

FLAMMABILITY OF GREEN FACADES

Green facades are increasingly being used not only for aesthetic purposes but also to promote biodiversity, retain water, and reduce heat. However, vegetation is flammable and can pose risks. While the risk is often limited, there are situations where a green facade increases the fire hazard.

Fire tests conducted by ITB in Warsaw showed that most green facades burn well. Although wet plants are harder to ignite than dry ones, they dry out quickly during a fire and still catch fire. Notably, even the soil was found to be flammable due to organic material.

Moreover, the construction of the green facade has a greater impact on flammability than the plants themselves. Mounting systems, such as plastic trays or felt pockets, contain flammable materials and create a cavity where heat accumulates and spreads. This risk increases if insulation material is present.

In summary, it is not the vegetation itself but the mounting system that poses the greatest fire risk. Therefore, in projects involving green facades and walls, it is essential to conduct a thorough risk assessment.