

CANADIAN TECHNICAL
BULLETIN 006**TARGET MARKET ROOFING**

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Subject : Localized Membrane Cleaning

During the installation of Sika Sarnafil roofing systems or when conducting repairs it may become necessary to remove contamination from the desired welding area.

Sika Sarnafil recommends the following when the situation arises.

Always reference cleaning products' Safety Data Sheet (SDS) formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and heed all precautions, including the use of all necessary Personal Protective Equipment as required for each product such as solvent resistant gloves and eye protection.

Cleaning new Sarnafil and Sikaplan membranes within seams (for welding).

New membrane out of the package does not require any additional cleaning of the seam before welding. For light dirt, the seam can be cleaned by wiping with a dry or with a wet (water and dish soap) white Terry cloth style rag.

If water is used for cleaning, the welding surface must be dry prior to welding to prevent blisters forming when welding.

If the new seams become heavily soiled or contaminated, they should be carefully cleaned by wiping in one direction with a natural fiber rag and MEK or Acetone.

Solvents must always be poured onto the rag: Never pour solvents directly onto the membrane.

If the seam area becomes contaminated with asphalt it should be cleaned with mineral spirits or an all-purpose cleaner/degreaser like Simple Green or 409.

Solvents like MEK or Acetone alone will not clean asphalt. They will only soften the asphalt and embed it into the membrane making it more difficult to clean. All-purpose cleaners and mineral spirits products



leave a residue on the membrane surface. When using these products for seam cleaning a second step cleaning with a solvent is also required to remove the residue.

Solvents must be allowed to flash off prior to welding to prevent improper welds or discolouration.

Cleaning new Sarnafil and Sikaplan membranes outside the seams (for aesthetics).

Soap and water is an effective method to remove general dirt from the membrane surface.

Solvent cleaners such as MEK or Acetone must not be used for general cleaning as they will remove the membrane's lacquer coating. The membrane will be more susceptible to dirt pick up in these areas.

Cleaning new and old Sarnafil and Sikaplan membranes outside the seams (for patches)

In the event that contamination is located in the area to be patched the following is the accepted method;

Using a dull pencil, mark out the size of the required patch to be welded adding 1/8" larger than the patch to allow for a complete weld.

Using a Terry style cloth slightly damp with MEK, clean only the surface area within the marked out area.

Cleaning must be done in one direction only to avoid smearing the contamination.

Typically, you should allow 20 minutes for the MEK to flash off. If the MEK has not flashed off sufficiently the membrane can discolour with a dull yellow when mild heat from the heat gun is applied.

Once the MEK has flashed off the new patch can be applied as per recommended welding techniques.

For heavy soiling, a sponge scrub pad with a small amount of MEK may be needed to loosen the imbedded soiling prior to wiping with a cloth as per above.

Caution should be used when using solvent based cleaners to avoid removing the lacquer coating in areas not being patched.

NOTE: Weathered membrane cleaner, gas and other non approved chemicals are not acceptable for cleaning Sika Sarnafil membranes.

Please contact Sika Sarnafil Canada Roofing Technical Department for further information.