



A focus of BS 5534 means that if mortar is used then additional materials are needed to create a mechanical fix

**Traditional mortar bedding is quickly becoming a thing of the past, with dry-fix solutions replacing it as the norm for multiple applications above the roofline from ridge and hip systems to valley trough installation.**

The move towards dry-fix products has been accelerated by the large percentage of claims in relation to mortar and its potential to fail, even on new buildings. Mortar has a limited lifespan and requires maintenance as it will deteriorate in time through natural weathering. It is also susceptible to cracking because of the natural movement in the building structure and shrinkage. This can leave the ridge & hip tiles and verges vulnerable to the elements, which can then become dislodged by high winds and strong winds causing additional damage and water ingress and costly internal damage.

## What is dry-fix and why adopt it?

Dry-fix roofing is the method of mechanically fixing products and systems to the roof perimeter without the use of sand and cement mortar. The many advantages of dry-fix roofing highlight why it has been well established in Scotland for some time and now leading the way throughout the rest of the UK and Ireland.

- Simple and quick to install
- Can be installed in any weather
- Semi-skilled fitting procedure
- Mechanically fixed for secure installation
- Compliant with recent BS 5534 and NHBC requirements

## BS 5534

As of September 2015, BS 5534:2014+A1:2015 Slating and tiling for pitched roofs and vertical cladding - Code of Practice was revised with the consideration of two main influences; an increase in extreme weather and the alignment of European standards.

The Standard has been developed in order to meet new regulatory requirements and design standards as part of changes to UK Building Regulations, European Eurocodes and industry Technical Standards. Whilst installing to the British Standard isn't a requirement by law, it can be included with a specification and held up in a court if necessary.

The Code of Practice focuses on three main areas of changes, relating to;

- Fixing
- Mortar bedding
- Underlays

Focusing on mortar bedding, the standard states that mortar alone cannot be used and is insufficient to fix tiles and other fittings. Simply, this means that if mortar is used then additional materials are needed to create a mechanical fix.



## **Hambleside Danelaw's promise**

We are continually committed to support all efforts to improve the quality and reliability of roofing installations. We aim to do this through designing and manufacturing products that are fit for purpose and durable for a wide range of applications, and promoting best practice for their use.

Our ranges of quality, unique and innovative dry-fix roofing products have been and continue to lead the market. Compliant with BS 5534 these products eliminate the need for mortar and its associated failures. Many of the products hold other certifications and accreditations too, including BBA and Secured by Design. Our universal RollOut ridge and hip system is also compliant with the requirements of BS 5250.

For more information on dry-fix, the associated products and relevant standards, please contact us or call 01327 701910

## **Further Information**

Take a look at our technical guidance for dry fix on our website, we also have a dedicated team to help with queries regarding our products, get in touch with them at [techhelp@hambleside-danelaw.co.uk](mailto:techhelp@hambleside-danelaw.co.uk).

To further support roofing contractors, this year we launched Hambleside Danelaw Hub where learners can develop their skillset.

## **Technical Guidance**

Hambleside Danelaw's Technical Guidance series is devoted to helping contractors and developers with relevant information from broad topics like condensation, to more specific information detailing key products for use on the roof. All previous articles can be found in the news section of our website.