CONCRETE CANVAS®
Concrete Impregnated Fabric...

INSTALLATION GUIDE:
SLOPE PROTECTION

ROAD  RAIL  AGRO  UTILITIES  PETROCHEM  MINING  DESIGN  OTHER

www.concretecanvas.com
Concrete Canvas® is part of a revolutionary new class of construction materials called Geosynthetic Cementitious Composite Mats (GCCMs). It is a flexible, concrete impregnated fabric that hardens on hydration to form a thin, durable, water proof and fire resistant concrete layer. Essentially, it’s concrete on a roll. Concrete Canvas® GCCM (CC) can be used to provide a hard wearing erosion control surface for rapidly protecting slopes, outfalls, spillways and over-toppings. CC is typically used as an alternative to conventional concrete, such as shotcrete, and where vegetated slopes are unsuitable due to the high flow rates, arid climate or poor soil conditions.

The following guide provides useful information for installers, customers and specifiers of CC as an overview of installation techniques for protecting slopes with CC. It should be used together with the other relevant guides such as the CC Jointing and Fixing Guide. The versatile nature of CC means that this document is not exhaustive and is intended for guidance purposes only.

Here are some key questions that you may need to consider before specifying or purchasing CC:

**Is the application Slope Protection or Slope Stabilisation?**

**Slope Protection**
Slope Protection is suitable for applications where the body of the slope is inherently stable but the surface of the slope is prone to erosion from weathering and surface slip. Typically this might be on a sandstone rock face such as in the CC Alcobendas Tunnel Station case study. Or on slopes constructed from a mixture of rock and soil, where rainfall causes loss of fines which then risks destabilising the slope, such as in the CC Cundinamarca Slope case study.

**Slope Stabilisation**
Slope Stabilisation is suitable for applications where the body of the slope is unstable and at risk of suffering from deep slip (where a large mass of the slope collapses). This may be caused by ground-water lubricating the soil or from other factors such as ground vibration. Conventional solutions include shotcrete, steel mesh and soil nails which are used to stabilise the slope by providing structural reinforcement. CC can substitute for the shotcrete component of this type of design for many projects but must be included as part of a solution designed by a qualified geotechnical engineer. A good example is the CC Karapiro Gully case study.

This guide focuses on slope protection, although a lot of the same techniques can be applied to slope stabilisation.
Which thickness?

CC is available in 3 thicknesses, CC5™ (5mm), CC8™ (8mm) and CC13™ (13mm).

- **CC5™**: is the standard thickness used for slope protection and is suitable for the majority of applications where surface water flow is from direct rainfall only.
- **CC8™**: should be considered for applications where the slope will be taking additional water run-off, for example on spillways and outfalls and the flow rate is below 8.6m/s.
- **CC13™**: should be considered where flow rates are above 8.6m/s or where the CC might be prone to impacts from debris or a high level of abrasion.

Which format?

CC is available as large bulk rolls (1.5 to 1.6T) or as smaller man-portable batched rolls (60 to 70kg). Installation is fastest using bulk rolls dispensed from a spreader beam (available for hire/purchase). For sites where heavy lifting equipment is not available or access is limited, the batched man-portable rolls should be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CC Type</th>
<th>Thickness (mm)</th>
<th>Roll Width (m)</th>
<th>Dry Weight (kg/sqm)</th>
<th>Batched Roll Coverage (sqm)</th>
<th>Batched Roll Length (m)</th>
<th>Bulk Roll Coverage (sqm)</th>
<th>Bulk Roll Length (m)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC5™</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC8™</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC13™</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which layup?

Standard practise is to lay CC vertically down the length of the slope (longitudinal) as this provides the fastest method of installation and allows each roll to be securely fixed at the crest of the slope. If a transverse layup is used, care should be taken to position the overlap in the direction of water flow (like shingled roof tiles).
Which fixing method?

CC should be securely fixed at the crest of the slope, with additional fixings used down the face for profiling or additional support as required. The following provides examples of suitable fixings for different substrates. For full details of jointing and fixing methods please see the CC User Guide: Jointing & Fixing.

To Soil: CC can be fixed to a soil substrate using pegs, an anchor trench, soil nails or ground anchors. The most common method of securing CC at the crest is using a combination of pegs and an anchor trench. Peg length and spacing should be determined based on the pull-out force requirement (e.g. self weight, water flow etc.), however typical spacing for a longitudinal layup is at every joint along the crest. It is particularly important to prevent water ingress between the CC and the substrate at the crest as this can lead to undermining. An effective means of sealing this top edge is by burying the exposed CC in an anchor trench; this also provides a neat aesthetic transition to the surrounding landscape.

To Concrete: CC can be fixed to a concrete substrate (such as a headwall) using conventional masonry fixings such as self tapping masonry bolts, wedge anchors and “Hilti” type nails. We recommend a minimum washer/head diameter of 15mm or a clamping bar for most fixings of this type to prevent pull-through.
To Rock: CC can be secured onto rocky substrates using rock bolts; the number and type of fixings should be selected based on the pull-out force requirement. A suitable head design should be selected to prevent stress concentrations. A minimum head diameter of 15mm is normally recommended and plates up to 150mm are often used. Large anchor plates should be circular where possible or have radiused corners to avoid stress concentrations.

Which jointing method?

A suitable jointing method should be selected based on the loading and water impermeability requirements of the project. The standard method of jointing for slope protection is to use a screwed joint which provides a good mechanical bond and sufficient impermeability for most slope protection applications. We recommend using stainless steel screws inserted at 200mm intervals along the overlap. The screws should be positioned between 30-50mm from the edge of the joint and applied prior to hydration or immediately afterward. The concrete within CC will then set around the thread of the screws. Please see the CC User Guide: Jointing and Fixing for more jointing methods.

If a higher level of impermeability is required (for example on an outfall) then a bead of sealant such as Clearfix can be applied in the overlap prior to screwing. If screws are not suitable (for example if laying on a geomembrane) then an adhesive sealant such as Clearfix or a concrete mortar joint may be used.
1. Ground Preparation

CC will conform closely to the underlying surface contours of the slope. For slopes with a high degree of surface undulation it is recommended to grade the slope if possible, to reduce voids from forming between CC and the substrate. Where it is not possible to grade the slope, voids can be reduced by profiling with suitable fixings. For the best results it is also recommended that loose soil, vegetation, soft ground and protruding rocks are removed.

2. Fixing and Laying CC

The fastest and easiest method of laying CC is using bulk rolls hung from a spreader beam. If access for heavy lift plant equipment is limited, batched rolls may be used. The procedure for laying bulk and batched rolls is the same.

When laying the CC ensure that the fibrous surface of the CC is facing upwards and the PVC membrane is in contact with the ground. For longitudinal (vertical orientation) layup the CC should first be secured at the crest of the slope, using one of the methods described above, and then unrolled down the length of the slope.

3. Positioning and Profiling CC

When positioning subsequent CC rolls, ensure that there is at least a 100mm overlap between layers and that all overlaps are in the direction of water flow (primarily for transverse layups). CC may need to fixed down the face of the slope for profiling or to provide additional support. It is preferable to locate fixings along the overlaps where possible, hydrating under the overlap first.

4. Hydrating CC

Once positioned, CC should be hydrated by spraying with water (sea water may be used). Spray the fibre surface with water until it feels wet to touch for several minutes after spraying. An excess of water should be used as CC cannot be over hydrated (minimum ratio of water:CC is 1:2 by weight). Re-spray the CC again after 1 hour if installing CC5™, installing on steep slopes or installing in warm climates. It is important to ensure that overlapped and anchor trenched sections are hydrated. Refer to the CC Hydration Guide for instructions on the correct hydration procedure. Please note that you should not rely on precipitation to hydrate the material.
5. Jointing CC

The fastest and easiest method of jointing is using stainless steel screws at 200mm spacing. These can be applied using an auto-fed collated screw driver, suitable collated screws are available from Concrete Canvas® Ltd. If a screwed joint is not appropriate, for example where a higher level of impermeability is required, please refer to the CC User Guide: Jointing and Fixing.

6. Setting

Once hydrated, CC remains workable for approximately 1-2 hours in a UK climate. In warm climates, working time may be reduced. CC will harden to 80% of its 28 day strength in 24 hours and is ready for use.

7. Maintenance

In the right conditions, CC will naturally ‘green’ over time with moss and blend in with the environment. The surface can also be painted with a suitable masonry paint if required.
Concrete Canvas® GCCM Physical Properties*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Thickness (mm)</th>
<th>Mass (unset) (kg/m²)</th>
<th>Density (unset) (kg/m³)</th>
<th>Density (set) (kg/m³)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC5™</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>+30-35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC8™</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>+30-35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC13™</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>+30-35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concrete Canvas® GCCM Material Data**

**Concrete Canvas® GCCM Physical Properties***  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Length direction (kN/m)</th>
<th>Width direction (kN/m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC5™</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC8™</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC13™</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Post Set Concrete Canvas® GCCM Properties**

Based on Concrete Canvas GCCM® hydrated in accordance with the Concrete Canvas® Hydration Guide.

**Strength**

Very high early strength is a fundamental characteristic of CC. Typical strengths and characteristics are as follows:

- **Compressive tests based on ASTM C109 – 02 (initial crack)**
  - 10 day compressive failure stress (MPa) 40

- **Bending tests based on BS EN 12467:2004 (initial crack)**
  - 10 day bending failure stress (MPa) 3.4
  - 10 day bending Youngs modulus (MPa) 180

**Reaction to Fire**

- CC has achieved Euroclass B certification: BS EN 13501-1:2007+A1:2009
  - B-s1, d0
- CC has achieved MSHA approval:
  - 30 CFR, Part 7, Subchapter B, Section 7.24

**Pre-Set Concrete Canvas® GCCM Properties**

**Setting**

- Working Time
  - 1-2 hours subject to ambient temperature
  - CC will achieve 80% strength at 24 hours after hydration.

**Method of Hydration**

- Spray the fibre surface with water until it feels wet to touch for several minutes after spraying.

**Re-spray the CC again after 1 hour if:**

- Installing CC5™
- Installing on a steep or vertical surface
- Installing in warm climates

**Notes:**

- CC cannot be over hydrated and an excess of water is always recommended.
- Minimum ratio of water:CC is 1:2 by weight.
- Do not jet high pressure water directly onto the matting as this may wash a channel in the material.
- CC can be hydrated using saline or non-saline water.
- CC will hydrate and set underwater.
- CC has a working time of 1-2 hours after hydration. Do not move the material once it has begun to set.
- Working time will be reduced in hot climates.
- CC will set hard in 24 hours but will continue to gain strength for years.
- If CC is not fully saturated, the set may be delayed and strength reduced. If the set is delayed, re-wet with a large excess of water.

**Contact Concrete Canvas® Ltd.**

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