FOCUS ON GREEN ROOFS

Green roofs are now a widely accepted means of mitigating climate change and reducing the impact of our cities. Traditionally they’ve been made using lava stone or heavy bulky substrates. While effective, the weight of these solutions has limited the installation of high-rise sky gardens to modern buildings where adequate structural support is already in place.

An exciting breakthrough

VYDRO® substrate is different. Weighing up to 70% less than standard green roof systems it represents an exciting breakthrough for eco architects everywhere.

Inherently light this smart water management fabric makes it possible to construct green roofs on any property, including historic buildings where load bearing is a factor. VYDRO® substrate’s ability to retain water over long periods of time is also enabling the creation of green roofs in hot, dry countries where installation was previously ruled out because of high temperatures and low rainfall.

'A one meter cubed area of VYDRO® substrate weighs just 30kg. The same size space covered in lava stone would weigh approximately 1500kg.'

Features

- Ultra lightweight, flexible fabric
- Stores up to 30 times its own weight in water
- Unique capillary action
- Superb water retention / hydrophilic properties
- Insert pH neutral open structure
- Excellent water buffering
- Versatile and long lasting
- Compatible with a wide variety of plants and sedum.

Benefits

- Lower building maintenance costs
- A better insulation envelope
- Rapid plant growth
- Fewer maintenance headaches
- Easy to transport and install
- Uniform water and nutrient distribution
- Enhanced planting possibilities
- Decreased Urban Heat Island Effect (UHIE)
- Improved biodiversity
- Reduced impact of urbanization
- Improved water management.

The VYDRO® effect – a growing phenomenon

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The sky’s the limit

VYDRO® substrate can be employed to create ‘intensive’, recreational green roofs that will serve as a functional outdoor space. It is also ideal for use in ‘extensive’ green roofs that are inaccessible and are planted with slow-growing succulents such as sedum, which require little or no maintenance.

Practical considerations

Using VYDRO® substrate to create a green roof is simple and can save significant amounts of time and money when it comes to transportation and installation.

Prior to creating a VYDRO® substrate green roof it’s important to ensure that the base of the garden is watertight and strong enough to resist a plant’s root system.

Once the designated space is ready there are three simple steps to achieving smart water management with VYDRO® substrate.

Step 1:
Roll out or place the VYDRO® substrate with the eggshell down and the geotextile fabric up. The substrate can easily be cut to size with scissors or a knife.

Step 2:
Carefully unroll the sedum or grass mat on top of the VYDRO® substrate. The mats need to be placed the same day to prevent suffocation.

Step 3:
Finish off by wetting the whole green roof. This enables the roots to adhere to the VYDRO® substrate.