

## Useful information about the construction and maintenance of pitched roofs in Ireland.

The following is some useful information about the construction of Traditional roofs. It contains useful links to our own website and those of our suppliers. I am targeting the main problems encountered when constructing a modern new slate roof or Restoring an OLD slate or tile ROOF.

### Avoiding interstitial condensation risks in pitched roofs.

Increasing energy conservation levels require high performance roofing membranes. Ideally you should install an air handling unit when a building is air-tight and vapour permeable. This will provide fresh air intake and extract heat from stale air exiting.

**WARM ATTIC:** ( Insulation following rafter line ) 25mm continuous air inlet at both eaves. 6mm continuous exhaust at ridge.

**COLD ATTIC:** ( Insulation at ceiling joist level ) 10mm continuous at both eaves. We have been recommending **TYVEK**™ for over 30 years.

[http://www2.dupont.com/Tyvek\\_Construction/en\\_IE/assets/downloads/volume1\\_roofs\\_tyvek\\_irish\\_edition.pdf](http://www2.dupont.com/Tyvek_Construction/en_IE/assets/downloads/volume1_roofs_tyvek_irish_edition.pdf)

This TYVEK Link gives comprehensive information about Tyvek Vapour Control layers, Air Leakage barriers and Breather Membranes.

- We recommend 50x25mm **Counter battening** in conjunction with Tyvek Breather membranes.
- We recommend **50 x 38mm** treated slating battens.
- We recommend using 40x3.35mm **Copper** slates nails – ring shank for more grip.
- We recommend 50x25 **SSQ** Spanish natural slates with the French **NF 228 Certification**.
- Use 50 x 25 **HEAVY Grade** in areas of Severe Exposure.

Remember it is impossible to retrofit Breather Membranes without stripping the roof – so you have to “**get it right**” first time.

### A natural slate ROOF for Ireland.

We have been supplying new roofs and stripping old roofs for over **30 years**. We know what works and more important – we know what does NOT work. We recommend **HEAVY Grade SSQ** Spanish natural slates, with French NF 228 certification, especially along the Irish counties along the Atlantic Coast and sites of severe exposure.

The following link shows the SSQ slates which we carry in our stocks. <http://www.killoranslate.ie/ssq-spanish-natural-roof-slate.php>

Why SSQ Spanish natural slates ?? <http://www.ssggroup.com/about/>

The following link shows the credentials of SSQ. <http://www.ssggroup.com/natural-slate/>

The following link shows the choice of slates for homeowners. <http://www.ssggroup.com/natural-slate/homeowners/>

The following link shows information of interest to contractors. <http://www.ssggroup.com/natural-slate/contractors/>

### The SSQ natural slate Fixing Guide:

[http://www.ssggroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/SSQ\\_Slate\\_Fixing\\_Guide\\_Nail\\_Fixings.pdf](http://www.ssggroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/SSQ_Slate_Fixing_Guide_Nail_Fixings.pdf)

This is an excellent guide and covers every aspect of fixing a natural slate roof.

### Conservation & Restoration of TRADITIONAL Irish roofs:

Dept of Environment website to download the excellent ADVICE SERIES. <http://www.killoranslate.ie/repair-of-historic-roofs.php>.

Clients should consult a Conservation Architect before undertaking the Restoration of an old roof.

**Choosing ridge tiles:** <http://www.killoranslate.ie/new-ridge-tiles.php>

For beautiful appearance and long life use new Staffordshire Blue clay ridges bedded in a pigmented lime mortar. Capped angle are also available. A growing number of customers are using Dry-fix Double Ogee clay ridges. Of course many customers choose Sandtoft concrete universal angle ridges either mortar bedded or fixed with the Sandtoft dry-fix system. Small slates and baby ridges should be used on Dormers, Porches and Bay Windows. Fixing copper strip beneath ridges will reduce moss and fungal buildup.

**Daylight robbery !!!!** <http://www.killoranslate.ie/fakro-roof-windows.php>.

Now that the “ window tax “ has gone, FAKRO roof windows are an excellent and inexpensive method of allowing more light into rooms within a roof area. The handle on the Fakro window is located at cill level and within easy reach. The ventilation is built into the window frame thereby allowing 6% more glazed area. A whole variety of applications are catered for – Fire Exit, Bathrooms, Triple Glazing and Combination windows.

### High performance roof Specification for Irish climate:

All roof timbers should be treated with an approved timber preservative. Use a steep pitch – ideally 30 Deg to 45 degrees.

Treated counter battens 50x25 and treated slating battens 50x38mm. Copper slate nails 40mm x 3.35 diameter.

Use slate + half to avoid narrow pieces at verges, hips and valleys. Use natural slate **UNDEREAVES** – We can supply pre-cut undereaves.

All SSQ slates are holed for 100mm headlap. Larger headlaps to special order. We also trade-in old Blue Bangor and Killaloe Slates.

Call to our Depot at Portroe, **and inspect the SSQ slates** before you place your order.

We are the **LOW COST** slate company. People come to us for the **PRICES** and stay for the **SERVICE**

**Jim O Donoghue, Managing Director. KILLORAN Slate Quarry Limited**