



Torch Application Guidelines and Tips Bulletin # TS-702

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SIPLASTFLASH

As a general practice, Siplast strongly recommends that torch application practices relative to current CERTA (Certified Roofing Torch Applicator) guidelines be followed. Information regarding the CERTA program can be found by accessing the National Roofing Contractors Association web site at www.nrca.net or by calling the NRCA at 847-299-9070. Please contact the Siplast Technical Support Department at 800-922-8800 for further assistance with Siplast details that follow applicable CERTA guidelines.

Exercise extreme caution prior to, during, and after the use of a torch. The trained operator should be aware of all hazards before igniting a torch, which include, but are not limited, to the following.

Proximity of combustible materials.

- Do not ignite or operate a torch in close proximity to combustible materials, flammable or explosive primers, vapors, or gases.
- Recognize that combustible materials may be present in areas not visible to the torch operator, such as: below the roof deck or rooftop penetrations; within rooftop mechanical equipment, HVAC service lines, and utility pipes; at walls and perimeter edges; and on adjacent structures.

Direction of flame.

- Be aware that the outside of the flame may travel beyond its visible edge. (It has access to unlimited oxygen and is the most combustible part of the flame.)
- Always direct the flame away from any penetrations, vents, roof edges, deck-to-wall transitions, rooftop equipment, or any other roof openings.

EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT FOR FIELD APPLICATION

- "Torching wagon" having a minimum seven-burner package.
- Single-headed or two-headed roofing torch with a 20-inch extension and flow controls.
- Heavy-duty sponge mop or cotton yarn coating/paint rollers for Veral field torch application to ensure the waffle pattern is not depressed or damaged.

EQUIPMENT FOR FLASHING APPLICATION

- Single-headed roofing torch with a 4-inch extension and flow controls.
- Marshalltown No. 52 rectangular-shaped trowel, 5 inches long (with corners rounded off) for pressure on edges, laps, etc.
- Marshalltown No. 45-6 pointed trowel with the tip rounded off.
- For Veral flashing, hand sponges that allow for firm and even pressure on the material to ensure the waffle pattern is not depressed or damaged.

NOTE: Please ensure that all equipment (torches, hoses, regulators, propane tanks, etc.) is maintained and serviced in accordance with local, regional, national, territorial, provincial, and international regulations and checked regularly for wear and defects.

GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- When using a torch wagon, typically most models contain larger burners on the outside. Those burners should be replaced or rotated with smaller burners to avoid overheating the laps.
- Sheets should be unrolled starting from the low point of the roof. The sheet should be rerolled from one end roughly halfway and torching begin from that point prior to rolling the other half. Care must be taken to ensure good alignment of the each roll.
- Start the application of heat to the base of the roll and torch uniformly, side to side, using the "box method" or "L" motion. During this application, the underside of the membrane shall be heat activated, burning off the plastic film, forming a small wave of bituminous bleed that will enable it to be pushed out in front of the sheet. Care must be taken not to overheat or burn the membrane.
- When torching mineral-surfaced membranes, granules should be fully broadcast onto the bleed-out immediately following application while the bitumen is still hot to ensure proper embedment.
- When lapping on mineral-surfaced membranes, torch prime the entire end lap area by applying uniform heat, allowing the bitumen to soften. Using a clean heated trowel, depress the granules into the sheet ensuring not to over-displace the blend.
- When torching Veral, concentrate the heat away from the foil surface of the adjoining Veral sheet. While the roll is still hot, use a damp sponge/sponge mop to apply pressure to the Veral and ensure full adhesion. Care should be taken not to deform the waffle pattern of the Veral.
- When torching Veral, prime foil surfaces at the end laps and wherever adhesion to foil is required.
- When torching Veral base flashing, the membrane should be cut across the end of the roll (1 meter wide), using factory selvage for laps.
- The reinforcing ply/base ply flashing should be laid in strips one meter wide to vertical surfaces, extending onto the flat surface. The in-place flashing sheet should be torch welded directly on its support from bottom to top. Torch heating should be done to soften the underside of the base sheet without overheating, resulting in a uniform adhesion over the entire surface. Mechanical fastening of the top horizontal edge of the installed flashing sheet is required on 9-inch centers.