



Quality You Can Trust...  
From North America's  
Largest Roofing Manufacturer!™

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

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

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: Cool Weather Installation Of StormGuard® and  
WeatherWatch® Leak Barriers**

Issued Date: 05/14/2011

Revised Date: 08/26/2016

No: TAB-R-2011-152

## **What Is The Normal Air Temperature range For Installing StormGuard® And WeatherWatch® Leak Barrier?**

**40°F to 120°F (4.4°C and 49°C)...** In keeping with good roofing practice, StormGuard® and WeatherWatch® Leak Barriers should be applied when the deck is DRY and air temperature is between 40°F and 120°F (4.4°C and 49°C).

## **Can StormGuard® And WeatherWatch® Be Installed When The Temperature Is Below 40°F (4.4°C)?**

**Yes... If necessary and certain precautions are taken.** These include:

- **The substrate must be clean and dry...** There must be no ice, frost, dew, moisture, dust or dirt present.
- **Store materials in heated area...** All membrane rolls and adhesives must be stored for at least overnight at a minimum temperature of 55°F (12.8°C) prior to application.
- **Keep the StormGuard® and Weather Watch® Leak Barriers warm...** Remove rolls from the heated storage only as they are being installed. Install membrane rolls immediately after removal from storage to avoid membrane cooling. When the air temperature is below 40°F (4.4°C) leak barrier membranes must be at least 45°F (7.2°C) at time of application.
- **Pre-cut membrane...** Pre-cut the leak barrier roll into 10-20' (3.05m -6.1m) lengths.
- **Immediately back nail...** Immediately back nail every 18" (457 mm) in the top selvage edge of the sheet to prevent slippage before the sheet adheres to the deck.
- **Press and hand roll...** Press the membrane firmly onto the substrate and hand roll the laps to ensure adhesion. If necessary, a hot air gun can be used at the laps to promote adhesion.
- **Discontinue installation if membrane is not adhering...** If the membrane is not sticking to the deck or the laps are not adhering, discontinue installation.

## **What Are Some Of The Possible Problems That May Result From Improper Cool Weather Installation?**

- **Sheet movement and falls...** If the leak barrier is not firmly adhered to the deck, it can move under foot and cause a worker to slip and fall. This is why the cold weather recommendations include back nailing on 18" (457 mm) centers.
- **Leaks...** If the laps are not sealed they can allow water and dirt to enter. If dirt enters the lap area, the lap may never seal. It is critical to always start at the low point on the roof to avoid any backwater laps.
- **Wrinkles...** If the membrane is too cold at time of installation it may wrinkle (develop "mole runs") that could be visible through the shingles when the roof warms up. In severe cases, the wrinkles or "mole runs" can compromise the water-tightness of laps and can result in leaks.

## **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.