

Sika Sarnafil

World Class Roofing and Waterproofing

ROOFING TECHNICAL BULLETIN

#02-13

To: Roofing Consultants
Authorized Roofing Applicators
Sika Sarnafil Sales Staff & Sales Representatives
Sika Sarnafil Regional Technical Staff
Sika Sarnafil Customer Service Staff
Sika Sarnafil Services Staff
Sika Sarnafil Marketing

From: Sika Sarnafil Technical Service Department

Date: January 18, 2013

Subject: Localized Membrane Cleaning

As a result of the increasing regulations governing the shipment and use of solvent based products, the sale of Sarnasolv Membrane Cleaner will be discontinued. Sarnasolv was used for the localized cleaning of dirt and asphalt contamination from Sarnafil and Sikaplan membrane surfaces. Below is a guide of recommended cleaning options to be used in the absence of Sarnasolv.

Always reference cleaning products' Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and heed all precautions, including the use of all necessary Personal Protective Equipment as required for each product such as solvent resistant gloves and eye protection.

Cleaning new Sarnafil and Sikaplan membranes within seams (for welding).

New membrane out of the package which is clean does not require any additional cleaning of the seam before welding. For light dirt pick up the seam can be cleaned by wiping with a dry or with a wet (water) rag.

If the new seams become heavily soiled or contaminated with adhesive, they should be cleaned by wiping with a natural fiber rag and a solvent like MEK or Acetone. Solvents must always be poured onto the rag: **Never pour solvents directly onto the membrane.**

If the seam area becomes contaminated with asphalt it should be cleaned with mineral spirits or an all-purpose cleaner/degreaser like Simple Green or 409. Solvents like MEK or Acetone alone will not clean asphalt. They will only soften the asphalt and embed it into the membrane making it more difficult to clean. All-purpose cleaners and mineral spirits products leave a residue on the membrane surface. When using these products for seam cleaning a second step cleaning with a solvent is also required to remove the residue.

Cleaning new Sarnafil and Sikaplan membranes outside the seams (for aesthetics).

Solvents such as MEK or Acetone will remove the membrane's lacquer coating. The membrane will be more susceptible to dirt pick up in these areas. When aesthetics are important, solvent cleaning should be limited to the overlap within the seam area.



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Cleaning of asphalt and light dirt pickup outside of the seams can be done with mineral spirits or an all-purpose cleaner which will not remove the lacquer coating.

When cleaning outside the seam area it is not necessary to remove the cleaner residue off of the membrane.

Cleaning aged Sarnafil and Sikaplan membranes within the seams (for welding).

To clean aged PVC to a “like new condition”, for the purpose of making repairs or welding new to old membrane (when a new penetration is added for example), a strong solvent like MEK, Acetone or MEK Substitute (Ethyl Acetate) will likely be required to properly prepare the membrane for welding. If the membrane is extremely soiled such as in a ponded area, and there is excessive dirt build up, a preliminary cleaning with an all-purpose cleaner and scrub pads may be required before a final cleaning with the solvent.

In instances where the soiling or contamination is extreme, welding of the new membrane to the underside of the aged membrane may be an option if the membrane is not adhered.

Cleaning aged Sarnafil and Sikaplan membrane outside the seam (for aesthetics).

For spot cleaning of random scuffing or asphalt contamination the procedures noted above for new membrane cleaning outside the seam are applicable. For removing organic soiling, a 3% bleach and water solution has been found to be effective without damaging the membrane or the lacquer coating.

For additional questions on proper cleaning procedures please contact Sika Sarnafil's technical department.

Membrane/Seam cleaning guidelines

Surface to be cleaned	Wipe with wet/dry rag	All-purpose cleaners*	Mineral Spirits*	Solvents: M.E.K, Acetone, M.E.K. Substitute**	3% Bleach/ Water
New seam or lightly contaminated	x	x		x	
Heavily soiled membrane seam or new seam with adhesive contamination		x		x	
New or aged membrane (outside the seam)		x	x		x
Asphalt contamination inside or outside the seam		x	x		

* When using “all-purpose cleaners” or Mineral Spirits, residue must be completely removed with solvent before welding.

** Never pour solvents directly onto the membrane.

