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BATS IN THE ROOFING INDUSTRY: ROOFING MEMBRANES
**Manufacturer Invests in Dry Fix Capacity**

R
tullite manufacturer Russell Roof Tiles has invested in plant and equipment with a £3m machinery upgrade to increase its manufacturing capacity.

The firm has purchased a new injection moulding machine from Borouge to increase production of dry fix system components by around 30% at its Wemore Lane site in Burton.

This follows a £600,000 investment at its sites in Burton and Lochaline.

Designed to complement its own concrete tiles, Russell Roof Tiles has been manufacturing dry fix components since 1998 and makes over 75% of the UPPVC fittings required for the roofing projects it supplies.

Andrew Hayward, MD, said: “It is vital that construction materials manufacturers continue to invest in the latest technology to drive the business forward. This investment supports our service to customers whilst continuing to grow the business’s production capabilities.

“This investment is part of Russell Roof Tiles’ capital improvement plan to further enhance quality across the business, by utilising the latest innovations in technology, to increase output whilst reducing our carbon footprint.”

**Roofing Supplier Joins Merchant Buying Group**

S
pecialist independent merchant Roofing Supplier has joined the National Buying Group (NSG).

Founded in 2010, Watts Roofing Suppliers is an independent roofing merchant, based out of three branches in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Shane Watts, Director at Watts Roofing, said: “We heard about NSG through Apllye Roofing Supplies, they became a Partner in 2019 and have already been experiencing the benefits of some great deals, so they recommended that we looked into joining too. We celebrated our tenth birthday earlier this year and are always looking for new ways to grow our business so we’re excited to be part of the NSG family, share our knowledge with other Partners and have access to some great new deals.”

Nick Oates, Managing Director at NSG, said: “Our Roofing Category Management Team has grown considerably over the last 12 months with the addition of excellent new partners. About Roofing Supplies, Apllye Roofing Suppliers, Bernard Exton and Chandler Building Supplies.

Another high-quality roofing specialist is only going to make the team stronger and our volumes greater within the roofing sector. Our roofing partners are already working closely together, sharing their expertise.”

**Timber Merchant Says Product Availability Lies Behind Growth**

S
r Timber is reporting year-on-year double-digit sales growth for the first half of 2021, despite the March to May lockdown.

The Nottinghamshire-based company saw sales grow by more than 10% between January and July this year compared with the same period last year.

SR Timber’s Trading Director Shaun Revill said that feedback from customers in both the merchant and contracting sectors suggests that the company’s reserves of stock and the speed of deliveries are the key reasons for this growth.

Shaun Revill said: “To be more than 10% up in a 7 month period when the UK was in lockdown for 7 weeks is a remarkable achievement and, as I keep saying, a testament to the strength of our supply chain, the quality of our products and our commitment to our customers.”

Uncertainty

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, Shaun remains confident: “Given what we’ve come through and despite the last there’s lots of uncertainty ahead, all our forecasting for the rest of the year is still very positive”.

**Kee Safety Introduces Scotland’s Largest Fall Protection Company**

K
ee Safety, global suppliers of fall protection and safety railing systems, has announced that four of its Scottish-based businesses are merging into one company.

The company says the move will allow it to create new employment opportunities, invest in new technologies and deliver a more efficient and effective operation.

From 1 September, the four businesses – Roof Edge Fabrications, The Roof Anchor Company, WH Maintenance and APS Safety Systems – will trade under APS Safety Systems Ltd and will operate out of a Glasgow facility.

Brian McLean, General Manager of APS Safety Systems, said: “Built on 10 years of success, APS Safety Systems’ reputation is based on quality and safety. This, combined with the ‘Safe People’ from Hazards’ philosophy that all Kee Safety companies abide by, makes us confident that this new structure will benefit existing and new employers, clients, and our supply chain and it allow us to continue our sales growth across Scotland.”

**NARM Safety Guidance on Glass Endorsed by ACR**

F
or many years, the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers (NARM) has recommended the use of laminated glass inner panes for glass rooflights. “This removes the risk of glass debris falling onto building occupants in the event of a shattered pane, a risk that is present when toughened glass (sometimes referred to as safety glass) is used.

This position has now been further endorsed by ACR, the Advisory Committee for Rooflights, a body dedicated to making working on roofs safe.

Founded in 1998 by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), ACR compiles representatives of major roofing federations and associations, and HSE.

In its new Information Sheet 5 (Glass Specification in Flat Rooflights), ACR reiterates NARM guidance: stating that it is difficult to see how the use of a toughened rather than laminated glass inner pane doesn’t present a risk to anyone beneath the rooflight. The ACR, in common with the Center-Link Window and Glazing Technology (WVT) and the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers (NARM), strongly believes that any realistic risk assessment will lead to the selection of laminated glass.

This endorsement brings further pressure on BSI to amend its BS 5530-2:2004 standard, in which toughened panes currently are allowable, subject to a risk assessment.

The document can be downloaded at: www.the-arch.org

**More Stores for Screwfix**

S
crewfix will be opening 40 new stores this year creating around 400 new jobs. The new openings follow continued growth for the business and a growing demand for online products.

In the UK, 30 new stores will create up to 300 jobs by the end of January 2022. A further 10 stores are planned in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), which will create up to 190 jobs over the same period.

Screwfix has opened at least 50 stores a year for the past decade, making it one of the fastest growing trade suppliers in the UK. It now has more than 600 stores with a long-term target of 800 in the UK.

Screwfix currently has five stores in the ROI, which opened in early 2020.

John Metwally, Screwfix CEO, said: “We know that time is money for our customers and these new stores in the UK and Republic of Ireland will not only enable us to provide our customers with added convenience and certainty, but also allow us to provide even more job opportunities for local communities when they need it most.”

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc.
Kingspan Proposes Council Tax Incentives and Green Mortgages to Cut Homes’ Carbon Emissions

Following the start of the Green Homes Grant on 1 September, when funding vouchers will help households invest in the energy efficiency of their homes, Kingspan Insulation has published a series of recommendations to further drive investment and provide the market conditions to create sustainable demand for energy efficiency improvements.

In a report ‘Energy Efficiency In Able to Pay Homes: Meeting Climate Change Goals’ Kingspan makes several recommendations including:

- Building Passports
- Highlighting Energy Costs during Property Transactions
- Green Mortgages
- Council Tax Incentives (refundable and rebates)
- Home Upgrade Grants
- Low Interest Loans and Saving Schemes
- Mandating Action by Setting Minimum EPC standards at Point of Sale

The report emphasises the need for a holistic package of measures including incentives, information and regulation to bring the worst-performing properties up to standard. It targets the ‘able to pay’ market, which represents the largest proportion of housing and the worst energy performance ratings.

Adrian Page: Kingspan Insulation said: “It is essential that the Government seizes the opportunity of a Green Recovery by introducing an ambitious policy framework that will not only help households in the short-term but also provides a sustainable market and delivers long-term change so that the UK meets its carbon targets and we realise the economic benefits associated with supporting energy efficiency improvements.

“We hope that this paper contributes to the debate and we look forward to the upcoming Buildings and Heat Roadmap and the Spending Review later this year. Which we hope will take on board some of these policy recommendations.”

Simon Street from Insulation Manufacturers Association adds: “If we are to achieve net zero carbon by 2050, it is essential to motivate this sector towards the installation of energy efficiency measures in a fabric first approach. This includes installing high quality insulation which will provide long-term and cost-effective savings for consumers, with opportunities in a green jobs market, whilst ensuring that homes are fit for the future.”

The policy paper can be accessed in full at: https://www.kingspan.com/green- homes/assets/able-to-pay-homes-mitigation-pack.pdf

MCRMA Recruits Systems Manufacturer Member

The Metal Cladding and Roofing Manufacturers Association (MCRMA) has accepted BTS Facades & Fabrications Ltd as a new member in its systems manufacturer category.

BTS Facades & Fabrications is a supplier of metal CWCT-tested rainscreen systems and fabricated metal construction products. All their products are produced at their facilities in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

The MCRMA has five categories of membership – systems manufacturers, component manufacturers, system installers, independent roofing and cladding inspectors and industry support services providers.

Visit www.mcrma.co.uk to find out more about the MCRMA and its members.
Bailey Roofing Sponsors Budding Racing Driver

At 15 years old, Marcus Littlewood is already a successful junior racing driver about to compete in the 2023 300 Junior British Kart Championships.

With a string of competition wins already, Marcus has now been recognised as having his sights set on Formula 1 success.

This success has attracted sponsorship from Bailey Roofing, based in Milton Keynes.

Competing since he was 5, Marcus has developed a huge passion for racing. He will begin the first circuit for the 2023 championship in September, proudly bearing the Bailey Roofing colours of red and dark grey and company logo on his kit and kart.

Nathan Bailey said, “Bailey Roofing supports the younger generation through running apprenticeship programs and we want to do more for the community. We are delighted to become Marcus’s sponsor and know that he has the potential to grow and achieve his goals to eventually become a Formula 1 driver.”

Marcus’s next goal is to finish high in the British Championships this year then move on to ‘seniors’ next year when he is 16, competing in Europe. His long-term ambition is to race cars at Formula 4 and working up to Formula 1.

NHBC Launches New MMC Warranty Service

NHBC has launched a new service for Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) called NHBC Accepts.

The service offers technical reviews at key stages of construction, providing a certificate and acceptance for a NHBC warranty, usage licence for the NHBC Accepts logo and webtile listing.

Innovation Manager, Richard Lankluea said: “An NHBC Accepts certificate is a way of demonstrating that innovative products or systems have already been reviewed thus reducing the risk of delays on site.”

Green Home Grant Voucher Work to be Done by TrustMark Trades Only

Home energy saving improvements carried out under the Government’s new Green Homes Grant scheme can only be completed by TrustMark registered businesses.

Under the Green Homes Grant scheme, homeowners in England can apply for vouchers worth up to two thirds of the cost of hiring tradespeople.

The vouchers can be used to upgrade the energy efficiency of their home.

The maximum contribution will be £5,000, or for those on lower incomes a 100% grant up to £10,000 will be available for certain work.

How it works

Homeowners in England will be able to access advice and signposting on improving the energy efficiency of their home from the Simple Energy Advice Service. They will suggest appropriate home improvements that the voucher could fund. The Simple Energy Advice Service will then offer households a list of approved TrustMark Registered Businesses including those approved via the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) scheme, from local area, to carry out the work. Once the works are agreed, vouchers will start to be issued from the end of September so work can start. The grant scheme is available until the end of March 2021.

Simon Ayres, CEO of TrustMark, said, “The Green Homes Grant scheme is an important step in creating new jobs, protecting the existing and delivering low carbon housing.

“As an industry, we need to collaborate to support the initiative, ensure businesses are supported and consumers can rely on the tradespeople that carry out work in and around their homes making them fit for the future.

“The vouchers will help prime the market and allow eligible property owners to make energy efficiency improvements and save on their energy bills.”

Leeds College of Building Named a Top UK Training Provider

Leeds College of Building has been named second-best UK Training Provider for 2020-21 in the ‘RateMyApprenticeship Top 50’ league table.

The chart is based on 5,600 student-written reviews across all apprenticeship and school leavers schemes on the national website. 

RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk

Leeds College of Building took second position in the table to win Paragon Skills. It was the top-ranking college nationally.

Rob Smith, Apprentice Manager at Leeds College of Building, said: “We’re thrilled to be recognised as the top Further Education College nationally for delivering exceptional Apprenticeship training. It is even more significant as it is voted for by students themselves.”

Canadian Slate

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A Busy Autumn Approaches for NWRTG

It’s a busy time for the North West Roof Training Group (NWRTG) as autumn’s arrived and we’re in the thick of the Roofing Industry Alliance funded e-training project. Some 650 courses are booked, with around 7/10 completed by more than one third of our membership. These bite-sized learning opportunities have proved very popular.

Potential new provider

Is the tide turning? Bolton College, our long-time roofing materials training provider, reports that their two new autumn courses are fully booked, with a waiting list. Mindful of the need to increase opportunities for apprentice training, we have visited a potential new provider in Preston. They have been delivering construction training for 15 years and operate nationwide delivering NVQs. For the past 3 years, they have delivered apprenticeships through to level 3 in a range of specialist trades. They also have several years’ experience of pre-apprenticeship programmes, working with schools, the unemployed and HIVM. Working with CITB, they also hold Approved Training Organisation status and are working with a range of partners. Watch this space, as they are planning to offer apprenticeships in roof slating/tiling and later, roof sheeting/cloaking. Meanwhile, we are exploring the possibility of yet another provider located around the M6/M56 corridor.

Apprenticeship incentives

Apprentices are vital to the prosperity of our sector and incentives for employers engaging new apprentices between now and January 2021, include a £2000 bonus for those under 25 plus a further £1000 for the 16-18 group, and £1900 for those over 24.

Finally, our successful bid to CITB for grant eligible training costs has now been reimbursed on a spread of £25,000 over the next 7 months. Take up so far has, understandably, been slow, as the priority for members is clearly all about getting jobs done, but we expect this will change in the winter months.

New Training Partnership with Langley at WNRTG

Wales Nation Roof Training Group (WNRTG) and Langley have joined forces to offer upskilling and reskilling in Reinforced Bituminous Membranes (RBM), the first course of its kind in the UK.

Langley already offered a training course encompassing a series of CITB approved short courses. This new partnership combines the short courses in a comprehensive two week program delivered to WNRTG’s members in Caerphilly.

The course will cover preparation of roof decking, installation including details, terminations, flashings, gutters, roof lights, vents and rectification. Preparations and the NFRP’s, Safe2Torch initiative.

On completion of the SJP there is an opportunity for an on-site assessment leading to a Level 2 Vocational Qualification in RMB and the Blue skilled worker CSCS card.

For employers, utilising a training offering such as the SJP highlights a company’s commitment to innovation and upskilling its workforce. It allows the employer to future proof their business by investing in their essential assets – their team. As the assessment is carried out on-site on a project managed by the employer, there is minimal disruption to day-to-day working.

The course is suitable for individuals looking to improve their skills or understand a new roofing discipline.

Funding is available for CITB registered companies. For more information contact the Langley Training Team on training@langley.co.uk

A Welcome Return from Lockdown for SWRTG!

After several weeks of preparation, building and redesigning of the classroom and training tip to ensure social distancing, the South West Roof Training Group (SWRTG) was delighted to welcome back the first group of pitched roof apprentices to its Exeter Training Centre. Rooftrain. Never mind the heat, the lads responded to the changes in a responsible manner and were genuinely pleased to be back.

Joe D from Davies Roofing in Bristol said: “Really pleased to be back at college! After everything that’s happened with COVID-19 in the UK, I thought it might be hard to get the course back up and running whilst also adhering to social distancing standards and guidelines, but I must say Alan and Julie have done a terrific job in making the course safe and hygienic. All appropriate measures were taken such as temperature check on arrival and the required PPE was given if we hadn’t already brought it with us. Also, thanks to the hard work of Alan, he had re-organised the whole workplace to allow for practical work to be completed securely without inhibiting his first class training techniques. Thankful to be a part of this training programme.”

Shaun L from Mamick Roofing in Cornwall said: “It was a great first day back at college with the training being 100% like always. The venue was well set out with all the correct PPE and all cleaned to very high standards.”

The training centre used by SWRTG at A & L King Roofing in Mersham, Hants also received the same COVID-19 secure preparations. New, specially designed and built pitched roofing training tips were installed, courtesy of the Roofing Industry Alliance.

“SWRTG thanks all the employers and delegates for their continued support and patience during this time,” says Alan Lander. “With genuine comments like this, we can definitely say, it’s good to be back.”

Kingspan

RW QuadCore™ Pitched Roof System

QuadCore™ is Kingspan’s new hybrid insulation core technology with a unique formulation that creates microcells with unrivalled thermal performance, superior fire protection and enhanced environmental credentials.

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Kingspan Pitched Roof System
An Interview with Kevin M Taylor FloR, the New NFRC President

Appointed as the 55th President of the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) in August, Kevin M Taylor FloR (whose initials “M” is included to distinguish him from, NFRC’s well-known former technical manager, Kevin Taylor) tells Roofing Today about what he would like to achieve during his two-year term.

“It is important to me that people understand that the NFRC is run by its roofing contractor members. I’ll be making sure people understand that over the next two years—and that there’s nothing stopping anyone who merits our membership criteria joining,” says Kevin.

Under the mantra: Fairness, Inclusion and Respect, Kevin is determined to present a more open and welcoming roofing industry, headed by a trade association that is steered by and represents its members. This builds on NFRC’s Corporate Strategy, “The Way Ahead”, which was published last year.

NFRC is organised into seven regions, each with their own committee. In turn, the regional committees send representatives to sit on the Management Board and agree policy and strategy, under the guidance of the CEO and the team at Worship Street.

Kevin has been a member of the NFRC Midlands Region for two decades, latterly as its committee chairman, having joined the NFRC through his West Midlands company, SRC Industrial Roofing (MidlandLine), based in Sutton Coldfield.

In 2014 Kevin became an NFRC national board member, as well as being the chairman of the Roofing Industry Alliance, the Institute of Roofing in the Midlands, and a CITB council member.

“It’s difficult to keep all the hats on and run a business”, admits Kevin.

“But I’ve always had a sense of giving back, to put something back in—while also having a good time”, he adds.

Yet of all these posts, it is actually his experience as a school governor for the last 20 years that Kevin is directly drawing on as NFRC President.

Inclusivity

“Diversity and inclusion are massive as a school governor—giving everyone the opportunity to contribute is what it’s all about”, says Kevin.

“Our industry does not reflect the wider community, but we’re short of skilled people. I want to be more welcoming and genuinely open and full of this male-dominated image we have.

“It’s reflected on the NFRC board—we’ll all white, middle-aged men. We want to recruit women and black, Asian and ethnic minority people. But we can’t promote them to the board if they are not there. So it’s got to come from the regions first.

“We’re looking at changing the culture of roofing to get more people involved.”

Inclusivity is one of the five key themes or strands Kevin is adopting for his presidency. The second strand – collaboration – Kevin sees as crucial to the operation of the NFRC.

Collaboration

“There are hundreds of volunteers contributing to the technical committees, to the training groups and to the trade association’s own committees, so collaboration runs right through the roofing industry”, says Kevin.

“There’s more to be done”, he adds. “Not all people are pulling in the same direction and we need to open up the paths of communication further. Paths that historically existed but have not been used fully”.

“But what we’re seen in the last few months is that our industry has pulled together when there’s a crisis.

“Take the school maintenance funding issue we collaborated on in June. The government had been slow to confirm funding for school repairs and refurbish. meaning that the work our members normally do in the school holidays couldn’t be planned for as we came out of lockdown.

“The NFRC came together with nine other roofing organisations and associations — all working together—to contact the education minister and get the school maintenance funding announced. And it worked. That’s what we can achieve together”.

“Collaboration between its 1,300 contractor and supplier members is built into the NFRC structures, not least through the membership of the CompeteRoofer and RoofCert schemes. NFRC also closely collaborates with the CITB, Build UK and Construction Products Association.

“Instead of looking at each other with suspicion, as we have done in the past, to be frank, we’re looking at how we can work together and the NFRC can benefit its members and the wider community. For example, earlier this year we created a Coronavirus Hub on the NFRC website, collecting together all the information contractors needed. That was open to everyone, not just our members.”

“It’s important we are not hiding from each other because we are frightened of stealing each other’s customers or funding. We can achieve so much more by working together.”

“Our industry does not reflect the wider community, but we’re short of skilled people. I want to be more welcoming and genuinely open and get rid of this male-dominated image we have. It’s reflected on the NFRC board—we’re all white, middle-aged men.

“We’ve got to overcome the barriers, the same as in any other industry with a particular culture. There are some outstanding women in this industry—Kate Whately, director of the SPV Group, Denise Cherry, director of the Roofing Industry Alliance and Women in Roofing, Sarah Speak CEO of the LRWA, Wendy Ajwun at the BBA, not to forget Cathie Clarke, former CEO of SPRA – but women make up only a small percentage of the industry. My goal is to significantly increase that proportion over time.

“The NFRC can’t tell people what to do, but I want to create an genuinely welcoming and open atmosphere. Doors are not closed, but we’ve got to actively open them,” Kevin says.

Environment

The final, fifth strand Kevin will be focusing on is the environment. Although sustainability and environmental responsibility is a well-established aspect of UK roofing products and practices, the urgency of the climate crisis has been overtaken this year by the pandemic crisis, as Kevin sees it.

“Considering the environmental impact of the roofing industry needs to be a fundamental part of what we do,” says Kevin. “It isn’t something apart or that can be put aside when times are tough, it’s got to be up there as a priority.”

“Professional development is important too. There’s a strong career path emerging – with RoofCert and the Institute of Roofing providing routes to develop.

“Safety

“Frankly, in the 70s when I first started, we were told nothing about safety”, says Kevin, introducing the third strand he’ll be advertising during his term.

“The macho culture made it difficult to make progress. But it can keep moving and we have made massive strides in safety.

“The mandatory courses that are the gateway to RoofCert are all about safety and it’s now embedded in professional roofing practice. I’ll be keeping it like that and promoting safety in all aspects of the industry.”

“Roofing careers

“We need to take each other,” says Kevin. “The biggest challenge is finding customers and keeping the pipeline of work flowing.

“We’ve got to do all we can to make our industry a safe and rewarding one for their children to work in”, says Kevin.

“Roofing careers and career paths will form the fourth strand of Kevin’s presidential year, as he explains; “I want school children to see roofing as a first-choice career, and not the last choice as it has been, can walk into a classroom and any child in that room could have a career in roofing – whether it’s on the tools, estimating, specification and so on – there’s a mile for everyone. It’s important to recognise that.”

“Challenging times

However, there’s no doubt that the UK roofing industry will be facing some serious challenges in the next year or two.

“Some parts will be affected more than others”, says Kevin. “The biggest challenge is finding customers and keeping the pipeline of work flowing.

“Housing looks like it is moving forward now, and there are some winners in this time, such as supermarkets, they are expanding. And there are no problems with supply now. So, we won’t have to worry about materials, and probably many of those are labour either in the coming 12 months.”

“I am concerned about the effect a second wave could have on productivity. But we won’t know where the market is going until the end of 2020.

“Looking back, for the NFRC we see that membership increases in tough times as happened during the last significant recession in 2008. Contractors want more help and guidance when the economy is suffering. When it’s tough to get work, that’s when you need the badge and back-up of NFRC membership, to let you sell apart from the competition as a professional.”

“That’s the overriding message of the last two years”, sums up Kevin. “We are here for the membership. For everything we do, I want us to ask ‘How does it benefit the members? What is it for them? For every single thing we do’.”

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“Challenging times

However, there’s no doubt that the UK roofing industry will be facing some serious challenges in the next year or two.

“Some parts will be affected more than others”, says Kevin. “The biggest challenge is finding customers and keeping the pipeline of work flowing.

“We’ve got to do all we can to make our industry a safe and rewarding one for their children to work in”, says Kevin.

“Roofing careers and career paths will form the fourth strand of Kevin’s presidential year, as he explains; “I want school children to see roofing as a first-choice career, and not the last choice as it has been, can walk into a classroom and any child in that room could have a career in roofing – whether it’s on the tools, estimating, specification and so on – there’s a mile for everyone. It’s important to recognise that.”
Industry Developments Aren’t on Hold and Neither are Trade Associations

Sarah Spink, CEO of the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA), explains the importance of trade associations, and how they can help businesses respond to the huge changes taking place across the construction industry.

The Covid-19 crisis may have put normal life on hold over the last few months, but it hasn’t stopped key developments across the roofing sector. Dame Judith Hackitt’s Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety is driving change that is affecting all those in the construction supply chain. And it is only a matter of months before the UK’s transition period after Brexit comes to an end and we discover whether a trade deal will be in place or not. As such amendments to Building Regulations, including fire safety, and updates to British Standards.

High Level Input
From a liquid roofing perspective, the LRWA is now represented on all the key committees relevant to roofing, including B146 (flexible sheets for waterproofing and water vapour control), and PAS022/7/8 (fire resistance tests for external fire exposure for roofs). This means the latest updates and trends in the industry are filtered through to our members at our technical meetings.

We are also members of the Construction Products Association (CPA) which enables us to attend regular meetings and represent our members’ interests within both its technical and sustainability committees as well as the CPA Roofing Association Council. One area of work that has remained particularly active during lockdown is the post-Grenfell overhaul of products. Alongside the Single Ply Systems in terms of accuracy, consistency, simplicity and clarity. Ultimately, the aim is to regulate claims made about products in marketing literature.

This work includes the development of a marketing code. We are currently reviewing a clause relating to guarantees to help establish a clearer definition and improve transparency for specifiers and the whole construction sector.

At a time when many construction businesses are faced with additional pressures because of the pandemic, keeping on top of what lies ahead is more challenging than ever before. That is why being a member of a trade association is so important.

One of which is an insulation subcommittee called the Specialist Technical Group (STG) consisting of experts from across the waterproofing, insulation and blue roofing industries as well as contractors. This is the first time the inverted roof industry has come together to work collaboratively for the good of the sector.

The LRWA STG has developed and published new industry guidance such as Guidance Note 14: Best Practice for the Installation of Water Reducing Layers. and Guidance Note 15: Clarification of BS 6229. the thermal performance of inverted roofs and blue roofs. In addition, ‘Guidance Note 7: Specifier Guidance for Flat Roof Falls’, has been updated to include advice on detailing falls in line with BS 6229:2018 – the British Standard code of practice for flat roofs which continuously supported flexible waterproof coverings.

The LRWA’s new guidance note can be downloaded free of charge from the website, and we would advise both specifiers and contractors to make use of these invaluable documents.

The other subcommittee is for hot melt which is currently responsible for reviewing and updating the Hot Melt Code of Practice that was first published in 2014. This will include extra guidance on areas such as structural components built onto hot melt waterproofing.

Driving Growth
In addition to its technical responsibilities and representing members’ interests, trade associations also help to raise the profile of their sectors in challenging times, boosting awareness continues to be a key aim to help drive growth.

One of the best ways to achieve this is through industry events. Although the pandemic is preventing such events this year, we hope to see many of these reinstated next year. In the meantime, the LRWA is seeking to take advantage of digital methods to continue to help bring the sector together. This led to the virtual dragon team challenge at the end of August 2020.

Being a member of a trade association has many benefits, but in today’s challenging and uncertain environment, it is more important than ever for manufacturers and contractors to be part of a community that has access to high level information. As the industry continues to evolve, bringing more change down the line, trade associations have a vital role to play in ensuring businesses are prepared and that members have a collective voice to help deliver positive change and best practice.

www.lrwa.org.uk
Why You Should Consider the Alternatives to Hot Works

Victoria Ramwell from cold-applied liquid waterproofing specialist, Kemper System, discusses the health and safety risks of using hot works on site, and what to consider as an alternative solution.

At a time when any construction or refurbishment project is under close scrutiny when it comes to fire health and safety following the Grenfell Tower, special consideration must be paid to roofing product specifications and how they are installed.

It is therefore more important than ever to prioritise safety by considering the alternatives to hot works. Thought should be given to protecting those in an occupied building, and to safeguarding against costly damage to the building and any subsequent managerial issues.

It is more important than ever to prioritise safety by considering the alternatives to hot works.

Whichever liquid waterproofing solution is specified, it is always advisable to opt for an experienced, well-established liquid manufacturer with full system training, specialising on and off-site support, and system warranties to ensure a sound waterproofing solution for many years.

What if Hot Works are Used?

There are some cases, of course, when systems are specified with the use of hot works – whether due to budget constraints or because a similar bitumenous system was chosen as the preferred installation. In these cases, mitigating the fire risk on site is vital.

To manage safety on site, a contractor using hot works may have to control access into and around the building, which could cause inconvenience or logistical issues for the occupier. Planning ahead is crucial to ensure minimum disruption to the occupants within the building and surrounding areas.

Steps can be taken to help mitigate the risk, such as ensuring the product specified has achieved the appropriate British Board of Agrément (BBA) independent qualifications and certifications, and meets Brod (46) – the highest fire testing classification under the European standard system. The BBA certificate should also detail the performance with regard to specific facets such as durability, thermal performance, wind-uplift and resistance to mechanical damage.

In addition, earlier this year, the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) launched a campaign urging contractors on all non-domestic construction, refurbishment and maintenance projects involving hot work to consider adopting thermal cavities as standard. The Federation believes using these devices (which cost around £600) to check for ‘heat spots’ before leaving site, could reduce the number of site fires.

The substitution of components within a system without the appropriate testing was a key issue raised in the Hackitt Review. Therefore, any no-dog specification which requires the use of hot works should have undergone appropriate fire testing.

Alternative Approach

Traditionally, hot works have been a feature of flat roofing projects because there was no alternative. However, in the last decade alone, the cold-applied liquid roofing market has grown considerably, offering specifiers and contractors more choice of appropriate solutions for diverse projects.

It is advisable to work with a trusted liquid manufacturer, such as Kemper System, which maintains the relevant and up-to-date certification for all its products, and is an approved member of the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA) alongside its decades of experience and quality manufacturer training.

Now is the time to think outside the box, and consider alternative solutions and the safest ways to deliver a no-dog scheme whilst also adhering to budget, time and durability requirements.

Alternatives to Hot Works

The UK’s flat roofing industry is traditionally known for bitumenous systems. For any refurbishment work on these existing systems, a ‘like-for-like’ solution is often chosen, involving patch repairs or an overlay which requires hot works.

However, a cold-applied liquid system can also be used as an overlay to existing waterproofing with no strip-out required, which offers a less expensive alternative to bitumen-based systems whilst, minimising disruption and avoiding the risk of fire.

When an upgrade to the building’s thermal performance is required, a fully cold-applied insulated built up roofing solution can also be specified as an alternative to a hot works-based system.

Cold-applied liquid membranes are seamless and fully bond to the substrate making them ideal for use over waterproofing systems that are coming to the end of their design lives.

Quick and easy to apply, and with solvent-free options available, liquid roofing and waterproofing solutions can minimise disruption to any project, especially those with occupied buildings.
Bauder liquiTOP System Cold Applied Roof Waterproofing Offers Competitive Overlay Solution for Refurbishing Flat Roofs

Bauder has developed a first class, BBA certified, liquid applied waterproofing suitable to install on a wide variety of substrates, providing flexibility for complex roof areas whilst maintaining manageable costs and quick installation times. The system has an option for a two coat or three coat solution to match client’s expectations for durability, lifespan, and guaranteed duration. Importantly, the system has been tested and meets current fire regulations.

Mike Bradbury, Product Manager for cold applied liquid systems at Bauder Ltd said. “This is a terrific flat roof waterproofing system that has many benefits for roofing contractors, installers and clients.

The Bauder liquiTOP System is quick to install, forms a monolithic membrane that contours to detailing and the roof shape, making it ideal when a roof area presents challenging elements.

On refurbishment projects where the current roof is sound and does not require stripping, minimal waste is generated as overlying is a solution making it ideal for when the project requires a rapid turnaround with minimal disruption to the occupant.

Roofing contractors will be interested to know that an unperforated liquiTOP PU product retains its optimum usability over its whole shelf life and does not thicken in the tin over a few months.

liquiTOP PU uses the latest curing technology with the added benefit of improved in-can stability, which means that the unperforated product retains its optimum usability throughout its stated shelf life.

Bauder liquiTOP System Cold Applied Roof Waterproofing

System components and installation

Key components:

- LIQUiTOP PU Dark Grey liquid membrane
- LIQUiTOP PU Mint Green liquid membrane

- LIQUiTOP Glass Fibre Mat
- Range of four LIQUiTOP Primers to suit the material the PU is bonding to

Starting at the details, an embedded coil of LIQUiTOP PU is applied and reinforced with LIQUiTOP Glass Fibre Mat, then the main roof area receives an embedment coat with reinforcement and the installed areas are left to cure, usually overnight. At this stage, the completed reinforced embedment coat acts as temporary waterproofing. The top coat is then applied wet-on-dry to the cured embedment coat, again, starting at the details then proceeding with the main roof area.

The LIQUiTOP PU delivers superior adhesion between layers as well as to most deck structures or existing waterproofing that requires an overlay solution including concrete, reinforced bitumen membranes, liquid applied membranes, PVC single skin and gravel.

Benefits to the project

- No hot works for application
- The Bauder LIQUiTOP System is a cold applied waterproofing, therefore mitigating any risk from fire on site during installation.

- Single component system
- No complicated mixing or measuring on site of the PU is needed, making it an easier for the operative and a cleaner installation.
- Monomer stripped pre polymer is a safer product for installers
- The low monomer technology system is compliant to the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation and offers a safer alternative than many other liquid waterproofing products on the market, providing a safer working environment for the operatives.
- Moisture triggered curing
- Bauder LIQUiTOP System tolerates some substrate moisture allowing a longer window of installation.
- Condormal glass fibre reinforcement
- The 22kg/m2 LIQUiTOP Glass Fibre Mat forms to not undulations and details and is therefore easier to apply to existing roofs.

- Competitively priced
- The Bauder LIQUiTOP System is a cost-effective solution, with the well-known Bauder support, giving the competitive edge when going to tender.

- Single application technique
- Complex roofs will be easier to complete and therefore labour costs will be reduced, further leading a competitive edge when it comes to bidding jobs. The wet-on-dry application allows for a larger roof area to be installed and provide a temporary waterproof covering rather than having to complete smaller areas fully with a wet-on-wet system.

- Minimal disruption
- Buildings can usually remain in use with little or no disturbance because the Bauder LIQUiTOP System can overlay existing substrates and has a lower odour than some other polyurethane systems. Overlaying also means a quicker and more economical project, saving the labour involved in stripping the roof and the cost of disposing of waste materials from the site.

Bauder guarantee

The comprehensive Bauder guarantee provides peace of mind for clients and building owners.

For more details please visit: www.instar-uk.co.uk or contact T: + 44 (0)1858 456949 E-mail: info@instar-uk.co.uk
Developing Roof Coating Technology for the Twenty-First Century

Guy Williams, Managing Director of Blockiil Coatings Innovation

As part of our ongoing ethos of product development, we came up with the idea of adding graphene to our roof coating to further enhance its common resistive properties.

Applying graphene
Graphene was first isolated in 2004 at The University of Manchester. They used sticky tape to remove single layers from used in Blockiil’s common resistive coating is manufactured using a synthetic, bottom up process that is repeatable, proven and almost completely free of graphical impurities, such as graphene oxide or transition metals.

The number of atomic layers varies, but our graphene typically has a 1 to 10 nanometre thickness with 1 to 15 microns lateral diameter, resulting in aspect ratios up to 1:10. To put this into perspective, the surface area of ten grams will cover a football pitch. This large surface area provides an exceptionally long and tortuous path for any convective liquid to work its way through to penetrating a coating.

Our graphene manufacturer and supplier, Applied Graphene Materials (AGM), was founded by Professor Karl Coleman in 2010, with its operations and processes based on technology that he initially developed at Durham University. The creation of their graphene is through a proprietary, patented process.

Andy Gent, Commercial Director at AGM, has worked with Blockiil from the beginning of the project and said: “Blockiil’s idea to use our graphene within their common resistive roof coating has taken everyone forward in terms of coating technology.”

A standard roof coating will give some 5,000 hours of salt spray (ISO 9227 – Neutral Salt Spray) with testing in continuous 5% sodium chloride solution at 35°C. The addition of graphene takes the roof coating past 10,000 hours. The coating has also been successfully tested to EN 13910-5:2016 fire classification and BS476-Part 3:2004 fire testing on building materials.

Technical Developments
Introducing graphene into a roof coating is a complex process, as it cannot just be poured into the mix. The detail of the process is commercially sensitive, but we can say that there had to be some work on pigmentation. Graphene is carbon which, of course, is black – not always the ideal colour for a roof covering. And as soon as one constituent is changed, another needs tweaking, presenting a series of technical challenges to achieve enhanced roof coating performance.

Future coating development is looking at ways to improve infra-red reflectance. The idea is for a roof coating that reduces the amount of infra-red radiation absorbed and thereby reducing the amount of heat passed through it, into the building.

It is well known that a white or light coloured surface remains cooler than a black, or darker surface, thanks to the interaction of the coated roof with the infra-red radiation emitted by the sun. As infra-red radiation accounts for approximately 50% of the total energy of solar radiation, reducing the amount absorbed by the coating is clearly beneficial.

This modification to the coating will add nothing to the weight of the paint as we will be modifying the pigments and additives already in use. This is an important point – a number of roof coatings currently available require multiple applications which can lead to some alarming roof loading weights.

Application of the paint would be by conventional means, so there would not be any additional or particular application requirements and existing colour schemes would be maintained, so there would not be any obvious difference.

While it might seem logical to only apply white or very light coloured coatings, many clients require a particular colour scheme for corporate or planning reasons. By modifying the pigments and additives within the coating, Blockiil will be able to improve the total solar reflectance of the coating, even with darker colours.

Depending on the paint colour and the levels of brightness, laboratory tests suggest a temperature reduction of between 0.7°C and 14°C, with an improvement in the Total Solar Reflectance (TSR) of between 50% and 32%. An additional benefit of having an improved TSR is an enhanced lifespan of the coating. The reduced surface temperature will reduce any thermal degradation and temperature differences between day and night, direct sunlight and shadowed areas might also level out. This in turn would lead to reduced thermal warping and stress.

The increased cost of the modified coating will be insignificant when compared with application (which has to be carried out anyway).

Technically modifying construction materials is a sometimes long and complex process. Yet the potential gains can be considerable, both for the construction industry as a whole, and individual product manufacturers.

For our supplier, Applied Coatings, the technical advancements of graphene enhanced top coats for steel roofs have fuelled new market opportunities. Blockiil will continue its efforts to bring the very latest ideas and technology to the roof coating industry.

As Chris Knowles, Chief Technical Officer at Blockiil comments: “We believe it is time the industry moved into the 21st Century and away from older, less efficient coatings and we’re determined to help that happen.”
Leeds Skelton Lake Motorway Services
Extensive Wildflower Green Roof Case Study

Stephen Humblestone, UK Sales Manager at AG Geosynthics describes the construction of a new green roof at Leeds Skelton Lake services.

A brand new service station has opened at J16 on the M1, adjacent to Leeds Skelton Lake which is a 40,000m² area of ecologically diverse country park, 2 miles south east of Leeds city centre.
The £64 million development delivers one of the most sustainable and eco-friendly food court and amenity buildings on the motorway network, complete with its very own living green roof and wildlife centre.

As well as minimising the visual impact and enhancing the biodiversity of the site, the green roof has an important function in the overall sustainable drainage plan by absorbing rainwater into the roof build up and restricting surface water run-off. The vegetation, growing media and filtration fabrics used in the green roof construction also filter dust and pollution from the air and rainfall, reducing the amount of chemicals and pollutants that reach the surrounding water courses.

The vegetation, growing media and filtration fabrics used in the green roof construction also filter dust and pollution from the air and rainfall, reducing the amount of chemicals and pollutants that reach the surrounding water courses.

A Kemperol cold applied liquid membrane is applied to the deck to give a fully adhered, monolithic waterproofing, which is root resistant for the green roof planting. Cold liquid applied systems have a rapid cure time, even in winter (when the initial roof structure was installed) and with the added advantage of no hot works or special equipment being required.
The green roof build-up mitigates the impact of temperature fluctuations on the waterproofing, reducing the expansion and contraction effects of the freeze/thaw cycle during winter months, and provides protection against UV damage all year round, so much so that waterproofing manufacturers can offer extended warranties.

For information contact: sales@lifestiles.co.uk | +44 (0) 1787 237057 | LIFESTILES.CO.UK
reservoir and drainage
geocomposite is installed directly
onto the water live control and
insulation layer. The geocomposite
includes a geotextile at the top to
filter soil particles, and one
underneath as a secondary filter
and protection layer. The main core
structure of the HDPE reservoir
base features a matrix of storage
cups to attenuate storm water and
provide irrigation for the wildflower
and sedum planting during dry periods.
Interspersed between the
drainage cups / cups are
small weep holes to channel excess
runoff to the drainage outlets.
This helps prevent the growing
media from becoming waterlogged
during periods of wet weather and
prevents excess water pressure
building up on the water control
layer. The geocomposite is supplied
in 120mm wide x 6m long rolls,
with 110 rolls installed in total at
Skerton Lake Services.

Wildflower green roof planting

During the final phase of the green
roof construction, a biodiverse
growing media mix was deposited
directly onto the geocomposite
layer and levelled to a depth of
100mm. The material is lightweight
to minimize loading on the roof
structure and formulated with a
high organic content to ensure
that moisture and nutrients
provide optimal conditions for
growing the wildflower and sedum
plants.

To complete the living roof
installation a total of 6,622m²
of meadow planting was provided
by Wildflower Turf. In a ratio of 20%
grass / 80% flowers including a
mixture of 34 different flower
species. The turf is supplemented
with 14,200m² of wildflower seed
to stimulate rapid development
and density of the meadow and to
establish flowering within the
broader landscape. An area of 750m²
of sedum planting was also used
towards the centre of the facilities
building in order to keep the
planting below the height of RSPB
visitor centre windows with views
across the lake.

When selecting the wildflower turf,
landscape architects Smeden
Foreman referenced the National
Character Area Profile, the West
Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site
Selection Criteria and the
Killingbeck Meadows Local
Wildlife Site Proposal to create a
mix suitable for the local area. The
National Character Area profile lists
lowland neutral grassland as a key
habitat, with the dominant grass
species typical of this habitat
including sweet vernal-grass,
common bent, crested dog’s-tail,
red knapweed and Yorkshire fog.

Maintenance schedule:

A turf size of 1m x 0.6m (660mm)
was installed during summer 2019
and watered through to the
growing media to ensure the turf
received sufficient irrigation, over a
period of approximately two weeks.
Once established, the wildflower
turf cups with most circumstances,
but to allow for very dry periods
and given the large area of the roof,
a drip irrigation system was
installed. It was laid across the
substrate and underneath the turf
across the gradient of the roof slope
with T joints to a vertical supply/feeder pipe. The pipes are supplied
by five water storage tanks and
controlled remotely. The amount of
watering is automatically adjusted
in line with data from the rainfall
sensors.

Insulation, water control
membrane, green roof layers and
irrigation systems were installed by
Geogreen Solutions and in total
5,000m² of green roof sedum and
wildflower matting, over 0.00m of
insulation board, geocomposite
drainage and waterproof membrane,
20 tonnes of fine break gravel
borders and 12 antic breaks of 1m³
growing media bags were delivered
and installed for the roof of the new
structures. Construction started in
winter 2018 and was completed in
March 2020.

The green roof system was
designed and project managed by
ABG Geosynthetics in conjunction
with building architects
Consortium + Wright, landscape
architects Smeden Foreman and
main contractors Morgan Sindall.
Waterproofing was sub-contracted to
Cawston Specialist Roofing.

ABG Geosynthetics manufacture
solutions for a wide range of building
and environmental projects. ABG’s green
roof experience extends 23 years,
during which 1,000,000m² of
greenhouse drainage has been
supplied for extensive and intensive
green roofs. ABG often works with
installation partners Geogreen Solutions.
Call 01484 852096 or email
enquiries@abglight.com

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We Must Not be Blinded by the Professional Indemnity Issue

Dave Maginnis, Managing Director at BriggsAmasco

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has called on the UK to ‘build, build, build’ to help stave off the threat of recession in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Whilst this edict provides admirable proof of the construction industry’s value in helping the country through a period of unvailed financial uncertainty, lesser-highlighted issues of professional indemnity (PI) insurance in the building sector could act as a look in the road to recovery.

Generally, there are three types of insurance which are common to the roofing industry. Firstly, it’s normal practice for large and medium-sized businesses to insure their debts. When trading or embarking on a project with those who are seen as big players in the roofing industry, most of us will take out credit insurance to offset the risk of them falling into administration. Firms pay for the privilege of course and premiums aren’t cheap, with most paying an annual subscription to safeguard themselves. This is essential for building companies to trade with each other.

Quality warranty

The second type of insurance is public and employers liability, which is a legal requirement for all firms across the economy, including construction. Lastly, there’s professional indemnity (PI) insurance. This type of insurance covers companies which endorse products in the waterproofing industry, for instance, insuring that the items have been designed correctly and are fit for purpose. The majority of building contractors have PI insurance, which also warranties that a company has taken responsibility for installing the product to the highest-possible standard.

Independent architects, engineers and professionals offering specialist advice are required to carry PI as standard. However, over the years it’s become established that this form of cover is not an attractive market for the insurers themselves. Post-Grenfell, there’s been a huge hike in PI premiums, as a result of underwriters retreating from that particular insurance sector due to the increased perceived risk.

The paucity of insurance companies offering PI cover has led to an explosion in premiums. It means an increasing amount of construction companies could be forced out of business due to being unable to afford the all-important insurance.

Response

PI, and the lack of insurers willing to provide it, is developing into a major issue. Quite clearly, there’s a real focus on how COVID-19 might affect the construction industry, but it’s actually the insurance market that could be responsible for seeing companies go under and leaving a lot of people unemployed. The Government’s response has been to fund Trade Credit Insurance, which provides essential cover to hundreds of thousands of business-to-business transactions, with up to £10 billion of government guarantees.

In essence, the Trade Credit Reinsurance scheme, which came into effect in July, means splitting the risk with insurers in order to provide wider cover to UK businesses affected by the pandemic. Without such an intervention, the building industry might have ground to a halt at a time when its health is vital to the country’s economic recovery.

Therefore, the scheme is a perfectly sensible course of action on the Government’s part.

Split solution

I’d suggest a similar initiative is rolled out for PI insurance. After all, sharing the risk was common practice amongst insurers in this sector. For instance, where cover amounted to £10 million, two companies would each take £5 million worth of risk. Getting that level of cover these days is almost impossible. PI claims are now aggregated, with large excesses and legal costs now deducted from the overall cover limit. It’s resulted in building firms and contractors paying a lot more money, for a lot less cover.

It’s an understandable possibility that the recent and ongoing challenge posed by the coronavirus has allowed the PI issue to escape the wider attention of the construction industry – but it’s a matter that cannot be ignored for much longer.
Beware the Changing Insurance Market

The construction insurance market is growing increasingly distressed and premiums, which were already rising prior to the impact of Covid-19, have been turbocharged in the period since. As well as rising premiums, Bruce Hepburn CEO at Macrovieh warns roofing contractors to expect considerable erosion in the quality and extent of the insurance cover they buy and to remain vigilant through upcoming insurance renewals.

Problems stemming from the pandemic are of course affecting all sectors, but there are two factors that make them particularly challenging for construction companies. Insurers’ severe economic losses following the pandemic, estimated to top $20bn, will only lead to further coverage erosion in the guise of new exclusions, higher deductibles, lower limits and more disputed claims.

Many construction firms have made dramatic changes to their operations in response to Covid-19. The difficulties posed to the sector by the return to work are far from straightforward on active construction sites. This has altered their risk profiles, and it could mean current insurance policies may not pay out in the event of a claim. The second major risk, which is almost unique to the construction sector, is the way in which construction contracts and insurance interact. Commercial contracts create a complex web of liabilities and obligations across contractors, subcontractors and other elements of the supply chain. New insurance coverage restrictions can suddenly place firms in breach of commercial contracts that form the basis of existing projects.

Understanding the Challenges

The problems faced by the construction industry in the Professional Indemnity (PI) market have been documented elsewhere; but other firms have also fallen prey to unexplained macroeconomic conditions in recent times. Construction All Risks (CAR) insurance, for example, has witnessed increasing restrictions in cover and a doubling of premium rates over the past 24 months. Meanwhile, insurers’ severe economic losses following the pandemic, estimated to top $20bn, will only lead to further coverage erosion in the guise of new exclusions, higher deductibles, lower limits and more disputed claims. It is against this tumultuous backdrop that the construction sector must contend with a last-changing insurance environment.

When businesses’ operational changes in response to Covid-19 are so significant that it can mean their risk profiles will alter. In some cases, these changes mean that current policies may fail to respond in full in the event of a claim. This problem is intensified for those construction projects in which various contractors and subcontractors, each with their own unique risk exposures, have sourced coverage independently – subject to separate terms and obligations. Even when wrap-up policies are employed – such as an Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP) or a Contractor Controlled Insurance Program (CCIP), in which the project sponsor or lead contractor sources the coverage for all participants - these arrangements require all parties to comply with specified operational conditions to ensure certainty of coverage. Managing this mosaic of policies at a time of rapid and ongoing change represents a particular problem for construction companies of all types.

The second challenge stems from the rapidly changing pandemic situation, which can lead to new coverage restrictions suddenly placing firms in breach of commercial contracts that form the basis of existing projects. This can expose multiple parties. First, the contractor must ensure the appropriate cover is in place to comply with the insurance requirements contained within the construction contract, which can be thrown by sudden reductions in limits or removal of cover for specific types of work. In addition, contractors might then expect to subrogate to subcontractors many of the losses incurred following a claim. However, to do so is crucial that the subcontractor’s coverage also complies with master policy requirements. This is becoming more of a challenge under current market conditions, where substantial restrictions in cover are commonplace and policies become increasingly unreliable. As a result, contractors might find themselves unable to exercise their subrogation rights, leaving them ultimately liable for the loss. Managing multiple overlapping policies while insurers are changing their terms and exclusions on a frequent basis is able to playing a never-ending game of 3-D chess. The sheer complexity of the task means that errors are almost inevitable and, in an increasingly tough claims environment, there will be more disputes down the line.

What Should Insurance Buyers Do?

Construction firms need to start from the ground-up. They should reflect on their insurance programmes and develop a robust understanding of the key scenarios they want to be covered and the relevant structures of project and parties involved. All stakeholders must understand what coverage is contractually required for a project, and there should be a means through which they can communicate and collaborate on coverage developments and concerns. This is crucial where coverage changes might place a firm in breach of contract, or where additional disclosure obligations under the policy are likely to be required to maintain cover.

Where there are rights of subrogation, firms should designate responsibility for overseeing the validity of the underlying policies that are placed. The other crucial area of focus in a hard market – or a type not seen for at least 10 years – is how to maximise your risk effectively. This involves simplifying insurers’ understanding of your exposures and differentiating it from those of your peers. Developing a bespoke risk prospectus is an effective way of ensuring that insurers will not view your risk as a commodity but sell you a standard commoditised policy, and puts you in the best position to achieve improved, reliable coverage at a more competitive rate.

Macrovieh specialists in helping construction firms enhance their chances of securing reliable insurance policies or challenging that claims have been rejected.
Why We Must Tackle Issues Head-On

Stuart Hicks, CEO of the Institute of Roofing (IoR), explains some of the key issues faced by senior level personnel in our current climate, and why it’s important not to let them fester.

In normal circumstances, CEOs, MDs, directors and managers all face challenges in their role. But following a global pandemic, these issues have been amplified and new problems added to the mix.

Whether it be poor communication, delayed cash flow, inadequate risk assessment or lack of training – it’s more important than ever to tackle any issues and resolve conflict before they escalate into a costly and timely dispute.

Avoiding any lingering conflict within your own organisations, and the wider supply chain, is vital if we are to survive the potentially uncertain times ahead.

Conflict avoidance
Avoiding any lingering conflict within your own organisations, and the wider supply chain, is vital if we are to survive the potentially uncertain times ahead. It’s best to resolve any issue before it escalates into a legal battle.

The stakes are high - between 2010 and 2014 the financial costs of disputes in the UK construction industry increased from £46 billion to £175 billion. The length of time it takes to resolve disagreements through litigation is frequently measured in years, and implications for finance and other resources can be immense.

We’ve seen some main contractors already sign up to the pledge and are encouraged to work collaboratively and use early intervention techniques to resolve issues before they escalate. As an MD, supervisor or manager within a subcontractor roofing firm, there will be many pressures on individuals overseeing employees and projects, which should be addressed early to avoid this.

Delayed Cash Flow
One of the biggest stresses for any individual is not being paid on time, or at all. Issues with late payments and owed invoices have a huge impact on the mental wellbeing of a person. This, in turn, can create conflict, knee-jerk reactions and irrational decision-making – especially during a national emergency and an uncertain economic forecast.

Late payments are already an issue in our sector and in some areas, invoicing systems are outdated. The effective management of the construction supply chain is crucial, and by potentially improving software and systems of work - or at the very least, adhering to 30-day payment terms - projects won’t be negatively affected.

As the start of the pandemic, the Government introduced a number of support measures to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19, including the Job Retention Scheme and deferral of VAT.

Being aware of skills gaps is important ... In an industry where reputation and word-of-mouth is crucial, having the right training and skills is paramount to continued success and maintaining high standards.
Artificial Green Roof Systems – Stay Accredited, Stay Safe

EverRoof® accredited artificial green roof systems are the first of their kind in the UK.
First to consider the ramifications of fire risk on flat roofs.
First to consider the consequences of high wind speeds.

And, most importantly, the first to develop the only fire and wind accredited artificial green roof system on the market today.

EverRoof® is a division of Rutland-based EnviroGroup UK, pioneers in artificial grass for over 35 years.

Are You Using the Wrong Material, Referencing the Wrong Standards?
All too often, we see inappropriate use of materials for flat roofs. Not only that, the standards relied on are BS 5534 and CII S1 which, simply put, only apply to fire accreditations of INDOOR FLOORING and understandably should not be used for an external flat roof.

Why Does It Matter?
Above all, it matters for your rooftop’s safety. If your artificial green roof has been installed on a rooftop, podium or balcony, it needs to be tested in a way for exterior flat roofs. Any other standard leaves you open to remediation costs as well as safety ramifications, litigation and potentially unthinknable consequences.

EverRoof® continues to lead the way in raising awareness of this requirement and this has been the main thrust for the team in developing and promoting the EverRoof accredited systems.
Stay Secure Against Wind, Rain and Fire

As EverRoof® accredited artificial green roof systems ensures your project is anchored correctly, can resist wind speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour and has been accredited exclusively for flat rooftops, podiums and balconies.

Is Your Artificial Green Roof Safe?
The team’s depth of knowledge, technical experience and safety commitments give it the commercial edge in recommending questions you should ask when choosing an artificial green roof system:
1. Is the system accredited for EXTERNAL flat roofing and is the right accredited system being tested for the right roof type?
2. Does your artificial green roof system have the correct fire and wind accreditations?
3. Has your Building Inspector, Fire Marshal and Insurance Company signed off on the system already installed to be installed?
4. Has it been installed by qualified accredited professionals with the right training and blue-skilled CTIS/LSS card?

If the answer to any of these questions is NO, your roof and building could be at risk. Contact the EverRoof® team for further advice or training on these aspects.

Support, Advice and Training
EverRoof® support helps guide architects, specifiers and contractors to meet ever more stringent safety standards. The company offers CPD-certified training for the correct specification, selection and installation of artificial grass systems. This industry-recognised training is administered at the company’s National Training Academy or in person via CPD seminars across the UK.

Temis Kunik, EverRoof’s Business Development Manager, is committed to taking the safety lead.

“You must be vitally important for any artificial grass system destined for a rooftop, podium or balcony to meet the highest of safety standards. With that in mind, the EverRoof® team works tirelessly to research and develop, improve and introduce new systems to stay safety to the next level.

As industry pioneers, we cannot ignore the risks of inappropriate, incorrect or unaccredited products and installations on rooftops, podiums and balconies as we recognize the risks they pose.

An EverRoof® accredited artificial green roof system means peace of mind, quality and a long-lasting, safe, secure and beautiful expanse of greenery for years to come.”

Check Your Artificial Green Roof Safety Credentials
Only EverRoof® artificial green roof safety credentials withstand scrutiny from fire inspectors, insurers, mortgage brokers and future buyers. Only then is your artificial green roof system safe and ready to enjoy all the benefits of artificial grass: no watering, low maintenance, pest-free - a strong, resilient and healthy-looking green space, all year round.

For further information and assistance on EverRoof’s accredited artificial green roof systems, please visit www.everroof.co.uk, or call Temis Kunik and the EverRoof® team on 01572 769912 or 07591 204663.
Helping Roofers Stay on Top

For roofers and contractors operating in today’s challenging environment, it’s important to have suppliers they can rely on. Not just to provide product but to stay on top of what works, what’s new and what’s safe.

Richard Parker, Procurement Director for SIG Roofing, provides an insight into how SIG Roofing supports roofers from stock selection through to delivery, identifying the latest innovations, maintaining industry standards and acting as a knowledge bank.

One of the major drivers in the UK economy, the construction industry has to be continually on top of its game, responding to emerging trends, adapting to new legislation and reacting to the latest social and economic climate. As a key cog in this construction ‘engine’, roofers, many of whom are independent, are rightly busy with the installation at hand, seeking to do a professional job in as efficient time as the build method and client expectations allow.

While they focus on what is in front of them, they need to be confident that behind them there are others they can rely on, whether that’s for the appropriate tools and materials or expert guidance.

Branch ‘barometer’

One of the benefits for roofers of purchasing from a branch that is part of a larger network is the greater access the materials supplier will have with major manufacturers, along with stronger connections to the broader industry, not just locally but nationally.

Branch managers are dealing with customers all day long and having multiple outlets provides a real feel for how the market is doing, what is in demand and also helps in identifying any trends.

Customer feedback informs purchasing decisions and the supplier is able to take stock quickly to make sure the materials needed are available in the right time.

Sometimes a manufacturer will come forward with a new product and ask ‘do you have a market for this?’ At other times the manufacturer and supplier will work closely to develop a new one, together which might be delivered as an own brand.

It is a partnership approach. Working with market leading manufacturers, we know they and their products are tried and tested and that the high technical back-up, we can deliver.

For SIG Roofing, this ‘barometer’ on the economy currently shows that the refurbishment market is very busy.

Along with kitchen extensions and small works such as garden rooms, the bigger commercial projects, however, are taking longer to return to pre-pandemic levels, due partly to the current health and safety regime that it is necessary to operate on site, such as social distancing and only one person at a time being able to use a lift.

New innovations

While a materials supplier needs to be well stocked with last-moving essential lines, it should also be continually looking out for new innovations that will help the roofer.

This is where good relationships with its suppliers are key.

For SIG Roofing, this is why it is always essential to keep customers reassured of all the training. Now it is delivered virtually, online, which is proving popular.

We have produced a library of helpful installation videos as educational aids for contractors, as well as for our own use.

Safety first

Health and safety is always important, but never more so than in these unusual times.

The Safe2Torch campaign by the NFRC aims to raise awareness around the issues of using naked flames on roofs and promote best practice for roofers installing torch applied bituminous felt on roofs.

Cold applied products such as Liquids, EPDM, Single Ply and GRP are becoming more popular as roofers look for ways to minimise risk whilst providing a long lasting, watertight installation for the customer.

Through our own Zen Ham policy we had already taken decisive action to ensure that staff, customers and visitors are in a safe environment at all times while on our premises.

Beyond that, our investment has gone further, offering new bits to better serve the network, employing a sophisticated transport logistics system for efficient delivery, and introducing a simple-to-use order tracking system to alert customers.

We recognise that the business is bigger than just us, it is part of the wider roofing community. We are constantly exploring opportunities to improve the way we do things and, in turn, delivering the industry as a whole.

KNOCK OFF EARLY!

Get the job done with time to spare…

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For more information visit sigroofing.co.uk/duoplain
The advantage of Air Permeable Low Resistance underlay is that, in addition to allowing vapour to escape by diffusion, it also allows a degree of airflow to boost the transfer of moisture vapour.
Choosing Roofing Materials

Making the Right Choice of Roofing Materials

As the construction industry continues to bounce back after the unprecedented lockdown period, making the right choice of building materials becomes ever more important.

In the United Kingdom, we are lucky to have such a rich diversity of building materials, and, usually, the most appropriate materials are the ones that are in keeping with the local vernacular. In this month’s article, I will discuss the three most popular roofing materials – clay, concrete, and slate.

A good quality, durable roof
To be certain of a good quality, durable roof, it is important to choose and specify materials that comply with current European Standards. In the case of slate, this means compliance with EN 12338-2 and ideally tested to T1 (resistance to oxidation), S1 (resistance to atmospheric pollutants) and A1 (lowest water absorption level). Clay tiles should comply with EN 1304 and must pass 100 cycles of the European test for frost resistance. EN 539-2, to be deemed suitable for use in the UK. Concrete tiles should comply with EN 488.

If we compare slate, clay, and concrete roofing products firstly for durability and longevity, there is not a great deal of difference between any of them. Resistance against wind uplift of a roof covering, whether it is slate, clay or concrete, very much depends upon its fixings, such as nails, clips, straps etc. Traditional slates are generally lighter than clay or concrete tiles, though, being ‘double lapped’, there is a natural advantage as each slate is afforded more protection to wind up-lift by its neighbouring slates. By the same reasoning, clay and concrete double lapped plain tiles also provide an extremely secure roof covering through their small size and coverage. So much so, that in many locations in the UK, plain tiles only require nailing in every fifth course in the local and general roof areas, with all tiles at the perimeters nailed.

Good quality slates, or clay or concrete roof tiles, can last well over 100 years. Usually, it is more likely that other components of the roof will require maintenance or replacement well before the roof tiles or slates, such as mortar, battens, fixings and underlay membranes. As we all know, there is a thriving market in the UK for second-hand slates and tiles.

Good quality slates, or clay or concrete roof tiles, can last well over 100 years. Usually, it is more likely that other components of the roof will require maintenance or replacement well before the roof tiles or slates, such as mortar, battens, fixings and underlay membranes.

Not that single lap tiles are any less secure, though as a minimum requirement, BS 5534 requires that all single lap tiles be nailed. Of course, wind load calculations must always be carried out to confirm the appropriate fixings for the location.
In recent years, many new products have been developed that come remarkably close to slate in appearance - and offering other advantages.

Concrete tiles represent the ultimate cost-effective alternative to slate. Whilst interlocking flat tiles are not generally as thin as natural slate, products such as Condon Senior Slates, at just 19mm thick, are a popular alternative. Concrete tiles have been around now for over 100 years so their durability is well proven. A shortage of other roofing materials, particularly during the re-building programmes following the second world war, has firmly established concrete as the number one roofing material in the UK.

There are, of course, various points to consider when choosing a roofing material. Slate is lightweight, depending on its size and thickness, and its versatility is ideally suited to curved and conical roof shapes, though its colour range is limited to the type and area it comes from and installation costs can be relatively high. Clay plain tiles can also be laid on curved and conical roofs and their small size makes them ideal for lighter curves, such as eyebrow dormer windows and curved valley details. Single lap clay tiles can be laid much faster than slate, with no need for sorting, resulting in far cheaper installation costs. Clay tiles can be produced in any colour and in matt or gloss finishes, which will remain as vibrant as the day they were installed for the life of the tiles. Many clay tiles are formed by pressing, meaning features such as weather bars, top and side interlocks and smooth flat or curved tails, can be incorporated into clay tile design. Concrete tiles offer the advantage of lower cost, easy installation and are available in many colours, though it is a fact that the colour of concrete products will mellow over time.

In terms of cost comparisons, prices of labour and materials vary tremendously by region and product type, but as a rough comparison, an Edilians Graphite Slate roof can be around 40% cheaper than a comparable natural slate roof. Similarly, an Edilians clay Beaumotte 20 or HP17 tile roof can be around 20% cheaper than a clay plain tile roof and 25% cheaper than a concrete plain tile roof. A roof of large format concrete tiles, such as Condon slates, can be around 20% cheaper than a comparative roof of large format clay tiles.

Of course, cost is not everything and each material must be evaluated for its own merits, such as suitability for the vernacular appearance, installation considerations and laid weight. The UK has an abundance of great roofing materials to choose from, whether it be slate, clay or concrete products and any of these can be expected to last at least 100 years, so the choice is yours.
No More Ugly Solar Panels:
Crest’s Integrated Solar Offering for Roofers

The experts at Crest outline the benefits of the Crest Planum and PV Integrated solar system which can help roofers easily diversify their offering.

With an increasing focus on sustainable solutions in the built environment as the UK looks to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, Crest Building Products offers the Crest Planum and PV Integrated solar system. Engineered to fit quickly and easily with the Crest Planum concrete flat tiles and Crest 59 clay tiles, Crest’s PV Solar Tile solution provides an almost seamless, attractive finish to the completed roof, whilst supplying the homeowner or building owner with an instant clean and efficient energy supply.

A key benefit for installers is that the simple and quick interlocking ‘plug and play’ installation method makes the solar roof tile ideal for both new build and renovation projects. This makes it an ideal and accessible option for roofing contractors who are looking to expand their offering and capitalise on the demand for energy efficient products.

Planum PV solar roof tiles are made from quality materials which have been specifically selected and tested to ensure optimal solar return with highly efficient monocrystalline solar cells.

The Planum PV Solar system comes with a product guarantee of 10 years, whilst users will enjoy a performance guarantee of 90% of rated performance for 10 years, and 80% for 25 years, ensuring they can make the most of their installation.

The Crest Planum PV Integrated solar system is a quick and easy fit system that works seamlessly with the Crest Planum roof tiles and offers a state-of-the-art solution on the completed roof.

**Warranty & Certification:**

The Planum PV solar roof tile has been tested to standard EN 756: Solar energy systems - Integration in roofs and facades - engineer aspects.

- UV testing according to double ECN R 110 automotive test - sunlight exposure
- Wind load test according to EN 14341: 2004
- Snow load test according to EN 1991-3
- Water resistance test according to EN 2791
- Fire safety test according to EN 6063, see NPrCEN / TS 1187: 2012
- Electric power generation guaranteed for 25 years from the date of installation; 90% initial performance according to IEC 61729: 2004
- Construction & electrical safety guaranteed according to IEC 61729-1: 2007 and IEC 61729-2: 2004

For more information on our roofing tiles and PV integrated solar system or to order a FREE sample contact the Crest team.

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As per European trademark fr 7260996, filed on 27th October 2008, the Crest Planum is a registered trademark of the owner. All users are granted the license to use the mark Planum for its concrete product. For more information visit www.crest-bst.co.uk

Crest Planum PV Solar Tile Panel, with black frame - black cells and black decalised
Bats in the Roofing Industry: Focusing on Roofing Membranes

Jo Ferguson, Built Environment Manager at the Bat Conservation Trust

In recent years there is an increasing awareness that the roofing industry can have a meaningful and positive impact on the environment. One aspect of this is reflected in the latest Roofing Trade Survey (Roofing Today, Issue 87, March 2020) that found over 24% of roofing companies (128) are involved in providing or supporting the titling of green roofs.

While well-designed green roofs have the potential to provide great feeding habitat for many insects which in turn benefit other wildlife, including bats - it is actually roof structures themselves that can provide an important home for our bat populations.

Maternity roosts, often found in buildings, are particularly important since bats are a slow breeding species that only have one baby (called a pup) a year. When a roost is destroyed, damaged, or made unusable an alternative suitable roost may not be readily available. This potential loss can impact the whole local breeding population.

Greater awareness of this and the factors that affect bats that roost in roofs have been brought into sharp focus through the impact of Non-Bitumen Coated Roofing Membranes (nBCRM) on these vulnerable species. (see reference below).

To understand this impact we first need to explore why bats use roofs to roost, the interactions between bats and nBCRMs, along with what this means for bat conservation and people working in the roofing industry. Armed with this information we can explore finding solutions that work for both bats and people.

Why are roofs important for bats and why are bats important for us?

All 17 bat species that breed in the UK have been recorded using buildings as a lesser or greater degree. However, for some species, their very survival may depend on roofs in roofs. Features of roofs mimic natural, but naturally increasing scarce, roosting sites. If you are a bat, roofed roof tiles provide similar roosting habitat to a flooded bank, and root voids may provide space equivalent to the inside of a hollow veteran tree.

The loss of natural roosting sites coupled with factors such as intensive agriculture, farming and increasing urbanisation, including greater light pollution, have all had a dramatic impact on our bat populations, which have suffered serious declines in the last century. UK bats are also indicator species: changes to our bat populations can indicate changes in other aspects of biodiversity or the environment on which we all ultimately depend. All UK bat species eat insects and as such can play an important part in suppressing pests that cause crops and gardens - a single bat can eat thousands of insects each night.

Because of their key role in our ecosystem and the population declines, all species of bat and their roosts are protected by law in the UK. This means it is illegal to damage, destroy or disturb any bats or their roosts. Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations (SNCs) can issue advice along with a special license to enable work to continue while taking necessary precautions.

It is important to note that roosts are protected even when bats are not present, such as the essential part each roost plays in a bat’s life cycle. For instance, bats will use a cool, humid roost to hibernate (go into ‘torpor’) in the winter months, but they require a warm, dry place to have their young in the summer months and roost spaces frequently fulfill this latter need. Bats do not use the same roosting sites throughout the year, which means licensed works may take place when bats are not present, but the roost is retained.

Maternity roosts, often found in buildings, are particularly important since bats are a slow breeding species that only have one baby (called a pup) a year.

Reference


KO_13316.achicken.jpg

Bats and Roofing Membranes

DRAWN LONG-EARED BATS © BCT/Hugh Clark

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* Funding covers the RoofCERT Knowledge Test and evaluation of training and qualifications. Operatives may still need to cover costs of mandatory health and safety training if they do not already have the required evidence.
What are the issues with non bitumen coated roofing membranes?

As discussed, many bats rely on buildings and specifically roofs for roosting, and it is this that makes them vulnerable to changes in building materials. During roosting, bats physically interact with the surface of roosting membranes, through the gaps between battens and in the roof space. Their claws snag the surface of the NBCRM, which can cause loops of continuous filaments being teased free from the fabric structure to produce surface ‘deflausion’. For a number of years bats have sadly become entangled in these strong filaments, causing injury and/or death through starvation as they become trapped.

In carrying out works on buildings with bat roosts that include re-roofing, the legal protection of bats can come into conflict with the use of NBCRMs since these have the potential to kill bats, which constitutes an offence under the legislation. Up until now, the advice from the SNCOs was that if bats are found during roof works, taking part in training or even enhancing roosting potential within roosts for bats. There are many opportunities to build in spaces for urban species that need our help whilst still complying with all the necessary regulations including for town and country buildings, enabling new roosts to be established and playing an important part in the recovery of these remarkable animals.

Finding a solution

A combination of legal protection along with conservation action has resulted in encouraging signs that bat populations are starting to recover. We still have a long way to go to make up for the massive historical declines but practical steps, such as the recommendation to use bitumen IF left, has made a difference.

Now, the emergence of NBCRMs has seen these products being much more widely used in place of traditional bitumen left. However, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), as a science-based organisation, wanted to understand how NBCRMs could be made safer for use where there are bat roosts.

Rosots are protected even when bats are not present, such is the essential part each roost plays in a bat’s life cycle. For instance, bats will use a cool, humid roost to hibernate (go into ‘torpor’) in the winter months, but they require a warm, dry place to have their young in the summer months and roof spaces frequently fulfil this latter need.

The aim was to produce an independent testing methodology for NBCRMs, for manufacturers and the industry to use as a standard. In May 2020 a significant milestone was reached as the steering group successfully published the research paper titled ‘Method for evaluating the snagging propensity of roosting membranes in buildings by roosting bats’. In the Buildings Research and Information Journal.

Until independent tests, as outlined in the research paper, are completed on a NBCRM and the results are discussed with the relevant SNCO’s, the original advice still stands: currently the only “bat safe” roosting membrane is bitumen. IF felt that is a non-woven short fibre construction. However this methods paper allows the industry, for the first time, to have the power to progress this work and make a real contribution to protecting bats from harm.

On a broader note, the roofing industry also can contribute to the conservation and protection of bats as part of every day working operations. This could be through producing guidance on what to do if bats are found during roof works, taking part in training or even enhancing roosting potential within roosts for bats. There are many opportunities to build in spaces for urban species that need our help whilst still complying with all the necessary regulations including for town and country buildings, enabling new roosts to be established and playing an important part in the recovery of these remarkable animals.

For further information and advice on any aspect of bats and roofs please go to the BCT’s website: www.bat.org.uk or Jo Ferguson can be contacted by email jo.ferguson@bats.org.uk.
Selecting a Safe and Cost-Effective Scaffolding Contractor

Before you open your internet browser and start looking for scaffold contractors in your area, it’s important to establish what the scope of the work being undertaken is. There are a surprisingly large number of different types of scaffolding construction, and while some are considered basic structures, others are much more complex and will require thought before project commencement. Roofing projects can vary greatly in their complexity and consideration should be given to, for example:

- The ground conditions (the scaffold will be built from)
- The accessibility of the site
- The amount of weight being placed upon the structure by materials
- Any restrictions or special requirements of the structure being scaffolded eg listed status
- Planned use of a temporary roof

If you’re in any doubt about the most appropriate type of scaffolding to speak to a scaffolding company. Alternatively, you could contact a scaffold designer and discuss your requirements with them, they will be able to provide you with drawings that a scaffold contractor will work from. This can also relieve the contractual headaches associated with negotiating variations and, in an increasingly price driven marketplace, can offer more cost certainty.

Competence
Safety should always come first when erecting and using scaffolding, with the risks associated with working at height effectively controlled and managed.

You should look to select a scaffold contractor that is able to demonstrate they meet their health and safety obligations and erect their scaffolding in accordance with the relevant British Standards: BS12811 Temporary works equipment. Scaffolding. Performance requirements and general design and BS5975 Codes of Practice for temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of later work.

There are three types of assessment used when assessing contractors for prequalification, and depending on the size, complexity, and value of the work you should select your model accordingly:

- Level 1 - Verification and assessment of supplier
- Level 2 - Validated assessment
- Level 3 - Self-assessment

The assessment process includes an audit typically involving on-site verification and outcome: contractor’s paperwork. The Safety Schemes In Procurement scheme undertakes assessment at this level.

Experience
For standard scaffolding construction, the requirements for installation are not overly difficult and most scaffolding contractors will be able to provide a cost-effective solution that adequately builds your requirements. However, when you are undertaking a project that requires something more complex or specialist it is wise to source a contractor that has experience in that area. Most scaffold contractors will be happy to provide you with details of similar projects they have undertaken or show you a portfolio of their work. It can also be useful to ask for work references and talk to clients the scaffolding company has previously worked with to get a solid understanding of how they operate and their capabilities.

The Scaffolding Association is the UK’s largest not-for-profit independent trade organisation with over 400 member companies. It campaigns to raise standards of safety, technical quality and workforce skills in the scaffolding and access sector. Membership of the Association is an assurance of quality and demonstrates an ability to carry out the safe design, installation and commissioning of equipment. www.scaffolding-association.org.

Scaffolding
Tackling Tool Theft

Michael Brown, Design Director at Metal and Modular, discusses tool theft and the products available to help prevent it.

The very fact that tradespeople routinely fix signs to their vehicles stating that ‘no tools are left in the van overnight’ highlights how much of an issue tool theft has become. The roofing sector, where a roofer’s ability to do the job depends on a range of high value tools, is no exception.

A Significant Issue

According to police figures, tool theft from sites costs £95 million a year, and the problem is getting worse. As equipment becomes more specialist and higher in cost, it becomes a more attractive target to thieves. Meanwhile, tools are increasingly more compact and lightweight, so thieves find them easier to steal.

As their vehicles proclaim, few roofer would leave their tools in their vehicle overnight, but they cannot keep a constant watch over tools on site. Larger sites have site-wide security but, regardless, opportunistic thieves will find a way to gain access and take whatever is close at hand. On smaller sites, the only defence against theft is often simply the vigilance of colleagues.

In both scenarios, a tool vault or fittings cabinet provides the ideal solution for locking tools away securely when they are not in use on site. This not only keeps tools secure while ensuring they are conveniently close at hand, but also sends out a clear message to potential thieves that measures are in place to protect valuables, dissuading them from attempting thefts in the first place.

Knock-on Effects

While the financial cost of replacing stolen tools is a significant enough problem, the compelling reasons to invest in a tool vault or fittings cabinet are much wider because of the knock-on effects of theft.

Without the right tools, a roofer can struggle to continue with an installation, and finding replacements may involve a significant cost in time and money. This could lead to delays on site, loss of earnings for days lost to inactivity, penalties for late-handover or even contra-charges if tools vulnerable to more determined thieves. Tool vaults with a five-lever deadlock or secure six pin cylinder locks provide the best defence, and anti-theft doors with double returns on the edges offer added security by preventing the risk of the unit being forced open with a crowbar.

According to police figures, tool theft from sites costs £95 million a year, and the problem is getting worse.

One of the most vulnerable times for tool theft is when a roofer tool is locking a door to be changed securely. The same aperture can also be used to grind mobile phones, keeping the team’s personal property safe.

An alternative is to fit a tool vault or a fittings cabinet, which can offer storage for tools while providing a central location to keep small items, such as nails and tapes neat and tidy in a single unit. Again, it’s important to select a model that’s as robust and theft-proof as possible, with dual five-lever deadlocks and anti-theft doors if possible. Ideally, a combination of shelves, storage bins and cupboards space should provide the flexibility needed to meet the needs of specific projects and teams, helping roofer find what they need quickly and easily and aiding stock checking.

Whether opting for a tool vault or a fittings cabinet durability and security features should be matched by convenience. Ease of transportation and manoeuvrability is important, so features such as accessed handles, fork lift slots and castors can all be of benefit.

The Right Solution

No roofer would leave tools unattended in an open van, but unattended tools can be just as vulnerable on site. Tool vaults and secure fittings cabinets provide the solution to this problem. Metal & Modular is a safety, security and materials handling equipment specialist. Find out more at https://www.metalandmodular.co.uk/
Both effective and safe work, even on the most trigger. Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager, said:
two electronic speed settings and a variable speed
start function and a no-load speed of 6,000rpm but the
Technology means that the cutting speed is
Makita guide rail system without an adapter and is
work quicker, easier and safer. The 190mm HS004G
Reciprocating Saw to its new XGT 40V Max
range, is the JR001GBrushless
Reciprocating Saw. It offers outstanding performance
of cutting metal, wood or pipe fast and efficient
system will provide a warmer, drier and brighter
and the installation of the BMI Icopal built-up roofing
octagonal classroom at its centre, used for assemblies,
Academy for years to come; supported by an
innovative product, which can be installed on flat roofs
one solution, as it can be utilised as a smoke vent, roof
launch of its new SKY Flatglass smoke vent. The
compliant solution that will automatically open in the
event of a fire or smoke. The SKY Flatglass is fully
compliant with all relevant building regulations outlined
new build developments or retrofitted onto existing
access hatch and rooflight. Suitable for installation on
constant compliance in line with latest legislations.
forward to working with our clients over the coming
Ravago Building Solutions has appointed Adam
Hilmi as a new Account Manager, solely focused
on Building customers in Northern England and Scotland. Adam joins the Commercial Team, bringing a wealth of expertise and market
knowledge to the company; he has accumulated
twenty years in the construction products
industry. In his new role, Adam will be
responsible for working with Ravago’s Building
customers North of Birmingham, helping them
to Max 40V Angle Grinder with a 125mm wheel diameter and the GA012G Angle Grinder with 115mm wheel diameter are both
offered with a paddle switch function. With enhanced safety in mind, the two
brushless angle grinders are engineered to
deliver the lowest possible emissions of a cordless machine, without
the hassles and restrictions of a cord. The new 40V Max GD006G and GD007G Angle
Grinders operate with a slide switch and with 125mm and 115mm wheel diameter
options respectively. The new 40V Max GD006G Angle Grinder with 125mm wheel diameter and the GD007G Angle Grinder with 115mm wheel diameter are both
operated with a paddle switch function. With enhanced safety in mind, the two
brushless grinders include an electric brake and Makita’s Active Feedback sensing
Technology (AFT) turns the motor off if the rotation speed suddenly slows or if the
wheel is forced to stop. Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager, said: “The new 40V XGT
vibration grinders include an electric brake and Makita’s Active Feedback sensing
Technology (AFT) turns the motor off if the rotation speed suddenly slows or if the
wheel is forced to stop. Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager, said: “The new 40V XGT
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Battery (2.5Ah) with selected XGT product purchases via a brand new redemption 28 days of purchase, via a dedicated microsite by submitting their details and proof of work and minimise use of transport, but they also want work and minimise use of transport, but they also want

The range of waterproofing and insulation solutions offered by Soprema UK Limited, allows the rooftop to become safer to use. It contains a fungicide introduced a Coloured Wood Preserver that is an ideal product for the protection of rotting, decay and staining fungi, algae, and insulation solutions offered by Soprema UK Limited, allows the rooftop to become

Grinders – engineered to deliver the high-power and flexibility needed to tackle a wide range of metal cutting, plastic extrusion, and concrete cutting applications. To maximise on-site productivity, the GA9201, GA9202 and GA9202B have been designed to enable the user to operate on the go, while maintaining detailed controls and allowing for extended usage. Each model delivers a maximum speed of 11,000 rpm and features a variable speed dial, enabling operators to easily control and adjust the speed of the machine. Strong and sturdy, the new D30 ERGO Craftsman Kneepad, designed to provide a comfortable and safe working environment, allows for increased productivity and reduced fatigue. The lightweight and ergonomic design of the kneepad ensures a comfortable fit and support, enhancing the worker’s experience and increasing overall job satisfaction.

While in use, the super-lightweight and flexible work trousers are designed to provide maximum comfort and ease of movement, while still offering robust and durable protection. The Stretch Garments from Snickers are made with a special polyester film that gives the fabric a high-strength and lightweight quality, ensuring maximum comfort and protection. Additionally, the work trousers feature multiple pockets and reinforced areas, providing both functionality and durability. These trousers are available in various colors and sizes, allowing for customization to meet individual preferences and work environments.

The Snickers’ D30 ERGO Workwear range is designed with comfort and functionality in mind, offering a wide range of options for different types of work environments. The manufacturer has focused on creating a collection that balances protection, comfort, and performance to ensure that workers can focus on their tasks without worrying about their safety. Whether you are a tradesperson, a construction worker, or any other profession that requires durable and comfortable workwear, the Snickers’ D30 ERGO Workwear range is a great choice for your next work uniform.

New A1 Fire Rated Non-Combustible Pedestals

Snickers’ NEW 4-Way Stretch Trousers Give Extreme Working Comfort all day, every day. Hi-tech, functional, ergonomically designed in the NEW multi-purpose ALLROUNDWork. 4-Way Stretch Trousers provide added freedom of movement and maximum working mobility wherever you are. The stretch in these Work Trousers deliver maximum freedom of movement. Not all brands have 4-way stretch, so you can’t judge their stretch by money they have a skinner tailored fit for better all-day comfort. The panels in these trousers have been strategically placed for better mobility and flexibility. For checking out all the Stretch Garments from Snickers Workwear – the optimal choice for comfort and women who need to get every job done comfortably and efficiently. Getting information on the Snickers’ workwear is easy. Tel: 01484 847876, check out the website and download a digital catalogue at www.snickersworkwear.co.uk or email sales@snickers.co.uk

Copur Trend Spark New Onducline Cladding and Roofing

A trend towards more visually pleasing warehouse and industrial and agricultural buildings has seen Onduline Building Products launch a comprehensive new line of metal roofing products: OnDULINCLUD. This new product is a specially formulated sheet that gives the metal a distinctive look and feel while providing excellent strength. The metal sheet is also designed to be lightweight, making it easy to install, and has a low profile that is compatible with many architectural styles. The OnDULINCLUD range is available in a variety of colors and finishes, allowing for customization to match different building aesthetics. The new product is ideal for warehouses, factories, and agricultural buildings, offering a cost-effective solution for these industries.

Redland Mini Stonewold Is The Perfect Solution Against High Winds

With high winds in excess of 130mph prevalent on the Orkney Islands, a solution was required that could withstand the high winds and protect the surrounding areas. The Redland Mini Stonewold is the perfect solution against high winds. The Redland Mini Stonewold is a flexible and cost-effective cladding system that offers the necessary strength and durability required in high-wind environments. It is designed to be a lightweight and easy-to-install solution, making it an ideal choice for challenging climates.

The Redland Mini Stonewold is available in a variety of colors and styles, allowing for customization to match different architectural styles and preferences. The system is designed to be compatible with existing structures, making it an ideal retrofit solution for older buildings. The Mini Stonewold is also a cost-effective solution, offering a competitive price point compared to other high-wind resistant products. It is a long-term investment that offers a combination of strength and aesthetic appeal.

Claim A Free Battery with Makita’s Latest Promotion

To celebrate the launch of the new XGT 40V Max power tools with the launch of a new four-brushless motor-generators – engineered to deliver the power needed for high-demand applications, with the added flexibility and improved safety of cordless power tools. The new XGT 40V Max range is designed to meet the demands of the modern construction worker, providing a balance of power and versatility. The XGT 40V Max range is available in a variety of models, each offering different features and benefits to meet the specific needs of the user. Whether you are a professional or a DIY enthusiast, the XGT 40V Max range is the perfect addition to your tool kit.

The Makita XGT 40V Max range is designed with the construction worker in mind, offering a range of features that enhance productivity and efficiency. The new XGT 40V Max range is equipped with advanced battery technology, allowing for longer run times and reduced downtime. The range also includes a host of accessories and tools to complement the power tools, providing a complete solution for any project.

Makita Expands XGT Range With Two New Band Saws

Makita has expanded its XGT 40V Max range of cordless power tools with the introduction of the new XGT 40V Max range of cordless power tools. The XGT 40V Max range is designed to meet the demands of the modern construction worker, offering a balance of power and versatility. The range includes a variety of cordless power tools, each with its own unique features and benefits. Whether you are a professional or a DIY enthusiast, the XGT 40V Max range is the perfect addition to your tool kit.

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Unique Lifetime Warranty for Zinc Roofing & Cladding

Offering an even peace of mind to customers the new Lifetime warranty, available in the UK and Ireland, for the Makita XGT range of cordless tools and accessories. The new Lifetime warranty offers customers reassurance and peace of mind, knowing that their investment is protected for the long term. The warranty covers all Makita XGT tools and accessories, from power tools to accessories, ensuring comprehensive protection for customers.

The new Lifetime warranty is applicable to all Makita XGT tools and accessories, providing customers with the confidence to use their tools knowing that they are covered by a genuine Makita warranty. The new Lifetime warranty is the perfect peace of mind guarantee for anyone looking for long-term protection for their cordless tools.

Introduction: Makita’s New XGT Products

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Double Benefits with VELUX® Rewards Scheme This Autumn

Installers, builders and homeowners across the UK and Ireland can earn rewarding benefits from rewards from a number of top-brand partners, including Adidas and Tesco. All rewards must be claimed by 31 December 2020. Richard McArthur, marketing manager from VELUX said: “After what has been a difficult few months for installers, builders, self-installers and homeowners across the UK and Ireland can now benefit from a rewards boost through this new offer. The builders and installers who recommend and purchase our products for their customers really are our brand champions, working tirelessly to help customers with an opportunity to earn rewards and Ireland can now benefit from a rewards boost through this new offer. The builders and installers who recommend and purchase our products for their customers really are our brand champions, working tirelessly to help customers with an opportunity to earn rewards. For further information on Norbord, please call 01786 812 921 or visit www.norbord.co.uk

Marley Solar®Tile, Marley’s All New Integrated Solar PV Solution

In response to increasing focus on sustainable solutions to support the UK target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, Marley has launched its MarleySolar®Tile range. The integrated photovoltaic (PV) system offers easy installation, sleek design, proven performance, and energy cost savings. The MarleySolar®Tile range comprises three sleek, low-profile PV16 solar panels for roof integration. Each is available in a range of power outputs and styles. The range offers the Monocrystalline – black 300Wp, the Monocrystalline – black 300Wp and the Polycrystalline – black 270Wp. Marley Solar®Tile comes with all the components, including frames, to allow installers to complete the job without delay and without the need for additional third-party products. Stuart Nicholson for Marley, comments: “According to the Energy Savings Trust, a typical home could save between 1.3 and 1.6 tonnes of carbon per year, a saving of up to €240 on the annual electricity bill, by installing solar panels. Bordered by a 15-year system guarantee as part of a Marley roof system, the Marley Solar®Tile range achieves exceptional fire performance, wind resistance and weather tightness and is the perfect answer for any customer’s property in Grantham. After working closely with the homeowner and recommending an installer for the work, Marley delivered a solution for a new outside barbecue area. For this project, Marley Alutec had provided a similar Evoke fascia and soffit system in 2012 when the existing property underwent a modern rear extension. It was due to the system’s longevity that the homeowner, Karen Starbuck, chose to select Marley Alutec’s fascia and soffits again for her new outdoor barbeque area. Brian Bell, Marley Alutec’s Head of Technical Sales commented: “By providing design sketches, incorporating client preferences and offering advice on how best to implement the unique system, we were able to deliver the exact solution that Karen was seeking and a finish that matched her previous selections.” On the service she received, Karen commented: “I’m incredibly pleased with the end result as the new system fits perfectly with the aesthetic of the rest my house and I know that it will last the test of time.”

Norbord’s Commitment to UK Housebuilding and Construction

In Norbord’s latest video, National Sales Manager, Dan Clarke, reaffirms Norbord’s crucial role as the largest supplier of wood panel products to the UK construction and housebuilding industry. By providing the full range of panel and wood products needed for a complete build, from floor to roof, Norbord is committed to supporting the growth of UK housebuilding through these challenging times and beyond. You can see the video and a host of other resources for the construction and housebuilding industry at www.norbord.co.uk/nor닐이. For further information on Norbord, please call 01786 812 921 or visit www.norbord.co.uk

Marley Alutec®Proves Bespoke Outdoor Solution

Aluminium guttering and drainage system specialists Marley Alutec have produced a bespoke Evoke fascia, soffit and capping system for a customer’s property in Grantham. After working closely with the homeowner and recommending an installer for the work, Marley delivered a solution for a new outside barbecue area. For this project, Marley Alutec had provided a similar Evoke fascia and soffit system in 2012 when the existing property underwent a modern rear extension. It was due to the system’s longevity that the homeowner, Karen Starbuck, chose to select Marley Alutec’s fascia and soffits again for her new outdoor barbeque area. Brian Bell, Marley Alutec’s Head of Technical Sales commented: “By providing design sketches, incorporating client preferences and offering advice on how best to implement the unique system, we were able to deliver the exact solution that Karen was seeking and a finish that matched her previous selections.” On the service she received, Karen commented: “I’m incredibly pleased with the end result as the new system fits perfectly with the aesthetic of the rest my house and I know that it will last the test of time.”

Glendyne and Burton Roofing Merchant Ltd Exclusive Trading Agreement

Top of the range Canadian natural slate manufacturer Glendyne and Burton Roofing Merchants, Ltd, one of the UK market leaders in roofing material distributors, are pleased to announce the signing of a new and exclusive sole trading agreement for the supply of the top-quality Glendyne natural slate into the UK market. This exclusive arrangement along with existing agreements for Australia and New Zealand significantly expands its commercial coverage. Paul Hattee, MD of Burton Roofing, commented: “Glendyne sits perfectly in our product portfolio alongside our Cupa range and we are excited to announce the upcoming arrival on the world market of its own coloured slates with unique and exceptional geology. Burton Roofing Merchants Ltd. has an uncommitted stall to Glendyne and are in a position to maximise our potential for our brand in the discriminating British market.”

News, Projects, Products & People
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Building products manufacturer Glidevale Protect has launched Viking Air, an air and vapour permeable roofing underlay for cold and warm pitched roofs. Viking Air delivers airflow and ventilation into the roof space of a dwelling through class-leading air and vapour permeability. This reduces the risk of condensation in line with BS 5250, without the need for additional ventilation, subject to a well-sealed ceiling, which is acceptable to the NHBC. The product is suitable for use in wind zones 1-4 at 345mm batten gauge to BS 5250, with no need to tape laps or use additional counter battens. When the membrane is installed at 310mm batten gauge or on sarking, it also meets wind zone 1-5 requirements, ensuring unrestricted use across the UK and Ireland. Viking Air forms an integral part of Glidevale Protect’s roofing membrane family, which includes vapour permeable and airtight options, impermeable underlays together with ventilation products and accessories, giving specifiers and contractors a single source solution, whatever their pitched roof challenges.

For more information about products or services seen in Roofing Today, just note the number in the advertisement and tick it in the boxes below. We will then pass your request for more information to suppliers.

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