



Press Release



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New Root Repellant and Testing Standard Released

The latest standard from the Single Ply Roofing Industry and Green Roofs for Healthy Cities evaluates the ability of roofing material to resist normal root or rhizome penetration through a root barrier or waterproofing layer

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) and the Single Ply Roofing Industry (SPRI) are pleased to release the **VR-1 Procedure for Investigating Resistance to Root Penetration on Vegetative Roofs**. The test described in this standard has been developed to evaluate the ability of a roofing material to resist normal root or rhizome penetration through a root protection barrier, or waterproofing layer. This test is based on the FLL "Procedure for Investigating Resistance to Root Penetration at Green Roof Sites," and has been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

"As the use of sustainable and green construction practices continues to increase, so does the use of vegetative roofing systems. To support this growing trend, SPRI and GRHC are developing standard procedures and guides for use by design professionals, system manufacturers and contractors," said Mike Ennis, SPRI Technical Director. "**VR-1 Procedure for Investigating Resistance to Root Penetration on Vegetative Roofs** is the latest standard to be released to support the vegetative roofing industry."

GRHC and SPRI have worked in close partnership to develop a number of standards in support of the development of the industry. ANSI/SPRI VF-1 The External Fire Design Standard for Vegetative Roofs was completed in 2010 and the ANSI/SPRI RP-14 Wind Design Standard for Vegetative Roof Systems was completed early in 2011. Other standards under development include performance standards for the multiple functions of growing media.

"This new root repellant test standard will help North American manufacturers provide their green roof clients with a faster method that gives third-party assurance that the waterproofing will be protected from unwanted root growth," said Steven W. Peck, GRP, Honorary ASLA, Founder and President, GRHC. "Experienced Green Roof Professionals (GRPs) have all of the tools, products and techniques required to not only protect against leaks, but to also ensure that the waterproofing lifespan under green roofs is doubled, if not tripled, for significant owner savings."

All standards are available as free downloads from Green Roofs for Healthy Cities at <http://www.greenroofs.org/index.php/design-standards> or from the SPRI website <http://www.spri.org/publications/policy.htm>

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Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) is a membership-based industry association developing the green roof and wall industry in North America. GRHC's mission is to increase the awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of green roofs and green walls, and other forms of living architecture through education, advocacy, professional development and celebrations of excellence. Visit www.greenroofs.org for more information.

Single Ply Roofing Industry (SPRI) is the recognized technical and statistical authority on the Single Ply Roofing Industry. SPRI represents sheet membrane and related component suppliers in the commercial roofing industry. Since 1981, SPRI has been an excellent resource for building owners, architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors and maintenance personnel, providing objective information about commercial roofing components and systems. Visit www.spri.com for more information.