



1 A guide to painting roof tiles

Pro-Roof

Roof-Cote

ROOF TILES are usually made from cement or (less commonly) clay. Cement tiles are prone to carbonation due to the effects of carbon dioxide and water in the atmosphere. This forms a very weak acid called carbonic acid that extracts the cement from the surface of the tiles and produces a weak, friable surface layer which becomes more severe as the tile ages on a roof. Clay tiles do not have this problem, but they tend to be highly porous, which can lead to poor curing of the paint film.

The most critical part of any painting project is the surface preparation, because poor preparation is the principal cause of coating failure. The object of surface preparation is to provide a strong, sound surface before applying any paint.

Both types of tile can be prepared in the same way. The first step is to thoroughly wash the surface using water and a strong brush. This should remove all loose bound sandy particles and any poorly adhering paint coatings. A high-pressure water jet is highly recommended for this purpose. The roof must then be rinsed with clean water and then left to dry out. The moisture content should be below 15% before any coating is applied. Measure this using a moisture meter.

The condition of the cleaned surface should now be checked. Pressing adhesive tape – such as masking tape – firmly onto the dry surface, and then pull it off the surface quickly. Examine the underside of the tape. If no coating is

removed, and no dirt or chalky material is apparent on the underside of the tape, the surface is suitable for painting. It is also good practice is to check the porosity of the surface before painting. Apply a droplet of water and note how quickly it absorbs into the surface. If it is readily absorbed into the tile, then the first coat of paint must be diluted 20% with water. (For example, add five litres to a 20 litre container of Pro-Roof).

If a powdery layer is removed by the tape test, the surface is chalky, and should be coated with Promac Bondex prior to applying the roof paint. If sandy particles are moved, the surface is friable, and the surface should be re-washed. It may not be possible to remove all sand particles, but it is recommended to apply Promac Bondex to seal any residual particles.

If the paint coating is removed, the surface under the coating is weak; strip the existing paint film and repeat the cleaning process. If Promac Bondex has been applied to the surface, it must be left to harden for at least two hours before continuing with any further application. Promac Pro-Roof is applied to the prepared surface using a roller (wool or Propile type), brush or by airless spraying. Two coats are recommended for optimum durability and the quality of the finish, but the first coat must be allowed to cure for at least two hours before applying the final coat. To calculate the amount of paint needed, one must estimate the plan area of the roof by measuring the length and breadth of the walls – multiply this area by 1,5 – and then estimate the paint quantity needed by dividing the estimated area by 7. This will produce a slight excess of paint, which is useful for touch-up work, should this become necessary.

Pro-Roof is a range of waterborne roof paints which is non-chalking, acid rain-resistant and weather-resistant. It provides a tough, durable, medium sheen finish, and is available in the colours above.



These colours may vary from the actual colour due to the printed method. This serves as a guide only.



2 The “do’s and don’ts” to obtain a quality finish

- a. Never apply paint if rain is forecast or expected during the day of application;
- b. Only apply paint after 08h00 in summer or 10h00 in winter, to ensure that the roof is not too cold or damp;
- c. It is recommended that the paint is applied before 12h00 to avoid excessive roof temperatures and to allow the paint to harden sufficiently before any afternoon rain may occur;
- d. Always use the same batch number for touch-up work. This reduces colour or sheen variations which otherwise may be visible on the painted roof.
Promac Bondex is a unique, specially formulated penetrating sealer for chalky and less porous surfaces. It seals and binds chalky surfaces such as old paint coatings to allow painting with acrylic finishing coats.

Contact Promac Paints for further information as well as details of your nearest stockist.
Promac Paints: Tel: (012) 800 1055 - Fax: (012) 800 4046



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