

Winter Installation of Concrete Roof Tile

We are often asked; can concrete roof tiles be installed during the winter months. The answer is most definitely yes! All phases of the installation process can be successfully completed during the winter months.

The installation of a concrete tile roof begins with the application of a CSA approved underlayment. Most polypropylene underlayments, including the brands sold by Unicrete Products, can be installed in any temperature range and provide a slip resistant surface to enable the roofing contractor to safely work on the roof.

A concrete tile installation has the added benefit of a permanent, built in “ladder system” installed over top of the underlayment, which provides a safer work environment for the installer no matter what the weather conditions are. This “ladder system” is the strapping and counter strapping portion of the installation process that applies to all concrete tile roofs.

Once the strapping system is installed, the next step is the delivery of the tile directly to the roof top. The only restriction here is the crane truck itself, as it is limited to working in temperatures above -25C.

Once the tile is loaded onto the roof the actual tile installation begins. This can be done at any temperature because the tiles are hung on the strapping system, and any tiles that need to be fastened are mechanically fastened (see Tech Bulletin #2 Nailing Patterns). Unlike many conventional roofing materials, the installation of concrete tile is not restricted by the need for a heat activated tar strip to adhere each tile to the next.

One of the final steps in the installation of a concrete tile roof is the installation of a weather blocking material for the caps on the ridge and hips of the roof. There are several methods currently used with great success. The first is called Flex Vent – a vented aluminum roll material with a peel and stick butyl fastening strip on each underside - it comes in either 11” wide (for slate profile) or 13” wide (for estate profile) x 25’ rolls. It can be used in cold weather (see Tech Bulletin 15A). The second method of weather blocking the ridge caps is to install Vented Estate Ridge Cap Filler (only for ridge). One other method for weather blocking is the application of a colour matched mortar mix to these areas. This method is restricted to warmer weather, which means the roofing contractor may be required to return in the spring to complete the installation. Any of these methods can be used with great success.

Don’t let the onset of winter deter you from proceeding with your roofing project. Roofing contractors have been successfully installing concrete tile roofs all year round for decades.

For additional information on Unicrete Concrete Roof Tiles please contact the Unicrete office.