

# Gaco Western

S I N C E 1 9 5 5

## General Instructions:

GW-1-1

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Supersedes 07/06

### JOB SITE CONDITIONS SURFACE PREPARATION - PROTECTION OF WORK

These instructions cover general job site conditions and precautions for protection of work when installing Gaco Western GacoFlex Elastomeric Construction Coatings. Information on specific coatings and systems are contained in subsequent sections of these instructions, product data sheets and application specifications. Specification guides with recommendations for concrete and plywood substrates are referenced and available from Gaco Western LLC.

#### 1. JOB CONDITIONS

- A.** Construction work such as drains, ducts, skylights, and other roof penetrations should be complete except for flashings and counter flashings.
- B.** Surfaces must be completely dry to ensure adhesion of all primers and coatings, except those designed for moist surfaces. Remove dirt or dust that settles on surfaces before the start of the work or between coats. Sweeping or blowing may be sufficient, however washing or damp-mopping is considered the best procedure.
- C.** The temperature should be above 40°F (4°C) because cooler surfaces may have ice, frost or condensation. Applications of some coatings can be made at lower temperatures provided the surface is free of moisture. (See temperature limitations listed on the product data sheet for specific coatings.)
- D.** Job specifications require that the surfaces be accepted by the coating contractor prior to the start of the work. Substrates which are not structurally sound or which do not meet the specification requirements for surface finish or condition are not acceptable. Correction of surface defects is the general contractor's responsibility. Review of the specification requirements and Gaco Western's Guide Specifications with the general contractor before the substrate is constructed will minimize any problems at the time of acceptance.

#### 2. SURFACE PREPARATION

**A. Concrete:** See Gaco Western Specification GW-2-1 (formerly GW-2) for recommendations regarding finishing and curing of various types of concrete. Special attention should be given to the smoothness of the surface and freedom from contaminants including paint or previous coatings. Consult Gaco Western for alternate procedures for coating over existing paint. Such procedures are highly dependent on specific job conditions. Curing compounds, if used, shall be approved by Gaco Western for compatibility or removed by sandblasting or etching. In the event the specifications are not complied with, the following corrective procedures are recommended.

- 1. Surface Contaminants:** Wipe up all grease or oil with a solvent and absorbent sweeping material. Disposal of this material should be in accordance with the local laws and codes. Wash with a solvent-alkaline cleaner diluted with one part of cleaner and five parts of water. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. If there is any evidence of an oil film remaining as indicated by water "beading", etch the surface with a 10% solution of muriatic acid and clean water. Agitate the etch with a stiff bristle broom then rinse with clean water.

Remove any curing compounds by etching with a 10% muriatic acid and water solution followed by a clean water rinse. Allow the surface to thoroughly dry before applying any coating.

Grinding or sandblasting will remove heavy deposits of contaminants.

Any residual traces of asphalt stains must be primed with GacoFlex E-5320 Primer to avoid staining of light colored top coats. Apply GacoFlex E-5320 Primer in two coats and allow a minimum of 48 hours cure time.

**2. Fins and Projections:** Grind smooth.

**3. Rock Pockets and Depressions:** Commercially available concrete patching compounds can be used provided they contain no asphaltic binders. Only those patching compounds utilizing a binder are recommended for patching. Neat cement grout is NOT an acceptable surface preparation for coatings.

The leveling grout (below) can also be used to fill rock pockets and depressions up to two inches (5 cm) in thickness.

**4. Leveling Grout, Epoxy Sand: Choose a. or b. listed below.**

**a. Leveling Grout:** Use a 100% solids, low viscosity epoxy mix with three to four volumes of fine, dry sand (70 mesh (.21) or finer). This type of epoxy is usually available from masonry supply stores as a patching compound. Three volumes of sand yields a semi-fluid mix and four volumes of sand is a stiffer mix. Calculate the volume of the fill needed on the basis of sand only.

**b. Epoxy Sand:** Prime the areas to be filled with GacoFlex E-5320 Primer. Allow the primer to dry. Thirty minutes at 70°F (21°C) to two hours at 45°F (7°C) is an adequate drying time. After the primer is dry, mix GacoFlex E-5320 Primer and sand; one part "A", one part "B" and two to three parts of sand. (Two parts of sand is semi-fluid and three parts of sand is stiffer.) Use fine, dry sand 70 mesh (.21 mm) or finer. Do not thin with water.

Apply the grout to the level line with a flat trowel and allow it to cure for 48 hours before applying a coating system.

**B. Plywood:** Plywood surfaces should be protected from moisture that may raise the surface grain, cause checking or interfere with the coating adhesion. During wet weather, consideration should be given to protecting the plywood with a base coat prior to the installation to assure dry panels. The plywood surface must be clean.

Damaged panels must be repaired or replaced prior to being coated. Small areas can be repaired with a compatible sealant. For large voids or resurfacing, leveling grout per Section 4 can be used.

**1. Plywood Grades:** See Gaco Western Specification GW-2-3 (formerly GW-3) for recommendations for selection and installation of plywood. The acceptable grades of plywood are APA A/C EXT or APA B/C EXT. For commercial installations APA A/C EXT with plugged, cross band under face offers the most resistance to punctures from high heel shoes, table legs, etc. Other grades including APA C/D EXT, APA C/C EXT plugged, OSB, (oriented strand board) and wafer board are unsuitable as a substrate for a liquid applied coating membrane.

**NOTE:** The above plywood grades are called out in compliance with the American Plywood Association's Standards for member mills or to U.S. Product Standards PS 1-83 for construction and industrial plywood from the Product Standard Section of the National Bureau of Standards. Plywood grading which does not reference APA or PS 1-83 markings are not a suitable grade. Suppliers must certify that the plywood will meet the Product Standard PS 1-83 B/C EXT minimum.

**3.PROTECTION OF WORK**

**A.** While work is under way and for 72 hours thereafter, foot traffic from other trades should be prohibited. Roofers and other essential mechanics should wear rubber-soled shoes. Shoes and clothing should be free from asphaltic materials; even a small amount can discolor through many layers of a coating. A piece of burlap or floor mat should be kept at the foot of ladders or stairs so that dirt or foreign material will not be tracked onto the work surface.

**B.** Materials on the roof should be stored on plywood or non-asphaltic faced insulation boards. Special care must be exercised in pouring thinner to avoid spillage onto coated surfaces.

**C.** Adjacent surfaces not to be coated, such as walls, thresholds, fascias, etc., should be carefully protected before priming and coating. Mask vertical surfaces at the line detailed in the drawings or if none is shown, mask 6" (15 cm) and up from the deck. When coatings are applied by spray, caution is necessary, particularly during windy weather to prevent overspray damage.