

Care manual for Optigreen extensive and intensive roof greening

Preamble:

Roof greening is only complete when so-called finishing care is carried out 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 Optigreen 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 substrate where necessary
Roof substrate 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.

In addition, the following care and maintenance services may be required for intensive greening:

- § Loosening up and cleaning planted areas
- § Removal of unsuitable foreign growth
- § Removal of rubbish
- § Irrigation
- § Plant protection
- § Pruning
- § Mulching
- § Removal of fallen leaves
- § Winter protection measures
- § Re-adjustment of anchors points
- § Removal of redundant anchor points
- § Inspecting and checking the functionality of irrigation systems

Further special services from the maintenance range can include:

- § Keeping edgeways, safety paths, slabs and other coverings free from undesired growth
- § Cleaning gutters, inspection chambers, roof outlets and other drainage installations
- § removal of erosion damage caused by wind and water

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