

CANADIAN TECHNICAL BULLETIN 004

TARGET MARKET ROOFING

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Subject : Sika Sarnafil Roof Surface Cleaning Techniques

The ideas outlined below are the most common methods used by building owners.

Extra care should be taken to make sure that the cleaning process does not cause physical damage to the membrane.

Individuals conducting the general cleaning should be made aware that excessive foot traffic, the use of sharp tools, and excessive pressure can and will cause damage to the roofing membrane.

In all instances, be sure to use a non-abrasive cleaner.

Workers should also comply with all Provincial and local safety protocols when working at heights.

Most environmentally approved dish soaps work well, try various brands in different areas and choose the cleaner with the best results.

1. A Sponge, mop, or brush cleaning is the least aggressive method of cleaning. This works well on new material and is typically used in smaller areas. Apply water and a non-abrasive cleaner to the area and sponge, mop, or brush off. Wire brushes should never be used as they scratch the material and cause punctures in the membrane.

2. Larger buildings have used pressure washing to perform roof maintenance cleaning. There are a large variety of machines available and they are all calibrated differently. Some machines don't allow you to dial in a PSI, just remember a lower PSI is preferable. Using too high a pressure will cut right into or through the membrane causing leaks and possibly damage other components of the roof system, and possibly the structure. A wide dispersal nozzle should also be used. The narrow dispersal nozzles will create too fine a spray and can damage the membrane. The wand itself should be kept at a constant 16" to 24" above the membrane. Lowering the wand to concentrate the spray can damage the membrane. The spray must be directed from the field sheet over the overlap.

Washing against the overlap could damage the edge of the material or cause problems with the weld.

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As with any cleaning process using a small test area and some common sense should provide you with the desired results.

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