

TGN 24.2 [Technical Guidance Note]

Removal of Algae

When removing algae from a MOY reinforced bitumen membrane roof care must be taken not to damage the integrity of the waterproofing membrane.

It is important not to cause mechanical damage during the process of removing algae or by using unsuitable chemicals, which, overtime due to their concentrations and non-compatibility with bitumen membranes may have an impact on the performance of the bitumen membrane.

The following recommendations should be taken into consideration when removing algae on a completed MOY Bituminous Roof System:

1) Safety first:

- a. Before starting, make sure to wear appropriate PPE for the task in hand.
- b. A competent individual with experience of the roof and or roofing membrane is desirable.

2) Prepare the area:

Clear the roof area and make sure there are no obstacles that could cause accidents.

3) Remove debris:

- a. Start by manually removing any debris from the roof surface using appropriate tools where required i.e. stiff brush to remove decomposing leaves.
- b. **Do not to use high pressure, as it can damage the bitumen waterproofing.**
- c. Ensure all moss and debris is removed before applying cleaning solutions.

4) Cleaning Solution:

- a. Mix inert cleaning solution following the manufacturer's guidance with regards to the dilution water to cleaner.
- b. Care to be taken with regards to compatibility of the chosen product to other roofing elements in proximity to the area being cleaned (Place covers over any plants, terraces or furniture).
- c. When using a roof cleaning product/algae treatment it is important to ensure it is suitable for use on mineral finished bitumen membranes.
- d. Avoid using bleach or other harsh chemicals that can damage the bitumen waterproofing.

5) Apply the solution:

- a. Use a sprayer or a soft-bristle brush to apply the cleaning solution to the areas of the roof that have algae growth.
- b. Allow the cleaner to penetrate the algae.
- c. Prevent it from spreading or coming into contact with other surfaces where possible.
- d. When using chemical treatments, the manufacturer's directions should be followed.

6) Gently brush:

- a. Gently brush the affected areas with a soft-bristle brush or mop to help loosen the algae from the surface and help the cleaning solution to penetrate the algae.
- b. It is vital to ensure this process does not remove any of the membranes mineral coating.

7) Rinse:

- a. Using fresh water thoroughly rinse off the algae and cleaning solution.
- b. Be aware of the potential risks involved when the water drains off.
- c. **Do not to use high pressure, as it can damage the bitumen waterproofing.**

8) Repeat if necessary:

If there are still traces of algae remaining, you may need to repeat the cleaning process.

Moss and algae removal maybe required periodically, as part of the maintenance process.

MOY Materials Ltd has taken care to ensure that the information provided in the literature is correct and up to date. However, it is not intended to form any part of a contract or provide a guarantee. Purchasers/intending purchasers should contact MOY Technical to check whether there have been any changes to the information since publication of the literature. Please ensure you have read the hazard labels and material safety data sheet before using this product.