

The Care & Use of Second Story Extension Floor Sheets

Extension floor sheets have been in use in NSW since 1972. They have proved to be a valuable addition to techniques used in general building & second story work. With proper use the sheets minimize the risk of water damage to ceilings & other property below the work area & protect the newly laid floor from staining & damage during framing, roofing & fitting out activities.

REMEMBER – Floor sheets are NOT TARPAULINS. They are essentially a watertight double welded membrane made to size & shape as specified by the builder. The sheet is dimensionally larger than the proposed floor to enable the edges to be folded over & battened down to provide a waterproof cap.

THEY ARE NOT DESIGNED TO BE USED TO PROTECT PARTIALLY STRIPPED ROOF STRUCTURES OR PARTIALLY COMPLETED FLOORS where potential accidental damage to the sheet is high. A floor sheet should not actually be on the building site until the roof has been removed & the new floor has been fixed, nailed, punched and swept down. Protection until this time should be with standard, heavy-duty tarpaulins. Such heavy-duty tarpaulins can be hired out for the occasion or manufactured to specification. 12m x 7m tarpaulins are a manageable size & are usually available for hire or can be purchased at short notice.

Extension Sheet Fabric

With more than 20 years experience in the field we have found that a woven/coated polyfabric with a weight of 250g per sqm gives the best performance. These materials are best double welded to give maximum seam strength & have coatings of 50+ microns to give a maximum abrasion resistance for the price. Beware of lighter grade fabrics regardless of the country of manufacture; these fabrics do not have the body or the coating thickness to stand up to the job.

General Usage and Tips

1. Your floor cover will come to you folded & rolled, place it on the newly swept floor. Prepare plenty of half nailed battens to secure the sheet after it is unfolded. Check for an unfolding plan & unroll the sheet along the nominated side of the floor area. Never unfold the sheet in windy or unsettled conditions. LOOSE SHEETS ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. Carefully move the sheet into position, take one edge & carry it over the floor side & batten into place. Tighten sheets across floor to eliminate any folds & wrinkles. Fully batten around the edge to eliminate any chance of wind getting under the sheet.
2. OUTSIDE FLOOR PLATES must be checked about 150mm x 20mm approx. every 2 metres, this minimises ponding on sheets and saves a 50mm head of water in storms. It is also a great advantage to remove plates at doorways & build up wet areas i.e. Bathrooms etc., level with the rest of the floor area to save ponding in these areas.
3. SWEEP SHEETS DOWN – it is most important that each afternoon the sheet is carefully checked for any holes or abrasions. When located, clean and dry the area thoroughly. A suitable material for patching is FLOOR MATE GLUE. Do not forget to clean sawdust and debris from checkouts on floor plates. Obvious signs of holes in sheet after rain are dark patches around the material.
4. KEEP SHEET CLEAR – If stacking timber or roof trusses on sheet, pack under with timber to ensure minimum damage and a free flow of water. But it is our advice, for best results, to keep the sheet clear. The membrane is your insurance against the elements.

HAPPY BUILDING!