

Fifty Years of Firsts from Sika Sarnafil

Pioneering innovations and singular events spanning a half-century that have shaped the world's single-ply roofing industry.

The Company is Formed 1958

The company's first production facility and offices are established in Europe. Initial products include yard goods for upholsters and industrial curtains, in addition to roofing membranes.

Spread Coating for Membranes 1961

The first spread coating manufacturing equipment for producing roofing and waterproofing membranes is perfected by the company. It produces a stress-free, reinforced and homogeneous product.

Sarnafil® is Born 1962

Company chemists develop the world's first fabric-reinforced thermoplastic membrane for roofing, trademarked *Sarnafil*. This tear-resistant membrane revolutionizes the single-ply roofing industry.

Recognition on a World-Stage 1964

The first large-scale installation of Sarnafil membranes took place on tent-like pavilions at Expo 64 in Switzerland, giving building professionals from around the world their first look at Sarnafil.

A Membrane for Adhered Applications 1965

The industry's first fiberglass mat-reinforced roofing membrane is developed especially for adhered roofing applications and called G410. Today it still has the best dimensional stability of any single-ply membrane.

Waterproofing Tunnels 1966

Sarnafil membrane is first used for tunnel waterproofing at the Gei Tunnel in Switzerland. Many millions of square feet of Sarnafil membrane now waterproof tunnels around the world.

Better Welds, Faster Installations 1966

The company introduces the industry's first automatic hot-air seam welder. Today's Sarnamatic welder is still considered the best means for ensuring watertight integrity and reliability.

The First Vegetated Green Roof 1969

The first Sarnafil vegetated green roof is installed at a commercial spa in Bad Zurzach, Switzerland. This sustainable, regenerative roof landscape is still in service today, 45 years later.

Sarnafil Comes to North America 1976

The first Sarnafil roof system in North America is completed at First Methodist Church in Laconia, NH. It is still in place today, 37 years later.

Greening Up the USA 1978

The first vegetated Sarnafil green roof in North America is installed at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH. A special waterproofing membrane is utilized for sub-grade environments.

Color for Design Creativity 1979

The company introduces the first color single-ply membranes in the industry. A unique manufacturing process permanently builds colors into the membrane, with no recoating required.

Lacquer Coating Makes a Difference 1979

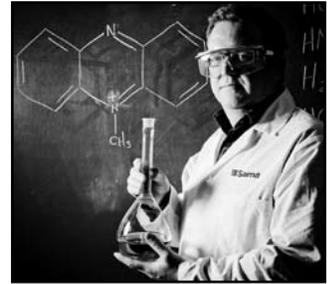
The company was the first and is still the only thermoplastic membrane manufacturer to apply an acrylic lacquer coating to finished membrane surfaces, enhancing reflectivity and aesthetics.

Formulating Industry Standards 1985

The company chairs the first ASTM standard for PVC membranes and was the leader in getting approval for the first single-ply consensus, called the ASTM D4434.

First with Felback 1987

The company becomes the first thermoplastic membrane manufacturer to produce a feltbacked membrane. It adheres exceptionally well to substrates and can eliminate the need for recovery boards.



In 1962, the world's first thermoplastic membrane reinforced with fabric.



Tent-like pavilions covered with Sarnafil at Expo 64 in Switzerland.



Swiss tunnel work in 1966 was the first such Sarnafil application.



The first Sarnafil green roof was installed in 1969 and is still in place.



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The First Retractable Stadium Roof 1989

The world's first fully-retractable stadium roof was constructed atop the Skydome in Canada. Now the Rogers Centre, this facility still sports the original Sarnafil membrane, 25 years later.

Recycling Production Waste 1994

The company first diverts membrane production trimmings and scrap from landfills, recycling the material to produce the Sarnatread Roof Walkway Mat.

The EnergySmart Roof® 1998

This eco-friendly system features a highly reflective white Sarnafil membrane and heat-welded seams. It offers watertight protection and unsurpassed longevity while promoting energy efficiency.

Partnering with the EPA 1999

Sarnafil was a Charter Partner in the EPA's ENERGY STAR® Roof Products Program. This partnership promotes the environmental and economic benefits of reflective roofing.

Looks Like Metal, Protects Like Sarnafil 1999

The Décor Roof System is introduced. Patented systems realistically simulate the look of standing seam metal roofs while providing the watertight protection heat-welded Sarnafil roofing systems are noted for.

Rated Number One 2000

Sarnafil membranes are listed first in a Simpson Gumpertz & Heger study examining the physical properties and performance capabilities of the 15 most widely used thermoplastic roof membranes.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Study 2000

The EnergySmart Roof reduces cooling requirements by 14 percent in a direct side-by-side comparison with dark EPDM roofing in a two-year EPA-sponsored study on a large Texas retail store.

More of a Good Thing 2001

The company makes a capital investment in manufacturing and Sarnafil PVC membranes are available for the first time in 10-foot widths to promote installation efficiencies.

Large-Scale Recycling Program 2005

A national recycling program for older vinyl roofing membrane is introduced by Sika Sarnafil. More than 25 million pounds of vinyl destined for landfills has been reprocessed into new roofing products.

First in Eco-Efficiency 2005

Sarnafil was first in eco-efficiency in a life-cycle analysis of low slope roofing membranes conducted by the independent organization Carbotech AG of Basel, Switzerland.

A Self-Adhered Waterproofing Membrane 2007

Company introduces the Sarnafil G476 SA. Popular waterproofing membrane is now available in a self-adhered format, enhancing adhesion and installation productivity. Foam adhesive composite conforms to irregular surfaces.

British Board of Agrément 2008

Sarnafil membrane receives BBA certificate stating "... the durability of Sarnafil membranes, when used in accordance with the relevant BBA certificates, should have a life in excess of 35 years."

RhinoBond Induction Welding 2008

Sarnafil is the first single-ply membrane available with RhinoBond, a penetration-free attachment system that improves wind uplift resistance and streamlines the installation process.

Certified Recycled Content 2010

Sika Sarnafil was the first and is still the only commercial roofing company in the U.S. to receive certification from UL Environment relating to recycled content of its roofing membrane products.



Canada's Skydome roof system was installed in 1989 and is still in service.



The EnergySmart Roof has a history of high performance and longevity.



The Décor Roof System looks like metal, but protects like Sarnafil.



Sika Sarnafil's recycling program has received numerous awards.

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