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INSTALLING CEDARLITE ON BATTENS

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Cedarlite is a unique product in the world of concrete roof tiles. Because it is produced without the anchor lugs that are common on most concrete tiles, Cedarlite is normally fastened directly to the roof deck rather than being hung on battens. Because it is a lightweight tile, it must be fastened at all slopes with either one screw or two nails. The preferred method is quickly becoming the single screw since it obviously uses fewer fasteners and minimizes the number of penetrations through the underlayment. The other advantage that roofers notice is that the use of a single screw in the center hole seems to improve the walkability of the installed product.

Because of the product design, many roofers disregard the fact that Cedarlite may also be installed on battens and in fact has a batten that was specifically designed for it. Since there are no lugs to hang onto the batten, it is necessary to align the top edge of the tile with the top edge of the batten. In so doing, the nail holes will fall approximately 1 ½ " from the top of the batten. This necessitates the use of a batten that is slightly wider than the traditional 1"x2" batten (3/4"x1 1/2"). The new Elevated Batten System (EBS) that was developed to be a simplified version of the standard counterbatten system is made from nominal 1"x3" lumber (3/4"x2 1/2") and provides a stronger batten that also places solid wood directly beneath the nail holes of the Cedarlite tile.

The use of EBS allows for Cedarlite to be easily loaded and installed on steep roof slopes while providing strong support for the tile and allowing for good ventilation and drainage beneath the battens. Cedarlite of course may also be installed on battens fastened directly to the roof deck or to battens mounted on counterbattens. Where the code allows, Cedarlite may also be installed onto spaced sheathing with special underlayments designed for that purpose.

Aside from the need for 1"x3" lumber, the installation of Cedarlite differs very little from normal application. It should be noted however, that the overall height of the roof assembly will be higher with this application and considerations should be made at downslope eaves and rake edges. A standard 1 ½" eave riser will normally provide proper support at the downslope eave while rake tile or special metal rake trim may be necessary at the rakes. Standard Cedarlite wedges may be used by running the EBS batten flush to the rake edge and then installing a minimum 2"x2" metal drip edge on top of the battens to cover the space created by the battens. The wedges may then be secured to the top of the drip edge with adhesive or roofers' cement.