

Z

zax (sax). A bladed roofing tool with a point for punching holes in SLATES.

Z-bar (USA: zee-bar). A length of metal channel or FLASHING used at the join of wall or ceiling panels. The cross-section makes a Z-shape.

zenith. The highest point, such as when the sun is directly overhead.

zeolite. Materials used in ION EXCHANGE and the BASE EXCHANGE method of water softening. Natural zeolites are obtained from processed sands and synthetic zeolites are made from organic resins such as those of POLYSTYRENE.

zigzag rule. A metal or wooden measuring rule with pivoted sections that fold together.

zinc. A hard, bluish-white metal element (chemical symbol Zn) with a good resistance to corrosion. See GALVANIZING. Various ALLOYS of zinc are used in FLEXIBLE-METAL

roofing.

zinc chrome. A yellow PIGMENT based on compounds of ZINC and chrome that is used in paints.

zinc oxide (zinc white). A fine white powder used as a PIGMENT in paints.

Zn. Chemical symbol for ZINC.

zone controls. A control system for central heating or air conditioning that can maintain different conditions in different areas.

zone of aeration. The ground that is above the WATER TABLE and therefore contains air rather than water.

zone of saturation. Ground that is below the WATER TABLE and therefore contains GROUNDWATER.

zoning. Planning schemes and regulations that control the type and use of buildings in various parts of a town.