# 5 COVER BOARDS SAVE ROOFS FROM FOOT TRAFFIC

The compounding impact of foot traffic is often underestimated when designing a roof assembly. A cover board not only protects the assembly and consequently the building from damage, it also supports the performance of other assembly materials as well as assets that call the roof their home. These five benefits underline the important role a cover board plays in resisting foot traffic's impact.

# **PRESERVE** MEMBRANE INTEGRITY

# Cover boards provide a smooth substrate to support the waterproofing membrane with the right balance of strength and flex.

- After a standard 2-hour soak test, DensDeck<sup>®</sup> Prime Roof Board tested 267% stronger than gypsum fiber and 87% stronger than alternative coated glass mat.<sup>1</sup>
- DensDeck<sup>®</sup> Prime Roof Board tested stronger wet after the 2-hour soak test than both gypsum fiber and alternative coated glass mat test dry before exposure to moisture.<sup>2</sup>



# FURNISHES PROTECTION FOR INSULATION

Insulation is protected from compression which causes material degradation, lowering assembly R-values. Polyiso insulation boards are typically the most expensive component in a commercial roof assembly and the most critical component in achieving the roof's target R-value.

Due to its high compressive strength, DensDeck<sup>®</sup> Prime Roof Board mitigates the risk of foot traffic damaging/compressing the polyiso and increases its ability to maintain the design intent's R-value over the entire life of the roof.



# **PROVIDES A FOUNDATION** FOR ROOFTOP PUBLIC AREAS

Cover boards with the proper strength support patios, gardens and viewing decks.

 DensDeck<sup>®</sup> Prime Roof Board helps protect the roof assembly from the increased foot traffic during construction of rooftop spaces as well as the impact of extended foot traffic from space usage due to its compressive strength.



# ADDING PERFORMANCE TO PV ROOFS

Upgrading to solar paneling.

- Compressive strength supports the weight of heavy photovoltaic roofing equipment.
- With compressive strength of 900 psi, DensDeck<sup>®</sup> Prime Roof Board provides the dimensional stability and strength to support these double-duty roofs.<sup>3</sup>
- Protects membrane from maintenance traffic handling new PV equipment.



### DURABILITY

Puncture and impact resistance help ensure product longevity.

- Resistance to impact from foot traffic means less maintenance, fewer repairs over time, extending the life of the roofing assembly.
- Thermoplastic membranes tested in assembles with ¼" DensDeck<sup>®</sup> Prime Roof Board panels underneath were 25-40% more puncture-resistant than ½" HD ISO and 50-70% more than with no cover board at all.<sup>4</sup>



Research conducted by Ducker Worldwide, Troy, Michigan, Roofing Consultants' Survey October 2016.
Independent, third party testing of 1/2" boards conducted by Trinity ERD in Columbia, South Carolina in October 2016 and December 2017. Testing conducted in accordance to ASTM C473 to meet ASTM C1177.
https://cache5.buildgp.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DensDeck\_Prime\_Tech\_Talk\_Durability\_Selecting\_Coverboard.pdf

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