



## Water Damage Prevention

Water damage is one of the biggest fears of roofing contractors. It's often a race against Mother Nature to get a roof in place before rain or snow comes. Making sure a partially-done roof is well-covered and that drains are left unplugged are some of the biggest concerns at the end of the day. Even one mistake can result in a collapsed or damaged roof system, and water-logged offices or homes.

### ☛ Always keep an eye on the weather, especially during tear-offs.

- Check the weather forecast first thing in the morning and frequently throughout the day.
- Listen to a weather radio or regularly check the telephone weather forecast.

### ☛ Be prepared for bad weather.

- Keep plastic tarps on hand.
- It's best to cover sensitive equipment in the building before the job even starts but if you don't then be ready to go in and cover it if it starts raining when there's not complete protection on the roof.
- Note and document previous water damage in the building so your company is not held responsible for existing damage.

### ☛ Keep drains clear of debris.

- Make sure that drains are unplugged during rain and when the crew leaves the building.

### ☛ Never ever leave the roof open.

- Even if the forecast is clear, do not leave the roof open.
- All areas of the roof must be water-tight at the end of the day.
- Roof tie-ins should be inspected before you and your coworkers leave the jobsite.

### ☛ The building owner or plant manager should be given a 24 hour emergency number where he or she can reach a field supervisor.

- Your field supervisor will have access to plastic tarps, squeegees, water vacuums, and any other equipment which may be needed in case of a water damage emergency.

## Water Damage Prevention Training Tips

- Explain to your crew that you listen to professional weather forecasts instead of television forecasts for up-to-the-minute accuracy.
- Share details of past water damage claims and how they could have been prevented.
- Ask the following questions:
  - Why is it so important to make sure the drains are unplugged?
  - Why is it a good idea to cover equipment in the building?
  - Why is it important to document existing water damage in the building?
  - Can you leave the roof open if you're 100% sure that the weather will be clear all night?