

Top 10 Reasons to Choose EPDM Over Asphalt

LONG SERVICE LIFE

EPDM is time-tested in real-world conditions. Black EPDM roofing systems have been used for more than 50 years, and white EPDM roofing systems have been used for more than 25 years. Testing of 30-year-old EPDM shows that its tear strength, tensile strength, and flexibility meet or exceed ASTM standards for new membrane, and EPDM is repairable even at the end of its long service life.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

EPDM membranes generally weigh less than half a pound per square foot, compared to an average of 2 pounds per square foot for modified bitumen (mod bit) systems and 4 pounds per square foot for built-up roof (BUR) systems. EPDM systems consume far fewer natural resources, making them a smart move for the planet.

REDUCED OIL CONSUMPTION

Asphalt is a byproduct of oil. EPDM can be produced from local sources of natural gas.

PONDING WATER

Ponding water accelerates the loss of surface granules and exposes asphalt membranes to more UV rays, which leads many mod bit suppliers to void their warranties. While roofs should be designed to avoid ponding water, EPDM membranes are not adversely affected by this phenomenon and have been used as pond liners for decades.

FLASHING DETAILS

Many mod bit and BUR systems exclude details like pitch pockets from their warranties. Asphalt-based flashing cements were reformulated years ago to remove asbestos, and many people believe these products' performance is no longer the same. Carlisle covers all its details and offers a wide array of pre-fabricated, custom-fabricated, and pressure-sensitive (peel and stick) accessories that are quick and simple to install.





Mod bit and BUR systems are installed using 425°F asphalt. Torch-applied mod bit also poses obvious installation hazards. Both systems present problems and undue risk to the building owner. Carlisle's EPDM is installed with adhesives, fasteners, or ballast, all of which are much less disruptive and safer to install.

**SAFER/LESS
DISRUPTIVE
ADHESIVE
TECHNOLOGY**

White EPDM has reflectivity built into the membrane, making it ideal for buildings in cooling-dominated southern climates. Mod bit sheets rely on factory-applied acrylic coatings, films, or special granules. Each has the potential to become dislodged or un-bonded over time. In addition, granulated surface textures are much more prone to dirt accumulation than smooth-surfaced EPDM membranes.

REFLECTIVITY



Field seams are where workmanship issues can compromise a roofing system's integrity. Carlisle's 10'-wide EPDM sheets reduce the frequency of field seams by 67% compared to 3'-wide rolls of mod bit and feature Factory-Applied Tape™ to further simplify installation.

**FEWER
SEAMS**

EPDM membranes pass FM's Severe Hail rating, achieve a UL 2218 Class 4 rating, and pass the National Bureau of Standards #23 Ice Ball test up to 3"-diameter hail. Asphalt tends to become brittle with age, leaving it more vulnerable to hail damage.

**HAIL DAMAGE
RESISTANCE**

FleeceBACK® EPDM provides greater dynamic puncture resistance than two-ply mod bit in the ASTM D5635 puncture test. Flexible FAST™ Adhesive increases the puncture resistance of FleeceBACK assemblies by up to 50% compared to rigid polyurethane. Sure-Tough® 75-mil reinforced and Sure-Seal® 90-mil non-reinforced EPDM also have enhanced puncture resistance and qualify for puncture warranty options.

**PUNCTURE
RESISTANCE**