



# Physical Properties and what to consider

**Part 5: Colours, styles,  
patterns and designs  
of Roof Tiles**

Boasting a wide selection of colours shapes and styles, roof tiles offer a level of customisation with unlimited creative potential. Australian homeowners now have the means to evolve their homes into a unique vision that shatters the fundamentals of typical design.

With a roof tile investment you stand to release the hidden beauty of your home and increase its curb appeal.

## QUOTE

“In situations where the roof is a dominant feature of the home, it is important to ensure that the colour does not over shadow the entire aesthetic of the building so it’s best to opt for a mid-tone colour.”

- Janne Petrie The Colour Designers



## Why roof tiles offer such creative license

The creative freedom of roof tiles is owed to the materials they are made from along with the contributions of the craftsmen who shape them.

Terracotta roof tiles are made from terracotta clay, a natural resource that comes in a variety of colours from the traditional sunburst orange, to pale whites and charcoal blacks and in between. Terracotta roof tile manufacture is one of the few industries where humans still play a large role in addition to machines.

Concrete roof tiles are made from a mixture of cement, water and sand and are available in a range of at least 18 different colours, including both plain and mottled. Because the colouring of a concrete tile is either integrally bonded with the body of the tile, or it is 'through-colour' with the entire body of the tile being coloured, there is no risk of peeling or delamination of the coloured surface.

The colour choices inherent in both terracotta and concrete roof tiles are further consolidated by their amazing selection of tile types to suit both classic and contemporary styles of architecture.



## Most popular Australian Architecture Styles

Many distinct roofing trends have emerged across history that have changed the traditional rules of design allowing for new and exciting innovations, these include:

- Victorian (High pitches with interlocking tiles)
- Workers Cottage (Steel roof sheeting with front porch overhang)
- Queenslanders (Gabled roofs of corrugated iron with steep pitch)
- Postwar- triple-fronted brick veneer (Gable tile roof and distinct brick walls)
- Modern (Low pitches with flat square tiles)=



## Why stylish roof tiles affect everyone

Possessing a gorgeous roof that unleashes unlimited visual appeal is a luxury open for everyone. Whether you are a first home buyer, an empty nester or are thinking of selling, a beautiful roof is an affordable indulgence with many features and benefits.

- Your roof is capable of freeing the hidden aesthetic of your home to match your favourite architecture style or something completely one-of-a-kind.
- A beautiful new roof can increase your homes selling value by 15-40%.
- A tiled roof possesses superior strength and effective innate resistances allowing them to stay gorgeous for longer.



**MYTH BUSTED:** *Terracotta roof tiles are impervious to discoloration*

**TRUE:** *Terracotta roof tiles are completely 100% immune to permanent discoloration; this is because their colour is rooted in the clay they were made from and not an external coating or paintjob.*



## Making Roofing Choices

You may be opting for a new roof but are struggling to discover just what kind of roof you want. Maybe you have an idea in mind but are unsure whether it can be successfully implemented. Building codes may stand in the way of your favoured choices.

Roof tiles come in a variety of patterns to suit classic and contemporary projects, consolidated by the diverse selection of available colours and tones.

## **TERRACOTTA ROOF TILE COLOURS**

Terracotta roofing tiles are commonly known for their bright orange colour, surprisingly they offer a wide variety of colour options including:

- Orange
- Red
- Brown
- Grey
- Black
- Cream White

## **CONCRETE ROOF TILE COLOURS**

While concrete tiles do not offer as wide a range of shading options as terracotta, they still boast unlimited design capabilities.

- Black
- Grey
- Brown
- Cream White
- Orange
- Red

No hazardous chemicals are applied to roof tiles in order to achieve their colourings. However if coatings or paints are applied after installation, then it is best practice to enquire with the contractor as to their toxicity and what it can mean for your water tank.



## Roof Tile Types

Roof tiles come in a variety of different shapes, colours and types. In this guide, we will cover a large portion of them.

### FLAT TERRACOTTA ROOF TILES

**Terracotta Shingle:** An elegant tile with a flat shape that can be utilised for both classic and contemporary projects.

### SHAPED TERRACOTTA ROOF TILES

**French Terracotta:** Identified by the two distinct valleys imparted into the design. French terracotta tiles are a staple of the Federation style of architecture and are ideal for classic designs.

**Swiss:** Defined by their unique humps, Swiss tiles are a staple of Mediterranean and Modern architecture styles.

### FLAT CONCRETE ROOF TILES

**Flat Shingle:** A strong tile with a versatile shape that can be utilised for a wide spread of project types.

**Flat Interlocking Roof Tile:** Like flat concrete shingles, flat interlocking tiles are highly versatile and can be fitted to both classic and contemporary styles.

### SHAPED CONCRETE ROOF TILES

**Curved Roof Tiles:** Possessing a distinct S shape profile, these tiles are optimal for classic projects.

**Spanish:** Primarily utilised for the Spanish revival style, these interlocking tiles possess a very distinct hump.



## Updating your roof without a replacement

It is understandable that after a few decades of enjoyment, you might want to update the aesthetic of your roof. This is very much possible and you don't need to opt for a full roof replacement to do it.

In order to undergo the colour changing process your roof needs to be in good condition and cleared of all debris, mould, mildew or other problems. Once the roof is clean, the changing of the colour process can be completed over several days.

High acrylic roof coating products are made specifically to change the colour of roof tiles and can be made to match any shade.

### ARCHITECTURE QUOTE

*"Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness."*  
- Frank Gehry



## Your Roof and Home Value

If you are thinking of selling your home, the state of your roof can play a massive role in the success of the endeavour. First impressions matter and the roof is one of the first things visitors to your property will see and judge.

If you think of a home like a face, a roof could represent the hairstyle. A person who takes obvious care of their hair is more likely to make a good impression than someone who does not. Just like a well-tended roof is more likely to impress than a roof covered in algae and cracked shingles.

Before putting your home up for market, it is important you take the necessary steps needed to improve its curb appeal. Having a professional inspect and fix any defects on the roof could save you money in the long run. The same applies to any other flawed aspects of your home that could limit value.

Checking and fixing flaws on your roof can improve selling value but you can take the campaign an extra step further. By completely replacing and renovating your roof with tiles you can increase your home's value by 40%.

### ARCHITECTURE QUOTE

*"The sky's the limit if you have a roof over your head."*  
- Sol Hurok



## Robin Dods Roof Tile Excellence Award

Once a year, Think Brick Australia hosts the Think Brick Awards, a friendly competition that celebrates the latest and most creative architecture innovations across Australia.

Among the many different categories is the Robin Dods Roof Tile Excellence Award which assesses inventiveness and appeal with roof tiles in a project. The category was inspired by the architect Robin Dods who believed in sustainable design to suit climate especially in roofing.

The Robin Dods Roof Tile Excellence Award has effectively demonstrated the unlimited artistic potential roof tiles provide since 2011.



## Quick Terminology Guide

**Coating:** A liquid coating applied to a roof to improve lustre.

**Glaze:** A substance applied to terracotta roof tiles to provide an impervious colour finish.

**Pigment:** A substance used for colouring, usually a powder.

**Pitch:** The angle of the roof in terms of degrees.

**Profile:** The specific shape of a roof tile.



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