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Vented Base Sheets

Occasionally situations occur that seem to indicate the need for using a venting base sheet over a particular substrate where the possibility of residual moisture may exist. Many inquiries are made regarding torch application directly to various substrates using a perforated type base sheet.

Perforated base sheets designed for spot application do not provide sufficient wind uplift resistance for many applications and BITEC does not recommend their use.

BITEC's policy about the use of spot attached venting base sheets has been to limit their use only to occasional situations where there was no other good alternative and then only with prior approval from the Technical Services Department. It was never intended that this method be used on a large scale, but rather to accommodate an occasional specific situation on a small-scale basis where wind uplift was not likely to be a factor.

BITEC does not manufacture any vented base sheets. When necessary, other manufacturer's venting type base sheets or other products approved by BITEC, may be used to provide a venting strata.

In situations where wind uplift resistance is critical, these products **should not be used** as a method of direct attachment. For that matter, direct attachment by mop or torch to any existing substrate, especially in re-roof situations is not recommended. Mechanical attachment is always the preferred method,

with certain exceptions that require prior approval by the Technical Services Department. With some applications, strip mopping to an existing substrate may be allowed provided certain conditions are met. Always contact the Technical Services Department when these situations occur. **Never assume** that a similar "unusual situation" will receive the same approval as a previous one. Strip mopping with good results will only result in approximately 50% adherence.

While spot torched application will not provide the necessary wind uplift resistance required in many situations, it can be used when conditions dictate it, only on a limited basis with prior approval by the Technical Services Department. Any existing substrate contamination, even with priming and other preparation could reduce the attachment required to provide a successful application. The percentage of adherence will depend on the spot torched pattern used.

In too many instances, inquiries from distributors, owners, architects and contractors are ignoring any wind uplift considerations. Even though BITEC membrane warranties do not cover damage from windstorm or other system components, good roofing practice does require consideration for wind uplift resistance. We owe it to our customers to remind them of these considerations.