

Evaluating Building Product Performance

When diagnosing common complaints associated with building products in construction applications, it is important to understand that building materials, whether wood, metal, plastic, mineral, will behave predictably and understandably in response to the conditions they have been subjected to.

The most important points in analyzing job site issues are to evaluate them with an open mind and not to jump to conclusions. When evaluating any building material, it is essential to gather data and make observations to determine the conditions the building material was subjected to. It is important to look at site conditions, application, product selection, design, installation, finishing, fastening, sealing, coating, job site storage, handling, and environmental conditions.

With this comprehensive data, an understanding of how to correct the problem can be developed to minimize associated damage and determine a course of action. We can only determine whether there are issues with materials, workmanship, installation, or site conditions through a thorough evaluation.

Typically, the biggest problems are not normally associated with the materials themselves but with improper material specification, application, or installation. This underscores the importance of securing and evaluating Best Practices and Technical Bulletins for any materials or products before installation.