

Profiled Sheeting Maintenance and Cleaning Data Sheet

TECHNICAL
NOTE
EPS-01-04-en-V1

Eternit fibre cement sheets and fittings are low maintenance materials. Natural grey fibre cement profiled sheets have a typical design life of 50 years in normal atmospheric conditions.

The Eternit profiled fibre cement sheets are manufactured from Portland Cement and water, reinforced with natural and synthetic fibres and fillers.

Natural grey fibre cement Profiled sheeting is a maintenance free material for the life of the product, and it does not require any treatments to protect it from exposure to sunlight or weathering. There are no requirements to treat scratches, scuffs or cut edges.

Natural grey sheets require no routine maintenance to achieve the design life of the material.

In early life, it is advisable to check whether any settlement has occurred, and if necessary fasteners should be retightened. In later life, fixing accessories may deteriorate so should be inspected periodically and replaced as necessary.

If maintenance painting is to be carried out on painted sheets, this we should not expect to be before 15-20 years. The paints used should be an exterior water based acrylic, following the paint manufactures recommendations for use.

Access onto a fibre cement roof should only be for essential maintenance only, Roof access should be carried out in accordance with all current health and safety legislation.

Caution – Any roof installed before November 1999 may contain asbestos in the roofing sheets.

- Most types of fibre cement roofs will be fragile. Roof lights will often also be fragile.
- No one must ever work on or from, or walk over, fragile roofs unless platforms, covers or similar are provided which will adequately support their weight.
- Always consider first whether it is really necessary to access the roof.
- Does the work need to be done, or could it be done in some other way, such as from below or from an integrated work platform?

Things to consider before accessing the roof –

1. Plan the work.
2. Set aside enough time to do the work.
3. Take account of weather conditions such as light levels, ice, wind and rain.
4. Make sure everyone knows the precautions to be followed when working at height.
5. Fix a prominent permanent warning notice at the approach to any fragile roof.
6. Never walk on fragile materials such as asbestos or other fibre cement sheet, roof lights or glass. Roof lights and glass may have been painted over.
7. Never 'walk the purlins' or 'walk the line of the bolts'.
8. Roof ladders or crawling boards must span at least three purlins. They should be at least 600 mm wide and more when the work requires it.
9. Don't use a pair of boards to 'leapfrog' across a fragile roof, but provide enough boards for a continuous walk way.
10. Take precautions to prevent a person falling from the ladder or board. Use edge protection or safety harnesses, or safety netting where this is not feasible. Take specialised advice.
11. Roof ladders must be securely placed, with the anchorage bearing on the opposite side of the roof. Never use gutters to support any ladder

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Cleaning Eternit Fibre Cement Sheets –

The initial high alkalinity of the material reduces after several years and then, as commonly occurs with concrete surfaces, a vegetable matter/growth begins. This consists of mosses, lichens, algae, and liverworts etc that gradually spread.

The cleaner the atmosphere the more rapid and extensive the growth.

The vegetable growth is not destructive and is not generally harmful. Sometimes, though, it may build up sufficiently to interfere with the runoff of rainwater, or mosses can cause capillary attraction by growing between the overlaps of sheets, partially inside and partially outside of the roof.

There is generally no technical need to remove the vegetation unless it is causing mechanical problems in sheet laps or gutters.

To remove the vegetation from the roof, apply during dry weather a fungicidal wash to kill the vegetation and leave for 24 hours. After 24 hours use a stiff broom and water to brush off the vegetation. It may be necessary to scrape off in places. The roof should be washed down, and the rainwater systems checked to ensure there is unrestricted clearance. We would recommend a temporary rainwater down pipe is provided to a separate tank to collect the contaminated water/debris to ensure the surface water drainage does not become blocked. The fungicidal wash will need to suit the growth matter occurring on the roof.

Corrugated fibre cement sheets exposed to an aggressive environment may have a reduced service life due to chemical attack/deterioration. Please contact our technical department for more information.

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