

Press release

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Salaojakympit and Vesivek merge under one company name

Forming a one-stop-shop for important repairs to manage external moisture

Kimmo Riihimäki, CEO of Vesivek Group, tells us that people are very aware of indoor air issues and their root causes these days. They want to have a controlled system for removing water not only from the roof but also from around the house and under its foundation.

- Single-family houses form a significant part of our national wealth. Unfortunately, many of these homes suffer from moisture accumulating into structures from the ground, which causes mould, indoor air issues and other such damage. Problems caused by moisture transferred from the ground are often elusive and more difficult to detect than those arising from leaking roofs. Now, our company is equipped to help the owners of older houses with these issues, too - subsurface drainage repairs are a natural addition to our service offering, Riihimäki says.

In Finland, subsurface drainage started to gradually increase in popularity in the 1970s and it was added to the building code in the 1980s. However, it took until the 21st century for people to truly understand the importance of subsurface drainage for the health of the house. Therefore, many old subsurface drainage systems are insufficient, clogged or at the end of their technical service life. According to Statistics Finland, approximately 420,000 single-family houses were built in Finland in the 1970s and 80s. This means that a large number of houses are due for subsurface drainage renovation. So, there is a lot of work to be done.

The merger benefits both the industry and consumers

Salaojakympit is a Finnish company that specialises in subsurface drainage repairs of single-family houses. It is a pioneer in the field. **Vesivek** is a market leader in developing gutters and rainwater systems, roof safety products and roof renovations. With this merger, Vesivek will bring new know-how and experience in customer-oriented delivery processes to the field of subsurface drainage renovation.

- "We saw great potential in the expertise of Salaojakympit's employees, and this is why we decided to expand our service offering to its field, which has thus far been fragmented and mainly run by small companies. Combining Salaojakympit's human resources with Vesivek's conceptual knowledge, we will drive a significant development leap for the entire industry," says Riihimäki.
- "Vesivek has served over 250,000 Finnish house owners in the course of its 40-year history. After the merger, our existing customers in the **Kuopio, Kokkola, Vaasa, Seinäjoki, Jyväskylä, Tampere** and **Uusimaa** regions can rely on their familiar partner when their property needs a subsurface drainage renovation," says **Timo Kautto**, who is in charge of the subsurface drainage business at Vesivek.

Kautto reminds us that in the 1970s, builders did not fully understand the risks related to false stem walls and low foundations. In the 1980s, strong economic growth resulted in a single-family house building boom in Finland: fields and even boglands were zoned into small house districts, and there was no discussion whatsoever on moisture-related issues. Many houses built in these decades have insufficient subsurface drainage, which causes moisture stress on the base floor structures. In addition, even if subsurface drainage was implemented, it has often been left practically unmaintained.

Having the roof, rainwater systems, subsurface drainage and foundation moisture-proofing in proper condition protects your home from external moisture. In the future, you can have all of these vital elements provided and repaired by a single service provider.

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Following the merger, the Vesivek Group is the biggest roofing, gutter, roof security and subsurface drainage service provider in the Nordic countries, with net sales of €115 million and approximately 800 employees.