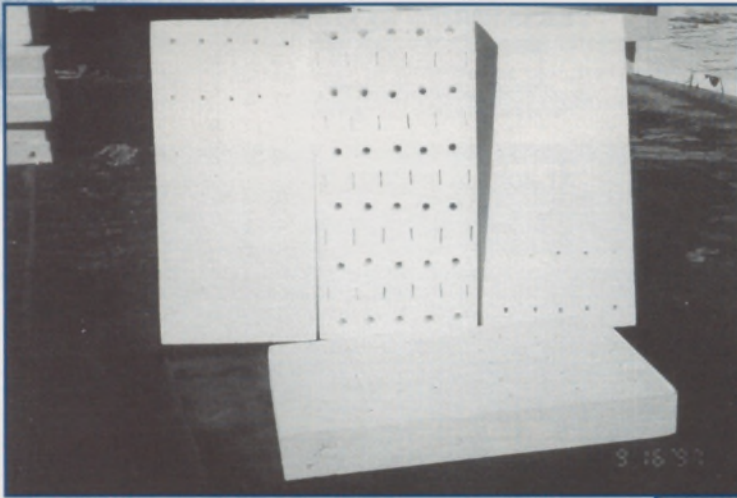


TECHNICAL TIPS for OBSERVING INSTALLATION

BY JEFF CRAMER, RRC



Incomplete board vent holes (left) and "floaters" (below) are two conditions that are easy to spot if you look for them.



Board Vent Holes

Most manufacturers require filler board (typically a molded, expanded polystyrene product, or MEPS) to have holes through the board. The holes help prevent the creation of air pockets below the board and help secure the boards to the substrate.

The holes are made in the factory where the blanks are cut to size and slope. Occasionally, boards arrive on-site with holes that do not completely penetrate the board. Once they are identified, the installation crew should be advised to use only boards that meet the requirements of the specification.

Floaters

Sometimes a "floater" will appear during installation of the top layer of Lightweight Insulating Concrete (LWIC). This occurs when a filler board does not stay secured in the slurry coat. Part of a board will rise or "float" above the adjacent filler boards. It is usually fairly obvious the next day.

The consequences may be negligible if a specific R-value is not one of the project goals. If the top of the board is not too high, the proper thickness of LWIC can simply be installed over the board. Of course, the "floater" must be supported adequately by LWIC.

If the board is high enough to interfere with the planned slope of the finished LWIC, one simply cuts away enough of the protruding portion of the "floater" to allow the LWIC to be installed to the specified minimum thickness (e.g., 2").

If a specific board thickness is needed in order to achieve a specified R-value, the "floater" must be removed and replaced with one that stays in place.

Both conditions are relatively easy to correct if they are identified and the contractor is advised while equipment, materials, and personnel are still on-site. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeff Cramer started working in the roofing industry in 1975. He has a broad range of experience in sales, contracting and consulting. He has been a Registered Roof Consultant (RRC) since 1994. Jeff is part of The Bright Group in Northern California, sales representatives for several manufacturers.

JEFF CRAMER

