

BLACKDOWN EXTENSIVE/SEMI-INTENSIVE TYPE PLANTED ROOFS.

TEMPORARY IRRIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS.

Introduction

One of the most common causes of green roofs underperforming or dying is insufficient application of water immediately after installation. As is not possible to rely solely on rainfall to provide sufficient water to enable the newly installed plant material to establish – Blackdown would strongly recommend that all planted surface finishes, receive sufficient irrigation for a minimum period of 6-8 weeks.

The duration of irrigation will depend upon the season, the planting form and type (i.e. seed*, plug, mat or liner grown plants) and local climatic conditions.

Blackdown recommends a period of temporary irrigation directly after planting for all extensive and semi-intensive systems to ensure the newly installed green roof has the best possible start in life.

Once this period has expired, one of our experienced operative will visit site to assess the plant material – if it is deemed to have established then the temporary irrigation will be removed and the greenroof system will support the plants without further irrigation. The only exception to this is when a roof has a pitch of more than 30 degrees.

Without this short but crucially important period of irrigation – usually between 6-8 weeks - a green roof will struggle to establish. This could result in the planting being more prone to attack from pests and disease, appear patchy and show weak growth and look less visually appealing.

Blackdown would not be able to predict the performance of the plant finish unless temporary irrigation is provided as to our recommendations.

Blackdown cannot be held liable for plant failures if the irrigation water supply is disrupted or terminated.

Each **Blackdown self-contained irrigation unit** incorporates a semi-automatic timer, capable of irrigating of a maximum of 4 zones (max 450sqm). Requires 25mm threaded, a dedicated bib tap, located on same floor & less than 25m from greenroof. 3.7 bar water pressure and 60l/min required at bib tap. Secure storage and/or anchorage.

Construction, Design & Management Regulations

Under the Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) 2015, appropriate measures should be taken at both design and construction stages to ensure safe access and passage over the planted roof areas for maintenance personnel.

Blackdown Greenroofs

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A trading division of Alumasc Building Products Ltd - Company Registration No. 2992960 VAT Reg No. 395941796 UTR: 67545 65326

Health & Safety

It is strictly the contractor's responsibility to ensure all works are executed in accordance with current health and safety legislation. Guidance must be taken from relevant and current HSE publications. Refer to current HSE publication 'The Working at Height Regulations' for further guidance.

Access & Egress & Fall Prevention

Access and egress routes AND a fall prevention system need to be carefully considered at the design stage.

Safe access across the roof could take the form of perimeter balustrade, a post and wire fall prevention system or a collapsible roof perimeter handrail.

If there is no safe access, then Blackdown will not be able to offer an irrigation or maintenance service regardless of the planting type.

Seed * in some specifications it will be recommended by the Landscape Architect that seed is sown in the spring or the autumn, these are the best times to sow seed and will result in gradual germination, however, the initial plant coverage will be very low and could take upto 12-15 months to reach 75-95%. If this is too long and the client wishes for an 'instant' green effect, then we would recommend either changing the planting finish to a mat or including for temporary irrigation.

END

06/21

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