



LET'S TALK ABOUT

WATERPROOFING

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



Hello to all our members.

Firstly, I would like to say the construction industry nationwide is changing in a big way.

The effects of poor waterproofing has everyone who needs to be listening, taking notice at last.

Changes to the construction industry will be coming soon – as a member of the AIW you will be informed as these changes happen.

We want to stamp out the dodgy contractors who are tainting the industry by doing rubbish work.

This needs to be taken into context – I think everyone mucks up a job here and there, it's inevitable as we are “only human” after all.

It's the outfits that are slapping on thin coats of “whatever” is in the back of the truck and hoping it will work or the

larger operators that are cutting corners and asking their workers to carry out applications in unsafe or unprepared situations. Stay tuned for updates in this arena.

Here Comes The Sun – doo doo doo doo – and I say it's alright – little darlin' – it's been a long cold, lonely winter (Beatles 1969) - Abbey Road.

As we come into summer (yeah!) the usual challenges will be with us once more:

- *The old question of is it too hot or humid to apply a membrane??*
- *Will I get blistering appearing??*
- *What will happen if it does blister??*
- *Will the client be content with a “repair job” on new membrane??*
- *Will the blistering retract?*
And if so, will the membrane re-bond or will it need to be cut out??
- *Will the client pay me for this membrane??*

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

• Can I put my 10-yr. warranty on this membrane??

• Do I need this headache??

As you can see from these ?? sentences that the questions are there.

The biggest question is...

Should you apply any membrane if it's too hot/ humid that what is recommended by the manufacturers?

The obvious answer is NO. But we still see many failed membranes applied when they should not be.

As a building and waterproofing contracting company, we are faced with the exact same issues on a daily basis, but it takes a strong applicator or site foreman to argue that the membrane should not be applied until it's cooled down.

What you need to consider is the repercussions of your decisions – can you really afford to carry out rectifications to the new membrane you laid a few days or weeks ago.

Think about your timing and think about what product will work and the ones that are less problems. If in doubt, talk to your membrane supplier who will be able to guide you along the way.

Bearing in mind we all think we know everything about what we are doing, but

when it comes down to it, we all need to question ourselves and ask the right questions of others, which you will find people in our industry are extremely willing to help out a fellow waterproofer.

I constantly find more and more people who really care about what's going on in a small but significant industry and are willing to help.

So, the end message here from me is: DON'T HOLD BACK. ASK THE QUESTIONS!

Paul Evans

AIW President

Project Reference

QLD Public Hospital

Two leaking concrete tanks are part of the main supply of water for the fire sprinkling system throughout the hospital, with a capacity to hold 354,000 litres.

Overview

Property Type: QLD Public Hospital

Contractor/Applicator: Waterstop Solutions

Testing of existing and renewed membrane: International Leak Detection Australia (ILD)

Category: Membrane Renewal

Product Used: Specialised bitumen modified highly flexible waterproofing membrane. Installed in multiple layers to a moisture barrier primer system.

Product Benefits:

- Compatible with the existing membrane
- Highly flexible
- Effective barrier against waterborne salts
- Resistant to atmospheric gases
- Compliant to Australian Standards for potable water (AS4020)
- Supported by manufacturer's warranty for 10 years, which is extendable to a further 10 years with a maintenance application

Project Details:

The existing membrane was a liquid membrane, on which several repair attempts by other service providers had proven to be futile with recurrent poor membrane adhesion to the substrate in a number of places, which in turn was causing multiple continuous leaks from these two concrete water tanks.





Challenge number 1

Identification and mapping of all possible leaks

The tanks were leaking from many places and it was imperative that the remedial waterproofing was 100% watertight.

The recurrent challenges were that the waterproofing membrane did not adhere to the substrate in a number of places, which was causing multiple leaks across the two tanks.

To ensure that all possible breaches of the membrane were properly identified, Roberto Scalpelli and his team from International Leak Detection (ILD) Australia were brought in to identify where all the breaches in the membrane were.

At the completion of the installation of the new waterproofing membrane, ILD Australia was brought in again to inspect and test the new membrane.

Challenge number 2

Downtime, Noise Restrictions and Costs

A full removal of the existing membrane and refurbishment of the water tanks was beyond the bounds of possibility. This approach would have attracted massive costs and a prolonged downtime of empty fire tanks.



There were also noise restrictions to take into consideration around hospital patients and staff. The applicator partnered up with suppliers and their network to combine their technical skills.

The market was scoured for a compatible product that could work with the existing membrane and that would be fully supported by the manufacturer's full warranty.

Product supply partners were involved with the testing and checking quality of the contractor's developed application prior to the start of the works. They also supervised quality testing throughout the duration of the works carried out.

The Remedial Waterproofing Solution

Thorough surface preparation and vigilant detailing of all penetration and junctions is key to successful remedial waterproofing.

A specialised bitumen modified highly flexible membrane that is compatible with the existing membrane was installed in multiple layers to a moisture barrier primer system.

The primer system assists with preventing bubbling or blistering, which is highly likely in remedial waterproofing, if not performed.



AIW at Bayset Construction Trade Day



The AIW team attended the Bayset Construction Trade Day on Friday, 24th August 2018 at their Coopers Plains Branch. We represented the AIW and had a chance to catch up with our QLD and some NSW members.

We had a terrific response from Queenslanders that are not members, each of these people taking the AIW Membership form away to sign up and a number signed on the day.

Membership has been flagging from QLD, so it was good to get a great interest with lots of questions being asked. The guys at Bayset will be following up their participants to help with any signing up queries.





Bayset sure know how to put on an event, with Manufactures, Suppliers and Industry Associates getting behind the effort and offering great door prizes for attendees.

The information sessions were great as well (I didn't get to any of them as we were all busy) but I am told they were very good.

If you haven't been, put it in your diary for 2020 (it's a bi-annual event) AIW would like to thank the Team at Bayset for offering us the stand and the opportunity to expand our membership following.



Published Articles by Paul Evans - Remedial Waterproofing Consultant

Finding and Fixing What Lies Beneath in Waterproofing

February 29th, 2024

Drenched to the Core: Major Waterproofing Problems Plaguing Residential Homes

October 12th, 2023

(Sponsored Content) Raising Standards and Awareness in Waterproofing

February 9th, 2023

Multi-Storey Basements Must be Kept Dry

May 26th, 2022

Why Tiling and Waterproofing are Intrinsically Linked

January 17th, 2022

Waterproofing Design In Construction

July 30th, 2021

Leaking Concrete Rooftops – Why Waterproofing Should Not Be Ignored or Delayed

April 28th, 2021

Solving Water Leaks Is Not Always About Waterproofing

February 4th, 2021

Australia's Awareness of Waterproofing is Growing

May 21st, 2020

Why Balconies Leak

February 24th, 2020

BuildIT – Featured Article 2019

“Committed to Raising Waterproofing Standards and Training Across Australia”

Paul Evans, President of Australian Institute of Waterproofing

<https://buildit.partica.online/buildit/buildit-2018/flipbook/66/>

Sourceable – Construction

Interviewed by Andrew Heaton on October 5th, 2017

<https://sourceable.net/australia-must-improve-waterproofing-standards-practices/>

Waterproofing President to Speak at International Conference

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW) News - October 2017

Solving Roof & Balcony Leaks

Facility Perspectives - The Leading Resource for Facility Management in Australasia. VOL 11 NO 1. March-May 2017

Notes from a Balcony Inspection

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW) News - November 2016

Australian Institute of Waterproofing – Online News

Notes from a Balcony Inspection – Nov 2016

<https://www.waterproof.org.au/notes-from-a-balcony-inspection/>

Getting It Right in the First Place – October 2016

<https://www.waterproof.org.au/getting-right-first-place/>

Waterproofing - Getting it Right the First Time

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW) News - October 2016

Waterproofing - Common Failures

LinkedIn Article - Feb 2015

Associations

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW)

Australian Society of Building Consultants (ASBC)

Building Dispute Practitioner Society (BDPS)

Concrete Institute of Australia (CIA)

Australian Concrete Repair & Remedial Building Association (ACRA)

Master Builders Association Victoria-Specialist Contractor (MBAV)

Owners Corporation Network of Australia Ltd (OCN)

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