



## Roofing tile and slate 'chatter'

'Chatter' in high winds is an unavoidable phenomenon associated with most roofing tiles and slates. The sound, which can be heard within the building, is caused by the tails of the tiles or slates being lifted and then dropped by the wind forces.

Unfortunately the problem is often highlighted in roof designs where there is living accommodation in the roof space. The sound created by the movement of the tiles/slates can be amplified by forms of roof construction where the ceiling is fixed directly to the rafters.

Single lap tiles can be particularly prone to chatter in high winds because the tails of the tiles are more vulnerable. These tiles only overlap each other by, for example, 75mm, leaving the remaining surface exposed. The use of tile clips may help to eliminate, or at least minimise chatter, although it should be remembered that clips are principally designed to prevent the tiles from being dislodged in high winds and are not intended as a cure for tile chatter.

Double lapped tiles and slates are less prone to chattering in high winds because they overlap each other by over half their length, although movement can still sometimes occur, particularly if the nails have not been fully driven home. Centre-nailed slates are less vulnerable than top nailed slates.

Sometimes the problem is restricted to a small area of roof. Natural or artificial features nearby, or a roof feature such as a chimney or dormer windows, can affect wind speed or create turbulence causing uplift in a particular roof area. If such a localised area can be identified then it may be possible to secure the tails just in those areas using hooks (for slates) or clips (for single lapped tiles).

The use of adhesive could also be considered, although extreme care is needed. Beware that adhesives and other fillers can block interlocks etc and compromise the slate or tiles' ability to shed water. Sandtoft Roof Tiles Ltd cannot accept any responsibility in the event of this work being carried out.

In extreme circumstances it may be necessary to drill through the tail of the tile or slate and then fix into the timber batten using stainless steel screws or ring shank nails and sealing washers. Again, care is needed as this course of action could lead to water ingress through the drilled holes and is not covered in Manufacturers Recommendations.

For more information please contact Sandtoft Technical Support on 0870 145 2021.

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