

PREPARING YOUR FLAT ROOF FOR SUMMER HEAT



HOT TOPIC
MAY 2026 ISSUE



When summer temperatures rise, your flat roof becomes the first line of defense against intense UV rays, heat buildup, and sudden weather changes. Without proper preparation, prolonged exposure to heat can accelerate membrane wear, increase energy costs, and shorten the lifespan of your roofing system.

For commercial buildings with flat or low-slope roofs, preventative maintenance before the hottest months of the year is one of the smartest investments you can make.



WHY SUMMER HEAT IMPACTS FLAT ROOFS

Flat roofs absorb direct sunlight for long periods throughout the day. As roof temperatures climb, roofing materials expand and contract repeatedly, placing stress on seams, flashings, drains, and rooftop penetrations.

According to Duro-Last, reflective PVC roofing systems are **designed to resist UV exposure, heat, and weathering** while helping reduce cooling costs through high solar reflectivity. However, even durable systems still require seasonal inspections and maintenance to perform at their best.

BUILT FOR THE MOST CRITICAL AREAS

1. Schedule a Professional Roof Inspection

Before summer arrives in full force, schedule a professional flat roof inspection. Winter moisture, spring debris, and temperature fluctuations may have caused small issues that can worsen in extreme heat.

A professional inspection should check for:

- Open seams or membrane separation
- Punctures or holes in the membrane
- Loose flashing details
- Drainage problems or ponding water
- Signs of UV deterioration
- Damage around HVAC units and rooftop equipment

Routine inspections are one of the best ways to prevent expensive emergency repairs later in the season.

2. Clean Off Debris and Drainage Areas

Leaves, dirt, branches, and debris can block drains and trap moisture on the roof surface. Standing water combined with summer heat can accelerate membrane deterioration and place additional stress on roofing materials.

Keeping drains, gutters, scuppers, and roof surfaces clear helps your roofing system perform properly during both hot weather and summer storms.

Duro-Last recommends routine roof cleaning and maintenance to help preserve reflectivity and long-term roof performance.

3. Check Roof Reflectivity

One of the biggest advantages of a white PVC roofing system is its ability to reflect sunlight instead of absorbing it.

Reflective roofing systems can help:

- Reduce rooftop temperatures
- Improve indoor comfort
- Lower cooling costs
- Reduce strain on HVAC systems

Duro-Last states that its reflective white membranes can **reflect up to 88% of the sun's energy**, helping improve energy efficiency during peak summer conditions.

If your roof has become heavily soiled or stained over time, a professional cleaning may help restore reflectivity and performance.

4. Inspect Seams and Flashings

Seams and flashing details are some of the most vulnerable areas on any flat roof. Summer heat can magnify weaknesses in these transition points as materials expand during the day and cool at night.

Pay close attention to:

- Pipe penetrations
- HVAC curbs
- Roof edges
- Skylights
- Drains and scuppers

Custom-fabricated accessories and heat-welded seams, like those used in many PVC roofing systems, are designed to provide long-term waterproof protection and reduce leak risks.

5. Limit Unnecessary Roof Traffic

Summer is often a busy season for HVAC service and rooftop maintenance work. Unfortunately, excessive foot traffic is also one of the leading causes of punctures and membrane damage on flat roofs.

Contractors and maintenance crews should:

- Use designated walk paths when possible
- Avoid dragging tools or equipment
- Stay clear of seams and flashing details
- Report any visible damage immediately

Many roofing professionals note that minimizing unnecessary rooftop traffic can significantly extend roof life.

6. Address Small Repairs Early

Small roofing problems rarely stay small during summer heat. Minor punctures, loose flashing, or seam separation can quickly worsen under constant UV exposure and thermal movement.

Catching issues early can help:

- Prevent leaks
- Avoid interior damage
- Extend roof lifespan
- Reduce long-term repair costs

Preventative maintenance is almost always more affordable than emergency repairs after damage has already occurred.

INVEST IN LONG-TERM ROOF PERFORMANCE

Summer heat can be hard on any roofing system, but proper preparation goes a long way toward protecting your building and extending the life of your flat roof.

With regular inspections, proper drainage, routine cleaning, and proactive repairs, your roofing system can continue performing efficiently through the hottest months of the year.

Modern PVC roofing systems like those from Duro-Last are engineered for durability, UV resistance, reflectivity, and long-term weather performance – making them a strong option for commercial flat roofs in a wide range of climates.



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