

Modified Bitumen/Torch Down Roofing

The Composition of Modified Bitumen Roofing

Modified Bitumen is a roofing membrane that consists of asphalt, plastic or rubber polymers, and is widely considered an evolution in the industry of asphalt built up roofing. Modified bitumen displays the built in redundancy of asphalt built up, but much more flexibility. This is because the polymer mix used allows the asphalt to take on its most beneficial qualities. Like washed rock, modified bitumen requires a surfacing material to protect it against the sun's damage. The most common surfacing used is factory applied mineral blends of various colors. The typical life span of modified bitumen is approximately 30 years depending on climate and weathering. Modified bitumen is generally applied using a heat application process that melts the seams together to create a seal, yet sometimes a cold adhesive application system is used.

About Modified Bitumen Torch Down Roofing

The modified bitumen torch down roof consists of layers of fiberglass and polyester with bitumen that are added to the tar to produce excellent waterproofing capabilities. Sheets are torched down during the installation process, using flame torches that melt the asphalt and join the layers together, which is the origin of "torch down roofing". The final result of the process is vulcanization of a large rubber sheet onto a fiberglass base. Also called modified bitumen, due to the mixing of asphalt with rubber compounds, torch down roofing provides additional strength and resistance to a flat or low sloped roof. A torch down roof is also significantly more attractive than a standard tar and gravel roof.

Benefits of Torch Down Roofing

The blending of synthetic rubberized polymers with asphalt makes torch down roofing extremely flexible. Due to Alberta's extreme weather and climate changes, this makes torch down and modified bitumen attractive. These roof systems expand, contract, and can shift as required remaining flexible. Torch down roofing is generally a two-ply roof system and is more durable than most other low slope applications. Torch down provides excellent waterproofing and water tight qualities, is a fire, wind, and hail rated roofing system. Cooper Roofing & Exteriors provides experienced roofers in all areas of Torch down and Modified bitumen roofing applications.