

Yeomans Slate Wholesalers - Slate Advice

The following information is intended as a general guide only, if in doubt, please contact your supplier or distributor.

Slate is a natural product that varies enormously in colour, shape and quality and when deciding which is best for your requirements, you must choose the slate for its individual qualities to suit your particular application.

Three things determine the quality in slate - Thickness, Hardness and Density...

Thickness

Flooring slates over 6mm are considered better quality as they can generally withstand domestic traffic more easily. Thinner slates need to be laid in well with the adhesive or cement bedding the tile completely so that it is fully supported.

Hardness

To prove the hardness of slate, tap them with your knuckle.

A good slate will ring solid without a hollow sound.

It's like comparing pieces of wood by tapping them, one feels hard and rings solid, while the other may sound hollow indicating that it may be rotted away on the inside.

Density

Density refers to how closely the slate is compacted.

Dense slates do not mark easily when you run a hard object over the surface, this type of slate is suitable for outside use on steps, paths etc and these types of slates are generally around 8mm in thickness.

When they are between 10mm to 20mm thick you can put dense slates on driveways.

Laying, Sealing and Maintaining Slate

There are different ways in which slate can be laid and sealed - most are recognised as appropriate.

In domestic applications a properly laid slate of good quality will last a lifetime.

The maintenance required for slate floors is minimal - it can be swept, vacuumed and mopped with warm water and a mild detergent.

Outdoor Use

There are a variety of slates which are ideal for outside use.

Their suitability depends on the hardness, thickness and density and these slates are normally left unsealed in an outdoor setting.

Not only does this "natural look" blend in with its outdoor environment, but it also is safer for sure footing in its slip resistant state.

Sawn Edge and Hand Cut Slates

Sawn edge slates are cut with a diamond tipped saw and are generally thicker than hand cut slates and are usually chosen for driveways and commercial or high traffic areas.

Aesthetically, sawn edge slates give cleaner lines with a more accurate tile measurement - an ideal choice for a more formal or classic look.

Hand cut slates have been guillotined or hewn with a steel machete leaving a less clean edge.