

Technical Note on Compatibility of Rubberized Asphalt (Asphalt Polymer) Flashing Systems with Caulks and Sealants

It is generally agreed in the construction industry, and in particular among the membership of Task Group E-06.51.11 (charged with the update of ASTM E2112-01 Practice for Installation of Exterior Windows, Doors, and Skylights) that many commonly used sealants and caulks contain solvents and/or plasticizers, and that the solvents and plasticizers can react with the rubberized asphalt adhesive on flashing systems. The incompatibility will show itself in the form of liquification of the asphalt portion of the adhesive. This incompatibility reaction will be worsened by high heat, and by application of the asphalt to uncured sealants or caulks.

For this reason Polyguard strongly recommends the following:

1. Make sure caulks or sealants which might come into contact with the adhesive portion of a Polyguard rubberized asphalt flashing product do not contain plasticizers or solvents. This includes most polyurethane and silicone caulks.
2. Do not follow the practice of using a “knockdown bead” or “buttering the flashing” with sealants. Always tool off excess sealant from window flanges or flashing

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