

TECHNICAL NOTE 2000.1

LIGHTGUARD®/HEAVYGUARD® Roofing On Coal Tar Roof Membranes

Necessity is the mother of invention. The protected membrane roof was invented because the coal tar was leaking through deck openings into a building and damaging product stored there. In 1952, John Best of The Dow Chemical Co. created the first experimental LIGHTGUARD® Roof when he placed Styrofoam® coated with mortar over the coal tar on the roof and stopped this drip of the coal tar. Twenty-one years later, the roof coated with Styrofoam was still performing like new.

Today, 56 years after John Best's experiment, LIGHTGUARD still performs the same function of keeping coal tar from moving on the roof and leaking into the building or drains.

LIGHTGUARD can be placed directly over old or new coal tar membranes. A coal tar BUR membrane covered with LIGHTGUARD is one of the most trouble free systems available. Several older coal tar roofs had insulation up-grades by covering the roof with LIGHTGUARD in the late 70's and are still performing today. Many new roofs were built with coal tar BUR and LIGHTGUARD top covering during the same era, that have had no problems. The coal tar BUR and LIGHTGUARD roof has been the only roof specification of several architects, because their customers have no problems with this roof.

Coal tar is a substitute for Type 3 asphalt in all of our BUR specifications. There are a few unique requirements for coal tar:

1. Coal Tar BUR. Slope is limited to ¼" per foot.
2. The membrane must be covered with a minimum 4mil polyethylene bond breaker sheet, and LIGHTGUARD should not be placed over recently re-saturated coal tar without these precautions.
3. If the existing insulation beneath the coal tar BUR membrane is greater than R-10 have the T. Clear Tech department check the amount of insulation required over the membrane to achieve membrane temperature stabilization.

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