

Press Information

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Date of issue: 19 October 2006

SureVent's safe solution for control of condensation in pitched roofs

To simplify implementation of the latest roofing legislation, SureVent, the roofing industry watchdog founded to promote best practice for controlling condensation in pitched roofs, is recommending a simple solution for all cold roof construction. This single, simple guideline is, that builders and homeowners will comply with all the new regulations if the roof is constructed with a vapour permeable underlay and with ridge ventilation of 5000 mm² per metre of ridge.

The NHBC has recently advised builders that when it revises its Technical Standards next year it will be requiring roof ventilation to be installed in all cold roof construction. It will also recommend that if a vapour permeable underlay is being used then ridge or high level ventilation equivalent to a continuous 5 mm slot is added to avoid potential condensation problems in new homes. SureVent endorses the NHBC's new requirements which comply with the recently published revision to British Standard 5250 'Code of practice for the control of condensation in buildings'.

Full explanations of all the technical issues surrounding roof space condensation and recommendations for best practice to avoid it are to be found on a new website www.surevent.org. A new technical leaflet is also available to those registering interest on the site.

There is always a balance between ventilation and air tightness in healthy energy efficient buildings. To help improve the UK record of air leakage in buildings, SureVent will also be campaigning to promote the benefits of achieving a 'well-sealed ceiling' as this improves the energy efficiency of any roof construction whether a vapour permeable underlay or traditional underlay is used. A well-sealed ceiling requires that all the penetrations (pipes, wiring, loft hatch etc) meet certain requirements in terms of air tightness.

The UK is targeted to reduce its air leakage rates for buildings, which are among the worst in Europe. With improvements already coming through, the current average of 12 m³ of air per m² of building fabric per hour (12m³/ m²/ hr @ 50Pa) is an achievement from the previous 17m³/ m²/ hr, but the UK target is to get down to 10 m³/ m²/ hr as per the new Part L building regulations published in April 2006.

SureVent believes that encouraging the industry to move to well-sealed ceilings will contribute to achieving this goal and when combined with efficient ventilation, will ensure that the roof remains not only energy efficient but free from the damaging effects of condensation . Ends

Notes to editors

SureVent is the roofing industry's single voice to offer advice on best practice in cold pitched roofs so that harmful condensation damage is prevented. SureVent brings together the three main bodies representing the roof tile manufacturing community - the Concrete Tile Manufacturers' Association (CTMA), the Clay Roof Tile Council (CRTC) and the Fibre Cement Manufacturers Ass (FCMA) - with the support of the National

Federation of Roofing Contractors and leading roofing accessory manufacturers including Ubbink, Glidevale, Brett Martin Harcon, Manthorpe Building Products and Hambleside Danelaw.

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SureVent members

SureVent is supported by the following organisations and companies:

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