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skid-resistant properties of the underlayment materials, making them a very safe surface for contractors to walk on. Our company's RoofTopGuard II synthetic underlayment features a Fiber Grip surface, making it one of the most slip-resistant and safest of all underlayment surfaces. Other synthetic underlayment products have their own versions of a skid-resistant surface.

Architects who have worked with heavy roofing materials in the past should pay particular attention to the extreme low weight of these materials. It makes it very easy for application crews to transport and install. A ten square roll of synthetic underlayment usually weighs less than 45 lbs. Compared to felt underlayments at approximately 260 lbs. for ten squares, these products could be heaven sent for the architect to specify.

Contractors report that their crews adapt easily to working with these materials and find that application times are two to three times faster than with felt papers. Synthetic materials are very rugged and resist damage during installation. Most are easy to cut and mold around corners. Some products such as RoofTopGuard seal around cap nails and penetrations to prevent leaks when installed properly and left exposed.

It will not promote the growth of mold and because it does not absorb water, it prevents the occurrence of waves or humps which may affect the final appearance of some roofing materials. And it only costs pennies more

per square foot than traditional felt underlayments.

Still skeptical? Consider this: Contractors in various areas of the United States tell us they can install synthetic underlayments such as ours in record times. One six-person crew reportedly installed 10,000 sq. ft. of RoofTopGuard on a 6:12 pitch in four hours.

And this: Despite the conditions, underlayments installed on several hundred jobs prior to the hurricanes in Florida in 2004 were still on and protecting their

Contractors report being able to install synthetic underlayments quicker than felt. In one case, it took a crew of six just four hours to lay 10,000 sq. ft. of underlayment on a 6:12 pitch.

roof decks long after the storms had passed. The superior shear force and resistance to tearing allowed these materials to stay on where others gave up and blew out to sea. When Mother Nature sends her worst, synthetic underlayments are at their best.

Although it is human nature to resist change, it is hard to deny the advantages of synthetic underlayments. If you think it all sounds too good to be true, consider once again this product type's primary benefits:

With its multi-layer polypropylene and polyethylene composition, synthetic underlayments provide strength, light weight, and tear resistance and longer life than almost any product.

Although fairly new to the United States, the materials' basic components are products that have been proven in the harsh climates of northern Europe and Canada for over 25 years.

Synthetics perform better when tested against traditional underlayments, particularly when subjected to high winds, insects, vermin, rot and fungus.

Its low weight allows for faster, easier and more secure installation.

Superior strength means no more job repair worries from tears and holes.

Synthetics are approximately six times lighter than 30# felt paper and much stronger.

They contain no asphalt and will not disintegrate under the roof covering even after years of use. It will remain effective and useful.

Go ahead; challenge yourself and your customers to this new technology. I think you'll find it lives up to its excellent reputation and I promise you won't be disappointed.