

TECHNICAL

WATERPROOFING

bi·tu·men *Mixtures of hydrocarbons and other substances, occurring naturally or obtained by distillation from coal or petroleum, that are a component of asphalt and tar and are commonly used for waterproofing.*

We are frequently asked questions related to the compatibility of Tuff vinyl membranes with various products used in the construction industry. One of the more common questions relates to compatibility with other roofing or waterproofing materials such as SBS modified bitumen used for flat roofing, asphalt shingles used in slope roofing or Bitumen based adhesive flashings used for transitions at walls and upstand tie-in's.

PVC and BITUMEN

Direct contact between PVC membranes and formulations of products containing bitumen or tar should be avoided at all times. PVC membranes should not come in contact with the asphalt or the protective film side of any bitumen based products as the plasticizers in the PVC could interact with the asphalt, and as temperatures rise, cause the bitumen to liquefy.

Indirect contact at areas of exposure due to fastener penetration or water run off must be avoided as long term exposure to contaminated water run off containing bitumen residue can cause plasticizer deterioration. We also advise removing any tar contaminated granules from laminated shingles from the PVC surface immediately to avoid them from melting into the vinyl surface. The results of contamination are not only limited to the liquid bitumen causing an appearance issue on the surface of the PVC but when bitumen stays in contact with PVC membranes, the bitumen will pull plasticizers from the membrane causing discoloration and rigidity in the film which can reduce the service life and cause premature failure of the product.

