

Tarco ROOFER'S REPORT

Self-Adhering Membrane Serves as Primary Roof over Low Slope Residence

CIMA Roofing Easily Installs a 100 Square EasyStick Roof System



One of the most useful roofing products available today is LeakBarrier® EasyStick™ mineral surface cap sheet, which offers superior protection in select low-slope applications.

Technically speaking, EasyStick is a reinforced, asphalt-coated product with a ceramic granular surface that protects against UV, weathering and physical damage. The membrane includes a self-adhering compound of high-tack, SBS-modified asphalt protected by a release film on the bottom side for easy installation.

Beyond the technical description

No matter how accurate, that technical description hardly describes the dramatic effects of EasyStick in facilitating the work of roofing contractors. Depending on the type of construction and the local climate, EasyStick is being applied as a primary roof on many types of buildings, including residential construction. As a result, it is speeding up the work of roofing contractors and lowering installation costs at the same time. With the demand for roofing labor reaching unprecedented levels, EasyStick provides an important strategic advantage to roofing contractors.

The low cost and ease-of-use of EasyStick makes it a “no-brainer” for

such applications as porches, carports, apartment buildings, small office buildings, and factories. Yet, this versatile product is also being installed on high-end residential homes that have large expanses of low-sloped roofs.

The latter are not readily covered with tiles or shingles. In the past, the builder would have to contend with hot asphalt or torch applied systems. EasyStick fills this niche application extremely well, covering these residential roof areas efficiently and effectively.

Rofer Friendly

CIMA Roofing & Restoration is a good example of a contractor who is reaping the rewards of using EasyStick in

residential applications. Based in McAllen, Texas, which is along the Rio Grande River and about 50 miles inland from the southern tip of Texas, the company installs residential roofing on high-end homes. These homes have roofing areas that range from 6000 square feet to 20,000 square feet with selling prices ranging from five hundred thousand to three million dollars. The homes often include large expanses of low-sloped roofing.

Until recently, the low-sloped sections would have needed to be covered with hot asphalt but nowadays CIMA uses EasyStick membranes. “A major benefit of EasyStick is that there is no hot tar dripping on the site and that there is no need for hot torches,” says

Gary Maloney, who is the owner and president of CIMA Roofing.

Large Area, Low Slope

The company has been in business for more than 10 years, specializing in residential roofing, typically with metal or tile roofs. "A lot of these homes have large low-sloped sections over which self-adhering EasyStick can be installed as a primary roof," says Maloney. Many of these buildings have parapet walls surrounding a large relatively flat field, which may cover a large living room or a home theater, for example. "We can use EasyStick for slopes of one-quarter inch per foot or more. These low-sloped sections cover the living areas of the homes. They are not just for garages and patios," adds Maloney.

Specs Made Simple

The featured application calls for three plies. The first ply is SBS Multipurpose underlayment from Tarco. This underlayment is made from asphalt that has been modified with styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) reinforced with a fiberglass mat. This layer is nailed down to the deck to provide strength and flexibility to the roofing system.

The next ply is the EasyBase base sheet, which is a self-adhering SBS modified asphalt sheet reinforced with fiberglass. This sheet has a self-adhering underside and a sanded top surface; a split back poly release film is peeled away to expose the self-adhering underside. The third layer and final layer is the EasyStick cap sheet, which is similar to EasyBase but has a ceramic granular surface. EasyStick cap sheet is reinforced with fiberglass and EasyStick Plus is reinforced with polyester. The mineral surface of the capsheet protects the membrane from ultraviolet rays, which otherwise would cause the asphalt coating to deteriorate with aging over long periods of time. That's why Tarco can offer a ten-year limited warranty on the EasyStick product.

"EasyStick works well and is economical," says Maloney. "The customers like it because it goes down clean. Since it is self-adhering, we don't have to bother with hot mopping. It's foolproof."

"EasyStick is odor free. When we install roofs on new residences in existing subdivisions, it is important to minimize odors as well as when working in neighborhoods where people may be passing by the job site, or when working on government buildings", explains Maloney. "On re-roofing projects where there may be occupants in the building, obviously odors can be an issue. Using EasyStick completely solves the odor problem. It is foolproof."

"We are using less asphalt than if we were hot mopping," he adds. "Even if we pay a little more for the product by weight, the price is not tied to the price of asphalt, which is fortunate because the price of asphalt has been increasing lately."

Just Peel, then Stick

According to Maloney, his crew uses a 75 lb weighted roller across the field and a hand roller for details. "It's true that we use a lot less equipment but the major benefits are in the labor savings," he says. "With the peel-and-stick, we just peel off the protective film and throw it away. That's all the waste we have. On a warm, sunny day, the EasyStick goes down especially well. Recently, we had a 10,000 square feet roof area to cover with an underlayment, a base sheet and cap sheet, and it only required one week for four men to complete the job. This is not a labor intensive installation."

EasyStick represents a new paradigm in roofing that is well suited to the new designs of residential construction. These new homes have a few steep sections mixed with many large low slope sections.

"Our prospects for growth using EasyStick are very good. It's a product

that is in great demand architecturally and yet is not difficult to install. It provides the excellent protection of a low-slope asphalt roofing system but is very economical and practical even for high-end residential applications," Maloney concludes.

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