



GREEN ROOF MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

A document on the processes of green roof maintenance and information on the maintenance of a green roof system.

Green Roof Maintenance Guidelines

Green roofs are built to be long-lasting, aesthetically pleasing and high performing. However, these can decline over the lifespan of the green roof when it receives little to no attention. Therefore, the maintenance of a green roof systems is essential for the longevity of the roof system, ensuring maximum performance throughout the roof's lifespan and maintaining the aesthetic appeal of the green roof system. Keeping the roof well maintained extends the overall lifespan of the roof system.

Most green roof systems contain a plant community with a large variety of native species that meet local planning and building code requirements.

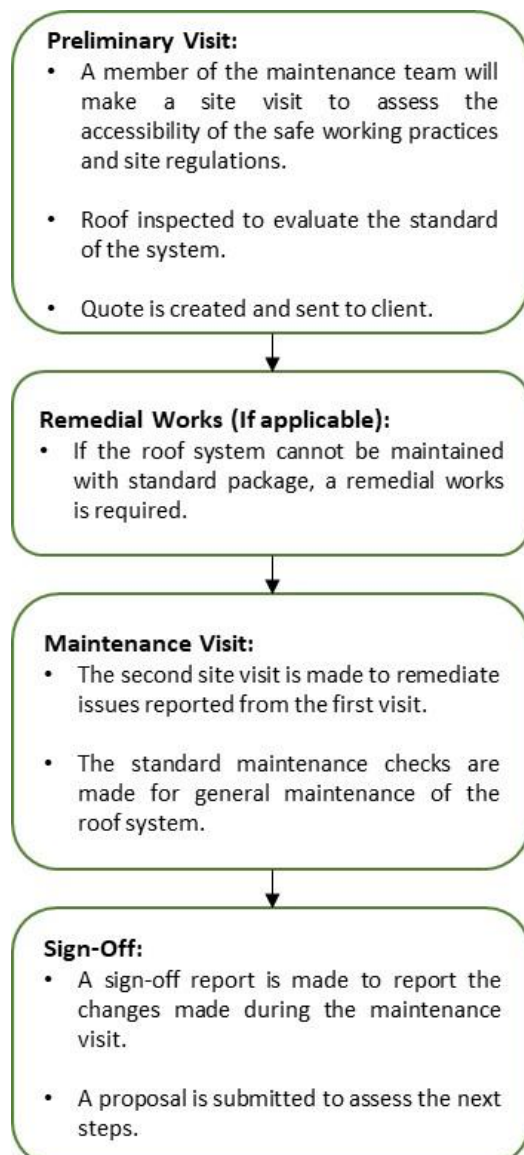
General Maintenance

The selection of plant species on each project are used to create a balance in the plant species composition to prevent a dominance of a single plant species. As a green roof system is a form of a garden, the plants still require attention and maintenance to ensure the roof is performing to the best of its ability.

Green roof maintenance is typically carried out 2 to 4 times annually, depending on the type of roof system. The visits are usually carried out in early Spring and late Autumn to ensure the vegetation has the best chances of surviving the Winter and full growth in the Spring.

Before the maintenance proceeds, a preliminary visit is required to assess the general accessibility of the roof systems and inspect the roof for any other issues that could cause the roof to decline in quality over time.

All green roof maintenance departments follow the process pictured on the right.



Maintenance Spot Checks

Below is a list of the general spot checks made by the maintenance department to ensure the roof system is maintained to the best standard.

- Localised spot weeding of invasive or damaging weeds
- Re-seeding and remedial patching of roof areas caused by poor establishment.
- Assessment of irrigation systems (if applicable).
- Inspection of drainage channels and clearing of exposed outlets
- Clearing of dead material from the roof and (if applicable) the edging.
- **(Autumn only)** Cut back and remove excess growth in preparation of winter regression.
- **(Spring only)** Feeding using slow releasing organic fertiliser.

Vegetation Maintenance

- Removal of any unwanted vegetation that have encroached the drainage outlets, walkways or firebreaks.
- Restore the fire/vegetation breaks where movement has occurred.
- Remove any tree saplings.
- Trimmings of green roofs to prevent overgrowth, cuttings should be bagged up and removed from the roof as fire safety and to prevent nutrient leaching.
- Fertiliser as last resort if plants look distressed.
- Although not necessarily needed, an irrigation system will be useful for maximising the foundation of the living roof. A water check will be needed to check for soil moisture. Water the green roof system if water moisture is low.

Contact Details:

In order to contact the Sky Garden Maintenance Department please see the below options:-

By Phone: 01242 620905 Option 2

By Email: maintenance@sky-garden.co.uk

