



Surface finish on clay roofing tiles

The beauty of natural red clay tiles lies in the way in which they retain the natural colour of the clay material, whilst maturing to a darker, richer shade.

The degree to which this occurs and the rapidity with which any changes takes place depends upon two factors. The first is the nature of the tile itself, and the second is the environment in which it is laid.

Machine made tiles are extremely dense and durable. Water flows off them very easily. Accumulations of extraneous material are slow to take hold and the appearance of the tile is slow to change.

But it must be remembered that the colour of the tile will not fade under any circumstances and the slow change that does take place will be a steady darkening of the red colour.

Other colours, such as Tuscan, Flanders and Antique are achieved by applying an 'Engobe' to the surface of the tile prior to firing in the kiln. Engobe is a ceramic material, consisting of 45-90% clay, 10-40% Frits (glass) and 1-15% manganese oxides. The glass content produces a strong, vitrified scratch-resistant surface. The manganese oxides gives the required colour. The clay content means that when the tile is fired the engobe and the tile 'fuse' together and become one.

Sandtoft has many years experience of applied engobe finishes to clay tiles and can state with all certainty that the applied surface colours are permanent and will last as long as tiles themselves.

All Sandtoft clay tiles are manufactured to comply with BS EN 1304; the European Standard for clay tiles. In particular, the surface coated clay tiles easily pass the European Frost Resistance test in BS EN 539-2 with no damage to the tile or its surface.

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

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