Easing into Butyl Technology

Start with Cost-Effective Eaves and Rakes on Synthetic Roof Decks

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By Jon E. Folkersen
Founder and President, Roofers' Advantage Products, Inc.
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In parts of the country where mechanically attached synthetic underlayment is installed across the entire deck, adapting to high-performance building practices doesn't have to mean completely overhauling your everyday installation routines overnight. If you are accustomed to running a standard synthetic field underlayment—such as a high-quality **Flash Deck® Nail Base**—there is a simple, high-leverage way to dramatically upgrade your building envelope: **Easing into premium protection by starting with cost-effective eaves and rakes.**

By starting with cost-effective eaves and rakes, your company can experience the advanced protection and performance benefits of premium butyl technology right where it matters most.

A Unified Standard: One Detail for Every Application

It is worth noting that this edge-first perimeter method is not a workaround—it represents the top tier of our three eave protection levels (Standard, Enhanced, and Superior) and is our preferred **Superior Eave Detail**. This exact same premium technique is utilized when upgrading to our full self-adhered butyl systems, including **Flash Deck® Shingle Base** and **Flash Deck® Metal Base**.

By implementing this Superior tier now, you integrate elite building science into your synthetic workflow today while perfectly positioning your crews for full self-adhered upgrades tomorrow. Whether you are running a complete self-adhered system or bridging the perimeter with a traditional synthetic field underlayment, the physics of the edge do not change. By standardizing this 9-inch detail on every job, your crews master a single, universal workflow that provides elite protection, regardless of the field underlayment specified.

The Edge-First Technique: Step-by-Step

The Flash Deck Strip-In method is installed at the roof perimeter prior to any drip edges being fastened to the deck. It establishes a monolithic, self-sealing barrier at the absolute most vulnerable details of the entire structure.

1. **Prepare the Substrate: Eaves and Rakes.** Ensure the roof deck and fascia board are clean, dry, and entirely free of debris, sawdust, or protruding fasteners.
2. **Apply Strip-In to the Deck: Prior to Drip Edge.** Unroll the nine-inch Flash Deck Strip-In along the horizontal eave or vertical rake. Adhere the membrane directly to the raw wood decking, aligning it parallel with the deck edge.

3. **Extend onto the Fascia or Rake: The Over-the-Edge Seal.** Extend the membrane over the roof perimeter and down onto the face of the fascia or rake trim. This creates a continuous, unbroken gasket over the critical sub-fascia and deck junction.
4. **Verify Clearance: Crucial Aesthetic Check.** Ensure that the extended portion of the Flash Deck Strip-In on the fascia does not extend past the visible, bottom "kick" of your metal drip edge. The metal profile must completely conceal the membrane for a clean, professional finish.

Fasten Drip Edge and Run Field Underlayment: Standard Workflow Resumes. At the eaves, the metal drip edge is installed directly over the Flash Deck® Strip-In. At the rakes, the synthetic field

Why Advanced Butyl Beats Mechanical-Only Edges

Mechanically attached synthetic field underlayment offer excellent tensile strength and fast coverage across the main field of the roof, but they rely entirely on cap nails or staples. Because they cannot bond to the raw wood substrate, they are unable to seal around the penetrations made by drip edge nails. If water forces its way past the drip edge, it easily migrates horizontally under a loose-laid synthetic sheet, ponding directly on the raw deck.

Flash Deck® Strip-In bridges this gap by utilizing advanced butyl technology. First, it creates a tenacious, molecular bond directly to the wood deck and fascia that won't release, back off, or dry out over time. Second, it offers true self-sealing gasketing: when drip edge nails penetrate the metal flange, the engineered butyl tightly gaskets around the shank of every single fastener, mitigating potential pathways for moisture.

Finally, its extreme thermal stability allows it to outperform old-school asphalt-based products across intense temperature swings. It won't dry out or crack in the winter, and it absolutely will not bleed, ooze tar, or stain the fascia under intense summer edge-heat.

Perimeter Protection vs. Full Self-Adhered Deck Defense

It is critical to define the technical scope of this application: **Flash Deck® Strip-In** is engineered as a high-performance perimeter detail, not a full-slope ice dam cure. While a 9-inch strip is the foundational first step in a complete leak-prevention system, when it is used exclusively alongside a mechanical synthetic field underlayment, its primary function is to block wind-driven rain and provide a permanent deck seal under the drip edge nail flange.

Traditional metal drip edge nail flanges simply do not provide sufficient protection during high-wind events accompanied by driving rain. By wrapping the deck-to-fascia junction with a premium butyl strip before the metal is installed, you isolate the structural framing from water migration. Without this deck-to-fascia butyl seal, that backed-up water completely bypasses loose-laid synthetic underlayment—dropping directly onto soffits, rotting out sub-fascia boards, and infiltrating the interior building envelope.

With the Strip-In detail, any water forced behind the metal profile remains entirely on top of a permanent chemical barrier, safely draining away without ever contacting raw wood.

The Contractor Advantage

Upgrading your perimeter defenses with Flash Deck® Strip-In allows you to maintain your familiar, fast field installation routines while delivering an unyielding, bulletproof edge. For a fraction of the cost of a single future repair, this upgrade guarantees a monolithic, self-sealing barrier at the most vulnerable details of the structure—safeguarding the structure and letting your company experience the benefits of butyl.