



How Installing a Spray Foam Roofing System Can Save Business Owners 40% on Energy Bills



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What do the Louisiana Superdome and Texas A & M University have in common? They've both discovered the benefits of Spray Polyurethane Foam for commercial roofing. Spray polyurethane foam, or SPF, is the fastest-growing and most trusted form of residential and commercial insulation. When properly installed by professionals, it outperforms traditional fiberglass insulation time and time again, controlling temperature, moisture, and humidity.

But what you might not know is that long before SPF's benefits were touted by every contractor, it proved its value for flat and low-pitch commercial roofing. In fact, spray foam technology has been around since the 1940's. Back then, it was used in military and aviation, but technological gains in the 1970s allowed homeowners and commercial building owners to see SPF as a means to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient, starting with their roofs.

The Case of Katrina

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina rocked the southern coast of the United States. The storm's winds devastated properties, including the Louisiana Superdome, the massive domed events center where the New Orleans Saints football team plays. Before the storm, the facility had an EPDM rubber roof, which was deemed to be top of the line. It was supposed to handle winds up to 200 miles per hour. But the dome couldn't withstand



Katrina, whose winds were between 75-95 miles per hour when it hit the U.S. The Superdome applied a new SPF roofing system to the roof deck. In tests, SPF has been able to withstand winds of over 200 mph whereas EPDM roofs have failed.

Texas A & M

In 1980, Texas A & M University replaced the roofs of 27 buildings, applying 593,529 square feet of spray foam roofing. By doing so, they saved \$327,460 on their annual energy bill. The university recouped the cost of roof replacement in less than 5 years. Now, they have over 7 million square foot of polyurethane foam on their buildings and uses nothing else for new or replacement roofing.



Texas A & M noted that before they began using spray foam, their roofing systems were always a major maintenance and repair item. Roof repair was a major expense and was time-consuming. Now, Gerald Scott with the Texas A & M Physical Plant Department said that there have been no major problems associated with roof maintenance.

Spray Foam for Commercial Roofing Benefits Business Owners

Like Texas A & M, most business owners are constantly re-evaluating and monitoring their expenses to see where they can save. This is what makes SPF for both new and existing roofs of commercial buildings so attractive. If a business owner discovers that one of the huge costs of building maintenance and repair can be drastically reduced, wouldn't they pay attention?

Ted Medford, a leading SPF expert and owner and president of Profoam, has almost 30 years of experience in the spray foam industry. He has seen commercial building owners benefit time and time again from installing SPF roofing systems on their commercial buildings. Below are Medford's list of some of the benefits of using SPF for commercial roofs:

- Long Lasting and Cost Effective. SPF eliminates the constant maintenance, repair, and replacement of flat and low-pitch commercial roofs. When properly installed and maintained, SPF roofs can last for many decades.
- Energy Savings. SPF roofs will pay for themselves in the form of energy savings, often in just a few years. Texas A & M University has studies that prove SPF saves them 40% on their heating and cooling bills per year.
- Lightweight, Strong, and Weather Resistant. As in the case of the Superdome, SPF is durable in high winds. SPF adds considerably less weight than other roofing materials. Using spray foam adds to the structural integrity of a building, making the entire building last longer. Medford notes that homes in south Florida, for example, use SPF because of its ability to hold up against high winds and heavy rains.

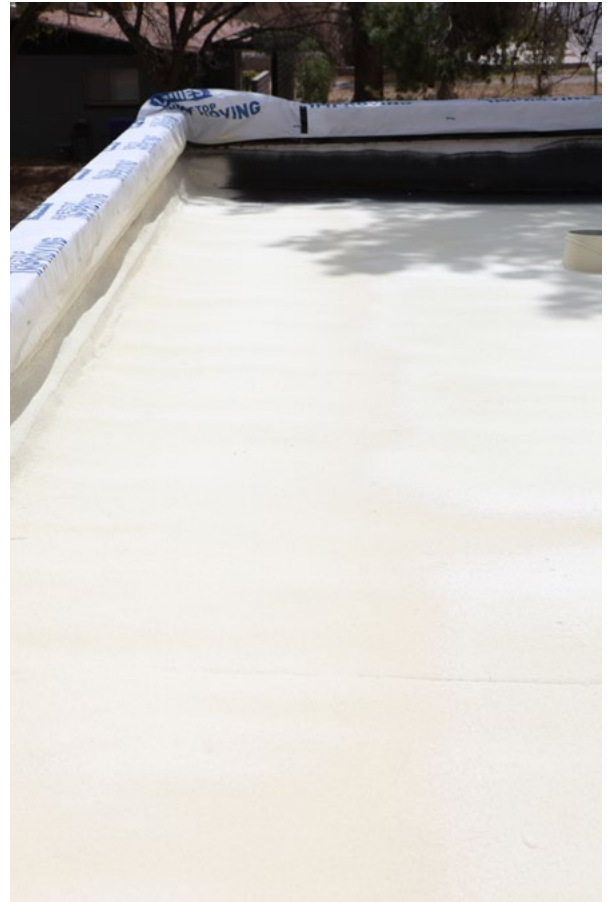


- Seamless and leak-free. Flat roofs are notorious for leaks. Flat roofs commonly develop leaks and moisture after a few years, since water has nowhere to go but down. Have you ever been in a café, school, or office where the ceiling tiles are pulled away and a bucket is underneath to collect the drips? With SPF, this won't happen again.

“SPF creates one solid piece, seamless and monolithic,” explains Medford. “We use strong, high-density closed-cell foam that adheres to almost any surface, so there aren't any joints where water can leak in. Many other roofing systems are made of several separate pieces that are mechanically fastened, actually screwed into place, so a building has the potential for gaps and holes where water can leak through.”

Spray foam can be applied in varying depths, so ponding water on top of a roof from low spots can be eliminated. It's self-adhering, self-flashing and seamless. Water can't penetrate the foam, so there's no chance of it leaking through the foam into your coffee cup.

For more information about SPF for commercial roofing, contact Ted Medford and the experts at Profoam.



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