TECHNICAL BULLETIN

STORAGE AND HANDLING OF ASPHALT SHINGLES

The storage and handling of asphalt shingles prior to installation may affect ease of application and long-term shingle performance. *Double-stacking* pallets can indent, deform, or stain the shingles over time, particularly in warm weather or when shingles are exposed to direct sunlight. All inventory should be systematically rotated so older material stored the longest will be the first moved out (*first in, first out*, or simply, FIFO).

Best practices for storage of shingles is to store them one pallet high. The heavier the weight of shingles, the greater the possibility for damage when stacked. Damage may manifest itself in many ways, including indentation and staining, but could also cause bundles to stick together, particularly at the bottom of the lowermost pallet. If shingle pallets are stacked, do not stack more than two (2) pallets high, and make sure they are squarely stacked. Staining is not a long-term problem; it typically goes away within a few weeks of weathering on the roof. Other issues are discussed below.

Shingle bundles should be rotated so they are not exposed to the elements for a long period of time. Exposure to wind, UV rays, and other elements will lead to deterioration of the bundle wraps, making it difficult to safely transport shingles to the roof. Best practices of FIFO inventory control or indoor storage will help preserve the bundle wraps.

Shingles have strips of release film to prevent them from sticking together in the bundle, but particularly in warmer weather or when double-stacked, they still tend to stick slightly. Should this occur, it may be necessary to *snap* each bundle to break the bonds between shingles inside.

There are different ways for doing this, but perhaps the most effective is to step (or kneel) on one end of the bundle and lift the other end approximately 45 degrees. Flip around and repeat on the other end if necessary.

This technique usually works better in cooler temperatures like those in the morning. Shingles stiffen in cold temperatures, so less force may be needed to snap the bundles.

Another approach to sticky shingles is to remove them from the bundle granule side up. Whatever methodology is used, take care when separating shingles so they are not damaged unnecessarily, and never install a damaged shingle on the roof.

Contact Malarkey Technical Services with questions at (800) 545-1191 or (503) 283-1191, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Pacific Time, or email us at malarkey.technicalinquiries@amrize.com.

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