



Topic		
Lead Time	Minimum of 3 months (plants are pre-grown in nurseries)	2 week lead time (typical extensive systems are planted with cuttings or plugs)
Maintenance	Can be initially less maintenance than built-in-place systems. Coverage will decline after installation as conditions are less ideal than in a nursery environment.	Initially more maintenance when established with plugs and cuttings, though similar when established with pre-vegetated mats.
Cost for typical 4" extensive system	\$13-20 per sq ft tray	\$9-\$15 per sq ft (which includes 8 maintenance visits over 2 years)
Waterproofing	Covering all areas of the waterproofing material can be more challenging, depending on the dimensions of a roof. In many cases, gaps expose areas of the membrane to the sun/weather which will shorten the life of the roof.	Built-in-place systems cover the entire surface of the waterproofing membrane, therefore preserving it and extending the life of the roof.
Design	Less design flexibility (ex: curves, irregular angles, pitches)	Complete design flexibility
Leak Detection	Same requirements	Same requirements
Retro-Fit Roofs	Plastic (non-biodegradable) tray systems are good for those who wish to have a green roof and will be retro-fitting existing roofs with older waterproofing membranes. Trays have the ability to be moved more easily than a built-in-place system. They are also convenient for DIY homeowners looking to build their own residential green roof system.	Ideally, a built-in-place system would last 40+ years by protecting the waterproofing membrane from UV and temperature fluctuations. We typically recommend this type of installation on a waterproofing membrane that is less than 3 years old to maximize the life of the roof.
Aesthetics	Trays almost always visible, edges do not conform to curved edges or sharp angles.	Continuous vegetation; edges of the roof are continuous, limitless design options with curved spaces, angles, and pitch.
Plant Health	Typically poorer plant health as plants cannot share the resources of water and nutrients as easily.	Time proven complete eco-systems where plants adapt to the microclimate conditions of the roof surface.
Product Quality	Many manufacturers will not warranty anything but the module and soil. Modules exposed to the sun on the edges are typically not warranties.	40-70 years experience in Europe and USA. Fully warranted plants and components as well as single source options.
Pitched Roofs	Not recommended – tray systems are likely to lose their shape or break apart on pitched roofs	Can be installed on almost any pitch