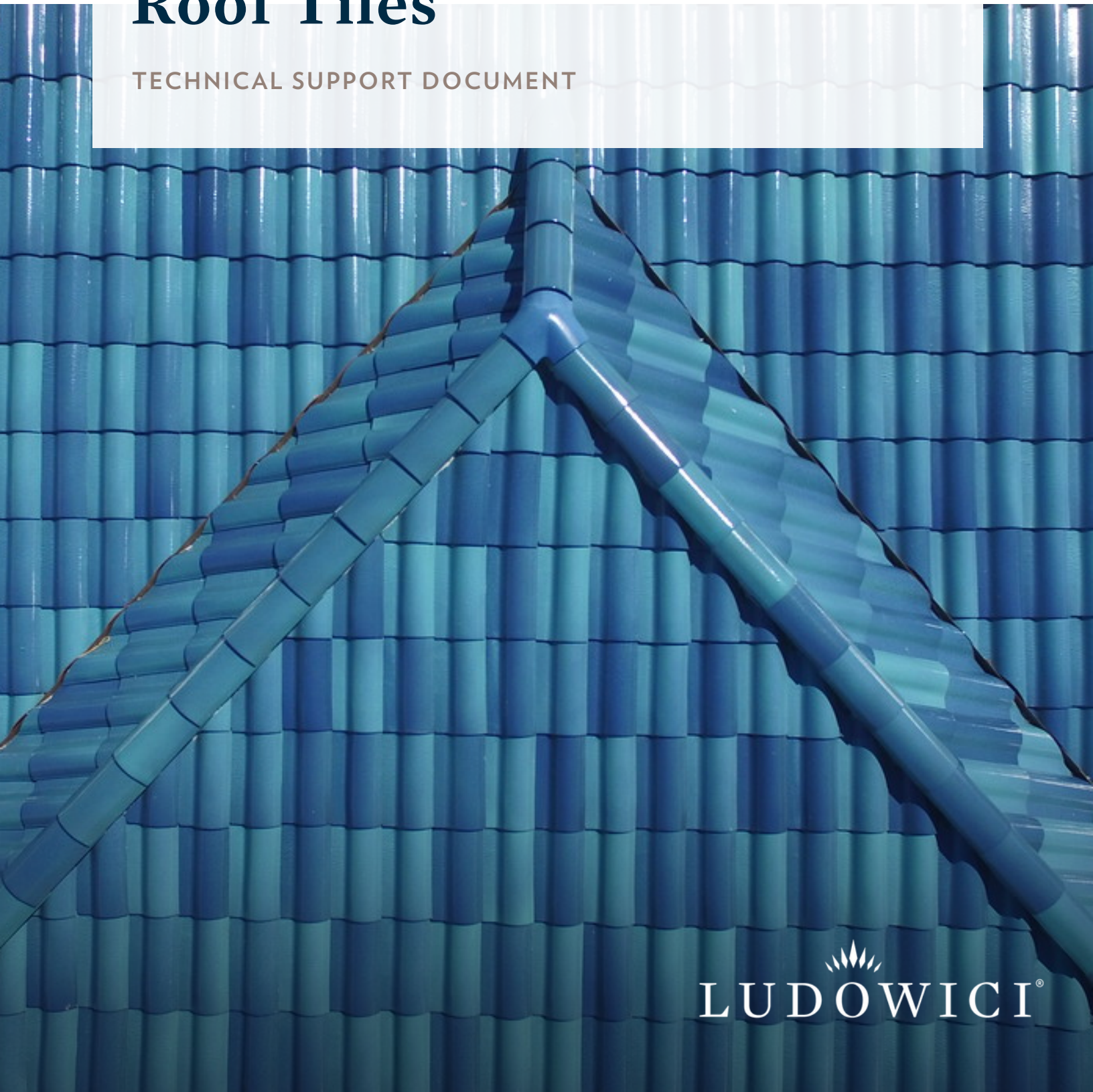




# Painting Terra Cotta Roof Tiles

TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT



  
LUDOWICI®

# Painting Terra Cotta Tiles

## CAN TERRA COTTA TILES BE PAINTED IN THE FIELD?

The short answer is yes — there is nothing preventing building owners or contractors from painting terra cotta tiles. However, there are several important considerations that should be understood before moving forward with a field-applied coating system. One of the key advantages of Ludowici terra cotta products is their inherently long-lasting finish. Both natural clay colors and ceramic glazes are designed to provide exceptional color permanence and durability over time. Applying paint or any other field-applied coating system over the factory finish changes the surface performance characteristics of the tile and introduces future maintenance requirements that would not otherwise exist.

Like brick, terra cotta is a fired clay product, and many of the same preparation and coating principles used for masonry surfaces apply. Proper surface preparation, coating selection, and long-term maintenance planning are all critical to achieving acceptable performance.

## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE PAINTING LUDOWICI TILES:

### MAINTENANCE & WARRANTY IMPLICATIONS:

One of the defining characteristics of Ludowici terra cotta products is their long-lasting, permanent factory finish. Both natural clay colors and ceramic glaze finishes are designed to maintain their appearance for decades and are included within Ludowici's 75-year material warranty.

Applying paint or aftermarket coatings over Ludowici terra cotta tiles is generally not recommended. Field-applied paints and coatings fundamentally alter the original surface system and will not perform, weather, age, or maintain color in the same manner as the factory-fired terra cotta finish. Unlike Ludowici's integral fired finishes, painted surfaces are subject to ongoing maintenance requirements and will typically require periodic repainting, touch-ups, cleaning, and future recoating over time due to weathering, peeling, fading, chalking, or coating deterioration.

Paint systems and aftermarket coatings are not covered under the Ludowici material warranty. However, their application does not, by itself, void the underlying material warranty. The Ludowici material warranty is limited to manufacturing defects in the original terra cotta product and does not cover the performance, durability, adhesion, or appearance of any paint system or aftermarket coating, nor any damage, discoloration, staining, surface alteration, or other adverse effects such products may have on the original terra cotta tile.

Ludowici terra cotta tiles are fired clay ceramic products manufactured similarly to architectural brick, meaning many of the same coating preparation methods used for painted masonry and brick can also apply. If you decide to do this, you need to follow the painting or coating manufacturer's application instructions. Keep in mind not all paint products are appropriate for terra cotta applications, especially in exterior roof environments.