

Care manual for Optigrün extensive greening

Preamble:

Roof greening is only complete when so-called finishing care is realised subsequent to applying the layered structure and vegetation. Finishing care takes approximately one year, after which the transfer condition is achieved and the roof greening can be entrusted to personnel authorised with further tending and development.

Care of roof greening should always be entrusted to trained personnel. It is imperative that measures to prevent falling are observed (these being necessary for buildings with a height of over 3 m).

The following care and maintenance services may be required for extensive greening:

- **Removal of plants not indigenous to the location**
Newly-emerging saplings (e.g. birch, willow) and herbage (e.g. clover, dandelions, vetch, etc.) require removal every year. This is best achieved by pulling them out complete with the roots and prior to seeding. The plants should be removed from the roof.
- **Keeping margins, safety stripes, slabs and other surfacing free of undesired growth**
Removal of undesired plants not only applies to the actual greening surface, but also gravel strips, paths and adjacent terraces.
- **Mowing and removal of cut grass and leaves**
Low-level *sedum* vegetation with a minimal herbage content should be removed approximately every two years by mowing, with *sedum* grass and *herbage* vegetation being removed annually in September/October. Cutting height: approx. 7 cm. The cut grass and leaves should be removed and not left on the roof. Leaves from adjacent trees should also be removed.
- **Fertilising**
A long-term fertiliser with 5 g pure nitrogen (e.g. 50 g/m² Optigrün long-term fertiliser) should be applied evenly to the greening surface on an annual basis in the spring (April/May). Strong moss growth and evidence of reddish *sedum* in particular point to a nutrient deficiency.
- **Cleaning of inspection shafts, roof drains and other drainage equipment**
Inspection shafts and roof drains below these should be checked annually and freed of contaminants (ant nests, dirt, leaves, lime deposits and similar). The drainage cross section should not change. The same applies to drainage gutters.
- **Watering**
Extensive greening is usually not watered after finishing care (i.e. when the surface has been covered by more than 50% and is a year old). Watering is also unnecessary in normal cases during a hot and dry summer. Exceptions can be cases involving very thin greening layers (under 7 cm) and steep roofs under 10 cm exposed in a southerly direction.
- **Re-sowing and replanting of bare patches, refilling of substrata where necessary**
Roof substrata may require refilling and setting of suitable plug plants or sowing of seed + *sedum* shoots if patches (approx. larger than 0.5 m²) are not covered or erosion has occurred in areas. The most suitable period for this is April/May and, possibly, September/October.
- **Plant protection**
Measures to protect plants should only be taken after consulting a specialist.

1 (September/October) to 2 (March/April and September/October) tending periods are generally necessary every year.

Please contact your regional Optigrün representative if you have any questions.