

Slating & Tiling

TIPS 40

verge construction: part 3

Part 3 of Verge Construction deals with raking verges, and the issues that can arise.

Raking verge types

A raking verge is where the verge is not at right angles to the eaves or the ridge, and can be at any angle.

There are two general types of raking verge: one where water flows towards it, where the eaves is shorter than the ridge; and one where water flows away from it, where the eaves is longer than the ridge. Both are dealt with quite differently.

Where water flows away from the verge it is treated like a verge, but where it flows towards the verge it is treated like an eaves.

Raking verges of both types should be avoided where ever possible. But due to the need to build up to a boundary line, raking verges will occur from time to time. They can be constructed but require a lot more tile cutting and a lot of thought to ensure they perform correctly.

Raking verge (verge)

The fact that water is flowing away from the raking verge in this instance means that depending upon the angle of the rake, the head of the tile or slate will be cut away more than the tail. This will result in the verge tile on some courses, especially with straight bonded interlocking tiles, with both nibs and the nail fixing removed. This will leave the tile very unstable and will need to be clipped.

While some manufacturers can supply double or one-and-a-half tiles/slates for this situation, in most cases they will not be available. In these instances it is essential that the head of the tile is located by locking it to the adjacent tile interlock using a C clip, which keeps the head up,

and drilled and screwed at the tail through into the batten below – coinciding the drilled hole with the nail hole of the lower tile. The screw needs to be capped and sealed to prevent water tracking down the screw. In all other respects the verge is treated just like a normal verge.

While some dry verge systems will cope with a raking verge of this type, many will not and therefore it is advisable to check with the manufacturer concerned.

Raking verge (eaves)

Rainwater flowing over the verge means that, depending upon the angle of the rake, the tail of the tile or slate will be cut away. This will result in some instances with a step down from one course to another. Because the lower edge of the tile may not rest on a lower tile it will need to be supported on a timber barge board. While a raking verge can be constructed with no barge board, it is easier

with a barge board as it acts like a fascia board. To keep the line of the verge straight the barge board will need to be cut down in a saw

tooth effect, or packed up; to keep the tiles straight as the cut diminishes.

Water that flows off the tiles should be collected in a gutter fixed to the barge board. Without a barge board this is not easy to achieve.

Underlay

Like water on the top surface of the tiles/slates, water on the underlay will also flow towards the raking verge and will need to be controlled.

Either it should be channelled down behind the barge board or be allowed to pass over the barge board into the gutter. If the water is to pass over the barge board into the gutter there will need to be a tilt fillet to support the underlay. For this to work the battens need to be kept back from the



This may look like a raking eaves but it is also a raking verge. Note the step down where the lower course diminishes to nothing, causing the upper tiles to dip.

barge board by 100mm to allow the underlay to rise up to the underside of the tiles. Therefore, there needs to be a raking rafter at that point to provide something to nail the ends of the battens into. This is not always possible. The channelling of the water down the back of the barge board is a much simpler option as the 6mm-thick support board can be laid directly on the raking rafter with the underlay turned up the back of the barge board.

Provided the battens finish 10mm short of the barge board, any water will pass between the batten end and the barge board. Do not forget to allow for an outlet at the eaves to let any water behind the barge board escape. With both details the verge is not mortar-bedded and therefore an eaves comb may be needed to prevent small birds, bats and large insects from getting into the roof.

Fixing

As with all perimeter tiles and slates they will need to be mechanically fixed. Head nailing the tiles, or centre nailing the slates, is no problem, but if the tiles need to be clipped, verge clips will need to be used and may need to be modified to fit depending upon the position of the cut. Preferably verge clips should be located at right angles to the raking cut to discourage rain from tracking back along the clip, but having a suitable batten to fix to

may be more difficult.

While some dry fix verge systems may look as if they can cope with this form of raking verge, they are not designed to cope with the increasing volume of rainwater that will discharge over the verge into the dry verge system, and therefore none are suitable for this situation.

Tips

- Mortar bedding can be used if the water runs away from the verge.
- Where water flows over the verge it should be collected in a gutter.
- All cut tiles down the raking verge will need to be mechanically fixed.

Compiled by Chris Thomas
The Tiled Roofing Consultancy
2 Ridlands Grove, Limpsfield Chart
Oxted, Surrey RH8 0ST
tel 01883 724774

Email:

chris.thomas@thetiledroofingconsultancy.com

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