

To: GenFlex Distributors
GenFlex Roofing Contractors

December 2002

EPDM COLD WEATHER APPLICATION TIPS

Cold weather application presents several unique problems during the construction of a roofing system. For EPDM systems, the issues range from membrane factory folds to the proper storage and handling of adhesives and sealants. This bulletin is intended to provide you with some helpful tips on how to install EPDM during cold weather conditions.

EPDM Membrane

EPDM panels that are larger than 16' 8" are folded and rolled up in order to package the product onto 10' wide cores. These factory folds will be determined by the width of the EPDM panel. For example: 20' sheets are folded once, 30' sheets are folded twice, 40' sheets are folded three times and 50' sheets are folded four times. These folds create creases and/or wrinkles in the panels. During the colder months the factory folds will not relax and lay flat. This condition is related to the inherent characteristics of "cold" EPDM and is normal throughout the industry. Consider using smaller panels which will reduce the amount of factory folds during cold weather applications.

It is recommended that GenFlex 16'8" "No-Fold" EPDM panels be used for all Fully Adhered applications during cold weather conditions.

In addition to using smaller widths, allow the membrane to relax as long as possible after it has been unrolled. This will help the membrane to normalize or try to return to its original flat condition. It will also allow the material to absorb any available heat from the sun which helps the normalization process. Electric hand held hot air guns can be used to apply moderate heat to the creases and/or wrinkles to try to return to its original flat condition.

Any fold wrinkles within the membrane seaming area must be addressed so as not to create "fish mouths" in the completed seam area. This applies to all types of seams including splices, laps and cover strips. The need for T-joint covers or patches must be determined on a case by case basis by the installing contractor and is based on the quality of the field seam through the fold area.

Adhesives and Sealants

Solvent based adhesives and sealants should be stored in a heated or warm storage area (above 60°F) prior to use. This will allow the adhesive to be mixed and applied properly in accordance with GenFlex Technical Specifications. As the materials begin to cool, it is recommended that they be replaced with new material from the heated storage area.

Please note that water based bonding adhesives should never be stored in temperatures below 32°F (0°C). Water Based adhesives that have frozen should not be used and must be discarded properly.

The above statements are intended to assist in the application of GenFlex EPDM membranes and accessories. Please consult GenFlex current technical specifications for additional information or contact GenFlex Technical Department at 1-800-443-4272.