

# THE BEST EXPERT TECHNICAL TIPS FOR INSTALLERS (PART 2)

PAUL EDWARDS, DAKEA'S ROOF WINDOW'S AREA SALES MANAGER, BRINGS YOU THE SECOND PART OF HIS BEST EXPERT ADVICE FOR ROOF WINDOW INSTALLERS.



#1



**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 the homeowners will get 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.

#2



**Cut and clear away the battens from this space and ensure 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.

**The window bracket support battens can then be fitted 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.

**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.

Lining up more than one roof window? **Use the roof tiles/slate as your guide to ensure the frames line up**, but also 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.

#3



#4



#5



#6



**Now re-install the window opening the 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 that the window is square and level in the roof, the fixings should be checked to ensure they are all in place and tightened. The sash can now be removed to fit the underfelt collar and flashing.

#7



**Remember to always wear gloves with good grip** when lifting the window sash into place - it may be necessary to use a ladder or scaffold to give extra height too but ensure the equipment doesn't hinder access to the window and frame. It may be necessary to have colleagues assist at this stage. (And take care not to knock the sash or frame as this may damage the window.)

#8



**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.

**Next, the relevant flashing can be fitted.** 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, then the window sash can be fitted for the final time.

Before you leave a job, **ensure that the roof window is working 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. Ensure that the customer knows how to open and close and operate the window correctly and how to operate any electric openers, roller shutters or blinds (if fitted).

#9



#10



**DAKEA ARE ALWAYS  
ON HAND TO ADVISE  
SO JUST CONTACT US  
ON 020 3970 5080. OR EMAIL  
US ON [CS@ALTATERRA.EU](mailto:CS@ALTATERRA.EU)**

