



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Last Revision:2021

Subject: **Self-Adhering Underlayment Removal**

Self-adhering waterproof shingle underlayment is generally used on the eave, rake and valley areas and around roof penetrations. Its primary purpose is to minimize chances of water penetration to the roof system in critical areas of the roof. Once adhered to the roof deck for an extended period of time it is difficult to remove without damaging the deck material.

- It is always recommended to remove the self-adhering underlayment when it can be pulled up without damaging the deck.
 - o This will aid in your ability to examine the deck for deterioration and damage.
 - o Will also reduce build-up of materials that could generate a water stop that produces a leak.
 - o Will also eliminate unevenness that may create an aesthetic issue with the newly installed shingles.
 - o Removal of self-adhering underlayment becomes more important when more than one layer of self-adhering underlayment is present.
- If two or more layers of underlayment are present then all layers should be removed.
- If only one layer of self-adhering underlayment is present and cannot be removed without damaging the deck:
 - o Installation of a second layer of underlayment over the existing membrane is acceptable. **Note: This remedy is not applicable in Florida. Always check local building code for clarification of what they deem acceptable.**
 - o Offset laps in the new and existing underlayment and “feather in” the new underlayment by extending the new material beyond the existing material a minimum of eight inches. This will reduce the likelihood of water stops and aesthetic problems.
- If removal of existing material cannot be accomplished without damaging the deck, then the roofing contractor may need to remove and replace the decking in the areas covered with the self-adhering underlayment.