

METAL DRIP EDGE

for Slate Roofing

“Drip edge” is metal edging that is installed on the bottom edge of the eaves (which is also called the “drip edge”) where water drips off the roof. The metal product was primarily invented and widely manufactured to accompany asphalt shingle installations because asphalt shingles have little structural integrity and will sag over the edge of a roof if allowed to extend beyond the roof edge. Of course, the shingles *must* extend beyond the roof edge in order to allow the water to drip off the roof rather than run down the side of the building. Since asphalt shingles cannot extend beyond the edge of a roof without support, metal “drip edge” was invented to provide that support — to hold the shingles up so they don’t sag.

Slate shingles, being stone, will not sag over the edge of a roof. They, therefore, do not require a metal drip edge for support and such edgings have never been traditionally used on American slate roofs, except in certain limited situations. These situations may include when a slate roof ties into some types of metal roofs, or perhaps when it ties into some types of built-in metal gutters. Metal edgings have also been used on slate roofs for stylistic reasons — for decoration. In general, however, metal drip edges are not needed on slate roofs.

Then why use a metal drip edge? For three basic reasons:

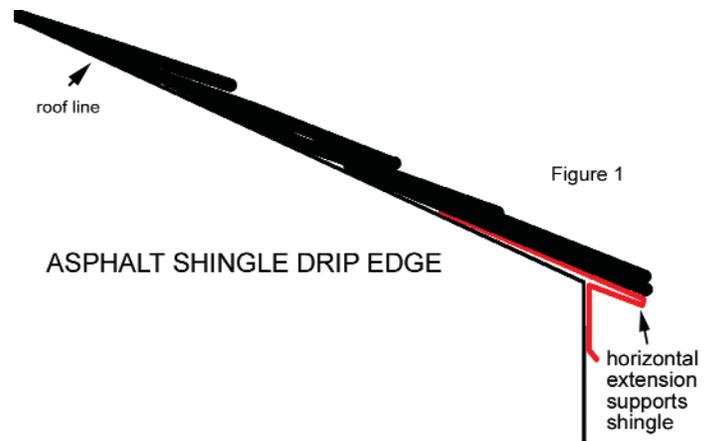
1) Today, many slate roofs are installed by roofers whose primary work has been with asphalt shingles. They often use decking materials that would be considered sub-standard when compared to traditional wood board slate roof decks. Such sub-standard decking materials include plywoods, particle boards, OSB, and anything that is held together with glue. These decking materials are not as durable as wood boards and can benefit by having their exposed edges protected by a metal edging, both at the drip edge and along the sides of the roof (also known as the gable edges or rakes). Therefore, metal drip edges have become popular for slate roofs among some roofing contractors.

2) In addition, some contractors and building owners like the look of a copper edging on a roof system. It adds a rich appearance that complements the slate and the copper flashings. The small additional cost of copper roof edgings can add a measure of protection as well as additional quality to a slate roof installation.

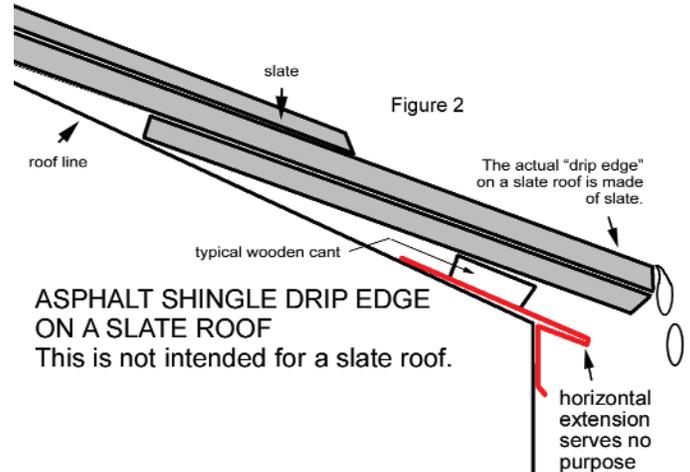
3) When copper roof edgings are used on a slate roof installation, the standard wooden cant strip that is required at the starter course along the eaves can be completely eliminated and replaced with a copper roof edging that has the cant built right into it. This creates a permanent copper cant strip that is quickly and easily installed. Many inexperienced roofers forget to install the cant strip in the first place. By using a copper edge with a built-in cant, they can’t go wrong (no pun intended).

Are slate roof drip edges different from standard asphalt shingle drip edges? YES! Standard asphalt shingle drip edges are designed to prop up the shingles so they don’t sag over the edge of the roof. Slates don’t sag, but they also don’t lie flat on the roof surface like asphalt shingles. Every slate is lying at an angle on the roof. This means that the part of the metal edging that extends up the roof deck will be serving no support purpose on a slate roof because such an extension will not even come in contact with the slate. The rigid slate shingles create their own “drip edge” so the metal edging’s primary purpose is to protect the roof edge, not support the shingles. Therefore, a slate roof “drip edge” will not have the horizontal lip that is needed on asphalt shingle drip edges. This does not mean that asphalt shingle drip edges with the horizontal lip cannot be used on slate roofs — they can. But a metal edging made specifically for slate roofs will not have the horizontal lip, which serves no practical purpose.

Joseph Jenkins, Inc. has designed slate roof edgings made of 16 ounce copper specifically designed for slate roof installations. Our decades of experience with slate roofing systems has enabled us to provide these edgings with the correct design for stone roof systems. ☒

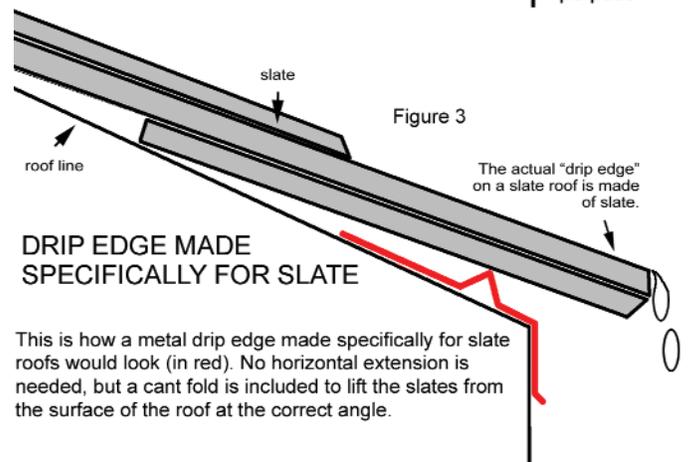


ASPHALT SHINGLE DRIP EDGE



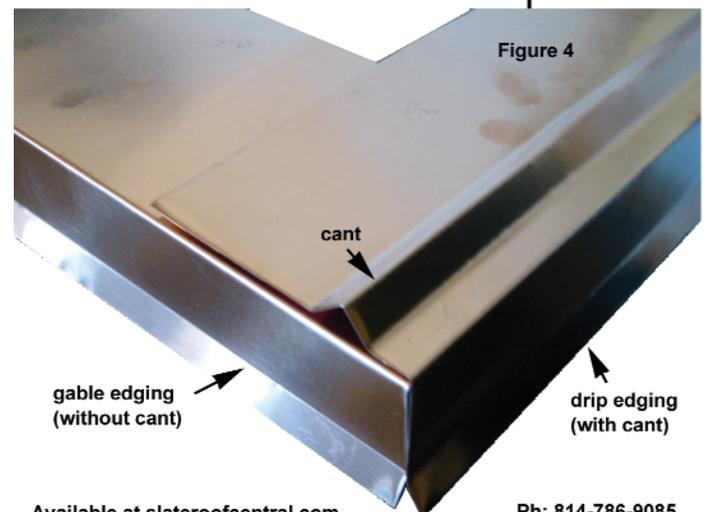
ASPHALT SHINGLE DRIP EDGE ON A SLATE ROOF

This is not intended for a slate roof.



DRIP EDGE MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR SLATE

This is how a metal drip edge made specifically for slate roofs would look (in red). No horizontal extension is needed, but a cant fold is included to lift the slates from the surface of the roof at the correct angle.



Available at slateroofcentral.com

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