

## **BLUESKIN® COMPATIBILITY ISSUES**

We are frequently asked about compatibility issues when **Blueskin®** is placed in contact with various membranes, gaskets and sealants.

### ***PVC***

Generally, contact with Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) based membranes and gaskets should be avoided.

If the asphalt side of the **Blueskin®** is placed in contact with PVC, the plasticizers in the PVC is attracted to the asphalt. The plasticizer then renders the asphalt very plastic or liquid, to the point where the asphalt can become liquid and flow.

This reaction is accelerated by an increase in temperature.

Also avoid contact with the blue side as there is still the issue of bitumen / PVC contact with the sheet edge or if penetrated by fasteners.

**Examples of PVC materials:** gaskets used by the window industry such as General Polymers Geon 8700x, "Duradek" vinyl deck membrane, PVC roofing membranes such as manufactured by Sarnafil.

Effects of the new breed of PVC membranes such TPO are not known at this time. Best practice is to avoid contact until further notice.

### ***Sealants***

Most sealants contain a solvent vehicle which will soften the bitumen side of the **Blueskin®** and can cause sealant discoloration. Even silicone sealants which are basically solvent free have shown discoloration over prolonged periods.

Sealant contact with the Blue side does not effect the **Blueskin®** adversely. The issue is bond strength to the blue polyethylene surface. Our experience has been best with asphalt based products such as **Polybitume® 570-05**, butyl and polyurethane sealants. However, contact with bitumen edge will result in discoloration.

**Conditions to avoid:** Placing **Blueskin®** over fresh / wet sealant can cause softening of the bitumen and potentially result in slippage. If the sealant is on a substrate of low permeability such as metal, the sealant will try to cure through the **Blueskin®** and can cause the membrane to wrinkle.