NEWS BULLETIN

Use ofPatch Tape to "Seal" Insulation Joints

We receive many inquires regarding the effectiveness of vapor retarder patch tape used to "seal" the joints of faced blanket insulation used in a metal building. In general, ***we do not recommend*** the use of patch tape for this purpose.

It has been our experience that the bond between patch tape and a vapor retarder can be very inconsistent, especially when applied in pieces longer than two or three feet. We have seen numerous cases where large pieces of tape actually fall off completely in a short period of time (1 to 3 months). The following items contribute to tape failure in this application:

- It can be difficult to press the tape against the vapor retarder with enough force to get adequate surface contact due to having the rather "soft" fiberglass blanket behind the vapor retarder.
- Even in new construction, the vapor retarder can become dirty very quickly - making it difficult to achieve a good bond.
- Metal buildings move a great deal (expansion/contraction) causing separation.
- Many times, the surface of the vapor retarder is irregular (curved, wrinkled, embossed, etc.), once again contributing to poor surface contact and a poor bond.
- The adhesive used on patch tapes can "dry out" over time - rendering them partially or completely ineffective.

Complicating this issue is the fact that none of the tape manufacturers warrant their products as to use. They state: "final determination of the suitability for use is that of the buyer". This statement, combined with the numerous tape failures we have witnessed force us to decline orders for tape when the intended application is to seal the joints of blanket insulation. The primary use of patch tape is to cover tears and punctures.

If you have any questions regarding this information please contact your GBP Silvercote sales representative.