

THE ROOFING SYSTEMS COMPARISON TABLE

Feature	Liquid Rubber roofing system	Felt roofing	GRP flat roofing system
MATERIALS COST	High cost	Medium to low cost	Medium cost
ACCESSORIES COST	Medium cost	Medium to low cost	High cost
INSTALLATION SPEED	Fast	Long	Medium
HEAT / COLD INSTALLATION	Cold	Heat / Cold (adhesives)	Cold
SIZE OF APPLICATION	Small & Large	Large	Small & Large
PROVEN TECHNOLOGY	V	V	V
GARANTEE	10 years	25 years	25 years
ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS	Yes	Yes	No
EASE OF DEATILING	Easy	Difficult	Easy
BBA CERTIFICATION	V	V	V
DURABILITY	Long	Long	Long
WATERPROOF LEVEL	High	Medium	High
UV RESISTANCE	High	Low	Medium
ODOURLESS	Yes		
WEIGHT		Heavy	
VARIETY OF COLOURS	Yes		Yes
STORE & REUSE	Yes	Yes	
INSURANCE REQUIRED		Yes	
NEW BUILD / REPAIRS	Both (repairs recommended)	Both (new build recommended)	Both (new build recommended)
APPROVED INSTALLER SCHEME	Available for 10 years guarantee		Available for 25 years guarantee
SKILL LEVEL	Low skilled	Skilled	Low skilled
TIME REQUIRED FOR FOOT TRAFFIC	Quickly	Medium	Medium
MAINTENANCE	Low	Medium	Low

MAKING A CHOICE

All solutions have the preference based on customer needs. **Taking into account cost**, the GRP and cold liquid rubber systems are generally more expensive than felt roofing. However, they tend to be more efficient in waterproofing.

Considering the installation process, felt roofing is more time consuming and complicated as requires joints and heat, but it is reliable. On the other side, it is quite slippery and presents an element of risk. Other solutions are safer and quicker to install and might be fitted in various weather conditions. That means the cost of installation will be higher in the case of the felt

system. The fibreglass GRP system requires more stable weather conditions for applications while liquid rubber might be installed in minus 30 C degrees.

With regards to usage, felt is the most cost efficient. On the other hand, liquid rubber and GRP are seamless and more watertight.

If we look at the environment factor, the felt is less vapour permeable. Both liquid rubber and GRP are more environmentally friendly.

The durability of products is quite similar. The liquid roofing systems tend to last a bit more and are less responsive to catalysts, so the degradation process is

slower. In the case of the felt UV light often causes crazing but also it can be easily mechanically damaged and requires full removal and re-application at the end of its life. It is less resistant to frost too.

The final finish is smoother with the liquid rubber or the GRP system. Both are also available in a variety of colours and can be easily cleaned. The felt has a more traditional look, with mineral or chippings finish available. However, the felt roofing can crack and blister quicker.

To sum up, taking into consideration factors like safety, ease of installation, price, waterproofing efficiency, durability, management or other features, the liquid roofing systems or GRP systems are better, but on the other hand, there are elements like cost constraints or engineer specification that might require other solution.