What is a Sealed Roof Deck?

A sealed roof deck, also known as a secondary water barrier, is a membrane that is strong enough, when properly attached, to stay in place if the primary roof cover blows off. It also reduces the amount of water that can come into your home if the primary roof cover is lost.

Why a Sealed Roof Deck?

Sealing the roof deck is only a fraction of the total cost to replace your roof but the benefits can be substantial. Tests at the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) Research Center have demonstrated that sealing the roof deck results in one-third the amount of water damage from wind-driven rain compared to a home without a sealed roof deck.

How to Seal a Roof Deck?

Sealing a roof deck can be done when building a new home, re-roofing an existing home or from the inside of an existing home. Tell your roofing contractor to get IBHS’ Roofing the Right Way brochure at DisasterSafety.org/roofs.
In 2011, tests were conducted at the IBHS Research Center on a duplex built by IBHS with construction features common in hurricane-prone areas. Both sides of the duplex roof were identical with one critical difference: one side had a sealed roof deck while the other did not.

DOESN’T TAKE LONG
The kitchen ceiling in the unsealed side of the duplex collapsed within 45 minutes after the research test, making it uninhabitable.

AVOID BEING DISPLACED
Sealing the roof deck can reduce the likelihood of needing to relocate while water damage repairs are being made.

TAKE THE NEXT STEPS AND LEARN MORE
Sealing the roof deck is an important part of the roofing system. Learn more about tested and approved options at DisasterSafety.org/sealed-roof-deck

More resources are available DisasterSafety.org