CORROSION

FOLLOWING TRADES

TECHNICAL BULLETIN CTB-17

Rev 4, November 2003
This issue supersedes all previous issues

There have been many occasions when a competently installed roof, on which the roof fixer has observed all of the correct procedures, has been ruined by the irresponsible negligence of others.

Typical instances of this have been, the use of incorrect flashing or sealing materials associated with retro fitted equipment and the later inclusion of brickwork parapets around otherwise completed metal roofs.

Careless placement of feet, the spillage of mortar and excessive point loads on roof sections which lead to perforation, are commonly observed and are to be deplored.

The installation of surface mounted roof air conditioning units on copper/chrome/arsenic (CCA) treated timber or green hardwood dunnage and the installation of roof walkway systems similarly mounted on this style of timber dunnage must be avoided. Corrosion of the under lying roof sheeting in contact with the timber will be dramatically accelerated by the wet poultice and contaminants created by such poor practice.

Technical Bulletin TB5 "Swarf Staining of Steel Roofing and Walling Profiles" refers to the removal of swarf particles which arise from poor building/trades practice. Whilst the creation of swarf should be prevented from initially occurring, any sheeting affected by swarf must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent the corrosion staining of the roof sheeting. Such clean up procedures must be carried out on a daily basis. All discarded pop rivet mandrels, fasteners and material off-cuts must be removed from the roof surface to prevent both staining and future corrosion.

Copper penetrations such as sullage/sewerage vent pipes which penetrate the roof sheeting are often found to be associated with commercial construction. This type of penetration must be post painted to prevent the deposition of metallic copper ions upon the roof surface. Such deposition will ultimately lead to penetration of the roof sheeting.

Similar contamination from copper lightning conductors, water supply pipes and other process vents can lead to severe corrosion of the roof sheeting if the units are not insulated and similarly post painted.

Figure 1: CCA Treated Timber Walkway

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