

NEW TWISTS IN TILES, SHAKES, & SHINGLES

Ranging from the fabulous to the fake, new roofing materials offer luxury looks without luxury price tags

It used to be that a shake was a shake, a shingle a shingle, and a tile a tile. But with many new roofing products, the definitions are beginning to blur. There are "clay tiles" actually made of steel, "slate" which is actually cement, and "wood shakes" made from asphalt.

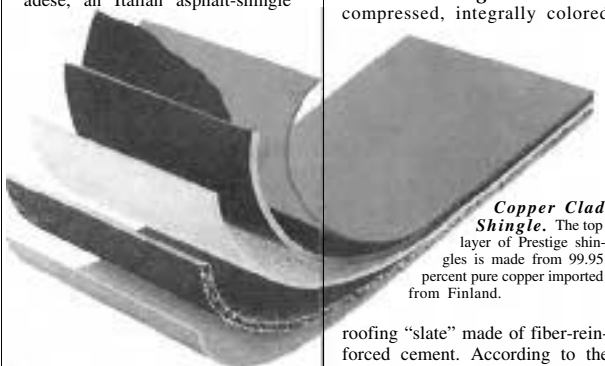
Why all the replicas? Manufacturers are trying to develop less expensive alternatives that still meet the market's demand for increased durability and aesthetics. Most homebuyers can't afford cement, clay tiles, or slate—but they want their looks and long life. Although the look-alikes don't come close to the "real thing," according to Walt Pruter of the National Tile Roofing Manufacturers Association, they are making a dent in the mid- to upper-end roofing market.

And then, there are the products that don't really try to look like a different material, but try to "suggest" luxury. This is the case with the new heavy-weight fiberglass shingles, whose designers use shadows and depth to remind us of the more expensive natural products. What follows is a look at these products that attempt to make more out of roofing, for less.

The Great Pretenders

The most curious of the new roofing materials are those that pretend to be what they're not. They vary quite a bit in cost, durability, appearance, and track record. But what they have in common is that none could be possible without the latest in product technology.

The copper-clad shingle. It's copper all right, but not through and through. Only 80-microns thick, the copper layer in Prestige shingles hides five more layers beneath—three layers of modified asphalt (bitumen), one of fiberglass, and one of silicone sand. The shingle is manufactured by Tegola Canadese, an Italian asphalt-shingle



Copper Clad Shingle. The top layer of Prestige shingles is made from 99.95 percent pure copper imported from Finland.

manufacturer, who imports the copper from Finland. The copper used to make the shingle's top layer is 99.5-percent pure, so it has all the chemical and electrolytic properties natural to copper. This means that the shingle must be fastened with copper and brass fasteners—and that it will oxidize and change color. Depending on chemical agents in the atmosphere, the final roof color will range from brown to

sea green. But unlike traditional copper roofing, Prestige shingles are flexible and can be used at all ridges, valleys, and joints—no special pieces are required. In addition, the cost for the shingle is a lot less than it would be for standing-seam copper roofing. Decorplast, its New York distributor, claims the roof will last the building's lifetime.

Cost per square: \$198

Wt. per square: 240 pounds

Fire rating: 1 hr.

Warranty: 10-year, limited

Colors available: Not applicable

For more information: Decorplast International Ltd. 240 Front Street, Hempstead, NY 11550; 516/352-4594 or 800/872-4363

Cement shingle. Eternit is a compressed, integrally colored



Cement Shingle. Eternit makes this roofing "slate" out of fiber-reinforced cement.

inches). It requires non-corroding metal for flashing, not lighter than 28 gauge, and non-corroding, large-head slaters' nails. Eternit shingles can be used for fascias, mansards, and facades as well.

Cost per square: \$200

Wt. per square: 420 pounds

Fire rating: A

Warranty: 30-year, non-prorated

Colors available: Blue-black, grey-green

For more information: Eternit, Village Center Drive, Reading PA 19607; 215/777-0100 or 800/233-3155

Mineral-fiber slates and shakes.

Supradur makes three look-alikes, all from fiber-reinforced concrete. Supra-slate features the look and durability of natural stone and is manufactured in natural quarry-slate colors. Western-Shake looks like wood but promises maximum fire protection. And a third, American Traditional has a wood-shingle look. All three are integrally colored, weatherproof, and shrink-proof. The slate and shake models are ¼ inch thick by 9.35 x 16 inches. The traditional wood-shingle model is slightly less than ¼ inch thick and 14 x 30 inches. Supradur products can be used only on roofs with slopes of more than 3-in-12.

Cost per Square: For Supra-Slate and Western Shake — \$200-\$225; for American Traditional — \$130
Wt. per square: 500 pounds (slate & shake styles); 325 (wood shingle style)

Fire rating: A

Warranty: 30-year, limited

Colors available: For slate style—red, green, black and grey; for wood shake style—red and natural cedar; for traditional wood shingle style—brown, red, black, green, white, grey, and natural cedar

For more information: Supradur Manufacturing Corporation, 411 Theodore Fremd Ave., Rye, NY 10580; 914/967-8230 or 800/223-1948



Mineral Fiber Slates. This roofing looks like slate, but is actually made from mineral fiber. Architectural effects can be achieved by blending a combination of colors or by simply staggering the butts.

Concrete Tiles. Lifetile Corporation makes tiles from a mixture of sand, cement, color oxides, and other additives. The company makes several look-alikes. With the California Series and Classic Capri you get a clay-tile look; with Sier-rashake and Shakatile you get a

by Kate O'Brien

shake look; and you can get the slate look with a Colonial tile. All styles are 17 x 13 3/8 inches, and average 1/2 inch thick. According to the company the tiles are adaptable to any pitch. Special features include self-aligning, vertical interlocking edges, adjustable headlap, and continuous anchor lug. In addition to these, the company carries a

finished with Fluorpon (providing a film of highly stable fluorocarbon molecules). According to the manufacturer, original panels can be matched to new panels after years of wear. (However, the manufacturer recommends that care be taken during installation not to drag the sharp edged sheets across already-installed tiles, scratching them.) The steel panels are 3 feet wide and



Concrete Tiles. One major difference between these "shakes" and the real thing is their fire rating. Shakette concrete-roofing tiles are completely incombustible.

lightweight tile with a different formulation, called Light-tile.

Cost per square: Colonial slate, Capri and Espana tile, and Sierra shake all range between \$55 and \$57; Mission Blend tile costs \$63; and Light-tile costs \$87

Wt. per square: Espana tile—890 pounds; Lite-tile—600 pounds; all others listed above weigh 950 pounds

Fire rating: A; Light-tile-C (can be upgraded to B with certain sheathing specifications)

Warranty: To meet ICBO flexural-strength and moisture-absorption test for life of structure

Colors available: For clay style—gold, a variety of reds, brown, and terra-cotta; for shake style—tan, grey, a variety of browns, charcoal, and weathered grey; for slate style—red, grey, and brown. But note that both styles and colored are manufactured to satisfy regional preferences; all colors in every style not available from every plant
For more information: California Tile, Inc., 3511 No. Riverside Avenue, Rialto, CA 92376; 714/822-4407

Steel Tiles. This product's not new (it originated in Scandinavia), but fits this class of look-alikes. Another clay-tile clone, Stile is actually 26 gauge hot-dipped galvanized steel sheets. The metal tiles are preprimed by a special three-step process, beginning with a galvanized zinc coating, followed by an epoxy-based primer, and

run up to 16 feet long. This product is not generally recommended for pitches less than 3-in-12; but when used on slopes less than 3-in-12, the manufacturer requires sealant in all side laps. Installation is done with metal screw fasteners for either metal to wood or metal to metal. It is not necessary to pre-drill the sheets.

Cost per square: Competitive with cedar shakes, slate, tile, or other steel roofing

Wt. per Square: 100 pounds

Fire rating: A

Warranty: 20-year, limited

Colors available: Natural clay, sand, brown, grey, blue



For more information: Metal Sales Manufacturing Corp., 352 East Erie St., Jefferson, OH 44047; 216/576-9070 or 800/325-5833. Another steel "clay" tile is available from Met-Tile, Inc. 1745 Monticello Court, P.O. Box 4268; Ontario, CA 91761; 714/947-0311; Met-tile weighs 100 lbs. per square, averages \$130 per square, and has a 20 year warranty on the paint finish

Asphalt sheets. Onduline's tiles and sheets are fiber, impregnated with asphalt, and copy the look of traditional clay tile. But Onduline promotes itself as an alternative to galvanized steel. It costs about the same, but is not affected by acid rain or condensation, and offers more color choice. It's also quieter. The company also claims that their roofing product can withstand snow loads up to 55 pounds per square foot, and wind forces of 100 miles per hour. Sheet size is 48 x 79 inches, while tiles are 48 x 19 1/2 inches each. Ridge caps, pipe flashing, and closure strips for use at

Fire rating: C

Warranty: Lifetime, limited (to individual homeowner); otherwise 25-year, limited

Colors available: For smooth—grey, black, white, green, blue, red, brown, and tan; for granulated—black, white, green, red, brown, and tan.

For more information: Onduline, Inc., 4900 Onduline Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401; 703/898-7000

Lightweight concrete. Actually not concrete, MaxiTile is made of a combination of silica, cellulose fiber, and portland cement. But it looks like concrete tile. Its large 24 x 36.8-inch panels make for quick installation—but don't install it yourself, unless you're certified by the manufacturer, or you'll void the warranty. The pigments are blended right into the material, making for durable color. The tiles can withstand 1,000 pounds in saturated conditions, up to 1,100 pounds of transverse load, and up to



Asphalt sheets. Onduline's asphalt-impregnated roofing is promoted as an alternative to galvanized steel, but has the look of a tile roof. It's said to be impervious to acid rain damage.

ridges and eaves are made of the same material. Onduline also sells galvanized nails that are ring-shanked and come with large EPDM rubber washers. An extra-long nail is available for installing over rigid insulation. In high-corrosion conditions, the company recommends stainless-steel nails. The product comes in two textures: smooth and granulated.

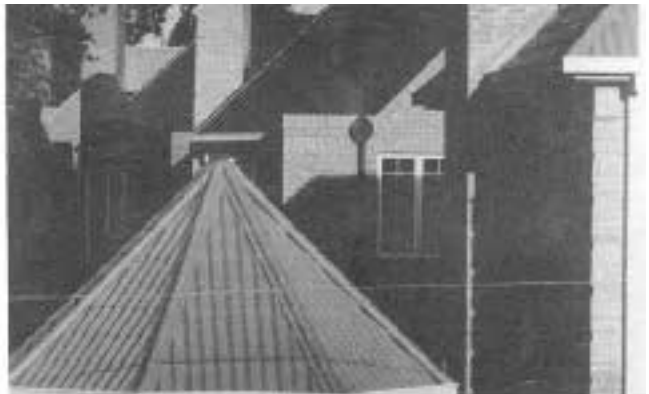
Cost per square: Varies, but averages \$41

Weight per square: 83.25 pounds

80 mph winds. Recommended pitch is from 3-in-12 up to and including 24-in-12. The large tiles require three fasteners, except for those on the eave course where both the top and bottom must be fastened. This tile is only available in the western and southern regions of the country right now, but will be coming East in early 1989.

Cost per square: Varies, but ranges from \$95-\$105

Weight per square: 380 pounds



Steel Tiles. Because of their light weight, Met-tile steel panels (left) can run as long as 16 feet and still be manageable. (Steel weighs one pound per square foot, as compared to clay or concrete's 7 to 10 pounds.) The "clay" look-alikes on the residential complex in Houston (right) are Stile-brand steel panels and also come in lengths up to 16 feet.



Lightweight Concrete. This roof did not require any special reinforcement. Made from portland cement, silica, and cellulose fiber, MaxiTile has less than half the weight of clay or concrete tile.



Fire rating: B, over 30 lb. felt; A, over 72 lb. felt

Warranty: 30-year, limited

Colors available: Brown, grey, red, charcoal, and natural clay

For more information: MaxiTile, Inc. 15000 Staff Court; Gardena, CA 90247; 213/217-0316; 800-338-TILE

double application of shingle sealant. The shingle is 14 x 40 inches and is not recommended for pitches less than 4-in-12.

Cost per square: Varies, but average range is \$90 to \$110

Wt. per square: 360 pounds

Fire rating: A

Warranty: 30-year, limited

Colors available: Brown, grey, weathered wood, and natural wood.

For more information: Celotex Roofing Products Division, 1500 N. Dale Mabrey Hwy.; Tampa, FL 33607; 813/871-4554.

Owens-Corning makes two laminated shingles which offer a wood-like texture: Oakridge (their heavy-weight) and Oakridge II. Oakridge's varied saw-tooth pattern and extra thickness provide aesthetic benefits. And both shingles have a random appearance when installed because of a variety of tab cut-out patterns created during production. The shingles are larger than standard: 39 1/8 inches x 13 1/4 inches, speeding up installation, and giving the look of a broad

Designer Shingles

Upscale roofing has changed the look of fiberglass and asphalt shingles. According to a 1987 survey of roofing contractors done *Roofing/Siding/Insulation Magazine (RSI)*, (Edgell Communications, Cleveland, Ohio) 11 percent of the roofers responding used the higher-priced architectural shingles. These don't try to ape the actual look of slate, wood, or tile, but do try to give the impression of them, by increasing weight and thickness, changing the cuts, and providing more color.

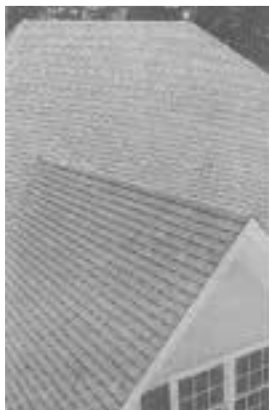
Wood Shingles. There are several laminated fiberglass/asphalt shingles that give the general impression of wood. GAF makes two of them: Timberline is their heavy-weight; Woodline is their mid-weight line. Both have dimensional wood-shake or tile appearance, with deep shadow lines and a random, unpatterned look. A fungus-resistant model is available for very humid regions. Extra-heavy Timberbertex hip and ridge shingles are available for use with the Timberline shingle. Timberline comes in two sizes: a standard—12 x 36 inches, and the large-sized "Fontana"—13 1/4 x 39 3/8 inches.

Cost per square: Varies, but Timberline ranges from \$65 to \$70; Woodline averages around \$45. Timberbertex hip and ridge ranges from \$90 to \$200 per 100 lineal feet. **Wt. per square:** Timberline—340 pounds; Woodline—250 pounds **Fire rating:** A

Warranty: Timberline—30 years limited; Woodline—25 years limited

Colors available: Timberline—charcoal, brick, cedar, driftwood, burnt sienna, slate, heather, and weathered wood; Woodline—slate, cedar, weathered wood, and bark wood

For more information: GAF, 1361 Alps Road, Wayne, NJ 07470: 201/628-3000



Wood Shingles. This roof features the Summit Shingle, Georgia Pacific's approach to the "wood shingle" look. The shingle has a 5 1/2-inch exposure, making them very close to wood shake size.

Georgia Pacific makes two laminated shingles imitating the wood-shake look: Summit and Summit III (the heavier of the two). With Summit, the shadow line is created by both a dragon tooth laminated to the backer strip, and by an extra line of dark granules at the high end of the tooth. A seal-down adhesive strip applied to the back side of Summit shingles allows the weight of the shingle and the effect of gravity to pull the sealant into quicker contact with the shingle below, making it unnecessary, according to the manufacturer, to manually seal the first course of shingles to the starter strip. Summit shingles are uniformly cut.

Cost per square: Summit—\$39-\$45; Summit III—\$52-\$60 (New England prices)

Wt. per square: Summit—240 pounds; Summit III—300 pounds

Fire rating: A

Warranty: Summit—30-year, limited; Summit III—35-year, limited **Colors available:** Four earthtones and black

For more information: Georgia-Pacific, 133 Peachtree Street, N.E.



Wood Shingles. GAF makes two weights of laminated shingles meant to look like wood. Wood Line, their mid-weight, was used on this brick colonial. Timberline, their heavy weight, can be enhanced with Timberbertex, the hip and ridge shingles shown in inset.

P.O. Box 105605; Atlanta, GA 30348; 404/521-5164 or 800/447-2882; 800/322-4400 (Illinois only)

Celotex has its wood-style version as well. Like the others, Presidential Shake is an extra-thick laminated fiberglass shingle trying to emulate the look of wood. It achieves a random effect by having a slight curve to the butt end. The manufacturer boasts twice the normal wind resistance, because of a

wood shake. Nail placement indicators are an additional benefit. This product is not available nationwide, but can be found in most areas east of the Rockies.

Cost per square: Suggested to "contact your local distributor"

Wt. per square: For Oakridge—325 pounds; Oakridge II—not available

Fire rating: A

Warranty: Oakridge—30-year; Oakridge II—25-year; both are prorated for replacement and labor costs.

Colors available: Brown, barnwood, driftwood, tan, and two choices of grey.

For more information: Owens-Corning Corp., Fiberglas Tower, Toledo, OH 43659; 419/248-6881

Slate shingle. A brand new product, Slateline is the first laminated fiberglass shingle we know of that emulates the look of slate. The extra-large size, 17 x 40 inches, makes



Wood Shingles. These wood look-alikes are actually made from asphalt. Extra weight and curvature of the edge gives Celotex's Presidential Shake its dimensional look.



Wood Shingles. This house is roofed with Oakridge shingles—Owens Corning's version of the fiberglass "wood shingle."



Slate Shingle. Slateline is one of the new architectural shingles out from GAF.

for more rapid installation. Timberex (see specifics on Timberex in GAF section of "Wood Shingles" above) can be used for ridges and hips. A special self-sealant, GafGrip has been designed for the Slateline shingle, making the shingle highly resistant to blow-offs and allowing it to adhere at lower temperatures.

Cost per square: Varies, but ranges from \$45 to \$50

Wt. per square: 260 pounds

Fire rating: A

Warranty: 25-year, limited

Colors available: Blue, grey, green, terracotta

For more information: GAF Building Materials Corp., 1361 Alps Road, Wayne, NJ 07470; 201/628-3000

For the Discriminating

For those who want a distinctive rooftop, and don't mind paying for it, here are two items that don't intend to be cheap to buy, install, or maintain:



Bent Cedar. Even though this roofing may seem intimidating, Country Cottage Roofs maintains that it's easy to install. They sell specially-designed framing components that enable builders to frame the roof with conventional procedures and attach their component system to the existing framework.



Luxury tiles. The tile on this roof may look hundreds of years old—but actually they were recently blended on site in hues of smokey reds and blacks to give a historic look to the building. The tile, called Norman, is one of Ludowici-Celadon's top-of-the-line shingles.

Bent Cedar. The English cottage look is available to those that want it with prebent cedar shingles. A company that used to bend standard cedar shingles at its building sites now mass produces them for builders around the country. The

shingle can easily be used for both new and retrofit. Builders shouldn't be scared off by the curvature at the roof edge—Country Cottage Roof actually sells a fascia board panel with a radius edge that can be attached to standard framing. The

roofs do take a while longer to install than conventional cedar roofs, however, about 1½ times longer. But we doubt there's another product just like it.

Cost per square: Varies, two to four times conventional cedar in your area, depending on exposure

Wt. per square: 300, more for wavy designs

Fire rating: B, can be A with certain specification

Warranty: None

Colors available: Natural and stained

For more information: Country Cottage Roof, 1305 E. 39th St. N. Sioux Falls, SD 57104; 800/327-8115 or 605/332-5060

Luxury Tiles. For tile that looks like bark shake (Americana); ceramic (Traditional French); wood shake (Williamsburg); or rustic tile (Norman) as well as several other traditional versions, you can contact a company that trades on a 400-year-old Ludowici lineage. It's actually located here in the States, though, and a mere century old. The company claims to offer more shapes, sizes, textures, and colors than any other company in the world, and boasts having roofed the White House, the Empire State Building, and buildings in historic Williamsburg. The tiles range in lengths from 13¼ inches to 18 inches and widths from 7 to 9 inches. Nail fasteners must be copper. Special tiles for hips and valleys must be cut on the site. Definitely specialty items.

Cost per square: \$249 to \$450

Wt. per square: 800 to 1,600 pounds

Fire rating: A

Warranty: 50 years

Colors available: Too many to list — call mfr. for specifics

For more information: Ludowici-Celadon, Division of CSC Inc., P.O. Box 69, New Lexington, Ohio 43764; 614/342-1995 ■

Kate O'Brien is managing editor of New England Builder.