

Care & Maintenance

Below are the basic guidelines for the care and maintenance of Fatra membrane within the WeatherFAST Fatra PVC membrane steel.

General

The Fatra membrane used for WeatherFAST Fatra PVC membrane steel is generally low maintenance and are unaffected by standing water, UV degradation and in normal circumstances will not attract growth of any kind. We do however draw your attention to other maintenance requirements; you should always ensure that rainwater outlets and gutters are kept free of any debris or any other form of obstruction. We would advise that the roof is checked a minimum of twice a year. However, more frequent checks may be required due to localised environmental conditions e.g. coastal or woodland locations.

Access

Fatra waterproofing membranes are not intended to be trafficked surfaces, but will accommodate reasonable and considerate access, i.e. for occasional maintenance. Footwear should be soft soled with a good robust tread pattern for grip. Where walkways are provided, these should be used whenever possible.

Care must always be taken when working in areas away from the designated paths and you should be advised that Fatra roof surfaces other than designated walking areas may from time to time have a slippery surface and we would advise the use of scaffolding or a safety harness system when working on any other area other than designated walking areas.

To avoid personal accidents, care should be taken when walking over exposed Fatra waterproofing membranes, particularly on slopes and in wet conditions with certain footwear. Access should not be attempted when ice or snow is lying on the roof. When the occasional use of ladders is required from Fatra membranes, a 'load spreader' or a suitable sized plank of wood should be used to avoid damage to the insulation boards and / or waterproofing.

Sharp or rough edged foreign matter such as screws, metal offcuts, broken glass, etc, should be removed from the roof during the bi-annual inspections, which should check on the state of all edge details, noting any disruptions to flashings and pointing. Depending on the location of the building, cleaning of the membrane may be required in addition to the regular maintenance of the gutters & outlets (See Rainwater Outlets below). This may be due to factors such as fallen foliage, atmospheric conditions or excessive bird contamination.

Vegetation

Fatra membranes should not attract growth of any kind under normal circumstances. Sodium Chlorate solution can be used as a weed killer on ballasted roofs, but the solution must be rinsed off exposed surfaces of Fatra membrane as the combined influence of UV light and the solution may create a detrimental effect. Vegetation is readily removed from exposed unballasted Fatra membrane, without any need for weed killer, because the roots cannot penetrate the membrane.

If ponding water causes accumulation of silt or algae on exposed membrane, this can be removed by brushing when wet with a soft bristle brush and removed by water spray.

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Rainwater Outlets

Rainwater outlets, gullies, spouts and gutters can become blocked, and as with any type of roof waterproofing, the blockage needs to be removed to ensure the roof drainage system is able to perform as designed. The frequency of outlet maintenance can be dependent upon the local environment. Checks should be made to ensure that leaf guards are in place and remain unblocked.

Painting

The use of paint on Fatra surfaces is not recommended. Spots, drips and spillage of paint onto Fatra membranes are to be avoided as the solvents in paints may adversely affect the life expectancy of the sheets, as can oil, pitch, tar, bitumen, solvents and other hydrocarbon based material.

Repairs

If, in spite of all precautions, damage does occur to the Fatra waterproofing, the sheet can be restored to its original watertight condition simply by welding on a patch of fresh Fatra membrane. The patch must have rounded corners and be larger than the damaged area by at least 50mm in each direction. Water that has entered through the damaged area should be removed; residual dampness will in most instances be able to be 'breathed out' from under the Fatra membrane. Note that bituminous materials are not compatible with Fatra membrane and are not therefore suitable for effecting repairs. All repairs must be carried out by Fatra Approved Installers.

The surfaces to be welded must be clean and dry. Contamination can generally be removed with warm soapy water. Very stubborn soiling can require the sparing use of Fatra FF860 PVC Solvent cleaner.

Alterations

The addition of new or replacement items of roof furniture, roof lights, services equipment, extractor fans, cables to cameras and satellite dishes etc, that will necessitate connection to, penetration of, or alterations to, the existing Fatra membrane must be executed by a Fatra Approved Installer.

Cleaning

It is possible to clean the surface of the roof membrane if required by using water mixed with a little washing up liquid and the use of a large headed soft broom. The roof can be rinsed afterwards with a hose running at normal domestic pressure. High-pressure washers and fire hoses are not to be used. Note that the use of soapy water will make the membrane more slippery. FF862 Membrane Cleaner can be used to clean the membrane of general dirt.

Failure to comply with the procedures outlined in this document or further information issued by either Fatra or WeatherFAST could invalidate your Guarantee.