

The AHI Story



1941: RAF aircraft hangars are painted black during World War II to camouflage them at night from German bombing raids. The paint is made from bitumen as normal paint ingredients are in short supply. Many of these aircraft hangars can still be seen today.



1954: Mr. Fisher acquires the rights to manufacture the bitumen paint in all areas outside the UK and returns to New Zealand to establish the first overseas manufacturing plant.



1957: The company produces its first bitumen-coated roof tile. Natural stone chips are used to prevent the tiles from sticking together, but soon become a design feature demanded by the market.

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



1942: Boxing legend, Muhammad Ali, is born.



1948: After the war, many temporary hangars were dismantled. Lou Fisher realises how bitumen paint has protected the steel from rust and corrosion and an idea is born...



1952: Princess Elizabeth becomes Queen while visiting Kenya.



1955: AHI trademark the Gerard® tile to prevent copy and fake products.

1940s

The AHI® story begins during World War II when British aircraft hangars were painted with black bitumen paint for camouflage.

After the war, it proves virtually impossible to remove the paint. New Zealander, Lou Fisher, recognised the commercial value of such a material.

1950s

After securing the rights, Lou Fisher begins the manufacture of Bitumen Mastic in New Zealand, applying it to pressed metal roof tiles to prolong their lifespan. A stone chip coating is soon added and the Gerard® tile is produced!



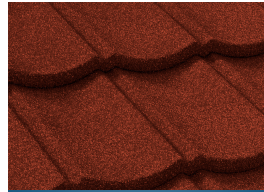
1967: The 7-pan Gerard® tile becomes interlocking, giving complete tile-to-tile contact the entire length of the roof. This provides extreme strength and absolute weather security.



1978: PVA overglaze is replaced by a more advanced, more durable pure acrylic coating.



1963: AHI introduces the 10-pan tile.



1971: A PVA overglaze is added to the tile to improve chip adhesion. This provides a much tougher finish and also enhances the appearance of the roof.

1975: The Economic Community of West African States was established.



1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



1961: John F. Kennedy becomes the President of the USA.



1967: A fungicide is added to the coating which dramatically increases resistance to moss and fungal growth.



1963: Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the public with his, "*I have a dream...*" speech.



1974: AHI perfects the 'double drop' technique which applies stone chip into the basecoat to ensure optimum adhesion and then adds a second layer of smaller stone chips. This ensures maximum coverage.

1960s

The Beatles rock as James Bond rolls onto our cinema screens. In New Zealand, AHI scientists are working hard on various innovations and product developments to make the Gerard® tile even better.

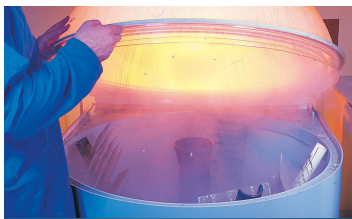
From 1967, Gerard® tiles became interlocking providing a weather tight seal and security.

1970s

The decade of flared trousers and long hair. Development of the Gerard® tile continues in earnest and an improved basecoat achieves the aim of increasing stone chip adhesion.

With such a high quality product, it's no wonder Gerard® tiles are exported around the world with new markets opening up throughout the 1970s.

1980: A technological breakthrough enables the original bitumen emulsion to be replaced with a modern acrylic barrier coating system. Gerard® tiles remain the most technologically-advanced tile on the market.



1981: Major research is carried out at the AHI facility in New Zealand to address; UV radiation, coastal salt corrosion and urban atmospheric pollution.



1992: Gerard® Shake is launched, combining the latest technology with traditional and natural-looking aesthetics. Gerard® Shake becomes popular as a fireproof replacement to grass roofs.

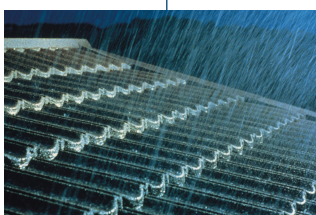
1994: Nelson Mandela becomes the President of South Africa.



1998: Google is launched.

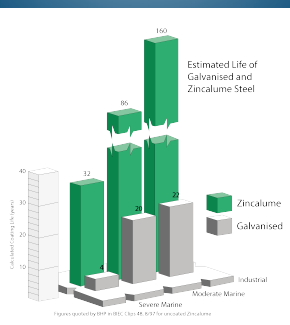


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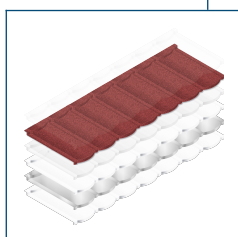


1986: To improve stone chip adhesion even further, a seal coat over primer is added, which also enhances anti-corrosion properties.

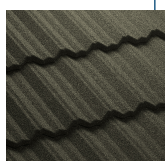
1994: The AHI laboratories in New Zealand prove that alu-zinc steel outperforms galvanised steel in all areas using established scientific techniques and real-life testing.



1995: AHI released the new Shingle tile with both horizontal and vertical lines, as well as two-tone patched stone chip. Another first!



1983: All Gerard® roof tiles now include three layers of protective coating on the underside of the tile, and five layers on the outer-side of the tile.



1989: The latest profile from AHI becomes an instant Classic.

1980s

The world is changing fast as we enter the technological age. AHI employs new technology not only to develop an all-new basecoat that replaces the original bitumen emulsion, but to conduct exhaustive testing of our products. Meanwhile, the internet is established and Michael Jackson changes the way we danced with the moonwalk.

1990s

Celebrations are held around the world as Nelson Mandela completes his Long Walk to Freedom - becoming President of South Africa in 1994.

Meanwhile, AHI laboratories and real-time testing proves that the alu-zinc steel used to make Gerard® tiles is far superior than galvanised steel.

2000: Due to growing demand, AHI opens an office dedicated to serving the African market.



2003: Arsenal's 'Invincibles' go an entire Premier League season unbeaten.

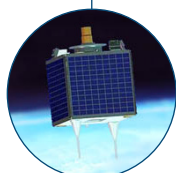


2011: AHI professional installation training courses commence. Throughout the decade, thousands of installers in sub-Saharan Africa earn bronze, silver or gold qualifications.



2016: The all-new Gerard® Slate profile launches.

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



2005: Nigeria's first satellite, NigeriaSat-1, launched by Russian rocket.



2013: The Super Eagles won the African Cup of Nations for the third time, beating Burkina Faso 1-0.



2010: The Republic of Nigeria celebrates 50 years.



2015: All genuine Gerard® roof tiles include the Gerard® logo printed on the back of the tile. An online campaign highlighting the hash tag '#GenuineGerard' commences as part of the brand marked tile release.



2008: The Gerard® Milano profile launches, replicating Mediterranean-style tiles but with all of the benefits of Gerard®.

2000s

New manufacturing facilities are opened and new profiles are introduced into the Gerard® range.

A dedicated office for Africa is opened and distribution is soon established throughout sub-Saharan Africa. By the end of the decade, Africa becomes AHI's biggest market.

2010s

Seven decades after the AHI story began, innovation, consistent quality and a business focused on people have made AHI a market leading global success. To protect our customers from fakes and copies, our tiles are branded with the Gerard® logo and in 2016 an all new Slate profile is introduced to the portfolio. Africa remains the most important market for AHI and we carry our brand values into the future.

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Keep up to date with our latest news and innovations by searching 'Gerard Africa' or visiting:
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Tweet us by searching 'Gerard Africa' or by mentioning @gerafrica in your post. Alternatively, you can visit:
www.twitter.com/gerafrica



Our TV commercials can be viewed on our very own YouTube Channel. Search 'Gerard Roofing Systems' or visit: www.youtube.com/gerardroofs



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Don't have time for social media? Our monthly newsletter contains important updates, news from your area and interesting facts about what makes Gerard® different. Sign up today at: www.gerardafrica.com to have it delivered straight to your inbox.

A World-Leading Brand

AHI is an internationally registered trademark, proud of our heritage as a supplier of premium roofing products for more than 50 years. Today, after five decades, we continue to lead the industry in pressed metal roof tile technology.

Where AHI leads, others follow. AHI has dominated the world market for coated pressed metal roof tiles for more than five decades. It was not until the 1990s that other companies recognised our success and tried to emulate us. To remain at the vanguard of the industry, AHI continues to focus on research, development and design innovations to meet individual market needs for premium, long lasting roofing products.

Made to the Highest Standards

AHI is the only steel roof tile manufacturer with evidence that its roofs outlast the performance warranty. We maintain a stringent program of monitoring sample roofs in a variety of extreme climatic environments. This rigorous testing enables us to continually improve materials and manufacturing processes to further enhance the performance of our roofing products.

AHI's commitment to quality goes beyond the factory gate. We provide specially designed installation tools and training for installers so that each installation of a Gerard® roof is carried out to our high international standards.

Make Sure It's Genuine



#GenuineGerard

www.gerardafrica.com



Certified Around the World

Gerard® roofing products comply to with rigorous international building regulations. Our products are certified in many countries globally; in the United Kingdom, Europe, USA, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Our products are manufactured to ISO 9001 International Quality Management Standards in accordance with the EU Construction Products Directive, and in conformance with the EN14782 and EN508-1 European Standards, as stated in our CE Declaration of Conformity. Our manufacturing plant is registered to ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems Standards.

Made for Africa

AHI has built an extremely strong presence in Africa and we are strongly committed to meeting the diverse requirements necessary to roof Africa's homes. From colour that doesn't change to alu-zinc steel that has a lifespan 6-9 times longer than galvanised steel, Gerard® roof tiles are tried, tested and proven in Africa's atmospheric environments. In fact, the first Gerard® roof in Africa was supplied in Nakuru, Kenya back in the 1970s and since then, Gerard® has gone from strength to strength by delivering consistent high quality.





A People Business

People are at the heart of everything we do. Your roof protects your home and your family, and our family takes this responsibility seriously. From the artisans in New Zealand who make our roof tiles, to our distributors who ensure you receive the best possible roof tile with the best possible service, and the installers who make sure your roof is installed professionally. It's no accident that a Gerard® roof leaves you feeling safe, secure and proud. We invest heavily in our teams around the world to ensure you receive the highest standards.

Your Official Gerard® Distributor

We only appoint one Gerard® distributor in each country. We work closely with our chosen partners to ensure they have all the knowledge needed to give you world class service. Their sales teams undergo specialist training and we are convinced that you won't find a better experience anywhere else. Remember, genuine Gerard® roof tiles are only available from our official distributors. To check who your official Gerard® distributor is, or to report a fake distributor, email us at enquiries@ahiafrica.net. If anybody else offers you Gerard® roof tiles, they are fake and will not perform to our high standards.





Meet The Team Behind The World's Original Stone-Coated Metal Roof Tile



AHI ROOFING

A FLETCHER BUILDING COMPANY



GERARD®

ROOFING SYSTEMS