

Technical Information Sheet

Maintenance & Durability

FILON®

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Filon profiled sheet maintenance & durability

Expected durability

Filon profiled GRP sheets are manufactured from polyester resins and glassfibre. They are unaffected by temperature extremes and in translucent or tinted form their diffusing characteristics provide good even light distribution without excessive glare, shadows or 'hot spots'.

Long-term durability is ensured by the use of resins that contain UV inhibitors and UV absorbing external surface protection. Filon profiled sheets will remain structurally sound in the long term and a service life of 30 years or more is expected for Filon profiled sheets used in normal UK environmental conditions. Guidance for appropriate sheet weights and fixing recommendations to withstand wind and snow loads along with those compliance with HSE non-fragile roof requirements are available.

Note that long term durability is achieved by regular maintenance and cleaning but is also affected by all components used for roof or vertical cladding construction, particularly fasteners. When a specific period of durability or non-fragility is required, all components should have the same expected durability as the Filon profiled sheets.

Inspection and maintenance

The frequency of inspection and maintenance of Filon profiled sheets must be tailored to suit the local environmental conditions. Those in coastal locations; very exposed locations or those containing processes that generate pollution into the internal or external environment will require shorter periods between inspections.

Any debris found on the surface of a sheet should be removed. The surface of the sheets should be checked for damage and any found should be repaired or replaced in accordance with Filon recommendations. Any damage that penetrates the surface protection of the sheets may affect long-term durability and non-fragility.

All fixings should be checked for tightness and corrosion. Long-term non-fragility is affected by the security of the fixings to achieve their expected impact resistance. Any fixing found to be inadequate should be replaced.

Every second or third inspection should include a check of the sealing systems, replacing any that are showing signs of failure.

Cleaning

Clean Filon translucent sheets regularly to maintain the highest levels of light transmission. A dirt build-up will reduce light transmission.

To clean, wash down with warm water and mild detergent. Abrasive, caustic and chemical treatments are unnecessary, and may cause damage to the protective surface coating of the sheets. A soft cloth or medium bristle brush may be used to remove persistent contamination. For paint or bitumen splashes, white spirit or alcohol applied with a soft cloth may be used with care. A final rinse with clean water will complete the process. Pressure hoses should not be used as the high pressure water can penetrate the sealing systems.

Health & safety

Many accidents occur during maintenance and cleaning and work is often carried out by those who have no experience or understanding of working at heights. It is recommended that the following information is included in the 'Health & Safety File'.

Any maintenance or cleaning should be conducted in accordance with the recommendations provided in the *Advisory Committee for Roofsafety publication 'ACR[CP]001, Recommended Practice for Work on Profiled Sheeted Roofs'*.

*No person should have access to a roof unless under the direct supervision of an experienced roofer who should be sufficiently competent to assess the risks and where possible, eliminate them. Foot traffic may damage or weaken the sheets and is likely to damage their UV absorbing protective coating. **Always avoid foot traffic; use safe access routes or appropriate safe access equipment.** Note that Filon Supasafe roof sheets will withstand the loads expected from foot traffic but precautions should still be taken to protect the surface protection coating.*

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