

Ardonit Natural Grey Slates - Annex

This annex is an addition to the technical data and does not replace the technical data.

Natural Grey Slates

1.1 COMPOSITION AND MANUFACTURE

The slates are small size double pressed fibre-cement flat sheets, composed of Portland cement, organic fibres of superior quality, mineral additives and water.

The natural colour of the slates is grey in the mass, their surface and edges are not treated.

1.2 FINISHING

As the slates are not treated they are susceptible to the typical cementitious surface phenomena as shades of grey, these underline the natural character of the material.

Because differences in colour nuances are possible, we suggest to order the slates for a continuous surface in one time, such to minimize the differences. Even so uniformity of the colour cannot be guaranteed.

The slates are untreated, this means that there is no coating applied. Natural grey slates are not sorted out, because of this it is possible that staining, efflorescence or stains of production oil might be visible. Also the presence of small variations (inclusions) in the panel surface belongs to the normal aspect of the slates. The above mentioned phenomena cannot be considered as a shortcoming.

With time these effects will largely even out by patination.

A second possible phenomena that can occur is efflorescence. When water and cement are added together they react and form cement stone. This reaction also creates "free chalk" (calcium hydroxide). This is partially dissolved in water. The free chalk reacts with CO₂ in the air and in the presence of water calcium carbonate (efflorescence) is formed.

These phenomena are not necessarily immediately visible but might over time or after installation, become visible.

Important measures to this matter are to ensure a dry, ventilated storage of the slate (is not allowed to store the slates outside, not even under a watertight canvas), always process (drill or saw) the slates dry and immediately remove the drill or sawing dust off the slates. Cement dust that is left on the slates surface attaches itself firmly in the pores and causes unwanted visual effects on the slates after their exposition to weather circumstances.

Avoid staining of the slates, wear clean gloves during processing and installing of the slates. Avoid stains of glue, silicone, polyurethane foam, etc. as these can leave irremovable stains. Do not stick labels, tape of any type of adhesive tape on the decorative surface of the slates. These can leave glue residue on the slates and could affect the decorative surface.

The intensity of the efflorescence will diminish with time under influence of the weather. As this is a very slow process it is difficult to predict the total duration before the slates will get a more uniform appearance. This depends on the severity of the efflorescence and the degree of influence of the weather.

The removal of efflorescence is not easy. Therefore it is advisable to initially not take any action. However if immediate action is desired, the easiest way is to mechanically remove the efflorescence by lightly sanding the slates with an open sponge „Scotch-Brite 3M 7447“ and rinse the chalk dust away. It is possible however that slates treated this way, may again show efflorescence in the future.

SVK wishes to underline that these aesthetic phenomena in no way affect the properties of the slates. The slates comply in regards to the mechanical and physical requirements and durability with the prescriptions of the European Standard 492 "Fibre-cement slates and fittings - Product specification and test methods."