

Fixing roof tiles in valleys

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Question

Is it acceptable to fix roof tiles in open inclined roof valleys without mortar bedding?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 7.2-S12(d) refers to bedding roof tiles in mortar when using valley tiles or lead-lined valleys.
- BS 5534 'code of practice for slating and tiling' says roof tiles should be mechanically fixed at each side of valleys.
- Roof tile manufacturers' literature refers to the bedding of their roof tiles to lined valley gutters and valley tiles.
- Manufacturers of GRP valley gutter liner systems generally provide edging strips on their liners for bedding of roof tiles.
- Bedding of tiles provides a method for securing small cut sections of tile that extend beyond the tiling battens and which cannot be mechanically fixed.
- In parts of Scotland it has been common practice not to bed roof tiles in valleys. Some roof tile manufacturers recognise this and advise on the use of extra wide tiles to avoid small cut tiles or the use of additional intermediate tiling battens to provide a means for mechanically fixing each section of tile.

Answer

Valley tiles should be cut and bedded in mortar to help secure the tile and prevent entry of wind driven rain, large insects and birds into the batten space.

In areas where it has been common practice (i.e. parts of Scotland), non-bedding of roof tiles in valleys can be accepted provided all cut tiles are mechanically fixed and a mesh or comb filler is used to prevent the entry of birds and large insects into the batten spaces. Where there is any query on the method of dry fixing being employed written confirmation should be provided by the roof tile manufacturer.