



Tornados and why I like FiberTite®

Submission by Mike Hicks of Hicks Roofing, an authorized FiberTite® Roofing Contractor

A tornado ripped a 12-mile path across the city of Wooster, Ohio, late Wednesday evening, November 12, 2003 and another cut five miles across mostly farmland along the western edge of New Philadelphia, my hometown. Fortunately, although property damage was substantial, there was no loss of life.

The Wooster funnel started its journey across a heavily industrialized section of the western border, running parallel to old US Rt. 30. The first building hit was a large trucking company. Its Butler-style metal roofs were torn to shreds, but the office, which took a direct hit, had FiberTite on its roof and was unscathed except for gouges ripped by the flying metal.

The next building in line also had a combination of standing seam metal and a flat roof. The flat roof was a four-ply glass BUR. Substantial sections of both were ripped from the building and slammed against the side of the next building in line, the Wayne County Engineer's office. This building, which also took a direct hit, had a FiberTite roof and it too was unscathed by the torrents of Mother Nature.

From this point, the twister entered cropland until hitting another industrial complex. Same story: a combination of metal and rubber and BUR roofs were destroyed. Then the twister hit the office and central warehouse of my best annual customer. The first roof hit was an old Butler building that we reroofed a number of years ago by filling the flutes with EPS, laying a cover sheet of 1.5" iso and installing a FiberTite membrane roof system. The wind got into this building and started to lift the metal deck (old roof panels) from the purlins. An area in the corner about 20' down both sides was lifted several feet before slamming back down and fracturing the tie rods to the mezzanine floor below. The FiberTite roof was unharmed. The twister then passed over the office where a mechanically fastened EPDM and wood deck USED to be, but now portions of the deck have been found almost



Wooster Motor Ways: Rated by the National Weather Service as an F-2 tornado with winds between 75 and 110 mph, the twister wreaked havoc on many industrial and manufacturing facilities in Wooster.



This residential property, located on the west side of Wooster, fell directly in the tornado's path of destruction.

a mile away. The twister passed overhead and leveled a solid masonry building located next door.

Then the twister entered a residential zone, causing substantial damage to trees, homes and cars as it crossed the city, making its way to the industrial district on the east end of town.

The first complex hit was Rubbermaid, where a large BUR was removed and many employees were injured. The twister passed along the brand new Wooster Daily Record building with a FiberTite roof system, which remained in perfect condition, and then passed on to the office and manufacturing building for a large corrugated packaging manufacturer. A metal roof — destroyed. The FiberTite roof on the office — covered with metal, but other than tears was fine.

This membrane is not some private labeled PVC that gets great marketing, or some cheaply constructed schlock membrane. It is a high tech industrial fabric coated with a high performance Elvaloy based PVC polymer. It is manufactured by the same company that owns 75% of the premium truck tarp market, makers of the best geotech fabrics and chemical containment systems in the world, and maker of the portable 200,000 gallon fuel storage units used by our military. I have believed that FiberTite was the best single ply on the market for many years, but now I KNOW IT.

Twenty-two years of installations with exposure to caustic chemicals, fuels, greases, idiots, and now tornados. I'm still waiting for my FIRST failure.

Mike Hicks is the owner of Hicks Roofing based in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

SEAMAN CORPORATION INVESTS IN THE PROFITABILITY OF YOUR BUSINESS

FiberTite®, the industry's highest performing roofing membrane, is now available in wider widths as a result of a \$7 million investment that has made Seaman Corporation the industry leader in hot melt fabric technology, capacity and capability.

At the core of the investment is a new custom designed hot melt calender coating line at the company headquarters in Wooster, Ohio. Up and running since August, the line currently is producing 36-mil and 45-mil SM membrane in widths up to 74 inches, with potential for wider sheets on the horizon. Wider widths mean fewer welds, faster installation and a favorable impact on the bottom line of your big jobs.

The new coating line enables the company to increase production capacity to nearly double its previous volume. This capability will support inventories of the most popular FiberTite products in warehouses strategically located in Seattle, Dallas, Orlando, Atlanta, northeastern Pennsylvania, Las Vegas and,

very soon in Southern California.

Wider widths. Fast availability. Lower shipping costs.

What else?

A consistent level of quality that is unmatched in the roofing industry. Run after run, the new calender consistently produces a straighter, flatter membrane that goes on faster and easier.

The result?

Momentum that can't be stopped. This fall Seaman Corporation made the commitment to install an identical wide-width calender in their facility in Bristol, TN. FiberTite products including XT, Fleece Back, XTreme and colored membranes are currently being produced in widths of 56 inches on the existing calender in the Bristol plant. With the addition of a second new machine, the entire FiberTite collection of membranes will be available in wider widths within the next year.

FiberTite Files: Mall of Millenia

Owner:	Forbes Group
Architect:	JPRA Architects, Farmington Hills, MI
General Contractor:	Hardin Construction Company, LCC, Orlando, FL
Contractor:	Hartford South, Orlando, FL
Manufacturer's Representative:	Roofing Technology, Winter Park, FL
Project Location:	Orlando, FL
Installation Date:	February 2003
Total Square Feet:	375,000
Roofing System:	FiberTite 45-mil Mechanically Fastened New Roof
Unique Feature:	Multi-level roof with mechanical equipment. Serpentine skylight required heavy equipment on rooftop for construction.
Why FiberTite?:	FiberTite was specified as an alternate roofing system to an EPDM Fully Adhered system. Owner's investigation led him to choose FiberTite based on its life cycle costing data, track record and product quality.

