

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Building Products and the Elements

“Building products behave predictably and understandably in response to the conditions to which they have been subjected.”

This document aims to help diagnose common issues with building products used in construction projects. The key to addressing job site problems is to assess the situation objectively without rushing to conclusions. The behavior of building materials—whether wood, metal, plastic, mineral, or composite—is predictable and depends on the conditions they experience.

To address concerns effectively, one must gather data and observations to understand the conditions to which the materials were exposed. This approach aids in identifying the problem, minimizing potential damage, and choosing a corrective action that ensures long-term customer satisfaction.

Several factors must be considered, including site conditions, application, product selection, design, installation, finishing, fastening, sealing, coating, job site storage, handling, and environmental conditions. Only by examining these aspects can we determine if an issue is due to material defects or workmanship problems.

Typically, significant problems stem from improper material selection, application, or installation rather than the materials themselves. This document aims to provide insights into what to look for and clues to identify the cause. It emphasizes that no single factor affects performance and satisfaction, but rather a combination of factors. Understanding these elements increases efficiency, as trial and error can be the most costly approach to fixing issues.