

Release Date: April 2008
Ashbury 300-cycle test
APPROVED

MST03 – (03/08)

Ashbury hand-made clay roof tiles exceed 300 cycles in CERAM Method D frost test

The results of recent independent testing, conducted by CERAM Building Technology, confirm that Ashbury genuinely hand-made clay roof tiles – from Midland Slate and Tile - not only provide the appearance of a time-weathered roofscape, but are also made to last a lifetime.

Having previously passed the Method D 100-cycle frost test - and having also exceeded the more severe European Method E 150-cycle test by 100 cycles – randomly selected Ashbury tiles have now been tested to 300 cycles at Method D with no signs of damage.

Focus on product quality

An organisation committed to providing the highest quality building and roofing products, Midland Slate and Tile regularly arranges for its Ashbury tiles to be tested by CERAM. Indeed, the Ashbury range is subjected to more regular independent testing than most UK-made tiles.

As a consequence of this focus on product quality, long service life – and possibly being the most quality-tested tiles in the country – Ashbury is also the only roofing tile available in the UK that is covered by a 30-year guarantee.

Delighted with outcome

Comments Jason Hughes, Midland Slate and Tile's Managing Director, "As part of an ongoing investment programme at the tiler, new kilns have recently been commissioned. These, along with speculation in the industry that the minimum amount of frost cycles in the Method D test is likely to increase substantially in the future, prompted us to keep the tiles on test well past the pass level of 100 cycles, in order to ascertain their resilience under more stringent conditions".

"Although not surprised by the results," he continued, "we were nevertheless still delighted when 300 frost cycles to Method D was achieved. We now intend to continue testing to demonstrate just how robust our wholly natural, hand-made roofing tiles are."

Comments Dr. Andrew Smith of CERAM Building Technology, "Based on CERAM's experience with clay roof tile usage in the UK and Ireland, tiles that meet 100 cycles very rarely show any 'in service' issues in respect to frost resistance problems.

Additional confidence

"Tiles tested to 300 cycles and showing no damage, can give additional confidence that the durability of these products is significantly greater than that of tiles tested to 100 cycles," he continued.

About the Ashbury hand-made clay roof tiles range

Designed and produced to give the appearance of old weathered tiles, the Ashbury range of hand-made clay roof tiles is manufactured by time-served craftsman in a modern tiler in the brick and tile producing region of Turkey.

Equally suited to both new build and renovation projects, unlike the majority of so-called 'hand-made' tiles, each Ashbury tile is produced entirely by hand.

Distinctive shades, along with slight variations in size, camber and texture, provide a unique appearance that cannot be achieved by mass production.

The Ashbury tile is available in 'Multi', 'Restoration', 'Red', 'Cambridge' and 'Huntingdon' colourways, along with an additional three colour blends to suit different regional vernaculars. In addition to the plain tiles, a full range of accessory tiles and fittings are also available.

As Ashbury tiles are such a high quality product, Midland Slate and Tile are also able to cover them with that unique insurance-backed 30-year guarantee.

Ashbury tiles are hand-made in a six-stage process, whereby:

1. Enough raw clay for annual production is taken from a specially selected quarry in late spring and left to rest for 12 months.
2. Once dry, the clay is then crushed, washed and filtered to remove any impurities and ensure a high quality material for hand moulding.
3. The filtered clay is then poured into drying tanks where excess water is filtered out to reduce moisture content and enable the clay to be worked at the correct consistency.
4. The clay is marked out into convenient sized blocks for turning during drying and moving to the factory for working.
5. The moulders hand-throw the clay blocks into sanded moulds to form the tiles which are then transferred to the drying rooms in readiness for firing.
6. The dried tiles are then fired at temperatures in excess of 1050°C.

The facts behind Ashbury hand-made clay roof tiles:

- Ashbury tiles meet current Method D and E for frost resistance – copies of CERAM test reports are available on request
- Ashbury tiles are subjected to more regular independent testing than most UK-made tiles
- Ashbury tiles are covered by the industry's most comprehensive 30-year guarantee – underwritten by Royal Sun Alliance
- Ashbury tiles are produced at a high quality, closely monitored production facility in Turkey

- Ashbury tiles are imported by Midland Slate and Tile – a wholly reputable UK-based building products supplier with a proud reputation to uphold
- A full copy of the statement from Dr. Andrew Smith of CERAM is available on request

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