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NBS  
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**Product profile**

SSQ Riverstone Grey is a premium-quality roofing slate produced exclusively by SSQ. Riverstone is a phyllite – a rock similar to slate, sharing its essential characteristics but surpassing its qualities – taken from SSQ’s own La Florida Quarry in the San Luis region of central Argentina.

In addition to passing SSQ’s own, rigorous quality-control tests, Riverstone roofing slate has been tested in accordance with EN 12326, carries the CE marking and is classified as ‘A1, T1, S1’.\*

Riverstone roofing slate has been accepted for use by many of the UK’s heritage agencies for use on restoration projects or within conservation areas.

\* Test results are available on request.

**Appearance**

Riverstone roofing slate is a medium-grey colour with a subtle green tinge and is similar to indigenous slate found in south-west England and Norway. The colour is totally natural and will not fade, even in the strongest sunlight or harshest environments.

**Guarantee**

Although SSQ Riverstone Grey Random roofing slate is covered by a 75-year guarantee, SSQ will extend this to 100 years if the product is specified in writing and installed by a recommended contractor. (This is subject to a free inspection by an SSQ technical manager to approve the installation.)

**Random effects**

Riverstone Random roofing slates offer a cost-effective way of either reproducing traditional random slating during a restoration project or creating a stunning aesthetic or visual effect on a new building. There are three random slating patterns:

- Random – using roofing slates of different lengths and widths;
- Random Width – using roofing slates of the same length but in random widths;
- Random Width in Diminishing Courses – using roofing slates of random width in courses of progressively shorter length (towards the roof’s ridge).



**Size and coverage**

To achieve random slating effects, pallets of Riverstone Random roofing slate are supplied in two ways:

- Mixed – a mixture of random lengths and widths;
- Random Width – all roofing slates are the same length but are of random width.

Each pallet contains, as appropriate, a variety of lengths and widths:

- length – ranges from 300mm to 600mm in 50mm increments;
- width – ranges from 150mm to 450mm in 25mm increments (but most are between 200mm and 300mm).

Riverstone Random roofing slate can cover between 22m<sup>2</sup> and 24m<sup>2</sup> per tonne using an overlap of 75mm to 100mm.

A Diminishing Course effect – roofing slates of the same width but in courses of progressively shorter length – is achieved by ordering slates of the same width but in the various lengths required.

**Fixing**

Successfully achieving a random slate effect relies on careful planning and accurately marking up the roof.

The roofing slates to be used should be carefully sorted and graded, first by length (if appropriate) and then by thickness. Once sorted, the number of slates of each length will determine how many courses using that length can be laid across the roof.

When the number of courses is known, the gauge of the battens must be carefully worked out to maintain the minimum headlap required. If slates are being laid to create either a Random or Random Width in Diminishing Courses effect, an even and gradual reduction of the batten gauging from eaves to ridge must be maintained.

In all random width slating, care must be taken to maintain the minimum sidelap required between courses. This is determined by multiplying the batten gauge by the E Factor (see table) which, according to BS 5534: 2003 (the Code of Practice for Slating and Tiling), should not be less than 70mm.

**Minimum headlap and E factor**

Roof pitch	Moderate exposure		Severe exposure	
	Headlap	E factor	Headlap	E factor
75	54	0.395	70	0.465
45	54	0.395	70	0.465
40	60	0.400	76	0.470
35	70	0.400	76	0.470
30	80	0.435	100	0.495
27.5	85	0.440	110	0.508
25	95	0.470	120	0.530
22.5	105	0.530	130	0.570
20	115	0.600	145	0.650

