



BY



TIPS

10 MORE EXPERT TIPS FOR ROOF WINDOW INSTALLATION (PART 2)

IT'S ON THE HOUSE WITH DAKEA

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The experts at Dakea have put their heads together and come up with the following best advice on fitting a roof window. To catch up on their previous expert tips, see Part 1 of this series.



TIP #1.

Work from the inside. It's always safer to make the roof hole from inside: cut a small hole, approx. 400 × 400 mm, through the roof construction. Remember, you should always try to put the window where it will offer the best light and headspace, not where it fits easiest into the existing rafters.

NB: Always check the tile/slate coursing is correct below the opening for the window installation. Trim the opening as needed using the same section timber to the rafters (if appropriate for the construction) at the sides of the window and above and below the window. Also check with the local authority Building Control Officer for building regulation requirements such as doubling up of rafters to the sides of the window frame.

TIP #2.

Cut and clear away. Remove the battens from this space and make sure you're happy with the final position of the window in the roof construction. When measuring the opening, be sure to allow space for insulation around the window frame (an extra 40-60mm clearance overall to the frame at the sides and 45mm to the support battens above and below the window.) This also allows space for squaring and levelling the window frame in the roof.

TIP #3.

Fit the bracket supports. Next, install the window bracket support battens to the top and bottom of the opening (check instructions for position and measurements) – these should be the same thickness as the existing tile/slate batten.

TIP #4.

Cut the roofing membrane. Always envelope the window frame in the roofing membrane/felt by cutting an X into the membrane and flapping each quarter of it outwards. Then fold it over the tile/slate battens and staple and cut accordingly. The pre-bracketed window can then be installed on the support battens – fix in the slotted holes to allow for adjustment.

TIP #5.

Check for level. If you're lining up more than one roof window, use the roof tiles/slate as your guide to ensure the frames line up, and that the measuring of the bottom support batten is accurate. Always check that multiple frame combi installation windows run level across the width and height of the window frames once fixed to the roof.

TIP #6.

Install the sash. Now re-install the window opening sash to check and adjust the frame is square and level. Close the window fully and check for even gaps between the sash and frame all round – once you're happy, you can fully fix the window brackets through the holes to ensure there's no further movement. To check the sash is level with the frame once installed, open the window slightly (a couple of mm or so) and then check that the gap at the base between the sash and frame is level all the way across. If it's not, this means the window frame is slightly twisted – you can use the supplied plastic wedge to insert beneath one of the top window fixing brackets to level the frame up. Once you're happy the window is square and level in the roof, the fixings should be checked to ensure they're all in place and tightened. The sash can now be removed to fit the underfelt collar and flashing.

TIP #7.

Be careful when lifting. Remember to always wear gloves with good grip when lifting the window sash into place. If you use a ladder or scaffold for extra height, make sure the equipment doesn't hinder access to the window and frame (and take care not to knock the sash or frame as this may damage the window). You may need some assistance at this stage.

TIP #8.

Fit the underfelt collar. The Dakea RUC underfelt collar can now be stretched over the frame and secured using staples, trimming for the support and tile/slate battens as needed. Don't forget to add the transverse drainage gutter above the window by inserting it into the existing roofing membrane/felt.

TIP #9.

Fit the flashing. If you need to replace or cut the tiles or slates at the bottom and sides of the window you may need to use an electric angle grinder or a slate cutter. Remember to use appropriate PPE and always wear gloves and goggles to protect your hands and eyes. Take care to observe the required distance and clearances for the flashing and roofing material – these are always shown in the instructions. Ensure all fixings to the flashings and external cover parts are correctly positioned and sufficiently tight. Once the flashing is installed completely, the window sash can be fitted for the final time.

TIP #10.

Check the roof window works correctly. The action of the window should be smooth, the handle operating properly, and the trickle vents should pop in and out correctly. Always double check that every fixing and screw is tight. If necessary, make sure occupants know how to open and close the window correctly and how to operate any electric openers, roller shutters or blinds (if fitted).

Dakea are always on hand to help you – just contact us on **020 3970 5080**, or email us on **cs@altaterra.eu**

KEY TAKE OUTS

Work from the inside – make the hole for the roof window from the inside, checking the tile/slating coursing is correct below the opening.

Cut and clear away – remove the battens, and allow space for insulation around the window frame.

Fit the bracket supports – install them top and bottom of the opening.

Cut the roofing membrane – cut an X and flap each quarter of the membrane outwards, then fold it over the tile/slate battens and staple.

Install the sash – check the frame is square and level by closing fully and checking for even gaps, and adjust accordingly.

Be careful when lifting – the sash is heavy, so wear gloves with good grip and enlist help if necessary.

Fit the underfelt collar – stretch the collar over the frame and secure using staples, trimming as needed.

Fit the flashing – trim tiles or slates as necessary, and always observe the required distance and clearances for the flashing and roofing material. Once installed, the sash can be refitted for the final time.

Check the roof window works correctly – make sure it's a smooth action, with the handle and trickle vents working properly, and double check all fixings and screws are tight.

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