FITTING GUIDE · ROOF LANTERNS

How to Install a Roof Lantern

An aluminium roof lantern floods a flat-roofed extension with light. SOVU lanterns are designed to go together quickly on a prepared upstand – here is how it is done.

Before you start: doors and large glazed units are heavy, and fitting them involves working at the structure of your home. These guides are written so you know what a good installation looks like. If you are not confident, use a competent builder or installer. Roof work brings extra risk – use proper access equipment, never stand on the glass, and check your roof structure and upstand with your builder.

Getting the upstand right

A roof lantern sits on a timber upstand (kerb) built on top of the flat roof. The opening at the top of the upstand must match the size of your lantern, and the upstand must be square and level – this is the single most important part of the job. Check the diagonals before the lantern arrives. See our roof lantern size guide for how lantern sizes relate to the upstand.

What you will need

- A cordless drill, tape measure, spirit level and angle finder
- M8 and M10 spanners or a ratchet
- Silicone and a sealant gun
- Stainless steel fixing screws (supplied)
- Two people and safe access to the roof

1. Build the ring beam

Take the upper cladding off the ring beam. Seal the back of each plastic corner moulding, fit it to its corner casting, and slide the ring beam sections onto the corners to make up the full frame.

2. Fix the ring beam to the upstand

Run a continuous bead of sealant along the outer edge of the upstand. Lower the ring beam onto it and check it is square and level, packing behind the corner connectors if the upstand is slightly out. Fix the corners down, then clip the upper cladding back on and fix the ring beam all the way round – about 100mm from each corner and at around 400mm centres.

3. Fit the ridge and hips

Bolt the four hips to the ridge ends and tighten them, then assemble the internal ridge end with its threaded bar and foam seal. Lift the whole ridge assembly into place, line the hips up with the ring beam corners and click them down. Pull up on each hip to check it has locked.

4. Install the glass

Fit an end profile to each glass panel. Place the panels so they sit centrally, with an equal gap each side of the hip bars, rest them on the eaves beam and lower the tops onto the frame to lock them in. Seal and fit the ridge end seals.

5. Caps and finishing

Drop the hip caps into place and tap them up level, seal over the ridge end seals and push on the ridge and hip end caps. Finish the roof covering up to the upstand and plaster the inside of the upstand to give a clean, flush finish.

Frequently asked questions

What size upstand do I need for a roof lantern?

The opening at the top of the upstand should match the lantern size you order, and the upstand must be square and level. Our roof lantern size guide explains how to work it out.

Can a roof lantern be fitted by a builder?

Yes. Our lanterns are designed for straightforward installation by a competent builder or roofer working from safe access.

How is a roof lantern fixed down?

The ring beam is sealed to the upstand and screwed down about 100mm from each corner and then at roughly 400mm centres with the stainless steel screws supplied.

Pick your roof lantern

Standard sizes with prices shown, or a made-to-measure size to suit your roof.

Questions about your order or fitting? Call 01924 929600 or visit sovu.co.uk/contact. This guide is online at sovu.co.uk/help-and-guides/how-to-install-a-roof-lantern/