



ROOF DEICING HELPS IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY

Delta-Therm's Ice Melt Panel & CO Series roof deicing cables created a heated path for melt water to drain off a multi-level roof helping to provide safe access for students and faculty.

CHALLENGE: Can architects/engineers create an aesthetically pleasing melt water drain path using roof deicing cables?

If there's one thing that holds water, it's snow. Each cubic foot contains two to three gallons of water. In Chicago where heavy snowfall is the norm, snow and ice accumulation on the roof of a building can cause dramatic structural problems.

Ice damming and roof seam leakage cost thousands of dollars in repairs and countless hours of labor every year for many businesses. Stress on gutters, icicles and pooling all raise safety concerns.

But if you don't like the look of deicing cables zigzagged across your roof line, what are your options? "The reason you designed your building the way you did is to get an aesthetic result," said Bridget Lacson, Delta-Therm Corporation's district sales representative.

SOLUTION

For Big Hollow School, a new building in Chicago's northwest suburbs, Delta-Therm's Ice Melt Panel answered the call. Thanks to this unique product that works in concert with roof deicing

cables, snow and ice problems are resolved without compromising the aesthetic value of a building. More than three decades of experience went into designing a product that is concealed under roof shingles and other roofing materials, so you don't have to worry about seeing cables on the roof.

"The architect wanted to select something that wasn't going to be as noticeable as triangular cables along the gutter line," said Bob Siil, who helped engineer the Big Hollow project.

While preserving the beauty of the roof, the Ice Melt Panel protects its structural integrity, effectively melting snow and ice and sending melt water through a drainage system. The weatherproof, rustproof panels can be installed using screws or nails on new or existing roofs. At Big Hollow School, two rows of 4-foot by 8-inch section panels were installed side by side along the 3.5:12 pitch roof edge, where snow and ice typically accumulate.

RESULTS

During the month of February, 2007 the Ice Melt Panel faced its toughest challenge when Mother Nature



dumped over 16 inches of snow on the Chicago area. Despite the hefty accumulation, the panels and cables successfully created a drain path for the roof melt water. Project manager Tom Seibert said his only regret is that he didn't install the panels in one small area, near an exhaust louver. "We figured we could take advantage of the heat there," he said. "Now, we're just waiting for the weather to break so we can install more panels there." Compared to other systems, the Ice Melt Panel is virtually invisible. "It's a much cleaner look on the

building and it uses only about a third as much cable so it actually comes in less expensive for installation costs," said Seibert. Although the panels are hidden, the thin channel in which the cable is housed is easily accessible for repairs or maintenance. "In some of the other systems, the cable is buried below the roof shingles," said Siil. When design elements are important to you, Delta-Therm's Ice Melt Panel is the right choice. Melt snow and ice without robbing your building of its beauty. ■



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