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Topic: Installing Flat Tile with a Staggered Exposure

Installing flat tile with a staggered exposure is an easy way to give a home an “Old World” look. While a natural fit for architectural styles like English Cottage and French Country, a staggered exposure can breathe new life into homes of many varied styles.



Installing a staggered exposure can seem daunting to an installer that has not done one before. The truth is that it is really quite simple. It just requires planning. The first thing to think about is waste. Remember, that approximately half of the tiles on the roof will have a shorter exposure than the other half. It will be essential to calculate that difference prior to ordering the tile.

Whether installing the tile with battens or without, it is imperative to make proper measurements when preparing the roof for installation. The first Course at the eave will be installed normally with a standard exposure. The stagger starts at the second Course. It is vitally important to prepare the entire roof at one time before laying any tile.

If battens are to be used, the stagger is achieved by installing partial battens immediately above the standard battens from the second Course up. The tiles with the shorter exposure will hang on the higher partial batten (see image). If no battens are used, a second set of lines will be marked at each Course, one line for the normal exposure and one for the staggered tiles.

One more consideration is the water channel at the left side of the tile. The bottom of the water channel of the tiles with a normal exposure will be slightly exposed. On most installations, this remains and is hardly noticeable. Some customers may request that it be clipped and there are several ways to achieve this using a combination of saws and tile nippers.

In the end, you can rest assured that flat tile with a staggered exposure will create an overall beautiful, unique look to your project.

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