

Roofing Repairs Questions and Answers

Why are roofs being repaired?

Roofing repairs are ongoing at the TDSB to help ensure a safe work and learning environment for our staff and students.

Why are you doing it during the school year?

Over the next three years, the TDSB will be working on hundreds of roof projects to help maintain our buildings. Roofing projects need to be done during the day and in good weather. Where possible, we will try to complete as much work as possible outside of school hours. Due to the volume of roof repairs, they cannot be limited to the summer and must be completed year round. It would be impossible for us to complete the high volume of projects during the busy summer months, simply because there are not enough qualified roofing contractors to complete such a high volume of work at the busiest time of the year for roofing projects. Unlike other school boards in Ontario, the TDSB has a large inventory of aging facilities with roofs beyond their life expectancy, which require expedited replacement to prevent further negative impacts related to water infiltration.

How are the roofs repaired?

Roof replacement will be done with use of modified bitumen membranes and cold adhesives. This type of roof assembly does not cause any fumes or present any health hazards during installation.



What safety precautions does the TSDB take?

To reduce discomfort during this project, the roofing contractor is required to:

- Ensure that all air intake openings are closed and, if necessary, seal them
- Ensure that the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is put in to recirculation mode if and when necessary. Where this isn't possible, portable fans may be provided

- Review the Material Safety Data Sheets to ensure all listed precautions are in place

What can school staff do during the roof repair?

- Set window air conditioner to recirculate air
- Dress appropriate for the weather in case the building's heating and cooling system needs to be shut down
- Keep students and parents informed

I am pregnant. Will this affect my baby?

No, because of the low exposure, the risk to the baby is very low. Please review with your supervisor any accommodations required in your work schedule or location.





I have breathing problems. Can inhalation of roof asphalt odours aggravate my condition?

This project is not using roofing asphalt.

How do I address concerns during a roofing project?

1. Speak to your principal about any health concerns
2. If you require accommodation, please work with your supervisor

