

GLOSSARY OF LOW-SLOPE ROOFING TERMS

ACCEPTED ROOFING MATERIALS:	Selected roofing products which have undergone a comprehensive program of review and have been accepted by ARCA Warranty Ltd. for incorporation into accepted roofing systems.
ACCEPTED ROOFING SYSTEMS:	Roofing systems which have been accepted by ARCA Warranty Ltd. for coverage under the Warranty Certificate as outlined in the Roofing Application Standards Manual..
AIR BARRIER:	A structurally supported component of the building envelope which prevents the migration of air between the building interior and the outside environment.
ALLIGATORING:	A pattern of cracking on exposed bitumen, similar to the appearance of an alligator's hide, due to oxidation of the bitumen.
AREA DIVIDER:	A roofing element usually fabricated from dimension wood components incorporated into a roofing system to subdivide large roof areas or at changes in structural deck direction or deck types, to control membrane stresses.
ASPHALT:	A bituminous material derived from the distilling of crude oil.
AUXILIARY LEVELLING SURFACE:	A substrate material such as gypsum board, plywood or fiberboard used to provide a smooth surface to which a membrane may be adhered.
BACK NAILING:	The practice of fastening membrane plies so that the fasteners are covered by subsequent plies and are not exposed to the weather.
BALLAST:	Loose-laid roofing gravel or pavers whose mass is used to control movement from wind uplift or floatation of insulation or the primary membrane.
BASE SHEET:	A heavy sheet of saturated or coated felt or the bottom ply of a two ply modified bitumen membrane.
BITUMEN:	A generic term describing any mixture of heavy hydrocarbons in viscous form used in the roofing industry as an adhesive and waterproofing agent. Bitumens are subdivided into asphalt and coal tar pitch.
BONDING ADHESIVE:	The adhesive required to adhere a single ply membrane to its substrate.
BUILT-UP ROOFING: (BUR)	A continuous semi-flexible membrane comprised of plies of organic or inorganic asphalt saturated felts adhered into full interply moppings of bitumen.
CANT STRIP:	A triangular shaped strip of wood or fiberboard that forms a bevelled transition for membranes between the horizontal to vertical planes.
CAP SHEET:	The upper ply of two ply modified bitumen membrane which is thermally fused to the base sheet.
CAULKING:	An elastomeric material used to waterseal overlapping components.
COAL TAR PITCH:	A bituminous material derived from the coking of coal.
COMBINATION ROOFING DESIGN:	A roofing system designed with rigid insulation above and below the primary membrane.
COMPATIBLE MATERIALS:	Two or more materials or substrates that can be mixed, blended or attached without separating, reacting or affecting the materials adversely.

CONTROL JOINTS:	An elevated roof element used to divide roof membrane areas, to control membrane movement. May be one of two types, roof area divider or construction expansion joint.
CONVENTIONAL ROOFING DESIGN:	A roofing system design where the insulation is installed beneath the primary membrane.
CRAZING:	A series of hairline cracks in the surface of a weathered material.
CRICKET:	An elevated element of a roofing system designed to direct water to drain receptacles or divert around an obstacle such as a chimney.
CURB:	A wooden or metal structure surrounding roof openings or supporting mechanical equipment which permits the waterproofing membrane to terminate a minimum distance of 200 mm above the roof surface.
DECK:	The structural element to which a roofing system is applied.
DOUBLE POUR:	Membrane protection consisting of two separate applications of a bitumen floodcoat and embedded roofing gravel.
E.P.D.M.:	Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer, a single ply membrane manufactured from synthetic rubber.
E.V.T.:	Equiviscous temperature, the optimum application temperature for a given bitumen type; provided by the bitumen's manufacturer, measured at the point of application.
EDGE LAP:	The overlap of the edge of a ply over the previous ply. Also called side lap.
EMULSION:	Bitumen dispersed in water with or without a filler and held in suspension by means of an emulsifier. When the water evaporates the bitumen particles cement together.
EXPANSION JOINT:	A structural separation used to permit differential movement of a structure caused by expansion and contraction of it's elements due to temperature change. A designed separation in the primary membrane to permit such movement, extending a minimum distance of 200 mm above the roof surface.
FILTER FABRIC:	A woven organic or inorganic cloth used to reinforce membrane flashings or used as a filter fabric to resist the migration of fines in a protected membrane design.
FELT:	A rolled roofing sheet consisting of organic or inorganic mats impregnated with bitumen.
FIRE PREVENTION TAPE:	A pressure sensitive modified bitumen tape required to cover/seal substrate gaps, cracks and voids to prevent torch flame infiltration.
FISHMOUTH:	Wavy or scalloped openings occurring at the lapped edges of roofing felts and membranes.
FLASH OFF:	The time required for the volatiles in a petroleum based adhesive/primer to escape into the atmosphere prior to bonding.
GLAZE COAT:	A thin coating of bitumen applied to the exposed ply of a built-up membrane to protect against water damage.
GRAVEL STOP:	A flanged metal flashing, with it's horizontal flange sealed to the membrane, installed to provide a finished edge for the termination of roofing components.
GUM BOX (CUPS):	A flanged, open bottomed metal container placed around a membrane penetration and sealed into the primary membrane. A bitumen filler crowned to shed water waterproofs the penetration. Commonly called a pitch pan.

GUSSET:	A field fabricated or manufactured membrane reinforcement ply usually installed at inside and outside membrane flashing corners.
LOOSE LAID SYSTEMS:	Roofing systems where roofing components are not uniformly adhered to their substrate and where ballast is employed to stabilize movement of primary membrane and prevent displacement of underlying components.
MECHANICALLY FASTENED SYSTEMS:	Roofing systems in which roofing components or primary membrane are uniformly attached to their substrate with a system of mechanical fasteners.
MEMBRANE:	A continuous flexible or semi-flexible element that functions as a waterproofing covering. Membrane can be single ply or multi-ply systems.
MEMBRANE FLASHING:	The vertical extension of the waterproofing membrane installed at horizontal to vertical junctions and at roof penetrations and membrane terminations.
MODIFIED BITUMEN MEMBRANES:	Composite roofing membrane comprised of a reinforcing sheet coated on one or both sides with a modified asphalt and may be surfaced with poly film, sand or mineral granules.
MOP AND FLOP:	An application procedure in which the roofing material is placed upside down and coated with hot bitumen then turned over and applied to the substrate.
MOPPING:	A uniform application of hot bitumen applied at E.V.T. to adhere roof components like insulation to substrates and to fuse impregnated felts together to form a membrane.
NAILING STRIPS: (NAILERS)	Wooden blocking or strips secured to roof decks, walls or curbs to permit anchoring of roofing membranes, insulation or membrane flashing.
P.V.C.:	An elastomeric membrane composed of a reinforced single ply sheet coated with P.V.C. produced by the polymerization of vinyl chloride. Membrane laps are bonded by hot air welding.
PARAPET:	A structural extension or low wall installed at the roof edge extending above the roof surface.
PEDESTALS:	Supports for roof mounted equipment which are attached to the deck and are incorporated into the roofing system.
PLASTIC CEMENT:	A mixture of bitumen, fibres, fillers and a suitable solvent combined to form a bituminous cement used as a sealing material.
PONDING:	The accumulation of water at a low lying area of a roof.
PRIMER:	A thin liquid bituminous compound applied to a substrate to improve adhesion.
PROTECTED MEMBRANE DESIGN:	A roofing system where the primary membrane is installed on a structural deck or an auxiliary levelling surface. A separator sheet may be applied and Type 4 polystyrene insulation and ballast are loose laid to cover (protect) the membrane. Commonly referred to as an IRMA System or inverted roofing membrane assembly.
REGLET:	A cut opening in a wall finish to act as a receiver for the attachment of the sheet metal counter flashing.
RIDGING:	An upward elongated tenting or displacement of a membrane frequently occurring over insulation or deck joints.
ROOF JACK:	A flanged cone shaped metal flashing installed around roof penetrations such as chimney vents.

ROOFING GRAVEL:	Uniformly graded and washed water worn rock or crushed stone used as a protective surface layer over built-up roofing systems.
SCUPPER:	An opening in a parapet or wall which permits the drainage of water from the roof surface.
SEAM TAPE:	A manufactured pressure sensitive adhesive in roll form used to seal/bond the laps of adjacent single ply membrane sheets.
SEPARATOR SHEET:	A material used to reduce transmission of stresses between roofing components, or to prevent layers from adhering together.
SHEET METAL FLASHING :	Galvanized or prefinished metal sheets which are formed and installed to protect bituminous membrane flashing from physical and solar damage.
SLEEPER:	A treated wooden element extending above the roof surface required to anchor or support light weight conduits or equipment where curbs or pedestals are not required.
SLIPPAGE:	The sliding movement between adjacent layers within a roofing system.
STRAMIT:	A structural or insulating panel used for roof decking and roof insulation comprised of chemically treated straw fiber with a bonded paper covering.
SUBSTRATE:	A supporting surface upon which the roofing or waterproofing membrane is adhered or applied.
THERMAL BARRIER:	A non-combustible material applied to a structural substrate to slow the temperature rise of roofing system components.
TORCH ON:	The process of thermally fusing membranes together by applying heat using propane torching equipment.
VAPOUR BARRIER /RETARDER:	A membrane used to retard the diffusion of moisture or water vapour into the components of a roofing system selected by the design authority.
WARRANTY CERTIFICATE:	A joint undertaking by ARCA Warranty Ltd. and their Contractor Members assuring the Owner that the roofing specification has been followed, that the workmanship meets ARCA Warranty Ltd. application standards, that an inspection of the roofing system will be carried out and that any workmanship related repairs will be corrected at no cost to the Owner during the term of the warranty.
WIND SCOUR:	The erosion of the membrane protection resulting from the effects of prevailing winds. Commonly occurs at roof corners and adjacent to roof mounted equipment.