

# TUFF INDUSTRIES<sup>INC</sup>

**TUFDEK**

**ECONODEK**

**TUFF-SHIELD**

## TECHNICAL

# BITUMEN

**bi·tu·men** *Mixtures of hydrocarbons and other substances, occurring naturally or obtained by distillation from coal or petroleum, that are a component of asphalt and tar and are commonly used for waterproofing.*

We are frequently asked questions related to the compatibility of Tuff vinyl membranes with various products used in the construction industry. One of the more frequent questions relates to compatibility with Bitumen based products, such as the popular brand Blueskin®, and what happens when it is placed in contact with PVC.

### **PVC and BITUMEN**

Contact with Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) based membranes and all brands of bitumen products including the popular Blueskin® brand should be avoided at all times. The PVC membrane should not contact the asphalt side or the protective film side of the bitumen as the plasticizers in the PVC will interact with the asphalt, and as temperatures rise, cause it to liquify. Even contact at areas of exposure due to fastener penetration must be avoided. The results of contamination are not only limited to the liquid bitumen causing an appearance issue on the surface of the PVC. When bitumen stays in contact with PVC membranes, the bitumen will pull plasticizers from the membrane causing discoloration and rigidity which will reduce the service life and cause premature failure of the product.

If Bitumen based products are being used in conjunction with PVC membranes, make sure to apply an impermeable vapor barrier between the two materials such as aluminum foil tape.

