

Safer places of Worship

Roofs and Fall Pipes

Access to the roof is often relatively easy due to large cast-iron fall pipes and purpose built fixed iron ladders. Measures can easily be taken to prevent access. Anti-climb paint can be applied to fall pipes starting at least eight feet above ground level. This type of paint does not dry and is very slippery. Barbed wire and anti-climb devices can also be fitted to fall pipes above this height.

Advertise the fact that you have used anti-climb paint and barbed wire - not only will this highlight potential dangers but will also act as a good deterrent. Any fixed ladders should have the first rung well above the height of an average person and a section of at least five feet should be protected by a padlocked, hinged metal cover.

Low level roofs can also present problems. Barbed wire, barbed tape or roller devices can be fitted to deter the criminal or vandal and deny access. These must be fitted well out of reach to prevent accidental injury, usually above 8 feet from the ground, and signs posted warning of possible dangers. The above measures can also be used where parapets exist.

When using anti-climb paint :

- Prior to painting, all surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned to remove loose rust, scale and dirt.
- If used on absorbent materials, e.g. brick, stone or concrete, a sealer should first be applied.
- The paint should be applied at least one eighth of an inch thick.
- Paint may require periodic renewal, particularly in dusty areas or where leaves may blow.

[For details of anti climb paint manufacturers visit our church alert website](#)