

Tile Roofs

A red clay tile roof is the classic topping for Spanish- and Mediterranean-inspired stucco homes. Trouble-free and fireproof, these hardy roofs can last more than 50 years.

Look beyond the usual red barrel-shaped tile to a range of colors and shapes, including S shapes or flat tiles. Tiles weigh a lot more than asphalt or wood shingles (as much as 1,000 lb. per square--100 sq. ft). Make sure your roof frame can handle the load. To use tile roofing, your roof should have a minimum slope 3 inches for every 12 horizontal inches.

Lightweight concrete tiles are a newer addition to the market. Lighter and less expensive than clay, they're sold in many colors, including ones designed to look like expensive slate or wood shakes.