

## Copper and Natural Slate Roofing

For centuries slate and copper have worked together protecting some of our most historic and notable buildings. The malleable nature of copper combined with its longevity have made it a natural choice.

### Beauty

Copper's natural elemental make-up allow it the properties to transform over time. The shiny warm tones age to bronze colorations before they mature to the green patina. This natural transformation is not able to be duplicated, just like the natural aging of slate roofing. A roof that is installed with copper and slate is one of organic natural beauty, unattainable with any other synthetic materials.



### Low Pitch Roof Planes

It is not advisable for natural slate to be installed on a pitch that is less than 4:12, yet some design elements may require a lower pitch roof. Copper becomes a natural preference with longevity, flexibility, and natural beauty. Copper may be formed into panels and mechanically fastened or it may be soldered together in a flat lock formation. Copper is often used for trim or flashing details on most slate roofs.

### Longevity

If standing water is prevented on copper, it is said to corrode at a rate of .4 mm per 200 years in a rural environment. It is also not susceptible to the underside corrosion that other roofing metals may incur. The long use life of copper nails also make them an ideal choice with natural slate. These nails should hold up as long as the slate. When used in conjunction with a natural slate roof, the choice is Proven stability.

### Antimicrobial

Even with its density and non-porous surface, slate may develop areas of black mold or environmental build-up. These spots usually occur in north facing surfaces where water may not dry out as fast. The natural sluffing of copper and the intrinsic antimicrobial properties prevent the growth of fungi, bacteria, molds, and viruses while cleaning the natural slate and preventing build up. As the slate is installed, if copper flashing may be installed over the natural slate with 1/2" exposure the likelihood of environmental build-up may be greatly reduced.

When designing a structure, making sure that the hardest working element of the building- the roof- has PROVEN its longevity, value, and beauty.

The area of slate below the copper flashing is free from mold, yet the area above copper has been **discolored by the environmental build up.**



804-745-4100

www.virginiasslate.com  
2471 Goodes Bridge Rd  
Richmond, Virginia 23224