

Roofing underlay at eaves level

(May 2024) (Second issue – supersedes December 2008)

The Technical Guidance Notes are produced by NHBC as guidance solely for our builder customers as to how to interpret the technical requirements in relation to the warranty cover provided by NHBC under its Buildmark, Buildmark Choice, Buildmark Link, Buildmark Solo, Buildmark Connect or any similar product from time to time. It has not been created or intended for distribution or use outside of that purpose. The information contained in this Technical Guidance Note does not constitute advice and is not to be relied upon by any third party. Nothing in this Technical Guidance Note is intended to, nor should it be taken to, create any legal or contractual relationship. Any third party who chooses to rely upon the information contained in the Technical Guidance Notes shall do so entirely at their own risk and NHBC accepts no duty of care or liability, however caused, in connection with its use or reliance by any third party.

Question

Can plastic DPC material be used at eaves level in place of a type 5U felt?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 7.2.14 says ‘where the underlay is exposed, such as at the eaves, a type 5U felt should be used.’
- Plastic dpc materials are generally not designed for use in permanently exposed locations. The lack of suitable ultra-violet stabilisers could lead to an early breakdown of these materials in such locations.

Answer

DPC materials should not be used for the exposed sections of roof underlay at the eaves. A type 5U felt should be used for the exposed sections unless the underlay used for the remainder of the roof has a third party assessment confirming its suitability for use at exposed eaves. Alternatively a proprietary eaves guard which extends under the unexposed section of roofing underlay and provides adequate projection into the guttering may be used. See also Technical Guidance 9.1/04 regarding ceilings in garages.



NHBC, NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK5 8FP
Tel: 0344 633 1000 Web: nhbc.co.uk

National House-Building Council (NHBC) is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority for carrying on insurance business and insurance distribution activities.

NHBC is registered in England and Wales under company number 00320784. NHBC's registered address is NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK5 8FP. Note that only certain parts of our products and services are within the scope of UK financial services regulations. For more information on our products and services, please see our website nhbc.co.uk or your NHBC product documentation.