

Repairability of EPDM

General Repairability

Reinforced EPDM is a monolithic and inert membrane, allowing new material to be bonded to old material during the entire service life of the roof. This gives it greater repairability compared to other membranes that become more difficult to repair as they age, due to a variety of factors, including changes in the material over time, breakdown of membrane surface elements, breakdown of membrane surface elements, and exposed reinforcing scrim and fabric.

Repair Methods Are Straightforward

EPDM is typically repaired with pressure-sensitive (peel & stick) adhesive products that are easily applied to an existing membrane after the base membrane has been cleaned and primed. Repair membranes can be installed in both extreme heat and extreme cold.

No Need for a Power or Heat Source

EPDM can be repaired without access to power and without the need for specialized tools. Electrical power can be in short supply or unavailable after a natural disasters. This attribute ensures that a building can be returned to service quickly after sustaining any damage to the roofing membrane. This attribute is also helpful at buildings such as hospitals where hot work or tools that use fuel are not allowed or on roof areas that are difficult to access.

Accommodate New Rooftop Equipment

Repairability is especially important when new rooftop equipment is added or modified: an existing EPDM membrane can easily be cut to allow for ductwork, conduit, structural connections, or other necessary additions to pass through an existing roof and flashed with new material. This is possible even if the existing EPDM is in the later stages of service life.

Easy Access to Materials and Help from Technical Professionals

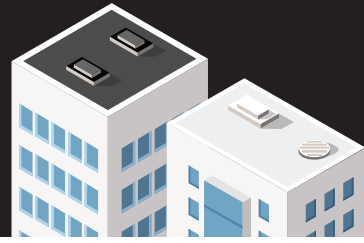
All roofs need repairs or modifications from time to time. EPDM membrane roofing has successfully been used for decades and is provided by established companies with technical experts on staff that can assist when necessary.

Extend the Life of an Existing Roof

The service life of existing EPDM roofs can be extended in many cases by adding new pressure-sensitive flashings over the top of the original flashings or after removing the original flashings. This can prove beneficial by buying time to develop budgets and finances for the eventual re-roofing project.

(continued)

TECHNICAL BULLETIN



EPDM ROOFING ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL BULLETIN #102

Selected References

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Case Study: EPDM Sustainability - 30 Years Old and Counting. Carlisle Syntec. October 2015.

2016-2017 Sustainability Report. Johns Manville. May 2018.

How long does an EPDM roof last? Firestone/Elevate. September 2021.

Additional references are available on the ERA website at www.epdmroofs.org.