

# CASE STUDY

## FleeceBACK Membrane Provides Ultimate Cover for Spray Foam Insulation



Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) roofing systems have been around since the 1960's, and for good reason. Roofing professionals generally agree that the most significant benefits of SPF are its watertight performance, resistance to leaks, and insulation properties. SPF also offers high compressive strength, is lightweight, self-flashing, durable and long-lasting. All these features have made it a very popular roof system over the past several decades.

Conversely, the elastomeric coatings that have traditionally been used over SPF have some significant drawbacks. These coatings have a very strong odor which can be a problem for building occupants. In addition, solvent-based elastomeric coatings cannot be used in many Northeastern and Middle-Atlantic states, due to the VOC regulations implemented by Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) legislation. Lastly, many elastomeric coatings do not provide long-term protection against weathering and foot traffic, so they must be reapplied periodically. This can cost a building owner money in both material and labor.

Nevertheless, there is an easy way for contractors and building owners to avoid all the headaches associated with the use of elastomeric coatings. A growing number of roofing contractors are now choosing to install a single-ply membrane on top of the SPF instead of using traditional coatings.

One of these contractors is Southampton, PA-based Albright-Hughes Urethane Construction Co., Inc. Albright-Hughes has been in business for over 30 years and has been installing SPF roofing systems for more than 10 years. Co-owner Bill Hughes says, "The best thing about the SPF-245 spray foam is that it's

### JOB PROFILE

**PROJECT LOCATION:**  
Southampton, PA

**CARLISLE APPLICATOR:**  
Albright-Hughes Urethane  
Construction Co., Inc.

**ROOFING SYSTEM:**  
Carlisle Sure-White™ EPDM  
FleeceBACK®/SPF-245 System



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“...it’s seamless and  
**it stops all leaks.**”  
—Bill Hughes

seamless and it stops all leaks. And the best thing about the Carlisle SynTec FleeceBACK membrane is that it’s much, much tougher than the conventional elastomeric coatings that are often used over spray foam. The FleeceBACK is really durable and the white is a very bright white. It looks very nice.”

Hughes went on to say, “When we spray the foam, it doesn’t have much odor. The elastomeric coatings that are often used have solvents, and those fumes have shut our jobs down in the past because they bother people in the building.”

Albright-Hughes recently installed a FleeceBACK/ SPF roof system on a job in East Hanover, NJ. The crew used Carlisle’s Sure-White FleeceBACK EPDM membrane in lieu of a traditional coating. “On this job, odors were not a problem, since we used Carlisle’s FAST® Adhesive, which has no odor, and then set the FleeceBACK membrane on top of the FAST. It’s the best of both worlds, you get the seamless effect with the spray foam and then you have the durability of the EPDM FleeceBACK,” says Hughes.

Co-owner Dan Albright adds, “We’ve been installing other roofing systems for years. We’ve started using the (SPF) foam over the last ten years, and we feel it’s the best sealing roof. When we do a 20-year warranty with elastomeric coatings over the spray foam, we have to do multiple coats, with the FleeceBACK, it’s one and done.” He went on to say, “Plus, it’s easy to do once you get the system down.”

The Carlisle SynTec Systems’ FleeceBACK/ SPF-245 system is indeed simple to install, particularly in light of the fact that it is so durable once it is in place. Albright-Hughes’ crews first scarified the old elastomeric coating and spray polyurethane foam off the existing roof. The surface was then primed for temporary UV protection. High thermal value SPF-245 insulation was sprayed on to the roof, providing a monolithic, seamless blanket



of waterproofing insulation which also acts as an air barrier and eliminates thermal bridging. Carlisle SynTec Systems’ FAST Adhesive was applied to the SPF, after which the FleeceBACK membrane was set and rolled into the adhesive.

A FleeceBACK/ SPF-245 system provides supreme durability and excellent resistance to wind uplift, hail and other punctures. Other benefits include a nearly odorless application, and high tolerance to rooftop foot traffic. Warranty options on this system range from fifteen to thirty years, so building owners can be supremely confident in their investment in an SPF-245/ FleeceBACK assembly.

Bill Hughes concluded, “The last few years I’ve been involved with the FleeceBACK, I’ve found that it is a natural for us.”