

Flat Roof – Asphalt / Single Ply

To facilitate this ambition of getting the quality right, these checks should take place:

- Is base suitable for finish – level and flatness?
- Check minimum fall requirement complies with British Standard. Beware effects of tolerance
- Ensure any vapour barriers are correctly and completely installed with all joints sealed. Pay particular attention around any penetrations
- Ensure gullies have a flange compatible with the finish to ensure seal
- Are handrails details on raised upstands that can be weathered?
- Check upstands are a minimum of 150mm above finished level
- Carry out a thorough inspection before any roof covering is overlaid
- Check parapet details are installed correctly – DPC/ tray / flashing / coping
- Protect the finished roof from following trades
- Check detailing for lightning protection is required
- Asphalt
 - If asphalt is laid on screed, it will generally need permavents to allow moisture that has been taken up by screen to dry. It is often better to lay concrete to falls and then asphalt after approximately seven days on top of felt
 - Pay particular care at movement joints
 - Ensure that asphalt is help against upstands using primer / expamet, depending on bond to substrate and is prevented from ‘rolling’ out of any rebates by sealing with a cement / sand fillet incorporating an SBR additive
 - The asphalt should lap with any DPC / tray above but beware cutting rebates in brickwork after laying. A better solution is to have DPC / tray one course above and use a counter flashing
 - Beware laying asphalt in cold weather – ‘thermal shock’ is possible
 - Ensure that specified solar / reflective paint / chippings are applied in good time
- Single ply
 - Investigate how the single ply material copes with upstands / internal angles? Ensure all measurements are strictly adhered to and that all joints are fully bonded together

Our Quality vision:

We will get it right first time on all our projects
by delivering exceptional customer service



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- Are walkways detailed on single ply roofs?
- Consider the use of 'electronic' testing of all single ply roofs. Check the specification for requirements
- If possible, programme for roofing as a last trade. If not ensure adequate protection and controls on access are used. Even foot traffic can cause damage and one nail hole can create a significant but undetectable leak
- Edge protection / netting required, with full method statement
- Anchor points for netting need to be considered in the design
- Pay close attention to protection of roof material if M & E installation to be carried out after single ply installation (swarf, screws, tools damage etc)
- If masonry joint needs to be ground or raked out to allow the single ply membrane to be point into the joint, take care around the DPM to prevent damage
- Try to ensure the gap is left by the bricklayer rather than raking out later

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