



FLENTROP ORGELBOUW B.V. – ZAANDAM

Protocol for Protection Against Construction Dust

Construction work is often planned in a space where an organ is located. Flentrop's advice about protective measures is often sought in those instances. We use the following protocol in these cases.

Dirt

Over the course of the years, a considerable amount of dust drops into an organ.

The airflow inside the case is slower than outside the case, so dust can settle inside the case. These are usually fibres and flakes that form a felt-like layer. This dust, fibre dust, has to be removed every 20 or 30 years. The particles of fibre dust are long and have a low specific gravity. This means they do not easily end up in clefts and small linguals because of their length and they can be easily blown out or away thanks to their relative lightness.

Construction dust

Dust caused by construction work has a different structure. The material is almost round and has a high specific gravity. It often comes from stone and cement. The variation in particle size is considerable: both very fine dust and larger grains occur. It is surprising time and time again to see how much dust can fall into an organ case in a short time. This construction dust threatens the functioning of the organ and has to be removed immediately.

Responsibility

Because the situation often changes during construction, because as a rule the organ maker is not generally there during construction, and because the best museum-type circumstances or adequately careful work atmosphere do not always prevail during construction, Flentrop does not in theory bear the responsibility for the protection of an organ. During construction, a contractor is present, and knows what is going on at the construction site. Damage to protection can occur during a construction process that the contractor can identify more quickly when it is his responsibility. There might even be no damage at all if the party causing the dirt is faced with the prospect of a fine.

Measures

Good protection against dust consists of two layers of completely sealed plastic that is kept under slight pressure. A small ventilator with a dust filter can be used for this. That ventilator does have to continue to function the entire construction period, also during hours when no one is working. The dust filter must be cleaned, replaced and checked regularly. The proper filter must also be used. The contractor himself should know what kind of dust he could cause and which filter provides adequate protection. Once the construction work has been finished and the dust has settled, the outer layer of plastic can be carefully cleaned and removed. Experience has shown that a sizable dust cloud can be caused. After a week, the second layer is cleaned and removed.

If mechanical damage is also an imminent threat, it is crucial to build an outer crate that protects the organ in this sense as well. The plastic can then be placed over it. It must not happen that the organ is touched by the plastic. Adhesive tape damages paintwork and front pipes, abrasion by the layers of plastic scratches the pipe work.

RECOMMENDATION

- Take the matter seriously and do not listen to people who tell you not to worry about it.
- Construction dust and fibre dust cannot be lumped together: existing dirt is not a reason to decide against protection against construction dust.
- Include a clear penalty clause in the contract with contractor(s). Make sure that not only any damage is compensated, but also include an amount in addition to that.
- Use a double layer of plastic.
- Always stay free of the organ.