshire along the Limestone belt, including the Cotswolds and around Brandsby in East Yorkshire
2.2 Limestone Slates (Also known as collyweston slates)	Head-fixed (nails or pegs) laid in mortar as an alternative to dry laying	Stamford, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire region.
2.3 Slates (Also known as blue slates) See 7.7	Various small metamorphic slates usually head-fixed and formerly torched, laid dry or spot bedded or head-bedded, fixed to laths, battens or boards, some known as Doubles or Peggies	All slate areas including West Country, Wales, Swithland, Westmorland, Cumbria, Galloway, Borders, Bute-Luss-Aberfoyle-Dunkeld, Foudland, Lorn - Easdale, Ballachulish and Northern Ireland
2.4 Slates (Triple-lap) See 7.7	Various small metamorphic slates usually head-fixed, laid dry, fixed to laths or battens, sometimes referred to as Scantle	West Country
2.5 Slates (Wet-laid) See 7.7	Various small metamorphic slates usually head-fixed to a triple-lap, laid with intermittent or continuous mortar tail bedding, fixed to laths or battens, sometimes referred to as Scantle	West Country
LARGE RANDOM SLATES		
Where setting out involves a large number of size-lengths and a small number of courses often with only one course per size-length		
3.1 Gritstone Slates (Also known as grey slates)	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Pennine counties north from Staffs, Derbyshire and Cheshire to the Scottish Border.
3.2 Red Sandstone Slates	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Cumbria, Eden Valley and Dumfries
3.3 Sandstone Slates	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Wealden area centred on Horsham
3.4 Sandstone Slates	Head-fixed to laths or battens to a single-lap with thin soaker slates to each perpend (under-and-over) and laid with mortar bedding	Wealden area centred on Horsham
3.5 Limestone Slates	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Area based on distribution from Portland, Purbeck, Sherborne and Bruton
3.6 Welsh Ton Slates (Also known as blue slates)	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Large thick randoms known as Bangor Ton Slates and distributed coastwise mainly around the Irish Sea and through the canal and river systems including Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire
3.7 Welsh Queens Slates	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Fine large slates with same distribution as Bangor slates including by railway and coastal shipping around the UK

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3.8 Welsh Queens Slates	Centre-nailed randoms fixed to battens or boards with nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Fine large slates with same distribution as Bangor slates including by railway and coastal shipping around the UK
3.9 Burlington Slates (Also known as roundheads)	Head fixed or Centre-nailed randoms fixed to battens and laid dry with torching or spot bedding or to boards	Fine large slates distributed mainly by the canal and river system but including railway and coastal boats around the UK mainly northern
3.10 Rag Slates	Wide slates fixed direct to rafters at close-centres with nails and torched	Fine large slates from some West Country quarries mainly Cornish

MEDIUM RANDOM SLATES

Where setting out involves a large number of size-lengths and a large number of courses, with an increasing number of courses in each size-length up the roof

4.1 Sandstone Slates	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding.	Bristol Channel and South Wales coal fields areas. Hereford, Shropshire, Fife, Angus, Moray, Caithness, Orkney and Shetland
4.2 Tilestones (Sandstone slates)	Head-fixed to laths or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	West and Mid Wales from Carmarthen to Shropshire
4.3 Schist Slates	Head-fixed to boards or battens with pegs or nails and laid dry with torching or spot bedding	Speyside
4.4 Slates See 7.7	Various metamorphic slates usually head-fixed and formerly torched, laid dry or spot bedded or head-bedded, fixed to laths or battens	West Country, Wales and Lake District

MODERN RANDOM SLATES

Where setting out involves change- course nail hole positions, size-lengths and number of courses as for medium random slates

5.1 Slates See 7.7	Various metamorphic slates centre-nailed to sawn battens, formerly torched but mainly laid over underlay, also boards mainly Scotland or complex work	West Country, Wales and Lake District distributed nationally
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OTHER TYPES

Usually confined to a small area and a special local material

6.1 Diamond Pattern (Also known as diagonal lapping)	Special stone slates of one size laid to battens and similar to Roman slating	Thornhill, Dumfries, and Angus regions.
6.2 Stone Slabs	Large flagstones laid under-and-over	Local to Caithness, Orkney and some small Pennine and Purbeck roofs.
6.3 Vaulting	Stone slabs laid under and over in conjunction with solid masonry	Central Scotland. Mainly religious buildings or castles
6.4 Patent Slating	Large metamorphic slates laid under-and-over to patent cast-iron or timber framing	On special buildings during Victorian period distributed by rail
6.5 Fire-proof Slating	Tally slates fixed to metal battens	

NOTES

7.1 Substitution - It is realised that the majority of roof conservation projects use an underlay and sawn softwood battens (or boards) rather than torching and cleft hardwood laths.

7.2 Fixings - Many specifications substitute special nails for wooden pegs and are nailed into battens rather than hooked over laths

7.3 Labour Skills - The differences between the three groups of random slating is intended to differentiate between the skills of sorting and setting out gauges for laying, together with local variations which are significantly different in each of the three categories.

7.4 Tally Slates - Whilst many heritage roofs were originally covered or have been re-roofed with regular sized (tally) slates, and this could be considered a heritage roof system, most trade classification A members of NFRC are competent to provide this system without the need for heritage recognition.

7.5 Clay Tiles - Plain and single-lap tiles made by pressing, extrusion or machine manufacture, and provided with nail holes (mainly post 1865) fall into the same skill group as tally slates.

7.6 Imitation - Imitation and artificial modern slate and tile products are not included

7.7 Slates - The use of the words slates or slate is restricted to metamorphic slate rock. Slates from other rocks are qualified e.g. Limestone Slates.

7.8 Arts & Crafts - Some of the heritage roofing systems given above have been copied by designers of revival property in late 19th and early 20th centuries (notably limestone and tiles).