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The ravaging effects of hail, winds, or falling debris on a slate roof are often overtly apparent, yet sometime the effects of the events come to life in later months.

After a hail storm definite round penetrations in the slate may be seen. The stone may break on the edges or it may even develop as an interior hole as seen in this photo or the other photos from this roof.

All these slates need to be replaced as they are now retaining moisture, saturating not only the slate but the underlining roof deck.



But one of the most detrimental effects to a slate roof is the subtle hairline fractures. These are often not detected in initial inspections and will break a slate fully in time.

Replacing a Slate Roof

National Park Services Preservation Brief 29 states that with over 20% breakage to a slate roof the ENTIRE roof should be replaced. Yet often with 10-15% breakage on initial

inspection an additional 5-10% breakage may happen with subsequent time due to unseen hairline fractures.

Often when 10% of the roof is replaced with new tiles more damage may be done to the roof than help. As these new tiles are installed a slater will be walking on the roof possibly damaging other tiles and ripping out broken pieces while installing new slate to the roof.

Careful inspection needs to take place when slate roofing damage is over 10%. All options should carefully be weighed and understood.

Please let me know if you have any other questions,
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<https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/29-slate-roofs.htm>