

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



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

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: New and Aged Asphaltic Substrate Preparation Guidelines for  
Liquid-Applied Roofing Applications**

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## Why is Asphaltic Substrate Preparation Important?

**Preparation ...** is a critical first step in any roofing application, especially a liquid-applied roofing application over new or aged asphaltic substrates, in achieving long-term performance. Substrates must be **clean, completely dry, and free of any debris** before application of GAF liquid-applied roofing products.

## New vs. Aged ... What is The Difference?

For the purposes of this Technical Advisory Bulletin:

**NEW** asphaltic membranes are products that have been installed for **less than 5 years**.

**AGED** asphaltic membranes are products that have been installed for **5 years or more**.

## How Should a New Substrate (<5 years) be Prepared?

**New asphaltic membranes should be prepared in the following ways:**

**NOTE:** Newly installed asphaltic membranes should be allowed to weather a minimum of **30-90 days** prior to the application of liquid-applied roofing products. This protects against asphaltic bleed out, which can lead to the discoloration and potential alligatoring/cracking of the liquid-applied roofing products.

Please contact GAF before preparing any new solvent adhesive-applied BUR or MB roofs.

- **Cleaning:**  
New substrates can typically be cleaned using a dry cleaning method, incorporating pressured air and brooms. If there is excessive dirt accumulation on new asphaltic membranes that cannot be removed by the dry cleaning method, it must be power-washed and cleaned with UCC (United Cleaning Concentrate).
- **Priming:**  
Whether a new substrate **must** be primed depends upon both the type of substrate and the liquid-applied roofing product to be applied. Please consult the charts below to determine priming requirements.  
**IMPORTANT: Primers are utilized for both adhesion and to provide asphalt bleed-blocking.**
- **Seam Treatment**  
All seams on new asphaltic membranes **MUST** be treated with the specified flashing grade and fabric to protect against bleed lines.

## How Should an Aged Substrate (≥5 years) be Prepared?

**Aged asphaltic membranes should be prepared in the following ways:**

- **Cleaning:**  
Aged substrates must be power-washed and cleaned with UCC (United Cleaning Concentrate).
- **Priming:**  
Whether an aged substrate **must** be primed depends upon both the type of substrate and the liquid-applied roofing product to be applied. Please consult the charts below to determine priming requirements.  
**IMPORTANT: Primers are utilized for both adhesion and to provide asphalt bleed-blocking.**
- **Seam Treatment**  
Where United Coatings™ and TOPCOAT® products are being applied on an aged substrate, all seams must be treated. Where a HydroStop® PremiumCoat® System is being applied on an aged substrate, seam treatment is **not** required.

## What About Newly Repaired Asphaltic Areas?

On both new and aged substrates, all newly repaired asphaltic areas should be aged for a minimum of **30 days** prior to the application of liquid-applied roofing products. All newly repaired asphaltic areas **MUST** be treated with the specified flashing grade and fabric to protect against bleed lines.

## Liquid-Applied Asphaltic Substrate Preparation Guidelines

HydroStop® PremiumCoat® Asphaltic Substrate Preparation Specifications				
Asphaltic Substrate	Surface Preparation		Priming Requirement	
	New <sup>1</sup>	Aged <sup>2</sup>	New <sup>1</sup>	Aged <sup>2</sup>
<b>Non-Modified Mineral-Surfaced Cap BUR</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<i>Not Required</i> <sup>4</sup>	<i>Not Required</i> <sup>4</sup>
<b>SBS Granular-Surfaced</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<i>Not Required</i> <sup>4</sup>	<i>Not Required</i> <sup>4</sup>
<b>APP Granular-Surfaced</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<i>Not Required</i> <sup>4</sup>	<i>Not Required</i> <sup>4</sup>
<b>BUR Smooth</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>APP Smooth</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>Coal Tar Pitch</b>	<b>Requires Coverboard</b>			
<b>Aluminized</b>	<b>Contact GAF</b>			
<b>Spudded Gravel</b>	<b>Requires Coverboard</b>			
All new asphaltic seams <b>MUST</b> be treated with either HydroStop® Foundation Coat and HydroStop® Fabric OR primed with UniBase for protection against asphalt bleed lines.				
<sup>1</sup> Contact GAF for any new solvent adhesive-applied BUR or MB roofs.				
<sup>2</sup> Aged is defined as 5+ years from installation.				
<sup>3</sup> <b>NOTE:</b> If there is excessive dirt accumulation on new asphaltic membranes that cannot be removed by the dry cleaning method, it must be power-washed and cleaned with UCC (United Cleaning Concentrate).				
<sup>4</sup> Newly repaired areas <b>must be</b> treated first with HydroStop® Foundation Coat (or HydroStop® Butter Grade) and HydroStop® Fabric.				

United Coatings™ and TOPCOAT® Asphaltic Substrate Preparation Specifications				
Asphaltic Substrate	Surface Preparation		Priming Requirement*	
	New <sup>1</sup>	Aged <sup>2</sup>	New <sup>1</sup>	Aged <sup>2</sup>
<b>Non-Modified Mineral-Surfaced Cap BUR</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>SBS Granular-Surfaced</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>APP Granular-Surfaced</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>BUR Smooth</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>APP Smooth</b>	Pressured Air, Dry Broom Cleaning <sup>3</sup>	Power Wash with UCC	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Required</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>Coal Tar Pitch</b>	<b>Requires Coverboard</b>			
<b>Aluminized</b>	<b>Contact GAF</b>			
<b>Spudded Gravel</b>	<b>N/A</b>			
All seams <b>must</b> be treated with specified flashing grade and fabric for overall strength and protection against asphalt bleed lines.				
*Priming requirements for Roof Mate™ products have not changed. Using Roof Mate™ Base Coat or Roof Mate™ MB Plus satisfies the priming requirement.				
<sup>1</sup> Contact GAF for any new solvent adhesive-applied BUR or MB roofs.				
<sup>2</sup> Aged is defined as 5+ years from installation.				
<sup>3</sup> <b>NOTE:</b> If there is excessive dirt accumulation on new asphaltic membranes that cannot be removed by the dry cleaning method, it must be power-washed and cleaned with UCC (United Cleaning Concentrate).				
<sup>4</sup> Newly repaired areas <b>must be</b> treated first with specified flashing grade and fabric.				

***Where Can I Get More Information?***

**GAF Technical Services Can Assist You ...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new 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) 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.