



**EASY TO APPLY . . .**  
give your flat roof a new lease of life with some tender loving care

# Preventing the leaks when the rain eventually starts to fall

STEPHEN SINFIELD



stephen.sinfield@burtonmail.co.uk

## ROOFIX 20/10

Various stockists — check [www.flagfinishes.co.uk](http://www.flagfinishes.co.uk) for details.

Available in grey, white and black in 5 litre and 20 litre tins. Average price around £45 for 5 litres.

**R**AIN is probably the last thing you're preparing for during this exceptionally warm Easter period — but taking action now could save you money in the long run.

Anyone who has a flat roof knows that they have a limited life span and so the time comes when its worth giving it some care and attention.

In a typical year flat roofs have to endure not only the scorching sun but also temperatures falling into minus double figures.

Not forgetting the occasional heavy-footed workman or window cleaner using the roof as a platform to reach higher levels.

My flat roof doesn't leak but it must be more than 15 years since it was first laid.



Cracks in the surface were starting to appear and I guessed it would only last another winter at the most before it started to leak.

Therefore during this warm spell I opted to treat it with Roofix 20/10.

Roofix is a non bitumastic elastomeric acrylic compound. Or for short, a heavy duty roof paint that adheres to any roofing material.

What makes Roofix so special and ideal for the DIY user is that it is cheap and easy to apply.

You don't have to use any special primers and it is applied cold — no need for tar burners or the like.

Unless you have tonnes of time on your hands, Roofix doesn't have to be physically painted on to the surface with a brush.

All I did was give the roof a quick sweep to remove loose dust and then tip the entire bucket on the roof.

Using a long handled (home-made) spreading device, I then just evenly distributed the product around the roof.

I only used a paintbrush when cutting-in where the roof surface joined the wall.

You can use anything to spread Roofix and although the product is easy to clean up using turps, I opted to dump my home-made spreader after application.

When you come to use Roofix you will notice that it is full of tiny hairline fibres.

These fibres are Draylon and help to reinforce the product making it more able to withstand harsh weathers and occasional footfall.

It really couldn't be easier to add a new lease of life to your roof. The company behind this product — Flag Finishes — estimate that it could add another 10 years to the life of your roof and if first impressions are anything to go by I would have to agree.

This isn't a watery-based waterproofer, this is a fairly thick fibre-based substance so allow for at least one litre of product per square metre of roof.

I used two 5 litre tins on my flat roof which covers a standard size bathroom and cloak room. One and a half tins was ample to cover the roof so I used the extra on areas I had highlighted as being potential leak zones in the future — areas where severe bubbling or cracking had taken place.

Application was so easy it took me less than an hour to complete the entire job. Plus I was lucky in that I had some great weather fit for the task.

If you're not graced with the sun like I was, fear not as Roofix can be applied in damp conditions and can be used to fix a leaking flat roof as well as to add new life to existing roofs.

A DIY job that will stand the test of time.



## weekender GADGETS

### KITCHEN DEVILS LIFESTYLE — KITCHEN SCISSORS

Average price £6.99  
[www.kitchendevils.co.uk](http://www.kitchendevils.co.uk)

Review by Stephen Sinfield

EVERY kitchen needs a pair and chances are every house has multiple pairs. If you are super organised you may even have pairs designed to suit specific tasks — I'm talking scissors.

Priced at a budget to suit most pockets, these Kitchen Devils scissors tick all of the boxes on my demanding checklist.

Are they dishwasher safe? — Yes. Are they guaranteed? — Yes for 10 years. Are they adjustable? — Yes with a centre screw.

Are they sharp?

Yes, extremely and a serrated edge on both blades makes cutting fish and meat easier. Are they hygienic? — Yes the handle is

moulded directly on to the blade to prevent germs breeding in the gap. Are they comfortable to use? — Yes the plastic handle is moulded to suit the contour of your thumb. Are they durable? — Yes with stainless steel blades.

With National Herb Week commencing next week, and Father's Day next month, these scissors make a superb addition to the kitchen or would make a nice homely gift.



## Security sales soaring

ACCORDING to Homebase, products such as alarms and bike locks have soared in popularity over the past week.

James Symonds, security buyer from Homebase said: "It's great to see our customers being cautious about protecting their properties and possessions over this busy time."

"Sales of electronic alarms have risen by 33 per cent and some ranges of cycle locks increased by 293 per cent last week compared to the previous week."

Home insurer Aviva has warned that lighter evenings lead to a rise in thefts from gardens, garages and sheds with 25 per cent more burglaries in British Summer Time. Jonathan Cracknell, household underwriter at Aviva said: "It's great to have some more sunlight and the chance to get out into the garden again, but that extra light also means that all those expensive power tools, bikes and golf clubs could now be on full show for everyone to see and your garden security is much more visible."

## HOLIDAYTALK

### Medical pack gets ready for sailing

LAST year I reviewed a handy first aid kit that contained just about every you could ever need on holiday.

The E-Pax medical travellers pack I looked at in August contained the usual array of plasters and bandages as well as creams for bites and stings, anti-diarrhoea pills and even the morning after pill.

It's great to see that this product has now gone back to the drawing board to contain even more products.

E-pax has now launched the first commercially available powerful medical pack designed for those who sail called 'e-pax sail', containing prescription medication and a choice of three strong anti-sickness treatments.

Plus E-pax offers the opportunity to tailor your first aid kit — the seasickness remedies are available in a variety of forms including patches, tablets that are swallowed or tablets that are placed between the gum and lower lip.

Depending on personal preference customers are able to choose which option will be included in the pack.

By initially completing a quick and simple medical questionnaire online, the packs are supplied within GMC (General Medical Council) and web prescription guidelines by a qualified doctor.

E-pax includes many treatments not available over the counter to treat the most common sailing-related injuries, including abrasions, rashes and burns.

The pack also contains treatments for severe diarrhoea, allergic reactions, fevers, infections (including eye and ear), pain, inflammation and prescription antibiotics and antibiotic creams, ear and eye drops and a kit to treat wounds.

A sealed syringe, sterile needles and butterfly infusion set are also included for use by qualified medical staff in an emergency.

E-pax co-director Dr Geoff Lewis, a trained practising medical doctor, said "The packs have proved very successful."

"My wife and I have had many requests for e-pax from people who are taking part in sailing days, or who regularly enjoy sailing holidays, so we decided to expand the pack designed especially for them including medication to effectively combat seasickness."

"The packs were constructed with our medical knowledge and are perfect as they provide access to medical backup whenever it is needed onboard or even at home."

□ E-pax costs £59.99 including UK postage without the morning after pill or £67.99 with. Anti-sickness medication is at additional cost, dependant on which option is chosen. E-pax can be ordered on-line at [www.e-pax.co.uk](http://www.e-pax.co.uk).

As the pack includes prescribed medication, a short online medical questionnaire and registration form needs to be completed to ensure the medication is suitable.

