

INFORMATION DIRECTORY

Contact

Coastal Contractor
186 Allen Brook Lane
Williston, VT 05495

coastal-editorial@hanleywood.com;
802/879-3335; fax 802/879-9384

Coastal Contractor Summit

For information about the Coastal Contractor Summit, visit www.coastalsummit.com, e-mail coastalsummit@hanleywood.com, or call 202/729-3667.

Write to us

We welcome letters and article submissions from our readers at the e-mail and postal addresses above. Please keep copies of all original materials. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Subscriptions

For subscriber services, subscriptions, or renewals, call 888/269-8410 (toll-free) or 847/291-5221; fax 847/291-4816; e-mail coco@omeda.com; or mail to

Coastal Contractor
PO Box 3570

Northbrook, IL 60065-3570

Annual subscription rates for non-qualified readers are: US and possessions, \$19.95; Canada, \$39.95 (US funds); all other countries, \$49.95 (US funds).

Single copies and back issues are available for \$8.00 each.

Privacy of mailing list

We rent our subscriber list to reputable companies. If you do not wish to receive promotional materials from other companies, please call us toll-free at 888/269-8410.

Custom reprints

Contact FosteReprints at 866/879-9144.

Media kits

Contact Helene Slavin at 202/736-3428 or hslavin@hanleywood.com.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Coastal Contractor*, PO Box 3570, Northbrook, IL 60065-3570.

Recalculating the Cost of Stainless Steel Hardware

Ted Cushman is right on when he notes that the corrosion of metal hardware in contact with treated wood can be worse in the field than what lab results show ("Fasteners for Treated Wood," *Soundings*, January/February 2008). Within months of building my first coastal deck after CCA was phased out, there was red rust on the G-185 hangers and hot-dipped nails and bolts I used. That's when I began using isolation membranes.



While Grace does make a butyl-based peel-and-stick, Vycor Deck Protector is an asphalt-based material, not butyl-based, as we reported in the last issue.

I've used Grace Vycor Deck Protector and other similar peel-and-

stick membranes as isolation membranes, and all are asphalt-based (not butyl as noted in the article).

The working temperature range for asphaltic membranes is pretty good but not as wide as butyl adhesives used in window flashing tapes. I find membrane adhesion is weak below 40°F, especially on damp treated lumber. Still, even with isolation membranes, G-185 galvanized hardware, and other proprietary coatings, I'm becoming more of a fan of stainless steel hardware for exterior connections in coastal areas regardless of how aggressive or inert the lumber treatments are. Galvanized coatings — no matter how thick — are still going to give way to the steel beneath. It's only a matter of time before rust sets in, be it two years, five years, or 20 years.

Stainless steel hardware is not very costly when you look at other expenses on a job. And I've found that the labor cost saved by not applying isolation membranes and trimming off the excess when "upgrading" to stainless almost covers the extra cost.

Mike Guertin
East Greenwich, R.I.

A Summit of Ideas

Please join our editors to explore how we can make coastal construction safer and more lucrative for everyone involved. Coastal builders, remodelers, architects, and code officials will all benefit from joining forces around sound building science and engineering practice. The first-annual **Coastal Contractor Summit** will be held May 12–14, 2008, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. For more information, visit www.coastalsummit.com.