

Leaky Skylight Remediation Suggestions

Several lean-tos along the Maine AT have roofs with filon panels that serve as “skylights.” These are notorious for leaking. The following are some suggestions for how to remediate the problem. However, each lean-to likely has its own set of circumstances and challenges.

The following information about the lean-to roof will be needed prior to a repair. Pictures will likely be helpful.

- Corrugation pattern and size
- Thickness of the roofing material (not the filon); commonly 0.022 inches, if the lean-to was built after 1991, it may be 0.032 inches. All of the lean-tos with filon panels were built in the 1990’s.
- Dimensions of the filon panel

The general recommended fix is to place a section of aluminum roofing over the entire area. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Cut a replacement roofing piece that is at least 8 inches wider than the filon panel so it overlaps at least 2 full corrugations with the aluminum panels on each side. This might require cutting some nails in the roof cap because the new aluminum sheet would need to extend under the ridge to shed water properly.
- Use aluminum roofing nails, 2-3/4-inches in length or longer with a neoprene washer under the head of the nail. It is likely a 16d steel nail will be needed to punch holes through the 2 layers of roofing before driving the aluminum nail. Drive the nails through the ridges, not the valleys, and make a slight dent in the ridge of the roofing to assure a seal.

Roofing Material

Aluminum roofing is not commonly available and prices have increased significantly. From 1986 to 1996 roofing was purchased from Nessco in Manchester NH. Lester is researching a “galvalume” roofing from this company to see if it is an adequate replacement.

After 1986 most roofs have Nessco roofing with these specifications:

0.032 " thick, stucco, embossed, unpainted commercial corrugated 48.33" x length in feet.

Lester has a small amount of this roofing left over. He can be reached at 207-947-2723 or trailer@myfairpoint.net The lean-tos that have this type of roofing are:

Baldpate District
Baldpate Mountain
Sabbathday Pond

Bigelow District
Horns Pond

Kennebec District
Horseshoe Canyon
Bald Mt. Brook
West Carry Pond (?)

Whitecap District
East Branch
Carl Newhall (?)
Cloud Pond
Long Pond Stream
Big Wilson
Leeman Brook

Katahdin District
Rainbow Stream