



Beyond the Bundle

Breaking the Manufacturer Warranty Myth with Flash Deck®

From the Roofers' Advantage Technical Library

By Jon E. Folkersen

Founder and President, Roofers' Advantage Products, Inc.

Published: May 2026

Today, every major asphalt shingle manufacturer recognizes self-adhered modified bitumen underlayment that meet ASTM D1970 as an approved—and frequently mandatory—component for achieving "Lifetime" or "Extended" warranty status. By adhering to this industry-wide performance standard, these high-performance membranes provide the critical nail-sealability and thermal stability required to protect the roof deck, effectively aligning third-party innovations with the rigorous installation requirements of leading shingle brands. Flash Deck underlayment not only meet these stringent ASTM D1970 requirements but exceed them, offering a level of protection that standard asphalt-based products simply cannot match.

The Case for Butyl: Why Elite Installers are Breaking the "Manufacturer Bundle"

For decades, the roofing industry has been held captive by the "Manufacturer Bundle." We've been told that to provide a valid warranty, we must use the manufacturer's own asphalt-based leak barriers. But as the climate changes and roof temperatures rise, a growing number of veteran installers are realizing that paper warranties don't stop leaks—superior chemistry does. It's time to talk about why switching to a high-performance butyl-based underlayment is the best move for your reputation, your liability, and your customers.

You CAN Switch: Navigating the Warranty Myth

The biggest hesitation installers have is the fear of "voiding the warranty." However, a closer look at the facts regarding major manufacturers reveals a clear pathway to using better technology:

- **The "Product Count" Strategy:** Industry giants—we all know who they are—generally require a specific number of accessories (usually 3 to 4) to qualify for an enhanced warranty. Critically, they do not mandate that one of those must be their own branded leak barrier.
- **The Seamless Workaround:** You can install a superior butyl underlayment like Flash Deck® and simply "hit your numbers" by using the manufacturer's branded starter shingles, ridge vents, and ridge caps. This allows you to provide the manufacturer's system warranty while upgrading the home's most critical protection point.
- **The Reality of Claims:** Most shingle claims are for manufacturing defects, such as blow-offs or granule loss. Using a high-performance butyl underlayment does not void the shingle warranty itself; it merely shifts the warranty responsibility for the underlayment portion of the system to the technology that was actually built to last.

By choosing Flash Deck, you are no longer compromising on quality to satisfy a bundle requirement. You are delivering a superior building envelope solution that meets the industry standard while offering the advanced protection of the first butyl-certified program available today.