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protect  
what  
matters  
most™

# Technical Advisory Bulletin

To: GAF Commercial Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE

From: Technical Services

No: TAB-C-27

## *Cleaning Recommendations for EverGuard® Roofs*

### *Why Clean Your Low-Slope Roof?*

There are several reasons that routine cleaning may want to be included in normal roofing system maintenance... these include:

- Keeping the surface white so that it can **provide maximum reflectivity** and its associated energy conservation benefits.
- **Preventing the accumulation of dirt and debris...** which can act as a nutrient source for algae and other plant growth.
- **Preventing the accumulation of chemical contaminants** on the roof surface that may harm the membrane and reduce its performance life.
- **Preventing the accumulation of food sources** for birds and other pests.

### *Who Should Clean Roof Surfaces?*

Because of safety concerns and potential for roof membrane damage, GAF recommends that roof cleaning only be **performed by a professional roofing contractor**. In all cases, appropriate fall protection should be used when working on a roof surface.

### *How Often Should A Low-Slope Roof Be Cleaned?*

The need for roof cleaning is dependent on several factors, including...

- The severity of environmental contaminants
- The frequency of rainfall
- The propensity for dirt and dust accumulation
- The roof slope and drainage characteristics

**Note:** Some roof surfaces may not require routine cleaning and others may require cleaning on a frequent basis. Roofs should be cleaned to address the issues described above – e.g., returning the surface to maximum reflectivity, eliminating the accumulation of dirt and debris, etc.

### *What Are GAF's Recommendations For Cleaning An EverGuard® Membrane?*

EverGuard® TPO and PVC membranes can be cleaned as follows:

1. **Protect** any low curbs, base flashings, or other **points where water** could enter from the use of a pressure washer.
2. **Protect plants, shrubbery, and exterior facades**, from run-off of cleaning solution.
3. **Use a low-pressure power washer (2000 psi or lower)** to clean and rinse off the top layer of dust and dirt.
4. **Use a soft bristled, long handled brush or floor broom with a cleaning solution of a mild non-abrasive household detergent** (such as Spic n' Span) and water to clean the

surface of the roof membrane, taking care to not damage the top surface of the membrane.

5. **Rinse the roof completely** with the low-pressure power washer to rinse the cleaning solution off the roof.
6. **Inspect the membrane** and ensure that no damage has occurred; repair any incidental damage.

*What  
Precautions  
Should Be Taken  
When Cleaning  
A Roof?*

1. First, **only trained professionals** should be allowed on the roof to avoid any consequential damage to the integrity of the roofing system.
2. **Fall safety requirements must be followed** - a wet, single-ply membrane is slippery. Use caution and follow all fall safety requirements.
3. **Avoid** walking on surfaces where the cleaning solution has not been rinsed away.
4. Where the run-off may come in contact with exterior facades, **test a small area** to make sure that there are no deleterious effects to the façade from the cleaning solution.
5. Be sure to make accommodations for the run-off cleaning solution – to avoid damage to plants and contamination of groundwater. **Always comply with all local, state, and federal requirements for water run-off.**

*Questions?*

**GAF Technical Services Can Assist You...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. Technical Support Services can be contacted at 800-766-3411. 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) to find the latest information on our products and their installation.

**Important:** This document supersedes any prior GAF Technical Advisory Bulletins on this topic. Please always check [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) to make sure you have the most up to date information.