

TECHNICAL NOTE 97.15

VEGETATION CONTROL ON PROTECTED MEMBRANE ROOFING SYSTEMS

Protected Membrane Roof Insulation systems require periodic inspection and maintenance to assure optimum performance and appearance. It is extremely important to keep the roof and drains free of debris. The media necessary for the germination of ugly vegetation, with rotting of leaves and constant barrage of blowing grit on the roof surface, can be abundant in the cracks and crevices of the surface. The two herbicides that are recognized to control the unsightly vegetation on the surface are:

- 1) SURFLAN® is a pre-emergent herbicide (applied to seed) for the control of annual grass and broadleaf weeds that germinate from seed. The mixture to be sprayed should consist of a mixture of 1.5 - 2.0 ounces of herbicide per gallon of water. All instructions and cautions on the manufacturer's label should be followed.
- 2) ROUNDUP® is a herbicide that is sprayed directly on the leaves. Spraying should be done in a manner to ensure uniform and complete coverage. Plants should not be sprayed so that the spray solution runs off. The mixture to be sprayed should consist of a mixture of 2.0 - 2.5 ounces of herbicide per gallon of water. All instructions and cautions on the manufacturer's label should be followed.

Application suggestions are:

- 1) In the spring (April or May), Surflan should be applied to the areas where growth is expected. (i.e.: perimeter of roof, penetration, drains and valleys.)
- 2) In the summer (June or July), a Surflan / Roundup mix can be used in areas of growth. This mixture is a 1:1 mixture of the two herbicides diluted as described above.
- 3) In the fall (August or September), Roundup should be applied to plant leaves to kill residual growth.

If vegetation control has not been a part your roof maintenance program, the above regimen may have to be followed. Once growth has been observed to be under control, spring and fall treatment may be all that is necessary to uphold the appearance of your roof.

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