



Roofing Under Decks

by Henry Spies

Roof-Top Deck

Q. *We often encounter flat roofs with decks over them. What roofing material makes the most sense for this?*

A. Most flat roofing systems can be used under decks if the roof surface is properly protected. With built-up or single-ply systems, build the deck on sleepers, with an extra layer of roofing where the sleepers rest. The deck should be built in sections so it can be removed for cleaning, and to get to the membrane for repairs.

While I have not had personal experience with it, one new product, Duradek, is made to be used as both the deck and the roofing. It is made with a type of PVC, and is available in several colors. A brochure showing the colors and a listing of distributors is available free from Ensurco Duradek, P.O. Box F-195-37, Blaine, WA 98230; 604/591-5594.

Cedar in Closets

Q. *Does T&G cedar paneling for closets need to be sealed? If so, what should I use?*

A. Cedar paneling in closets should never be sealed. The purpose of the cedar paneling is to release the aroma and volatile compounds in the cedar into the closet to repel moths. As the volatiles decrease with age, the effects of the cedar can be restored with a light sanding to expose new wood, or by applying a coating of cedar oil.

Builders' Business Forms

Q. *Where can I buy building contract forms — cost estimate, weekly invoices, contract and subcontract agreements, etc.?*

A. New England Business Systems (500 Main St., Groton, MA 01471; 508/448-6111) has stock forms, as well as some forms which match several of the popular computerized accounting systems. Home-Tech Systems (5161 River Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816; 800/638-8292) has a complete set of contractor forms. The R.S. Means Company (P.O. Box 800, Kingston, MA 02364-0800) also has forms available.

Patching in Asbestos Siding

Q. *Occasionally, we run across asbestos shingles. We sometimes have to cut the material for a door or window opening. What precautions need to be taken when cutting through this material? What is the best way to dispose of a few shingles? Is this material still available for repairs?*

A. Cutting or breaking asbestos-cement board or shingles releases asbestos fibers into the air. To remove shingles without breaking, apply pressure near the nail head to expose the head enough to cut it off with side-cutters.

If at all possible, asbestos shingles should be cut with a shingle cutter. Sawing siding panels with an abrasive saw will release large quantities of fibers. The shingles can also be scored with a carbide knife and snapped clean. In either case, a respirator with a HEPA filter should be worn.

There is considerable controversy over whether incidental exposure to chrysotile (white) asbestos, the type used in most residential work, presents any danger. Research in Europe, primarily in the United Kingdom, indicates that mild exposure presents no significant hazard. The blue and brown types used in commercial and industrial applications are different minerals, and seem to constitute a much greater hazard. Extended exposure to any of the mineral fibers is very hazardous.

The requirements for disposal vary from state to state. Some states require that the material be enclosed in a crate or heavy plastic bag, and be buried in a hazardous waste landfill. Other states only require that it be bagged and marked, but buried in the ordinary landfill.

Cement-asbestos board and shingles have not been manufactured in this country for several years. Some shingles have been imported from Canada. Now, imports are prohibited as well. There may still be some in stock at supply yards, but the stock will soon be gone. ■

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