ROOF MATE
Technical Bulletin

UNITED COATINGS
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Common Questions and Answers

How Much Coating Is Required?

The amount of coating required, and the number of coats, is determined by the duration of the warranty that is specified. It also varies with the specific substrate being coated. Over concrete for example, a minimum total of 25 dry mils (635 microns), applied in a minimum of 2 coats, is required for a 5-year warranty. For a 10-year warranty, an additional coat must be applied at the rate of 1 gallon per 100 sq. ft. (.4 l/m²). Over metal surfaces, a minimum total of 15 dry mils (381 microns), applied in a minimum of 2 coats is required. To increase this to 10-years, an additional ½ gallon per 100 sq. ft. (.2 l/m²) is required.

Are The Warranties Extendable?

Yes, all of our warranties are extendable in either 5-year or 10-year increments, depending upon the thickness of the recoat. At the end of the initial warranty period, the Owner will need to arrange for a roof inspection with the Manufacturer's Representative. At this time, any warranted and/or non-warranted damage to the roof is repaired. The overall condition of the roof will also be assessed at this time to determine how much coating is required for the desired warranty extension. A minimum of 1.5 gallons per 100 sq. ft. (.6 l/m²) is required for a 5-year extension and 2.5 gallons per 100 sq. ft. (1.0 l/m²) for a 10-year extension.

How Long Will The Coating System Last?

Unfortunately, there is not a black and white answer to this question, since the ultimate coating life is dependent upon many factors. Initial thickness applied, service temperature, UV level, wind, abrasion, foot traffic exposure, rain, ponding water, etc. all have some affect on the life of the coating system. A 100% acrylic system such as **ROOF MATE** will typically wear at a very low rate of approximately .5 mil (12 microns) per year.

How Do I Know When It Is Time To Recoat?

After many years of protection, the base coat will eventually begin to show through the topcoat. This is why it is recommended that the base coat be a different color than the top coat. Typically light gray and white are used respectively, although the top coat can be tinted to a wide range of standard and custom colors.

What Is The Typical Recoat Procedure?

The roof coating system is very easy to recoat. After inspecting the roof and making any necessary repairs, it is thoroughly cleaned using water, in conjunction with a biodegradable cleaning agent such as **United Cleaning Concentrate (UCC)**. It is then high-pressure rinsed using clean water. After allowing the existing coating to dry, either one or two coats of additional topcoat material are applied, using either airless spray or roller, at a predetermined rate to meet the warranty extension requirements.

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Is Full Fabric Reinforcement Necessary On All Roofs?

No, the use of full fabric is only necessary on roofs that exhibit a large amount of cracks, splits, seams, joints, etc. If there are a limited number of these symptoms, then they can be individually reinforced using **Roof Mate Mesh**, **Uni-Tape** or **Roof Mate Butter Grade** – depending on the type of roof substrate and the specific detail. Concrete roofs that do not exhibit any moving cracks, single-ply roofs with sound seams, and built-up or modified bitumen roofs that do not have splits between plys do not require full fabric reinforcement. However, it can always be specified should additional reinforcement be desired. Otherwise, only the protrusions, vertical/horizontal interfaces and transition areas need to be individually reinforced.

What Type Of Reinforcement Should Be Used?

We recommend the use of stitchbonded polyester fabric for most applications, since it is very strong yet has excellent pliability and elongation properties. There are 3 basic types of detail reinforcement. The first method is to embedding stitchbonded polyester fabric, such as **Roof Mate Mesh,** into the wet base coat. (**Butter Grade** can also be used for embedding this fabric). The second type, which is applicable on metal, single-ply and smooth concrete substrates, is an adhesive-backed reinforcement, such as **Uni-Tape**. This material incorporates a semi-cured butyl rubber on the back that develops tenacious adhesion to the substrate. The third type of reinforcement, which is applicable to metal, single-ply, concrete and some asphaltic substrates depending on their condition, is a high viscosity, liquid-applied reinforcement material such as **Roof Mate Butter Grade**. If necessary, fabric reinforcement can also be embedded into these products.

How Much Abrasion Will The Coating Withstand?

The acrylic coating system will withstand any normal weather conditions, as well as any foot traffic required for maintenance, cleaning, etc. In high wear areas, such as footpaths, roofing granules can be broadcast into the final topcoat to provide additional wear resistance. A non-skid acrylic/epoxy wear coat, such as **Rhino Top**, can also be applied over the roof membrane in high use areas or sections of the roof that are regularly used as walking decks or recreational areas. Breathable walk pads, such as “yellow spaghetti”, can also be used in high use walkways. Should increased physical properties be required, **Roof Mate HT** can be utilized. It exhibits approximately twice the tensile strength, tear strength and elongation values as typical 100% acrylic coatings. Under rare conditions of extreme physical use or particular chemical resistance requirements, other types of roof coating elastomers are available, such as urethanes or silicones.

Does The System Withstand Ponding Water Conditions?

It is always good roofing practice to incorporate slope-to-drain to allow for positive drainage from the roof. This eliminates the build-up of dirt and debris, and prevents algae and plant growth. While **ROOF MATE** can easily withstand the minor ponding water encountered on typical roofs, all surfaces should be free from excessive ponding water. A roof surface that allows standing water 48 hours after a rainfall does not exhibit adequate drainage, and appropriate corrective action should be taken to rectify the situation prior to coating.

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