

FIBREGLASS ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Part 1/5: Health & Safety in Fibreglass Roofing



User Guide and Manual

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1.2. Background

This section details health and safety considerations for the construction of a fibreglass flat roof.

It is the first in a 5-part series that also covers timber decking and insulation, edge trim installation, fibreglass laminating and topcoat application.



You can purchase Resin Library fibreglass roofing kits in a range of sizes, simply click the link in the description below.

WARNING! Read the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) available for download on the product page. Wear appropriate protective eyewear, clothing, and gloves and other PPE. Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are available from www.resinlibrary.com/product/600g-fibreglass-grp-flat-roofing-kit/. Perform a full risk assessment, method statement and COSHH form in advance.

Table 1. Fibreglass Roofing Kit

Product	Size (m ²)	Note	Ordering
Fibreglass (GRP) Roof Kits	1	Materials and tools included based on kit size	> Find out more <
	2		
	3		
	5		
	10		
	15		
	20		
	25		
	30		
	35		
	40		
	45		
	50		

1.3. Introduction

Health and safety in flat roofing work involve several key risks, from working at height to exposure to roofing asbestos, manual handling and several others. Please note that this is informative and should not be taken as guidance; roofers take full responsibility for their actions.

This section is Part 1 and covers key health and safety topics.

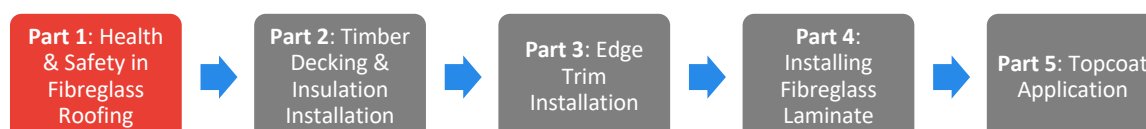


Table 2. Fibreglass Roof Construction Topics in Series

Part	Topic	Description	Video Link
1/5	Health & Safety in Fibreglass Roofing	Covers health and safety topics involved in fibreglass roofing	> Find out more <
2/5	Timber Decking & Insulation Installation	Process of installing timber decking and insulation	> Find out more <
3/5	Edge Trim Installation	Installation of GRP edge trims around the perimeter of the flat roof	> Find out more <
4/5	Installing Fibreglass Laminate	How to install fibreglass laminate onto timber decking	> Find out more <
5/5	Topcoat Application	Application of topcoat (flowcoat) to the fibreglass laminate	> Find out more <

Pre-Work Checks

The following is a non-exhaustive list of recommendations you should consider in advance of any roofing work.

- Ensure there is no asbestos in the existing roof – this can be performed via an asbestos survey.
- Absolutely no smoking; fibreglassing utilises flammable chemicals
- Ensure scaffolding is in place – or you are secure on the roof
- Check if the roof is safe to walk on – see more about [fragile roofs](#)
- Weather check: flat roofing work should be performed in the dry; moisture adversely affects resin curing.
- Materials check: make sure you have enough supplies easily accessible to ensure consistency.

- Notify persons in the vicinity of the nature of your work; move vehicles to avoid resin damage.

1.4. Health & Safety Considerations

The HSE recommends that adequate planning and preparation in advance of any work is undertaken to minimise health and safety risks. These can be performed by creating:

- Risk assessment: assessment of the work and the surrounding area to ensure that key risks have been identified and control measures put in place prior to embarking on the job.
- COSHH: control of substances that are hazardous to health to prevent or reduce exposure to hazardous substances.
- Method statement: a way to state and record the hazards involved in specific work and to communicate the risk and precautions required to all those involved in the work.
- Toolbox Talks: brief presentations covering a single aspect of health and safety, such as roofing work. The HSE prepares toolbox talks to help convey critical health and safety information about key topics, such as roof work, manual handling and using ladders/step ladders.

Note: asbestos can be found in a range of roofing materials, from felt to corrugated cement. The disposal of asbestos should be performed by a specialist contractor.

Environmental Considerations

Several environmental considerations have been outlined by the HSE that are applicable to roofing. These centre on:

- Flammable materials – ensure that all flammable waste materials (e.g. packaging and timber offcuts) are removed regularly to reduce the risk of fire
- Work areas – keep on top of waste removal; do not allow it to build-up
- Skips – waste materials need storing safely prior to removal. Resins and catalyst are flammable and toxic, so ensure there is sufficient space inside waste skips and bins etc.

Disclaimer: this guide is for general informational purposes only. It does not constitute fibreglass roofing advice. Resin Library is not liable for any outcomes. The use of information linked to this content is at the user's own risk. The content in this guide is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Users should not disregard in obtaining professional advice.

1.5. Training Courses

Online training courses have the capacity to provide excellent training in topics important to health & safety. Some of these are:

- Manual handling
- Asbestos Awareness
- Working at Height
- COSHH Training
- Risk Assessment Training
- First Aid Training
- Ladder Safety Training
- Fire Risk Assessment Training

1.6. Method Statements

A method statement is a useful way of recording the hazards involved in specific work at height tasks and communicating the risk and precautions required to all those involved in the work. The statement need be no longer than necessary to achieve these objectives effectively.

The method statement should be clear and illustrated by simple sketches where necessary. Avoid ambiguities or generalisations, which could lead to confusion. Statements are for the benefit of those carrying out the work and their immediate supervisors and should not be overcomplicated.

Equipment needed for safe working should be clearly identified and available before work starts. Workers should know what to do if the work method needs to be changed.

More information: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/assess.htm>

1.7. Risk Assessments

“As part of managing the health and safety of your business, you must control the risks in your workplace.

To do this you need to think about what might cause harm to people and decide whether you are taking reasonable steps to prevent that harm.

This is known as risk assessment and it is something you are required by law to carry out. If you have fewer than five employees you don't have to write anything down.

A risk assessment is not about creating huge amounts of paperwork, but rather about identifying sensible measures to control the risks in your workplace.

You are probably already taking steps to protect your employees, but your risk assessment will help you decide whether you have covered all you need to.”

More information: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm>

Employers and self-employed contractors must:

- Assess the risks
- Decide on the precautions required
- Record the significant findings
- Review the assessment as necessary
- Do not overcomplicate the process.

For many firms your work at height risks will be well known and the necessary control measures easy to apply.

More information: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm>

1.8. COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health)

COSHH is the law that requires employers to control substances that are hazardous to health.

You can prevent or reduce workers exposure to hazardous substances by:

- finding out what the health hazards are;
- deciding how to prevent harm to health (risk assessment);
- providing control measures to reduce harm to health;
- making sure they are used;
- keeping all control measures in good working order;
- providing information, instruction and training for employees and others;
- providing monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases;
- planning for emergencies.

Find out more: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics/index.htm>

1.9. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

PPE stands for Personal Protective Equipment

Employers must protect workers from health and safety risks.

This means they must provide PPE free of charge if a risk assessment shows it is needed.

To stay safe, workers may have to wear PPE such as safety helmets, gloves, eye or hearing protection, high-visibility clothing, safety footwear and harnesses.

Find out more: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/ppe/index.htm> and <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/faq-ppe.htm>

Recommended PPE for flat roofing centres on the following items:

- Hard-hat helmets
- Safety goggles
- Respiratory mask (dust & chemicals)
- Steel-capped safety boots
- Overalls
- Nitrile gloves
- Gripper gloves
- Additional project-specific measures

Find out more: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/faq-ppe.htm>

When to use PPE:

Employers must do a risk assessment. Some hazards may still remain after engineering controls and safe systems of work have been applied. PPE may then be needed to reduce the risk of injury from:

- breathing in dust, mist, gas or fume
- falling materials hitting people
- flying particles or splashes of corrosive liquids getting into people's eyes
- skin contact with corrosive materials
- excessive noise
- extremes of heat or cold

Find out more: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/ppe/overview.htm>

1.10. Toolbox Talks

A 'toolbox talk' is a short presentation to the workforce on a single aspect of health and safety.

The HSE prepares toolbox talks to save you the time and effort of writing them yourself.

They may be in PowerPoint, portable document format (pdf) or as video.

Construction-related toolbox talks include:

- Watch Your Step - a toolbox talk for construction
- Falls from vehicles – toolbox talk for construction workers
- Safe use of ladders and stepladders
- Roof work
- Manual Handling
- Running a small construction site

Find out more: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/resources/toolboxtalks.htm>

1.11. Related Products

Resin Library also offers a range of products to add further

Table 4. Fibreglass (GRP) Roof Repair Kits

Product	Size (m ²)	Note	Ordering
Fibreglass (GRP) Roof Repair Kits	0.5	Materials and tools included based on kit size. Includes topcoat (flowcoat)	> Find out more <
	1		
	2		
	3		
	5		
	10		

Table 5. Fibreglass (GRP) Repair Kits (Without Topcoat)

Product	Size (m ²)	Note	Ordering
Fibreglass (GRP) Repair Kits	0.5	Materials and tools included based on kit size. Does not include topcoat (flowcoat).	> Find out more <
	1		
	2		
	3		
	5		
	10		

Table 6. Polyester Resin

Product	Size (L)	Note	Ordering
Polyester Resin	1	- Used for fibreglass laminating - Includes MEKP - Lloyd's Approved - WRAS compliant	> Find out more <
	2.5		
	5		
	10		
	20		

Table 7. Topcoat Resin

Product	Size (L)	Note	Ordering
Topcoat Resin	1	- Colour: Dark Grey - Includes MEKP	> Find out more <
	2.5		
	5		
	10		
	20		

Table 8. Glass Fibre (CSM)

Product	Type	Size (m ²)	Note	Ordering
Glass Fibre Matting (CSM)	450-gram	2 – 80	Multi-directional glass fibre reinforcement for fibreglass laminating. Designed for use with polyester resin.	> Find out more <
	600-gram	2 – 55		> Find out more <