



Torching

'Torching' is the term applied to the pointing of the underside of roofing tiles and slates. Traditionally, this was done using a hair/lime/Portland cement mortar mix.

Half-torching is where a 40 mm mortar fillet is formed against the upper edge of the battens.

Full-torching is where the entire space between the battens is covered with a 12 mm thick layer of mortar.

Sandtoft Technical Support receives the occasional enquiry regarding the use of torching. Our response is always to point out that this particular practice is not recommended because of the risk of water ingress due to capillary attraction caused by the torching material. The fact that the torching comes into contact with the timber battens, hence introducing dampness and eventual decay, goes against all current roof tiling practice and indeed British Standards.

Torching was applied in the past to prevent draughts and keep out driving rain. In modern roofing these functions are performed by the underlay.

However, if an enquirer insists on the use of torching then we simply supply extracts on the subject from text books. But again it should be noted that this does not imply that Sandtoft recommends this particular roofing method.

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

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