

Hot Asphalt Roofing: Control the Route Before the Pour

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Why this matters

Hot asphalt can splash during receipt, movement or mopping. A clear work area and a controlled handoff matter before the first container reaches the roof.

Objective: Verify roof-side handling and burn-response readiness before receiving hot asphalt.

Key hazards or failure points

Thermal burns; leaking or unstable containers; splashes; fume exposure; trips beside hot material; blocked escape and emergency access.

Practical controls

- Use the approved roof-side receiving arrangement and suitable equipment. Coordinate a clear stop signal with the supply operator. Obtain the actual product and equipment instructions for temperature, container condition and handling limits; do not use remembered numbers.
- Separate the hot-material route from other trades. Keep footing, placement areas and escape paths clear. Use the specified lids and tools; protect people from splashes without creating a fall hazard or blocking access.
- Wear the selected thermal, eye, face, hand and body protection correctly. Arrange fume controls and keep people away from the plume. Have trained first aid, clean cooling water, product information and emergency access ready before receipt.

Verify It in the Field

Match the asphalt identity with its SDS and roof specification. Have the responsible operator show the required temperature-check method and current result. Appearance or touch cannot establish an acceptable temperature.

Walk the receiving point and complete movement route without hot material. Check equipment condition, stable placement and separation from edges, openings and others. Demonstrate the stop communication before transfer.

Check actual PPE fit, washing access and the responder contact method. Confirm who calls for help and how responders reach the roof; an unopened first-aid kit alone is not readiness.

Stop and reassess

Stop receipt for leaks, blocked routes, failed communication, uncontrolled fumes or uncertain temperature. For a burn, first avoid further exposure, get help and promptly cool the affected skin with clean, cool running water. Leave stuck asphalt or clothing in place; do not peel it or use solvents. Seek prompt medical care; call 911 for serious burns.

Ask the crew

1. Where could a splash reach another person?
2. Who verifies today's product and handling limits?
3. How will help reach an injured worker here?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA roofing guidance; NIOSH 2003-107; Red Cross burn first aid; actual SDS.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/hot-asphalt-roofing-burn-prevention