

Temporary Irrigation

EXTENSIVE/SEMI-INTENSIVE TYPE PLANTED ROOFS. TEMPORARY IRRIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS.

Introduction

One of the most common causes of green roofs underperforming is insufficient application of irrigation immediately after installation. With the UK's variable weather conditions we can experience long periods of unseasonably dry weather when normal levels of rainfall cannot be relied upon to provide sufficient moisture for the plants to establish into the growing medium.

Therefore, Blackdown Greenroofs 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. Without this short but important period of irrigation – usually between 6-8 weeks - a green roof will struggle to establish, be more prone to erosion, and could look less visually appealing. Once this period has expired the irrigation is removed and the system will support the plants without further intervention. The only exception to this is when a roof has a pitch of more than 30 degrees.

Blackdown Temporary Irrigation Systems.

Blackdown has a variety of irrigation systems to suit a range of roof areas whether it is ten or ten thousand square meters.

Our systems

- are fully or semi-automatic, so that once setup they will irrigate a roof without any input from the client.
- are small enough to be carried up internal stairs, external hoists or even lifted through windows.
- require mains water i.e. a roof or ground floor ¾ " bib tap.
- can operate from 110 or 240v power or, if either of these are unavailable, a 9v battery.

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.

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.

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Access & Egress

Access and egress routes to/from the roof need to be carefully considered. Ideally these should be discussed and agreed between client/end user and Blackdown Greenroofs before completion of the installation phase if an irrigation contract is required.

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

END
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