

Descriptions & Weathering Characteristics

Upon exposure to the weather, all slate is changed slightly in color. The extent of this color change varies with different slate beds, being barely perceptible in certain slates. Those slates in which color changes but slightly are classified as “permanent” or “unfading.” Those in which the final result is more marked and varied are known as “weathering” slate. —“Slate Roofs”, 1926, The National Slate Association

Weathering is the natural result of exposure to the elements, and in no way affects the durability of the stone. The weathering characteristics of the various slate types vary from quarry to quarry and must be taken into consideration to maintain some control over the final appearance.

Royal Purple A dark plum to maroon color identifies the Royal Purple slate. Occasional green marks appear on the surface of the slate and a small percentage of weathering to buff tones may occur. Produced in Vermont.

Variogated Purple This semi-weathering slate ranges from grey/purple through light to medium plum colors. Varying green markings may be present in the stone, and some weathering can be expected, especially in the lighter tones. This slate can range from smooth to medium texture. Produced in Vermont.

Vermont Grey Our Vermont Grey is the traditional “slate grey” or battleship grey color. This weathering stone assumes a light bronze patina plus some buff and brown tones over time, but the basic grey background is maintained. Produced in Vermont.

Semi-Weathering Grey/Green One of the most durable and plentiful of the Vermont slates. A pleasure to work with for the slate craftsman—cuttable and consistent. This stone is grey/green when freshly quarried and a naturally harmonious blend of greens, greys and buff after weathering. Produced in Vermont.

Semi-Weathering Grey/Black or Vermont Black Dark grey and black tones alternate across the surface of this moderately textured and full thickness slate. Some weathering to brown will occur, typically in the lighter grey portions of the shingle. Produced in Vermont.

Strata Grey or Mottled Grey/Black These slates show a medium grey colored background accented by black stripes at different orientations. Moderate weathering to buff and brown tones will appear over the surface of the slate. Produced in Vermont.

North Country Black A top-quality, premium grade slate from the northern border region of Maine and Canada. A full 1/4" thick, and smooth in texture, this dark grey slate is very similar in quality and appearance to the legendary Unfading Black formerly quarried in Monson, Maine. Produced in Quebec, Canada.

Patriot Unfading Grey/Black A classic, unfading grey/black slate with a rugged appearance and exceptional durability. Patriot Unfading Grey/Black has subtle veining and markings, a medium texture cleft and a mica sheen characteristic of slate from this region. Produced in Buckingham County, Virginia.

Unfading Mottled Green & Purple Green and purple combine to form unique patterns in each slate. Some roofing slates are mostly purple, while in others the green predominates. No two slates are exactly alike. Produced in Vermont.

Penrhyn Purple This classic Welsh slate, known as ‘heather blue’ in the U.K., has dark plum coloring. It first arrived in the U.S. aboard sailing ships in the early 1800’s and still graces many historical buildings around the country today. A smooth and very durable stone, the Penrhyn Purple is a true unfading slate with virtually no green markings. Produced in Wales, U.K.

Unfading Green or Unfading Grey/Green Ranging from shades of grey/green to bright green, this color-fast slate makes a distinctive roof by itself or can be installed with other colors to make patterns or natural blends. Produced in Vermont.

Unfading Grey A medium textured slate produced from the greyest beds of the unfading grey/green deposits. Shades of grey predominate, but subtle green undertones and/or dark markings may be present. Produced in Vermont.

Rathscheck Black An unfading black slate, Rathscheck Black marries meticulous German craftsmanship with Spanish beauty and value. Produced by the Germany-based Rathscheck Group from a quarry in Spain, this lightly-textured slate is readily available and offers a great value.

Unfading Red The one and only, true Unfading Red carries a price tag that reflects the limited deposits and difficult production of this exotic and extremely hard material. Brick red in color and one of the most durable slates known. Produced in Washington County, New York.

Left column: Semi-weathering | Right column: Unfading