

FILON®

roofscape

Your regular update from the leader in GRP building products

50

Fifty years of innovation in rooflights, roofing & building products

FILON®

Discover how FILON has been lighting the way since 1957 on page 4

PLUS:

Part L

Research highlights need for larger rooflight areas

New Flex-trim

New roof trim system combines aesthetics & practicality

Case studies

FILON rooflights bring big advantages

Sustainable manufacturing

FILON develops new initiatives

Welcome to **roofscape**



*Welcome. As you can see, this edition of **Roofscape** celebrates 50 years of trading for **FILON**. During this period, we've seen the manufacturing base in the West Midlands virtually disappear, so we're proud of our achievement. Over the years, we've adapted to many changes. However, our core philosophy of providing competitive, high quality products and our commitment to innovation, have remained the same.*

Our move to new, larger premises in 2004 has allowed us to be more productive and efficient than ever. Today, we relish the prospect of meeting the new challenges faced by our industry as a whole. Tackling climate change through improved energy efficiency and developing a more ecologically sustainable business model are currently our key areas of focus. What will the next 50 years bring? Watch this space!

David Hathaway F.I.o.R.
Director of Sales, FILON Products

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Research highlights need for increased rooflight areas

NARM, the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers, has issued a new document for specifiers, entitled 'Designing with Rooflights: Supporting the Guidance in AD L2A and AD L2B (2006)'.

This document is a second tier document referenced directly from both Approved Documents L2A and L2B and is approved by DCLG.

This comprehensive document gives guidance on the use of natural daylight via rooflights to provide compliance with Building Regulations L2 - Conservation of Fuel and Power for Buildings other

than Dwellings as amended in 2006. It covers new build, repairs, refurbishment and extensions.

The document also provides interesting background information on the research carried out by De Montfort University into the impact of rooflights on overall energy demand and the associated CO₂ emissions. The research shows that as rooflight area is increased up to 20% of the floor area, carbon dioxide emissions will generally decrease, as the contribution of natural daylight through rooflights replaces the need for artificial lighting. Results from SBEM software reflect this; use of increased rooflight area is a simple

way of helping to reduce CO₂ emissions and aid Part L compliance.

As one of the UK's leading rooflight specialists, FILON is an active member of NARM.

The latest version of the document is available to download, free of charge, from NARM's website at www.narm.org.uk. ♦



Natural light saves energy and reduces carbon emissions. Larger rooflight areas provide a cost-effective route to compliance with the Building Regulations



FILON supports NARM's campaign to increase rooflight areas

Football foul-up

Apologies to all Preston North End supporters, for the error in the last issue of **Roofscape**, which featured a photograph of Preston's Deepdale Stadium, wrongly captioned as Millwall's Den.

Thanks to Paul Hodgson of the Frank Whittle Partnership in Preston, for pointing out our error.

With so many major stadia and sports facilities to choose from in FILON's photo archive, the art director became confused! Ed. ♦

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NEW Flex-trim system – the best of both worlds

FILON Products' latest innovation is its new range of Flex-trim roof trims, designed to combine the attractive, high quality finish of uPVC, with the cost-effectiveness of GRP flat roofing.

Flex-trim trims are similar in appearance and installed in virtually the same way as conventional hand laid and pultruded profiles, but that's where the similarity ends. With their unique dovetail jointing strip, Flex-trim profiles allow a permanent high strength bond to GRP laminate and are suitable for use with other liquid-laid and single-ply roofing systems.

Fast, easy bonding, with no top coat required

The Flex-trim bonding strip comprises a series of raised, inverted dovetail section strips. In its liquid state, the GRP laminate fills the gaps between these. When the laminate sets, the dovetail sections lock into the set laminate to provide a permanent bond. No top coat is required – and cellophane masking strips pre-

applied to the edge of the bonding strip, provide convenient overpaint protection for visible areas.

Manufactured to BS EN ISO 9001: 2000

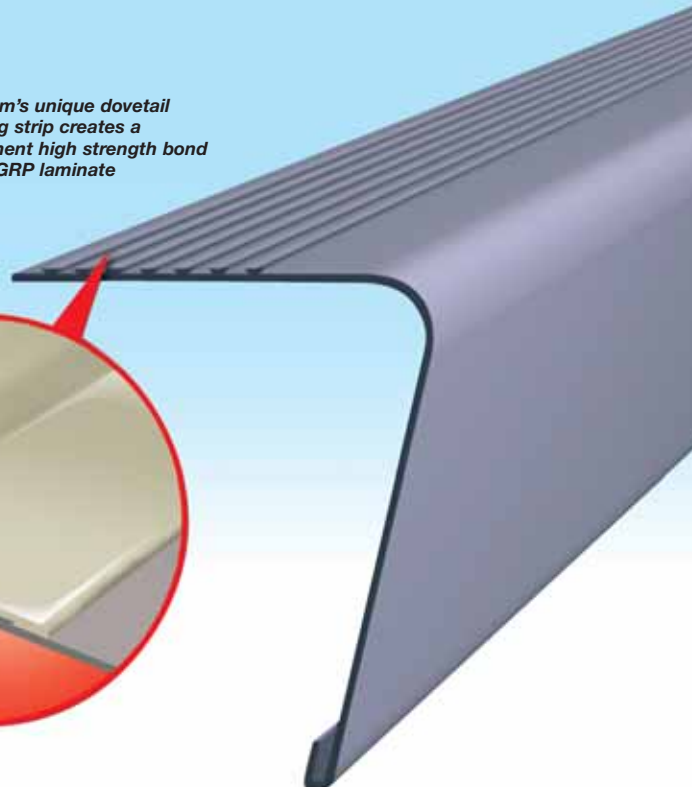
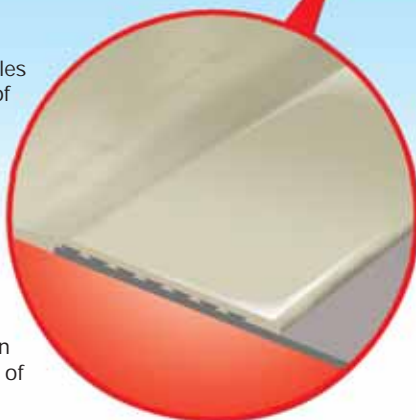
The Flex-trim manufacturing process ensures consistent profiles and colour matching. UV-stabilised colourfast uPVC is used for all profiles.

A complete range

There are four trim profiles to suit a wide range of applications. All are available as standard in lead grey. All except the simulated lead trim are also available in white. The trims are complemented by a range of integrated corner sections allowing easy installation in a wide range of configurations.

For more information, please visit www.filon.co.uk

Flex-trim's unique dovetail bonding strip creates a permanent high strength bond to the GRP laminate



TecnaFlex takes flat roofing to a new level

Introduced in 2004, FILON Products' patented TecnaFlex GRP flat roofing system is finding favour with installers and building owners. The TecnaFlex system has been installed on domestic homes as well as commercial and industrial buildings.

The TecnaFlex system employs a unique Mobile Anchor Plate (MAP) fixing mechanism, enabling movement in the roof covering to allow for expansion and contraction of the roof. This, together with the system's durable, long-life GRP roof covering, diminishes potential problems like splitting, crazing and blistering which can occur with other flat roofing systems.

Manufactured to BS EN ISO 9001

TecnaFlex sheets are manufactured at FILON's factory at its headquarters in Burntwood, Staffordshire, under a stringent quality system.

A fully integrated system and installation procedure

To ensure that the benefits of the TecnaFlex are fully realised, the

installation is controlled as part of the overall system. Only FILON trained roofing contractors are allowed to install the system.

Training is carried out at FILON's training school in Burntwood. The training involves theory and practical workshops, with hands-on demonstrations and guidance from the team that developed the system. Only after satisfactory completion of the course, are TecnaFlex installer ID cards issued.

Now... Flex-trim complements the TecnaFlex system

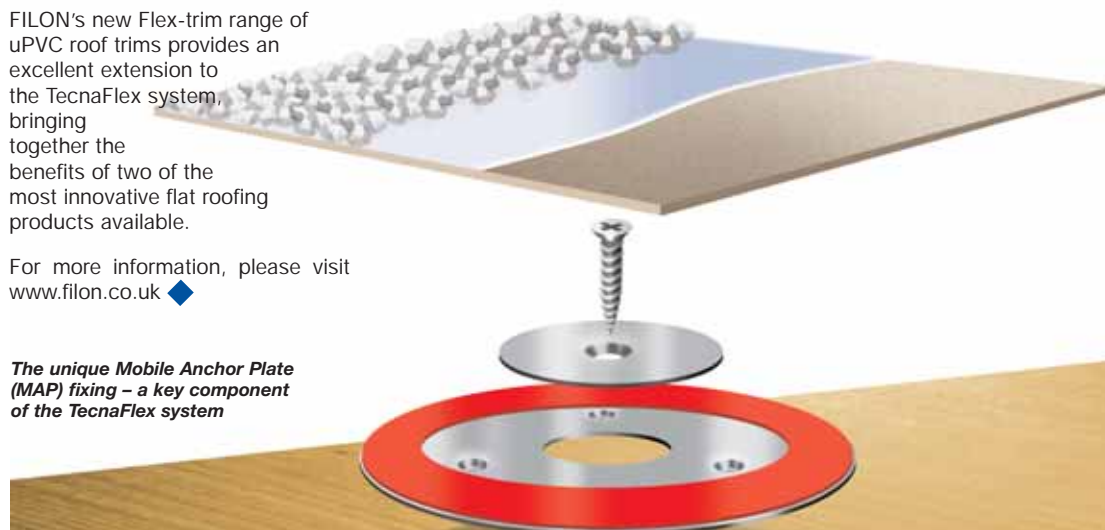
FILON's new Flex-trim range of uPVC roof trims provides an excellent extension to the TecnaFlex system, bringing together the benefits of two of the most innovative flat roofing products available.

For more information, please visit www.filon.co.uk ◆

The unique Mobile Anchor Plate (MAP) fixing – a key component of the TecnaFlex system



TecnaFlex installer training at FILON's training school in Burntwood



Fifty years of pioneering leadership in GRP rooflights, roofing and building products

1957

BIP Reinforced Products manufactures GRP sheets at Streetly, W. Midlands



The boiler house and resin deck at FILON's original factory at Streetly, November 1957

1965

GRP domestic house cladding developed and launched

1970

First use of GRP in solar panels

1981

Company began trading under the FILON Products name

1990

FILON Products became a wholly owned subsidiary of RTZ

1992

Introduction of Supasafe rooflights – a new benchmark in rooflight technology



Setting up the flying saw. November 1957



Royal Ascot, early 1960s. FILON GRP roof underlining used on the new grandstand



Jarrow Shipyard in the early sixties. Rooflights supplied by FILON



FILON canopy over garage forecourt, mid 1960s



FILON GRP cladding on domestic properties, mid 1960s



FILON product guide for sports facilities, late 1960s



FILON GRP solar panels, early 1970s



For the last 50 years FILON has been at the forefront of GRP innovation and technology. Since the middle of the 20th century, the company has pioneered many important ideas that we all take for granted today.

The initial launching of profiled GRP rooflights into the industrial, commercial and agricultural sector was extremely successful in the late 50's and early 60's and this led onto other innovations in GRP, including: garage doors; cladding for buildings, buses and other applications; internal linings for aeroplanes; specialist products for the North Sea oil industry; solar heating panels; summer houses; glass replacement; specialised sheeting for chemical and harsh environments; fencing; hoardings; canal linings; extraction hoods; road traffic signs; over-roofing systems; flat roofing systems and sporting stadia. The list goes on and on...

Changing with the times

As the Building Regulations have changed over the years, FILON has responded with innovative products and solutions including walk-on rooflights to comply with the CDM Regulations, rooflights with high insulation values, improved control of light diffusion, new GRP formulas to meet specific

1994

Management buyout

1995

FILON Plate – GRP sheet for traffic signs introduced

2002

Management buyout

2004

FILON moves to new premises in Burntwood, Staffs. TecnaFlex flat roofing system launched.

2005

Major investment in new plant increases production capacity

2007

Launch of Flex-trim, a revolutionary new system for the flat roofing industry

N AT O



One of the first indoor Crown Green Bowling centres featured FILON rooflights, early 1980s



FILON has provided products for the North Sea Oil industry over the last forty years



FILON took part in the 'Challenge Anneka' TV show in the eighties, providing rooflights for a riding centre



London's Kings Cross Station in the eighties. The canopy features FILON rooflights

demands such as colours or harsh environments, whether external or internal. FILON's unique TecnaFlex flat roofing system introduced in 2004, is another example of innovative use of GRP.

Evolution with continuity

FILON was initially BIP (British Industrial Plastics) which was a subsidiary of Turner and Newall. In 1990 FILON became a wholly owned subsidiary of RTZ.

Two subsequent management buyouts, one in 1994 and the other in 2002, have seen the company go from strength to strength with new products, new quality procedures and in 2004, a move to new premises in Burntwood, Staffs, allowing FILON to double its production capacity.

Despite all this change, there is a high level of continuity at FILON, allowing the company to draw on vast experience in GRP design and manufacturing. Many of the current management team have been with the company in excess of 30 years.

Today's FILON thrives on a unique combination of experience, innovation and energy, with an expanding range of high quality products and strong growth in the UK and export markets around the world.



FILON GRP site cladding near St. Paul's Cathedral, c.2000



Birmingham's Evening Mail, 1997



FILON rooflights at Twickenham Stadium



FILON rooflights provided daylight for restoration work at the Rosslyn Chapel, featured in Dan Brown's novel 'The DaVinci Code'

Roof refurbishment allows revised rooflight layout

At Schiedel Chimney Systems' factory in Wimborne, Dorset, the existing 1970s asbestos cement roof was in poor condition allowing water ingress in several areas, causing problems in the operational factory below.

The building also suffered from poor natural light levels, poor distribution of natural light and high heating costs.

Bournemouth-based Industrial Building Solutions Ltd, was called in to evaluate the requirements of the client and to propose a new roof specification to address the issues arising from the poor quality of the existing roof.

Andy Green of Industrial Building Solutions, takes up the story. "The water ingress problem led the client to address the longer-term problem of light levels in the factory. The original scatter pattern of single span rooflights were both poor in light diffusion and incorrectly

situated for the internal factory operations." He continued: "We designed a new multispan rooflight layout to maximise natural light. FILON's Filotherm factory assembled insulated rooflights were specified to achieve the required U-value."

An integrated system

Working in conjunction with the specified Corus Trisomet Composite roofing panels, this provided an integrated system, with both products incorporating a sealed side lap detail to provide a continuous vapour control layer to the soffit of the new roof and airtightness at the first line of contact.

In agreement with the client, the new roof envelope was registered under the Corus Platinum Scheme, providing a comprehensive guarantee covering materials and workmanship for long-term peace of mind. ♦



Work in progress at Schiedel Chimney Systems' Dorset factory.



FILON rooflight design saves time on site

FILON's Sun Modul Finesse polycarbonate rooflight system was specified for the extension to the Forres Garden Centre in Scotland.

Contractor AJ Engineering was looking to match a previous extension, but also for a system that was adaptable to facilitate hips and valleys with opening rooflights. The rooflight system was also

required to bond in to composite metal roofing sheets.

John Stewart of AJ Engineering chose the Sun Modul Finesse system because it met all these requirements and provided appropriate physical and light transmission characteristics for the project.

The system was delivered to site with glazing sheets, bars and clips

all cut to length to reduce sitework to minimise the potential for errors and save time on-site.

John Stewart of AJ Engineering commented: " Our installers are very impressed with the patented fixing mechanism of the system. It is extremely simple to use and has created significant time savings, allowing us to complete the project early."

The Sun Modul Finesse system comes in two widths, either 500cm or 1m and can be used on pitched or curved roofs with unsupported spans from 2m up to 8m.

For further information, call 01543 687300 for a brochure, or visit www.filon.co.uk. ♦

The patented fixing mechanism of the Sun Modul Finesse system allows fast, easy installation.



Sustainable manufacturing initiatives

FILON Products is committed to developing new, ecologically sustainable operations at its Burntwood factory. Recent investment has already resulted in energy savings estimated to be in the region of 50%, as well as other important benefits.

Filon is in the process of obtaining ISO14001 – the international standard for Environmental Management Systems.

Waste water recycling

One key area in which the company has made a significant impact on its environmental performance, is through the installation of a waste water recycling system for its manufacturing process.

FILON's manufacturing plant uses around 30,000 litres of water per day. Before the recycling plant was installed, this meant the factory was consuming around 7,200,000 litres per year – a significant drain on an increasingly precious commodity.

With the new recycling plant operational, this figure has been reduced by more than 95%.

Energy efficiency gains

Electrical drives operating various machinery within the FILON factory have been upgraded to frequency inverter drives, a well established technology designed to match the energy delivered, to the load. This creates huge energy savings in continuous processes like those used by FILON.

Perhaps even more significantly, the company has recently made another investment to reduce energy consumption. New FILON rooflights have been installed to increase light levels in the factory.

Practicing what we preach

Recent research by NARM, the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers, has revealed that rooflights make a positive contribution to reducing carbon

emissions, by reducing the requirement for electric lighting. By installing the new rooflights in the factory, FILON has made a major impact on the working environment in the factory, as well as further reductions in energy consumption.

Looking to the future

Reducing the environmental impact of its manufacturing operation is just one aspect of the company's far-reaching environmental policy.

FILON is also currently engaged in developing efficient ways to re-use and recycle its products, to minimise pressure on landfill sites.

New, more environmentally friendly processes are also under consideration.

After fifty years in business, the company hasn't lost its spirit of innovation. Watch this space... ♦



New rooflights in the FILON factory are making a contribution to energy saving

Long-life GRP solar panels

FILON Products was recently contacted by a Mr. Fry of Hertfordshire, who had noted a loss of heat generated by his FILON GRP solar panels installed in 1982.

Inspection of the panels revealed that the performance loss was due to a build-up of moss and lichen on the surface of the panels.

The panels were removed for cleaning and then given a new coat of epoxy resin. David Hathaway of FILON Products confirmed that following correct re-installation, the panels should continue to provide service at their original level of performance, for many years to come.

Needless to say, Mr. Fry was delighted and commented that his initial investment in the panels had been repaid over and over again...

CPD Seminars

To book or receive details on the following seminars please contact FILON's marketing department on 01543 687300.

- **TECNAFLEX FLAT ROOFING - THE WAY FORWARD**
- **ASBESTOS REGULATION AND THE BUILDING REGULATIONS PART L IN RESPECT OF REFURBISHMENT**
- **ROOFLIGHTS - THE NEW BUILDING REGULATIONS PART L, PLUS THE CDM REGULATIONS AND HOW THEY AFFECT ROOFLIGHTS**

BEWARE of FAKES

It has come to our attention that a company trading as Roofseal Systems Ltd of Grimsby, is selling a range of imported GRP flashings which they inferred were manufactured by FILON.

At no time have we provided this company with the product they have claimed to source from us.

If any of our readers have been approached by this company and have been given the impression that we supply them with FILON products, we would be grateful if they would advise us immediately.

We take our reputation very seriously and will act vigorously to protect our image and reputation. ♦

FILON - available nationwide at ABP

Amari Building Products (ABP) is a nationwide distributor for FILON Products.

ABP specialises in the supply of building plastics and associated products for all commercial and domestic building requirements.

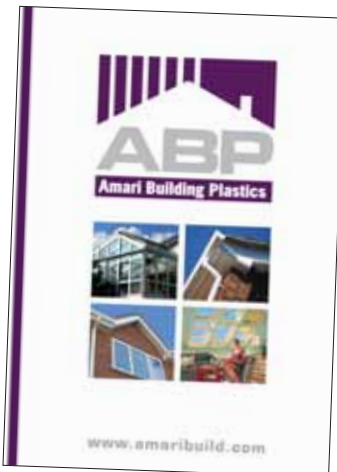
ABP's philosophy is to be your first and only source of building plastics, by offering a lot more than just a competitive price. For this reason, every ABP warehouse stocks an extensive and comprehensive range of products, sections and profiles that may be collected or delivered direct to customers' premises or site by one of ABP's fleet of vehicles.

ABP offers a complete line of products for roofing, drainage and guttering, as well as conservatories, glazing bars, roof vents, porches, windows, doors and more...

ABP sources its products only from reputable, proven manufacturers like FILON, to ensure quality and customer satisfaction.

The company's wide range of products is available nationwide through branches with friendly, helpful staff. ABP offers the knowledge and experience to help customers with selection, specification and application.

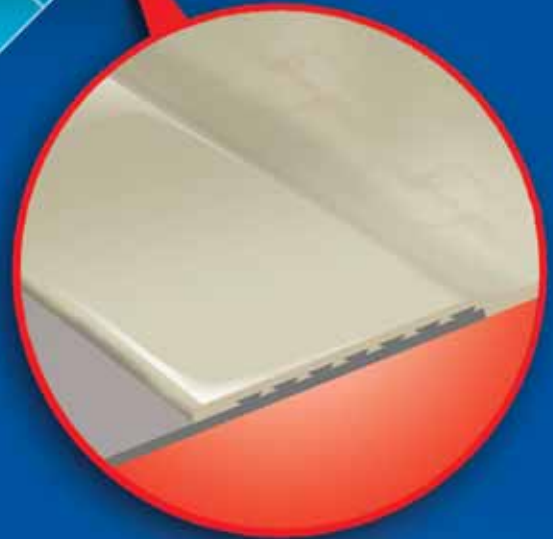
For further information, please visit amariplastics.com/amari/abp ♦



FILON Flex-trim

The uPVC trims you can use with GRP roofing!

NEW



Flex-trim* roof trims give you the best of both worlds. The high quality finish of uPVC, with the durability, longevity and cost-effectiveness of GRP roofing.

- Unique 'dovetail' bonding strip allows a permanent bond with GRP laminate
- No need to top coat
- Specially formulated uPVC for high strength bond with GRP
- Wide range of trims & corners
- High quality finish – colourfast and UV stable
- Quick, easy installation
- BS EN ISO 9001 quality managed

For details, call FILON Products now

01543 687300

* Patent applied for

FILON[®]

www.filon.co.uk