



Sky-Garden Ltd. 7&8 Keil Close, Broadway, Worcestershire, WR12 7DP  
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[www.sky-garden.co.uk](http://www.sky-garden.co.uk)

## **Maintenance Guidelines**

Following the installation of your Sky Garden living roof, a maintenance schedule should be set up to ensure its upkeep and longevity. It is important to note, that whilst our systems are generally low maintenance, this does not mean they require 'no' maintenance. We recommend some basic care and attention to your roof, once or twice per year and particularly in the first six months after installation.

### **1. Sedum**

Please note: Sedum plants are not green all year around. It is perfectly normal for the blankets to change colour through the seasons, particularly when under stress, through lack of water or nutrients, or when subjected to sub zero conditions. Plants generally flower from late spring to mid summer, which is followed by a limited die back of certain varieties during the winter months. Please do not be alarmed!! This is nature at work and all plants will regenerate prolifically come the following spring.

#### **a. Sedum Blanket**

It is important to note that nothing grows without some care and attention throughout the year. Annual maintenance concentrates on the removal of spent flower heads, seed heads, grasses and other intrusive weeds such as willow herb, typically at the end of summer, early autumn. This serves to promote the healthy development of the blanket.

The establishment of non-native, invasive plants can lead to reduced food availability and therefore habitat as a direct result. In addition, invasive plants are often unpalatable to native herbivores like invertebrates.

#### **b. Sedum Cuttings & Plugs**

When using sedum cuttings or plugs, due care and attention is crucial until the cuttings or plugs have fully established. Plugs and cuttings are much more exposed and vulnerable to the elements and to begin with, the exposed substrate provides the perfect environment for seed germination and arrival of unwanted weed seed.

### **2. Irrigation**

It is imperative that your living roof installation is regularly watered particularly in the first year after installation. Should the weather prove particularly dry in the first three months after installation, watering will be essential to ensure the living roof establishes itself as quickly as possible. Watering should be carried out once or twice a week, using a hose or sprinkler system, until the newly planted area is fully saturated.

If you would like the roof system to remain 'green and luscious' throughout dry periods, it is strongly advisable to consider the installation of an irrigation system. This is particularly recommended where systems have direct wind exposure and are therefore more susceptible to wind erosion.



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### 3. Weather

Regular checks should be undertaken, to ensure that high winds or heavy rainfall has not dislodged any of the living roof system. This is particularly important during the first few months after installation, as the plants will not have fully rooted into the sub layers and are therefore more vulnerable. The movement of the system is unlikely and usually only occurs in extreme weathers. Should it become dislodged, provided it has not been damaged, simply move it back into place and water in well.

### 4. Fertiliser

When low in nutrients, sedum generally turns reddish they are showing they signs of being nutrient deficient. When this occurs, Sky-Garden recommends an annual application of fertiliser to ensure optimum plant performance. Fertiliser can be obtained directly from Sky-Garden. Please enquire at our sales office at the above contact number for further information.

### 5. Roof Checks

It is essential to check all gutters and drainage outlets to ensure against blockages. Water collecting on a roof can have detrimental effects on the vegetation. We will also inform the client of any issues arising with any roof lights, outlets, man safe systems and so on, while we are on the roof. Although we are experts in none of these fields our experience allows for us to spot obvious problems that may be arising. An extra pair of eyes and ears on your roof!

All of the above issues can be controlled and eradicated using Sky Garden's tried and tested maintenance routines, which can be tailored to suit the specific needs of roof and client. We offer annual maintenance packages at competitive prices to suit your specific needs. Please call the office for further details.

**\*N.B Due care and attention should be taken when carrying out routine maintenance and inspections to your living roof. Some materials can be slippery when wet or frozen and we recommend safety harnesses be worn and secured ladders used at all times. If you are in any doubt, please check government guidelines for working at heights.**