

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## FOR TARGET MARKET ROOFING



BUILDING TRUST



**Subject: New Roof Membrane Installation During a Tear-off of Existing Asphalt/Coal Tar Type Roof 21-02**

Sarnafil and Sikaplan membranes are manufactured with a factory applied acrylic topcoat. This unique feature keeps the membrane cleaner than most alternative thermoplastic membranes during and after construction. However there may be times where additional protection may be appropriate to keep the membrane clean such as when installing a new Sika roof system during a tear-off. There is the possibility for tear-off dust, debris and other contaminants to accumulate on, and soil, the surface of the new roof membrane. Heavy dust, debris and contaminants must be cleaned from the new roof membrane surface daily and before the final inspection.

Following are two options that may be used to protect the new roof membrane.

### **Protective Sheet**

Loose lay a thin polyethylene sheet or asphalt free tarpaulin over the new roof membrane that is adjacent to the tear-off area. Use temporary ballast to hold in place. The membrane area to be covered will depend on the size of tear-off area and the wind direction. The protective sheet may be used multiple times, as the tear-off work progresses.

Factory applied films may leave adhesive residue on the membrane which can attract and retain construction dust. The loose lay protective sheet is a cost-effective method to protect the membrane while also eliminating the possibility of any adhesives transferring to the new roof membrane.

Reusable products is also an environmentally sound method of protecting the membrane, effectively eliminating waste equal to the square footage of the roof surface covered that results from factory laminated films.

### **Temporary Roof**

Installing a temporary roof enables the tear-off to take place before the installation of the new roof system. The existing roof system is removed down to the structural deck or acceptable substrate. The substrate is properly prepared to receive a temporary roof. With certain substrates such as a steel or wood deck, a board is mechanically attached before installing the temporary roof. The temporary roof is installed using the appropriate Sika supplied vapor retarder/ temporary roof. Sika offers several temporary roof options depending on the application and anticipated exposure. Please refer to our Vapor Retarder Selection Guide, found on our web site in the Download section – Product Selection Guides. The temporary roof must be clean, dry, and properly secured to the substrate before installing the new roof system.

## **Precautions and Recommendations**

The contractor should develop a roof plan noting the building heights, if more than one level, and the project start location, loading and staging areas, dumpster locations, and direction of the prevailing winds.

Tear-offs should start on the highest elevation and the dumpster and staging areas should be located to minimize traffic over the completed roof areas.

Crew members working on the newly installed membrane shall have asphalt free work boots. Areas with asphalt dust should be swept as soon as practical with a soft bristle broom, and at a minimum at the conclusion of the days works or before rain fall.

Everyone working on the roof should be aware of the issues with asphalt contamination. The general contractor or project manager shall inform all trades who will work on the need to protect the finished roof system.