

Profiled Sheeting Using solar panels on corrugated sheets

TECHNICAL
NOTE
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We offer the following advice when considering fixing solar PV panels on a fibre cement profiled sheet roof.

- Fibre cement profiled sheets should always have 2 fasteners per sheet width per purlin, the fixing positions being in the first full corrugation on each side of the side lap. There should be no additional fasteners fixing the sheets to the purlins. The fasteners should be fixed through 3mm oversize holes in the sheet to allow for expansion/contraction and differential movement.
- The roof structure should be designed for the additional loading of the PV system, and for possible additional snow loadings as the PV panels could increase the build-up of snow. It has been shown that there may also be an increase in wind loadings after PV panels have been fitted to a roof.
- The additional loading on top of the profiled sheet will increase the downslope loadings on the fasteners and rotation of the purlins. Can the fasteners withstand this loading? Where Zed purlins are used, is the purlin thickness adequate to prevent the fasteners rotating downslope? Is the purlin restraint system adequate to withstand the additional down slope movement/rotation?
- The installers must work from crawling boards to minimise damage to the sheets and to avoid walking on a fragile roof. As fibre cement embrittles with age, existing roofs will be more vulnerable to damage from foot traffic and when working on the roof.
- There should be no foot traffic directly on the sheet surface when cleaning the PV panels. If access onto the roof surface is required, crawling boards or roof ladders should be used.

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