

TECHNICAL NOTE 98.11

STRESS RELIEVING OF LIGHTGUARD® / HEAVYGUARD® PANELS TO ACCOMMODATE SLIGHT IMPERFECTIONS IN THE MEMBRANE OR DECK

LIGHTGUARD / HEAVYGUARD panels are by nature a rigid walk-able surfaced membrane overlay board composed of a 2' x 4' extruded Styrofoam board with a 3/8" and 15/16" thick concrete top. On some applications, cracking has been observed as the board is asked to span humps in the deck substrate or thick seams of certain membranes and stay intact while traffic is applied to its surface. In reality, the concrete cracks and the foam contours itself around the imperfection without breaking. Over time, the crack collects dirt and becomes visible. The crack in the concrete does not pose a product integrity problem, only an aesthetic one.

The LIGHTGUARD and HEAVYGUARD panels are able to span imperfections of 1/8"x 1". Larger areas may have to be corrected for by alleviating the foam side of the board using a rasp, wood-carving head for a small electric grinder, or hot knife. To accomplish this, the LIGHTGUARD board can be placed in position and imperfection etched into the foam bottom by applying slight foot pressure directly over the raised area. Remove the LIGHTGUARD board, and remove the etched area in the foam using the above described instruments. Replace the LIGHTGUARD board and check that the LIGHTGUARD is sitting flat. This procedure should allow the board to sit flat on the membrane surface and will help prevent cracking due to uneven deck/substrate.

Rasps can be purchased at auto-finishing or woodworking stores. These are manual instruments and come in assorted sized and shapes and are self cleaning by design. The wood-carving attachment for the small rotary grinder is available through EIFS dealers or through Demand Products (800-325-7540). Care must be taken with the grinder wood carving instrument as there is rapid removal of the foam surface and sharp blades. Appropriate hand and eye protection should be used.