



Frequently Asked Questions ?

What is the life expectancy of bitumen based roofing felts as used on a flat roof?

Based on construction industry experience estimates, standard bitumen roofing felts have a life expectancy range of between 5 years to 30 years dependent on the actual bitumen roofing felt used (polymer modified bitumen roofing felts have a life expectancy of at the upper ends of this scale), although with good care and annual maintenance it should last in excess of this.

What is the life expectancy of bitumen based roofing shingles as used on a pitched roof?

Based on construction industry experience estimates, standard bitumen shingles have a life expectancy range of between 10 years to 20 years dependent on the actual shingle used (polymer modified bitumen shingles have a life expectancy of 35 years to 50 years), although with good care and annual maintenance it should last in excess of this.

What roofing felts should I use?

This is a difficult question to answer because EDS Roofing Supplies (Midlands) Limited and its suppliers of such products can supply roofing felts for nearly every conceivable application. As a general rule of thumb though, our product suppliers advise that; if the substrate of a FLAT ROOF is Plywood, Timber or Metal then roofing felts manufactured using SBS Modified Bitumen should be used, as should be the instance if the roofing felts are to be installed on to an existing Mastic Asphalt or Bitumen Felt roof. If the substrate of a roof is concrete then roofing felts manufactured using APP Modified Bitumen should be used. In instances where the substrate is a PITCHED ROOF, then the roofing felt used should be of an APP Modified Bitumen type. If required EDS Roofing Supplies (Midlands) Limited can offer advice and guidance for specific individual roofs upon application to our companies Technical Services Department based at our company Head Office.

Please Note that before laying any roofing felt it is advisable to lay a small trial area first to ensure the products you have purchased are compatible with the substrate they are being applied to!

How can I ensure the materials used to waterproof and insulate my roof will be covered by a guarantee?

EDS Roofing Supplies operate a 'Chain of Supply' through its Approved Contractor, Installer and Supplier Scheme. By using a company that is an Approved Contractor of EDS Roofing Supplies (Midlands) Limited and whose employees are also Approved Installers, and likewise purchase products from an approved Supplier, a property owner will not only ensure that the waterproofing products used are correctly installed but also covered by either a manufacture's insurance guarantee or a **JIGSAW** guarantee.

How can I ensure the roofing contractor I use to install the materials used to waterproof and insulate my roof is reputable, trust worthy and will do a good job?

The Names and Addresses of participants in our company's 'Chain of Supply' i.e. our Approved Contractors, Approved Installers and Approved Suppliers can be obtained upon request from our company's Head Office based in Lutterworth. Included amongst the many checks that have to be satisfactorily passed prior to becoming and whilst being an Approved Contractor, Installer or Supplier are those of workmanship and financial status. Approved status is viewed as form of recognition within the construction industry and as such highly prized, with those approved keen to maintain their approval. We do though recommend that prior to entering into a contract with anyone for your roofing requirements that you make your own personal checks and seek

recommendations into those with whom you are entering into a contract with. Chain of Supply is also known in the construction industry as Chain of Custody.

How can I be assured that a roofing contractor is an Approved Contractor?

Ask to view the roofing contractors' certificate of approval.

My roofing contractor keeps on about a 3 Layer system, what does he mean?

In an old fashioned traditional felt roofing system, the 3 Layer expression refers to the three layers of felt (venting layer, underlay, cap sheet) which are bonded together with hot bitumen that sits either on top of the insulation (if being used) or directly on top of the roof deck.

My roofing contractor talks about using only a 2 & 4, what does he mean?

When a roofing contractor who only works on domestic properties refers to a 2 & 4, he is referring to the fact that he is intending to use only a 2Kg or 2mm underlay and a 4Kg cap sheet. Whilst this is perfectly all right for waterproofing a domestic garage, shed or carport, it is not advisable to have the main roof of a domestic property waterproofed in this manner.

People in the roofing trade refer to a 'Cap Sheet', what is this?

A cap sheet is the top layer in a bitumen roofing felt waterproofing system, normally this has a granule slate finish, but can also be a plain finish felt that is painted with a solar reflective felt.

Do flat felted roofs need to be covered with stone chippings or slate granules?

No, in normal circumstances only those bitumen felts manufactured using SBS modified or Oxidised bitumen compounds require protection from 'ultra violet radiation' as given off by the Sun's ray. Although stone chippings and slate granules in addition to providing protection for the roof from ultra violet radiation, they also providing a decorative finish and can reduce problems caused by extremes of temperature and surface spread of flame. Waterproof membranes manufactured using an APP modified bitumen compound, although not requiring protection from the Sun's rays to the same extent as SBS modified or Oxidised bitumen compounds, stone chippings or slate granules do provide decoratively pleasing finish and can reduce problems caused by extremes of temperature and surface spread of flame.

What is the difference between chippings and slate granules?

Slate granules are small flakes of natural slate or coloured ceramics as embedded onto the surface of some roofing felts during their manufacture as an alternative to the usage of stone chippings, which are bonded to a roofing felt with an adhesive after the felt has been fixed in place.

What is the fire rating of roofing felt with a slate granule finish or covered in stone chippings?

F.AA to BS476 part 3 or ENV1187 TM1/2/3/4 B_{roof}, C_{roof}, D_{roof} or F_{roof}. Although this is dependent upon the actual build-up of the waterproofing system being used.

Do the waterproof membranes EDS Roofing Supplies sell meet the latest European fire standards?

Yes - Special formulation waterproofing membranes are available which meet all the current European Standards (EN 1187/1, 2, 3 & 4).

What is the difference between a roofing felt that is Fire Rated and one that is Fire Retardant?

A fire rated roofing felt is a felt that has been tested for **Surface Spread of Flame** i.e. Surface spread of flame is how fast a flame will travel across the surface of a bitumen felt. Whilst a fire retardant roofing felt is a felt that

has been tested for **Flammability of a Product** i.e. The length of time taken for flame to burn the entire way through a bitumen roofing felt.

Why do some insulation products have waterproof membranes already bonded to them?

To enable a roof to be insulated and waterproofed quicker and safer than conventional insulation and waterproof products.

What is a 'U' value ?

The 'U' value as applicable under Building Regulation is a calculation which gives the thermal loss of heat transmission in a structure, therefore all products, in particular ed insulation, whilst not having an individual 'U' value, will when used as part of a roof construction surpasses current Building Regulation requirements.

Do the roofing felts EDS Roofing Supplies sell have any type of certification?

Yes - All the roofing felts available under the Novaglass, Valli Zabban, TecnoNicol Italia and EDS Waterproof Membranes brands are CE certified. Additionally most of these products also have Government accreditation in the form of ISO, I.T.C, BBA (UK), I.C. I.T.E (Italy), BAM (Germany, BOVERKET (Sweden) C.S.T.B (France), FGW (Austria), IAB (Ireland), ICCET (Spain), UBATO (Belgium), SBK (Denmark), LNEC (Portugal), NBI (Norway), VTT (Finland), CEN (Comitee de European Normalisation), EOTA (European Organisation for Technical Approvals).

Why do EDS Roofing Supplies not promote single ply products as much as their bituminous product ranges?

As a company EDS Roofing Supplies pride themselves on being able to supply its customers with products of unquestionable first class quality and not prone to any form of failure. All the products that we supply are recognised by construction industry professionals as being of premier grade quality, some bituminous products themselves can be used as a single layer product. Like many others in the construction industry, we believe that a single layer bituminous product 5mm in thickness is far superior in all aspects of performance to any 1mm or 2mm single ply type product. It is for this reason that EDS Roofing Supplies (Midlands) Limited divested its self from all its interests in the Polysystem single ply products in 2002.