

What is a cold roof?

There are two main types of cold roof:

- A traditionally ventilated void space, where all types of under slating membranes can be used.
- An unventilated void space where only certain certified breather membranes can be used.

A **Cold Ventilated Void Roof** configuration is the traditional form of pitched roof build-up. The insulation layer is placed horizontally, directly above the ceiling of the upper story of the habitable section of the building, usually positioned between the joists in the loft space. The breather membrane or any type of proprietary under slating material is placed at rafter level, either draped between the rafters, or supported on a sarking board (usually Scotland). In a traditional cold roof system, any void space below the under slating membrane has to be ventilated. In this roof type, a breather membrane or non-breathing under slating membrane would be equally suitable. When an under slating membrane is installed in a cold roof configuration draped between open rafters, the use of counter battens is not required.

In a **Cold - Un-ventilated Void Roof** configuration the insulation layer is also placed horizontally, directly above the ceiling of the upper story of the habitable section of the building, with the vapour control layer placed below the insulation at ceiling level. However, in this situation, only a breather membrane certified for this configuration can be used. Various breather membranes are approved for this purpose and should be placed at rafter level, with overlaps, penetrations and perimeters sealed with jointing tape, draped between the rafters. However, there is no ventilation of any roof void space below the membrane; the only escape route for moisture vapour is through the breather membrane.