

Blueskin® Compatibility Issues

We are frequently asked about compatibility issues when Blueskin® is placed in contact with various membranes, gaskets and sealants.

PVC

Generally, contact with Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) based membranes and gaskets should be avoided.

If the asphalt side of the Blueskin® is placed in contact with PVC, the plasticizers in the PVC is attracted to the asphalt. The plasticizer then renders the asphalt very plastic or liquid, to the point where the asphalt can become liquid and flow.

This reaction is accelerated by an increase in temperature.

Also, avoid contact with the blue side as there is still the issue of bitumen / PVC contact with the sheet edge or if penetrated by fasteners.

Examples of PVC materials: gaskets used by the window industry such as General Polymers Geon 8700x, "Duradek" vinyl deck membrane, PVC roofing membranes such as manufactured by Sarnifil.

Effects of the new breed of PVC membranes such TPO are not known at this time. Best practice is to avoid contact until further notice.

Sealants

Most sealants contain a solvent vehicle which will soften the bitumen side of the Blueskin® and can cause sealant discolouration. Even silicone sealants which are basically solvent free have shown discolouration over prolonged periods.

Sealant contact with the Blue side does not affect the Blueskin® adversely. The issue is bond strength to the blue polyethylene surface. Our experience has been best with asphalt based products such as POLYBITUME® 570-05, butyl and polyurethane sealants. However, contact with bitumen edge will result in discoloration.

Conditions to avoid: Placing Blueskin® over fresh/wet sealant can cause softening of the bitumen and potentially result in slippage. If the sealant is on a substrate of low permeability such as metal, the sealant will try to cure through the Blueskin® and can cause the membrane to wrinkle.
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