

# FLOOD OR IRRIGATION TESTING FOR WATERTIGHTNESS.

CHECKING IS BETTER THAN CURE.

That is why we recommend doing the essential FLOOD OR IRRIGATION TESTS FOR WATERTIGHTNESS.

**BECAUSE THEY GUARANTEE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM:** Conducting tests for watertightness allows checking whether the waterproofing system has been correctly installed and whether it fulfils its main function: preventing the leakage of water or liquids into protected areas.

**BECAUSE THEY PREVENT DAMAGE AND COSTLY REPAIRS:** If the waterproofing system is not effective and water leaks, this can cause significant damage to structures, such as concrete degradation, rusting steel, damp formation and mould growth. These damages can be expensive to repair and affect the lifespan of any construction.

## ARE THESE TESTS COMPULSORY?

Although it is not mandatory to test the waterproofing systems, it is the best way to check its suitability and, in the event of a problem, find quick and viable solutions.

## WHEN SHOULD THE TEST BE DONE?

It is advisable to do the test 24/48 hours after the installation of the waterproofing system, in order to allow the adhesive cement to cure correctly and the sealing in overlaps to dry.

## HOW LONG SHOULD THE TEST LAST?

According to regulations, flood tests should last for 24 hours to 72 hours. While for tests carried out by irrigation, the recommended time of duration is 48 hours to 72 hours.

## ARE ALL ROOFS FLOODABLE? HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD BE EMPLOYED?

According to regulations, the surface to be tested must be filled with water up to 5 cm below the highest point covered by the waterproofing system and this point must be located on the lowest part of the roof. This amount of water adds a significant weight load to the surface, so it must be considered whether the roof can bear it or not. Not all roofs are floodable. If the surface is not suitable to bear the additional weight or if it is a sloping roof, the test for watertightness should be carried out by irrigation. It is done by sprinkling water over the surface, simulating rain.



## HOW TO DO THE FLOOD TEST FOR WATERTIGHTNESS?

The test begins by blocking all the outlets. It is possible to seal them, installing overflow pipes to ensure that the limit is not exceeded. Then, the roof is filled with the required amount of water using a hose. It is advisable to mark the water level to easily identify if water leaks during the test, since moisture retained in the supporting surface takes time to be visible.

## IF THERE IS A LEAK, WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

If after carrying out the test there are leaks, it must be evaluated where they come from.

It is likely that the leaks come from the drainage points, since these elements are not designed to be watertight under hydrostatic pressure, so they might present small leaks through their joints. For these critical points, at Revestech we have GARGOYLES and TERRACE SINKS, both with heat-sealed waterproofing sheets.

If the problem is in the system used to waterproofing the roof, unfortunately, the water will have to be released to empty the surface and repair it. Then, the roof must be filled with water for a second time to complete the test.

## HOW TO EMPTY THE SURFACE?

According to regulations, it is not advisable to release all the drainage points at the same time, since the large amount of water can damage the piping system. The roof should be emptied progressively.

## HOW ARE LEAKS REPAIRED?

It is not necessary to replace the entire waterproofing system, but repair or replace the part where the leak is. If the problem is in the overlap of the sheets, the sheet must be lifted and the sealing replaced.

If we detect that the leak is due to a puncture in the sheet (very unlikely since the membrane is highly resistant) a patch made of the same sheet should be placed over the hole and sealed entirely with SEAL PLUS.

## ONCE WATERTIGHTNESS IS CHECKED... DOES THE SHEET MEMBRANE HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY DRY BEFORE COVERING WITH THE FLOORING?

If the test is successful, we must wait at least 24 hours for the sheet to dry completely before installing the flooring.

## WHO SHOULD PERFORM THE TEST?

It is always recommended that these tests are carried out by a technician. They have the expertise to quickly identify the type of humidity and its origin by making visual inspections.