



## Rust-Oleum LeakSeal FAQ

### ***General***

Why do we coat roofs?

- Repair damage of semi-functioning roofs, and extend life cycle through restoration
- Reducing waste product to landfill, coatings are applied over the existing cap sheet.
- Coating roofs are an easy Do-It-Yourself
- Restorations cost less than replacement

What is the difference between repair and restore?

- Repair – This refers to mending a concentrated area of a roof. Often when a leak is occurring
- Restore – Means to prolong the life of an existing roof by adding additional product to a functioning substrate

Is my roof a good coating candidate?

- The best candidates for a coating restoration are existing roofing systems such as modified bitumen, fibred smooth, concrete, and metal roofs.
- The roof should have a sound substrate, aka an existing functioning or semi functioning roofing system.
- Alligator cracking, degranulation, and a life of 10-15 years are all hints of time to restore.
- Coating sloped metal roofs, and concrete decks will help watershed and prevent rusting or cracking

Why is a coating better than painting?

- Waterproofing and UV protection

Can I coat shingles?

- Coating shingles is not recommended.
- Rust-Oleum LeakSeal has several other restoration options for repairing leaks in shingled roofs

Why don't we want to hot-apply?

- Torch applied roofing, or using hot asphalt is high risk and required in-depth training and knowledge.
- Open flame can spell disaster on any job site, regardless of experience.

- Cold-applied coatings significantly reduce risk, and are much easier to apply.

What is the difference between the warranties?

- The difference between the warranties (7year, 17 year) is in the chemical makeup of the product.
- The longer the warranty, the higher the grade of UV protection. UV rays will break down roofs over time.

How do I know if I must replace my roof, instead of restoring it?

- Size of leaks – Small leaks like pinholes and cracks can be repaired. Large holes or full penetrations will need to be replaced
- Deck Condition – If the existing deck is no longer structurally sound the entire roof system will need replacing
- Age – If the roofing system is already past its life expectancy, it should be replaced.

What is a “square”?

- A square is a roofing term used to describe 100 square feet. Product labels and technical data sheets will often refer to coverage rates on a gallon/square basis.

What is a BUR?

- A BUR, also known as a “Built-Up-Roof” is a continuous membrane of layered waterproofing materials such as fiberglass reinforced felts, adhered together using asphalt.
- Commonly referred to as “Tar and Gravel” roof

How do I identify a BUR?

- BURs commonly have insulation underneath the waterproofing felts or membrane.

What is a “stand-alone” product?

- A stand-alone product is a complete system. It does not need a primer or a top coat.

What is the difference between water-proofing and damp-proofing?

- Dampproofing is intended to keep out moisture and is common practice on walls and subgrade. Waterproofing keeps out both moisture and liquid water, and is more common on areas with heavy water flow such as a roof.

## ***Performance Characteristics***

Can I thin these products?

- Absolutely not. Adding material will change the chemical makeup of the product, therefore changing the performance characteristics.

## ***Products***

Why do I need mesh on seams?

- The Rust-Oleum Universal Patching Fabric is a nylon coated fiberglass mesh that helps reinforce seams, and prevent splitting and cracking. Temperature changes will cause some shrinkage in the membranes, and applying a three-course mesh will provide additional strength along leak-prone areas.
- On average, flat roofs will have a seam every three feet. Lots of pulling and stretching can occur.

What does “Three course mesh” mean?

- Three course mesh refers to the three-step installation process of using mesh to seal seams or patches.

How do I install mesh?

- Refer to Mesh Installation Guide

What products are best for wet conditions?

- Ultimate Wet Patch, Waterproofing Liquid Membrane, Rubberized Wet Patch, Roof All Season
- Water-based products may run, and are less likely to perform.

When would you not use an acrylic coating?

- Ponding situations

What are the benefits of acrylic coatings?

- Custom colors, and good for sloped metal that shed water.

## ***Product Application***

What if it rains between coats?

- Water based products will wash. Do not allow these products to get wet during their cure time.

- Acrylic based products will shed water. If they do get wet, ensure they have completely dried before another coat is applied on top.
- Refer to spec data sheets to determine the makeup of the product, and the duration of cure time.

What is a “single-ply”?

- A “ply” refers to the number of layers of membrane adhered on top of each other. A single is one layer, double is two, etc.

Can I thin these products?

- Absolutely not. Adding material will change the chemical makeup of the product, therefore changing the performance characteristics.

### ***Surface Preparation***

Do I have to clean the surface before application?

- Yes. All surfaces must be clean and free of dirt, grease, oil, mold, algae, loose granules, loose paint, rust, excess chalk, and other foreign matter which could prevent proper adhesion.
- Refer to the technical data sheet for specific cleaning instructions

How do I know if the surface is clean?

- Aside from obvious loose dirt, granules, grease, oil, and other matter that may prevent proper adhesion, a pull test can be conducted.

How do I conduct a “pull test”?

- See Pull Test – How to Properly Test Adhesion

What prep work is needed for concrete decks?

- A clean and smooth surface is needed before coating a concrete deck or wall. Dust, dirt and debris can be cleared using a stiff bristle brush. Power-Washing is also acceptable, but it is important to allow the surface to dry completely, as well as dusting off any loose debris left behind before applying any product.

Modified Bitumen?

- A clean and smooth surface is needed before coating a modified bitumen surface. Dust, dirt and debris can be cleared using a stiff bristle brush. Power-Washing is also acceptable, but it is important to allow the surface to dry completely, as well as dusting off any loose debris left behind before applying any product.

Fibred Smooth?

- A clean and smooth surface is needed before coating a fiberglass reinforced membrane. Dust, dirt and debris can be cleared using a stiff bristle brush.

Metal? Rusted Metal?

- A clean and smooth surface is needed before coating a metal surface. Dust, dirt and debris can be cleared using a stiff bristle brush. Power-Washing is also acceptable, but it is important to allow the surface to dry completely, as well as dusting off any loose debris, or chipping paint left behind before applying any product.
- For rusted metal, first ensure that any loose metal is brushed off using stiff bristles. Then apply the Rust-Oleum Rust Metal Primer. Allow appropriate cure time before product is applied on top of the primed surface.

Should I use the rusty metal primer on metal that isn't rusty?

- No. The rusty metal primer adheres best to corroding metal
- On smooth metal surfaces, no primer is required.

How do I repair a blister?

- See Blister Repair guide

Will power washing damage the surface?

- Power washing will likely remove loose granules on MB roofs but that is okay. Loose granules should be removed anyways so the coating can adhere fully. The new coating will provide UV protection.
- Avoid power washing against seams, as this may lift the membrane and trap water underneath. Better practice is to wash in the direction of seams.

When will the roof be dry?

- After squeegeeing standing water off the roof, it will typically dry by 24 hours, but times may vary depending on sunlight.
- The more direct sunlight, the quicker the roof will dry.

### **Coverage**

Do I need gravel on top?

- Gravel is not necessary with coatings. The coating will provide enough UV protection on its own.

Should the product be rolled in one direction?

- Unless specified in the technical data sheet, no.
- Even coverage to the gallon/square specified is most important.