

Cedral fibre cement slates Repair and Replacement

TECHNICAL NOTE

Cr-02/02/en/v2

Individual slates that are damaged during or after installation should be replaced as soon as possible using a sound matching unit fixed in accordance with the nailing specification. In some cases, this may not be possible without stripping back a large area of slating.

Superficial coatings or repairs to damaged units using adhesives or other mechanical devices should not be used as their long-term performance may be limited.

If extensive repairs to the roof are required, sectional or complete re-slating should be considered, as this may be the most practical and economic solution.

Roofs and walls clad with slates should be treated as fragile, and adequate precautions should be taken, including the use of crawling boards, roof ladders or access platforms (with appropriate packing to prevent damage to the slates) when accessing the roof for the purposes of maintenance or repair. Failure to use adequate access equipment can damage the tiles and fixings and may be in contravention of Health and Safety Regulations.

Fix any damaged slating in the same manner as they were originally installed.

- When using a replacement slate, ensure that it is of the same type and size as those already installed.
- The slate or slates due for repair should be removed using appropriate tools (e.g. slate ripper and hammer), usually in a triangular fashion, with the single slate at the apex up the roof slope.
- To re-fix an appropriate slate in place of a damaged slate (where the two nail holes are clearly visible) use copper nails with a shank diameter of not less than 2.65mm, of a length to give a minimum 15mm penetration into the battens (excluding the point of the nail), and secure as normal.
- Where only one nail hole is visible, place a stainless-steel slate hook (as specified in BS 5534) to act instead of the inaccessible fixing, and nail as normal through the visible hole. Copper disc rivets should be inserted at every rivet hole position at the tail of the slate as standard practice.
- The last slate in the triangle will not have nail holes accessible to fix with. In this case take a slate hook as above and using a 'mole grip' and 'pliers', bend the 'hook' portion from its normal vertical position through 90°. This will allow the spike of the hook to be nailed to the batten and the replacement slate to be slipped into place without interference from the 'hook' end.

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- Once the replacement slate is in position, use 'mole grips' to bend the 'hook' portion back to its original shape, so that it grips the tail of the slate firmly in position.

Note: Slate hooks are an alternative fixing for slates, as defined by BS 5534, and have known test and performance in use data. Where one or more nails cannot be used as a fixing, a hook should be substituted. The action of bending the hook for the limited distance involved does not significantly affect its durability or performance.

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