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Re-Sealing Shingles

Technical **I**nformation **S**heet # 119

To Whom It May Concern:

There are numerous reasons or possibilities why the shingles on roofs no longer are sealed or blow off. For example, high winds and/or gusts, temperature swings giving rise to expansion and contraction of the roof deck, roof configuration and improper application of the shingles, all adversely affect the long-term performance of the sealant.

Shingles will seal if there is ambient warm temperature, however, once a seal is broken, they will not seal down with the same strength as when they were first applied. After several cycles of seal breakage and resealing, dust and dirt contamination, there is very little adhesion left, from the factory applied sealant.

If the shingles were installed correctly, the recommended industry procedure as developed by ARMA (Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association), is handsealing the shingles.

Handsealing is manually checking and lightly lifting each shingle to check to see if the factory applied sealant has bonded and is adhering securely. If the shingle is not sealed or breaks loose very easily, follow the Handsealing instructions on the next page to re-seal the shingles.

Sincerely,

Technical Service Department
Roofing Products Group

Handsealing Instructions

If possible, choose a sunny day for the hand sealing of asphalt shingles. The sun will help to warm the shingles so that they may be lifted just high enough to allow for application of the cement and then be pushed back into place without damaging the shingles.

Asbestos-Free Asphalt Roof Cement (ASTM D4586) should be used for sealing the shingles. Asbestos-free cements meeting the performance requirements of Federal Specification SS-C-153C, Type I, or ASTM D2822 are acceptable. Examples of 10 acceptable cements are:

DAP “Blacktite”,
Sika Sikaflex 221 ,
Gibson Homans “Black Jack 2172”,
Karnak “AR-Elastocalk” (an asphalt-rubber elastomeric caulk), Karnak “No. 81”,
Maaco “Roof Repair RR-808”,
Monsey “MBA Gold”, Monsey “MB Roof Cements”,
Rely-On “Black Roof Cement”,
Tapco “2100 Flashing and Adhesive”

In cool weather, the cement should be stored in a heated area so it can easily be applied. The cement may be applied with a caulking gun, if tubes are used, or with a small trowel or putty knife if used from a pail.

The amount and position of the cement are typically the most important features for a good seal. Seal the tabs carefully by lifting the tab just high enough to apply two spots of cement, each about the size of a quarter (twenty-five cent piece), near the corner of each tab. The spots should be located so that when the tab is pressed into place, the cement reaches the tab edge but is not exposed. **Caution: avoid excessive use of cement so as to prevent the formation of blisters or a lumpy appearance on the roof.**

To make certain that all tabs are sealed, decide upon a predetermined pattern of sealing before starting the job. A recommended pattern to follow in sealing three tab shingles is to start at one rake or hip of the roof, and beginning at the eave, seal three tabs. Then seal the three tabs of the course above it, and continue in this manner until the ridge or hip is reached. Repeat this procedure starting at the eave with three tabs adjacent to the one just sealed. Continue until all tabs are sealed.

WARNING: Roofing activity can be dangerous. All necessary precautions and safety guidelines should be observed in accordance with proper roofing trade practices and regulations.