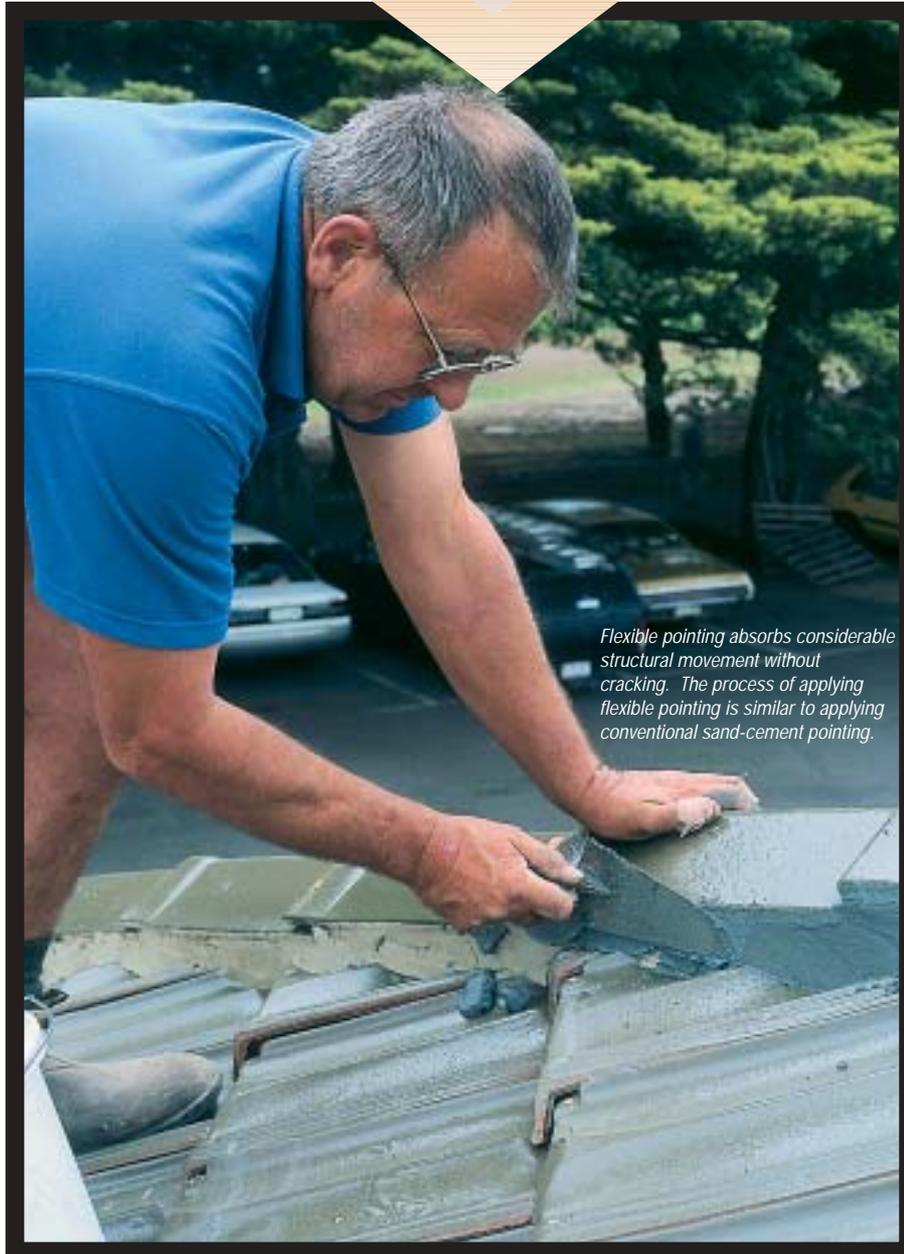


# FLEXIBLE POINTING

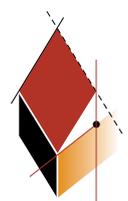
Victorian Roofing Tile Association Inc

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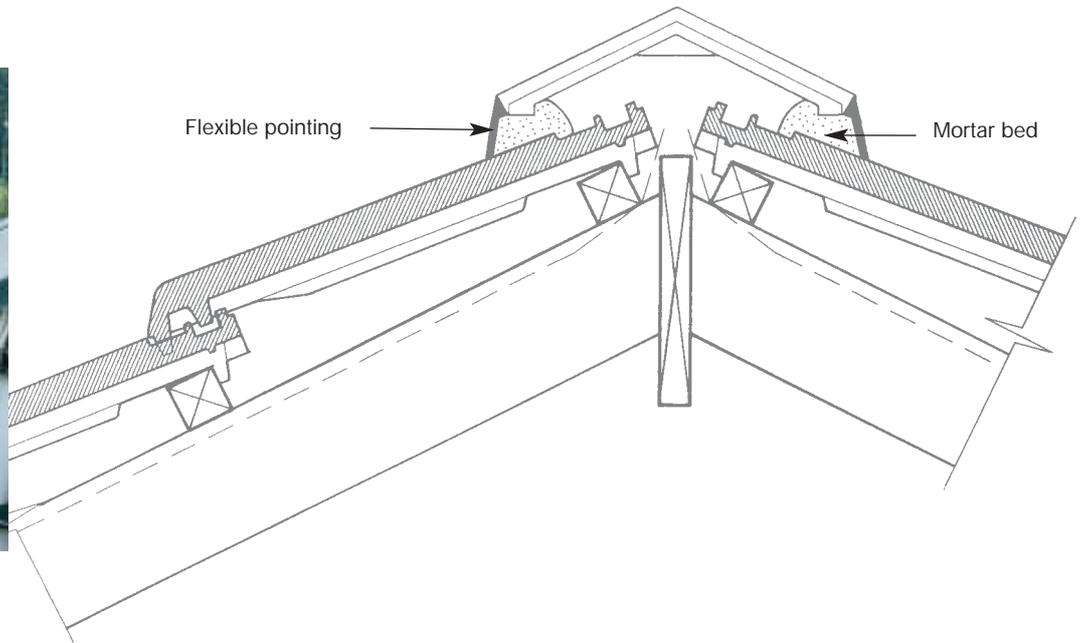
**T**raditionally roof tile cappings have been bedded and pointed in a sand-cement mortar. The mortar bed supports and aligns the capping while the pointing provides the majority of adhesion and allows a neat finish. Additional mechanical fixing is required in high wind areas.

Being rigid, the mortar in conventional pointing may crack with movement of the roof structure. This is unsightly and can lead to premature maintenance. Cracking may occur if pointing is disturbed by nearby work such as television antenna installation.





*Flexible pointing is highly recommended for re-roofing and all new roofing applications.*



Flexible pointing overcomes these problems. There are a number of flexible pointing materials, each containing synthetic compounds. Some are pre-coloured to match specific tiles, others are pigmented by the tiler. Unlike conventional mortars, flexible pointing materials do not produce efflorescence and are fade resistant.

The capping is fully bedded in a conventional sand-cement mortar. Flexible pointing material is trowelled to a consistent thickness of three to five millimetres and finished off to a smooth surface. Weep holes must be placed in the usual positions.

Flexible pointing will generally take longer to cure than conventional mortar. Requirements vary between products and with climatic conditions but usually two to three hours of curing is adequate although caution should be exercised if rain is expected. A manufacturer's application, handling and safety requirements must be followed.

Although the concealed mortar bed may still crack, the cured flexible pointing will maintain the roof's

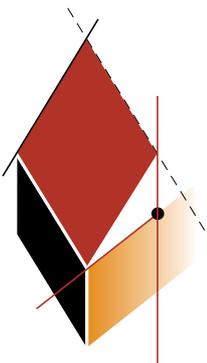
integrity by absorbing considerable movement without cracking.

Despite being a relatively thin veneer, flexible pointing provides most of the capping adhesion. Flexibly-pointed cappings have been tested (CSIRO Report DTF505, February 1998 among others) at cyclonic wind speeds of up to 74 metres per second without distress.

Under Australian Standard AS 2050 *Fixing of Roof Tiles*, traditional sand-cement mortar bedding and pointing may not be used in high wind areas - that is, above 33 metres per second - without additional mechanical fixing such as clips or other fasteners. However flexible pointing may be used in high wind areas without additional mechanical fixing.

Flexible pointing should be used in wind areas above 33 metres per second, on steeply pitched roofs or those with difficult access, for example multi-storey buildings. Although slightly more expensive, the benefits are such that flexible pointing should be used on all roof capping.

## For further information, contact your roofing tile supplier



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