



BULLETIN #12

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**NRCA STATEMENT ON EXPANDED
POLYSTYRENE ROOF INSULATION (EPS)**

The use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in conventional built-up roofing systems and with certain loose-laid or mechanically attached single-ply membranes has raised the question of behavioral response of this insulating material. To better define the use of EPS in all roofing systems, NRCA, together with the Midwest Roofing Contractors Association and the Roofing Committee of The Society of the Plastics Industry has developed a research program that will provide for field and laboratory studies. Initial results of this research program should be available sometime in 1983.

Until the results of the joint research become available, NRCA suggests the following when EPS is used as roof insulation material:

Built-Up Roofing

1. Consider the use of an overlayment of fiberboard, fibrous glass or perlite over the top of EPS breaking joints with the insulation beneath.
2. To avoid damage to EPS from hot bitumen, consider the taping of the joints of the overlay board.

All Roof Systems

1. A minimum curing time of seven (7) days prior to cutting and shipping should be considered.
2. The use of EPS with a density of at least a nominal 1.0 p.c.f. should be considered.
3. When an overlayment is not used and the system is to receive wheeled traffic during installation, the loss of "R" (resistance) value due to compaction should be considered.