



WINTER DECKING CONSIDERATIONS

Gas Bubbles

Duradek membranes are adhered to an acceptable substrate with the use of either a water-based latex or solvent based contact adhesive. We supply both types to our dealers.

Latex adhesives dry by evaporation. This is a natural process that can take several hours to complete. During this time, the membrane slowly bonds to the substrate. Because this process is susceptible to freezing most contractors will use solvent-based contact adhesive during the winter season.

Contact adhesives dry by “flashing off”. The installation procedure involves applying a thin coating of adhesive to one surface (i.e. top of plywood deck), let dry completely then coating the other surface to be glued (i.e. back of membrane), letting it become tacky and then contacting the two surfaces. The bond strength comes when the molecules of glue physically and chemically mesh together. This is a rapid but not a uniform process. Pockets of still wet solvent adhesive can be trapped under the now partially adhered membrane. These pockets will now take longer to flash off and can cause a “gas bubble” to form.

Many of these gas bubbles will vanish as the adhesive dries. Applying heat to the top of the membrane can temporarily soften Duradek contact adhesives so the bubble will stick down to the plywood. The solar heat from the sun does this naturally, but this process can take time depending on the season. Other methods are quicker and can often be done by the owner, they include: stepping on the bubble with a slight twist, use a hair dryer set at a medium heat, clothes iron and damp towel slip sheet, pouring hot water over the bubbles.

Concentrated or too high of a heat setting could glaze the membrane finish. A plastic spreader can be used to evenly force the membrane down.

Only a qualified installer should apply direct heat using a Hot Air Welding Gun or Directional Forced Air Space Heater.

Ice on Vinyl

Rock Salt, Kitty Litter (for non-slip traction) and various other snow-melting chemicals can be used on your Duradek surface. We do caution, however, that you clean the surface thoroughly with soap & water and flushed clear prior to letting the heat of the spring sun “bake” any chemicals into the surface.

Snow & Ice Removal

Only use a plastic shovel to remove snow & ice from the deck surface.