

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



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From North America's
Largest Roofing Manufacturer!™

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

From: Technical Services Department

Subject: Recovering Over an Existing "PUF" Roof

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What Is A "PUF" Roof?

Sprayed polyurethane foam (PUF)... was first installed in the late 1960's and is typically a two-part foam mixture sprayed onto roof decks or over an existing roof to form a layer of monolithic roof insulation and is usually covered with a protective elastomeric finish coat.

How Can It Affect My Roof If I Install A New Roof System Over AN Existing PUF Roof?

Recovering over an existing sprayed polyurethane foam roof can pose many concerns.

- If the PUF roof is punctured, the foam can absorb and hold water.
- If the top coating of the PUF roofing was not installed with a uniformed smooth finish coat, there could potentially be pin holes in the coating that may have allowed moisture into the system.
- Moisture in the PUF trapped beneath the new roof system can cause many problems with the new roof. These problems include, but are not limited to, corrosion of the fasteners and deck; deterioration of the new insulation; growth of mold; blistering; and cracking and splitting of the new roof system which can result in premature failure of the new roof system.
- The existing PUF roof may be uneven, may have varying foam thicknesses and may not have a uniformed slope. This non-uniformity makes attaching a coverboard or new roof membrane on top of an existing PUF roof very difficult.
- The existing PUF roof could already be ponding water due to inadequate slope resulting from improper application. By applying a new roofing system on top, there will still be the possibility and potential for ponding water.

What Is GAF's Stance On Recovering Over A Sprayed Polyurethane Foam Roof?

GAF does **NOT** recommend recovering over an existing sprayed polyurethane foam roof for the reasons listed above. Additionally, State, Regional or Local Building codes may consider a PUF roof to be a second roof (when applied over an existing roof), thereby necessitating its removal prior to recovering or reroofing the structure.

Contact GAF Technical Services if you are thinking about recovering over a PUF roofing system to discuss alternatives.

What Should You Do?

If you are installing a GAF roof on a project with an existing PUF roof ... all existing PUF roofing must be removed prior to installation of the new roofing system. Follow GAF's other recover requirements and application instructions for the system you are using. As an alternative to removing all existing PUF roofing, you may apply a compatible liquid applied coating over the existing PUF roof using a GAF United Coatings™ Liquid Applied Roofing product.

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 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 to make sure you have the most up to date information.