

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



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To: GAF Commercial Sales, Commercial Contractors, Field Services

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: Reducing The Potential For Wrinkles & Fishmouths  
In Ruberoid® Or GAFGLAS® Cap Sheets**

Date: 08/26/2013

No: TAB-C 2013-22

## What Is The Concern?

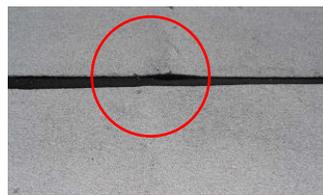
**Wrinkles and “fishmouths”**... can occur more frequently when full rolls of Ruberoid® or GAFGLAS® cap sheet are installed than when shorter lengths are installed. These may be visible immediately or may develop a few days after installation.

Overtime, wrinkles may eventually cause cracking of the membrane surface making them become a water entry point. The term “fishmouths” refer to individual, un-adhered raised-up wrinkles that occur in the lap area which often are vulnerable to water entry. Both wrinkles and fishmouths can be caused by:

- Incorrect mopping or torching application, including cold asphalt temperatures
- Pushing or pulling of the roll attempting to keep the roll straight
- Debris or imperfections on the substrate



Wrinkle



Fishmouth

## What Should You Do?

**For GAFGLAS® cap sheet installations...** rolls MUST be cut into shorter lengths as specified below, stacked and relaxed prior to installation. Failure to cut and relax the cap sheet prior to installation can result in wrinkles, ridges and fishmouths.

- If the ambient temperature is **65° F (18° C)** or above, the roll must be cut into **half-lengths** [15-18 ft. (4.6-5.5 m)] maximum.
- If the ambient temperature is between **50° F and 64° F (10° C and 18° C)**, the roll must be cut into **third-lengths** [10-12 ft. (3.05-3.6 m)] maximum. **Do not install** GAFGLAS® cap sheet when the temperature is below 50° F (10° C).

**For Ruberoid® cap sheet installations...**

- Hot Mopped/Heat Weld/Torch Roof Systems: These rolls should be cut into shorter lengths for easier handling when rerolling and installing. Cutting the rolls can help to significantly reduce, if not eliminate, the potential for wrinkles or fishmouths to occur.
- Cold Applied Roof Systems: Rolls **must** be cut into 12- 18 ft. (3.6-5.5 m) lengths, placed upside down and allowed to relax prior installation.
- Self-Adhered Roofing Systems: Rolls **must** be unrolled and allowed to relax prior to installation. Cut sheets into manageable lengths that will allow for a wrinkle-free and void-free installation.

**Note:** For mop applied SBS membranes, the asphalt temperature at point of application **must** be maintained at the asphalt's **EVT or 425° F (218° C)**, whichever is greater. Unrolling and relaxing modified bitumen rolls and base sheet rolls prior to installation will also minimize the potential for wrinkles to form in the finished roof.

## What Else Do I Need To Know?

Refer to GAF's **Asphalt Pro Field Guide** and **Application & Specification Manual** for further requirements and information on repairs of wrinkles and fishmouths.

## Where Can I Get More Information?

**GAF Technical Services can assist you...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF Technical Services can be contacted at **800-ROOF-411** (800-766-3411). Also, the GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit: [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com).