

Conservatories – Take Time To Avoid Misalignment Problems



When specifying and installing a conservatory you have to ensure that the perimeter frames are not only laterally and diagonally correct but are also plumb and level, writes Don Waterworth - or misalignment will be the consequence

The attached Photograph shows a jack rafter which has been filled with silicone due to the perimeter frames of the conservatory (L shaped on plan), being misaligned.

It is a common error by installers that lateral and diagonal dimensions are not checked when the perimeter frames are fitted and that additionally, 90 degree internal corners are not checked to be true.

A consequence of not putting the time in to ensure that the perimeter frames are not only laterally and diagonally correct but

are also plumb and level, is that when the roof is set in place, serious misalignment can then show.

This was the case with this conservatory in Essex that I inspected.

The perimeter frames and hence the roof, were so misaligned that not only were many of the rafters and jack rafters siliconed in place but also a number of the d/g segmented units at the valleys above the front pike were misaligned and indeed short, allowing extensive water ingress to

enter the conservatory.

In fact, the conservatory was flooded internally on a regular basis. The upshot was that the roof had to be removed and replaced.

Prior to these works, the perimeter frames had to be suitably re-fixed and realigned. It cost the installer all the profit and more on top along with reputational damage.

So make sure your installers are made aware of the importance of correct perimeter frame alignment as the consequences can be very costly. [i](#)