

Quality Checklist

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A QUALITY SLATE



Quick checklist

A brief summary to make sure you choose a good-quality roofing slate:

CE marking	A must!	It's a legal requirement.
Strength (MoR)	> 60MPa	It's less likely to break.
Carbonate content	< 3 %	...and the lower the better.
Water absorption	A1	< 0.3%, and the lower the better.
Sulphur dioxide	S1	Avoid S2 and S3.
Thermal cycling	T1	Which means it won't rust. Avoid T2 and T3.
Proof	A proven history of successful use in the UK	

To ensure performance of the product for at least 30 years, request that the slates have A1, S1, T1 and strength of at least 60 MPa.

What does this mean?

Water Absorption test gives an indication of the rock's water absorbency and how a slate may react when wet. Values up to 0.6% are classed as A1; values **over 0.6% are classed as A2**. The lower the % the better.

Thermal Cycle test relates to the stability of any pyrite in the slate, predicting its reaction and whether it will oxidise (rust). There are three classifications – T1 / T2 / T3 – which indicate the extent of the damage this may cause to the slate. **Ensure to go for T1—the best.**

T1 denotes the slate is free of oxidisable pyrite; Applied to slates that exhibit colour changes that neither affect the structure of the slate nor form runs of colour

T2 exhibit pyrites / leaching pyrites; Applied to slate that forms that colour runs but no structural changes

T3 exhibit pyrites / leaching pyrites / oxidising pyrites; Applied to slate that form runs of discolouration and may form holes around inclusions

Carbonate Content gives an indication of the amount of carbonate in the slate. A lower content makes the slate more resistant to pollution and colour change. There are three classifications: up to 5% / 5-20% / over 20% – generally the lower the figure, the better the slate.

The Sulphur Dioxide Test indicates how the slate will perform in an acidic environment, which is more typical in cities. Acidic deposition can dissolve carbonate in the slate causing material loss and structural weakness. Slate with a carbonate content of up to 20% is classified as either S1 / S2 / S3, a result that directly affects the thicknesses of the roofing slate that can be produced.

Slates with a carbonate content above 20% are tested in a different way and should be considered as probably not fit for purpose.



All SNI slates are sourced from long established quarries of proven pedigree and come with a 75 year quarry backed guarantee.

We only sell the BEST Spanish and Argentinean slate available.

**No matter who you buy from,
ALWAYS ASK FOR THE CE CERTIFICATE!**

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