TechTip R5 – Scarifying SPF Roof Systems

Scarifying is the process of cutting or planning off the upper surface of the SPF. While it is acceptable to scarify or scarf the SPF and re-foam, a couple of simple rules must be followed, or job failure can occur.

Scarifying should extend down a minimum of ½ in. to sound, dry dimensionally stable on-ratio SPF. Care should be taken to assure that the coatings in the low areas are removed during scarification and that scarification is extended below suspected problem areas such as UV degraded SPF.

The area must then be cleaned by broom or blown air. On the same day, the SPF must either be re-foamed, or it must be primed with a dark-colored acceptable primer. If the SPF is installed at a later date, blistering of the new SPF may occur. The reason this occurs is moisture from dew formation is very difficult to dry on scarified SPF. Foaming the same day as scarifying the foam eliminates the possibility of dew formation. In cases where foaming the same day is not practical, a dark primer will stop UV degradation of the foam and give a dark substrate to hold heat, speeding dew evaporation. An additional benefit of the dark primer is that it aids in the rise of the new foam.

ABOUT THE SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM ALLIANCE (SPFA)

Founded in 1987, the Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA) is the voice, educational and technical resource, for the spray polyurethane foam industry. A 501(c)6 trade association, the alliance is composed of contractors; manufacturers and distributors of polyurethane foam, related equipment and protective coatings; and consultants who provide inspections and other services. The organization supports the best practices and the growth of the industry through several core initiatives, which include educational programs and events, the SPFA Professional Installer Certification Program, technical literature and guidelines, legislative advocacy, research, and networking opportunities. For more information, please use the contact information and links provided in this document. www.sprayfoam.org

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