

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

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

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: Seam Probing of EverGuard® TPO & PVC Membranes**



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Issued Date: 06/24/2016

Revised Date: xx/xx/20xx

No: TAB-C 2016-32

## What Is Seam Probing?

**Seam probing...** is a physical inspection of the hot air weld area using a suitable blunt probe run along the length of the seam with horizontal pressure applied into the bottom edge of the weld. Seam probing checks the integrity of the weld to help ensure a water-tight roofing system.

## Do All Seams Need To Be Probed?

**Yes... all hot air welded seams must be physically probed** with a blunt or dull cotter key puller hand tool (sharp points or edges must be filed down). Cotter key hand tools can be affixed to standard extension handles allowing the tool to be used from a standing position.

## What Should You Do?

**GAF seam probing guidelines should be followed...**

- Care should be exercised when handling and walking with the seam probe to avoid injuries from the point end.
- Continuous use of the probe could cause it to become sharper and care should be taken to ensure the point is blunted/rounded off at all times.
- Allow the seam to cool down at least 30 minutes before probing. Premature probing can damage seams because the welds may still be warm.
- Run the probing tool parallel to the edge of the seam applying ample pressure at the base of the weld. Use caution to avoid damaging the membrane surface with the point of the probing tool (**Fig. 1**).
- When probing, extra attention must be given to all membrane seam intersections, heat-welded seams above insulation joints and areas where the robotic welder stops and starts again.
- Mark all voids, open welds or cold-welds using a water-soluble marker or crayon so repairs can be made (**Fig. 2**).
- Repair all voids, open welds or cold-welds routinely throughout the day but no later than the end of each workday using a hand-welder.
- Repaired seams should be probed after they have cooled completely to determine if the weld is acceptable. If the repaired seam is not acceptable, repair using minimum 8" (203 mm) wide membrane patch.
- Do **NOT** wait for the inspector to find problems in the welds. This could lead to a more difficult repair, a re-inspection and potential areas where leaks could occur.
- Apply GAF EverGuard® Cut-Edge Sealant on all TPO reinforced membrane cut edges after seam probing is completed. EverGuard® Cut-Edge Sealant is not required when using PVC.



Fig. 1: Seam Probing

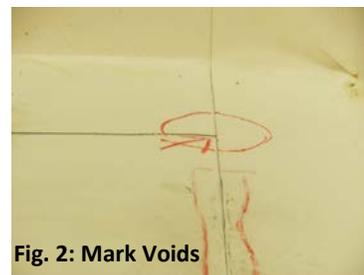


Fig. 2: Mark Voids

## 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) 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.