

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jay Thomas, Director of Marketing
800-451-2504 jay.thomas@sarnafilus.com

Art and Architecture Supplies Retailer Charrette Wins Sarnafil Sustainable Roofing Performance Award

After 27 years of service, roof still provides leak-free performance.

CANTON, MASS. November 11, 2004—Sarnafil Inc., a leading global manufacturer of thermoplastic roofing and waterproofing systems, has announced the winner of its 2004 Sarnafil Sustainable Roofing Performance Award. Charrette, a long-respected retailer in the Boston area, is recognized for its commitment to sustainability, demonstrated by its selection of a high quality, long lasting roofing system.

Installed in 1977— more than 27 years ago—Charrette's Sarnafil thermoplastic membrane roof system provides watertight and energy-saving protection to the company's headquarters in Woburn, Massachusetts. With a 2004 appearance that belies its age, the roof is expected to last for years to come.

"We haven't had any problems with the roof," said Roy Demmons, facility manager at Charrette. "It's performing very well—and if you can get more than 20 years out of a roof, you're looking at a big cost savings."

The roof has impressed other non-Sarnafil roofing experts as well. "I knew about the Charrette job when the roof was installed and often drive by the building in the course of my work," said Ralph Noblin, president of Noblin & Associates, a consulting engineering firm. In 2001, Noblin joined Sarnafil on the Charrette roof to collect samples for testing. "I have a long history with Sarnafil and was curious about how the Charrette roof was faring. With the roof exposed to the elements for all these years, I was impressed with how good it looked and how well it continues to perform."

Research Documents Performance

The details surrounding the Charrette roof surfaced in 2001 when Sarnafil launched a comprehensive study of its oldest roofs in North America. The study's purpose: to document

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precisely the condition of these veteran roofs. Sarnafil and independent roofing experts collected membrane samples from 25 roofs installed between 1977 (25 years old at the time of testing) and 1986 (16 years old) that represent the full range of climate conditions in the U.S. and Canada. The average roof age was 20 years and all 25 roofs were still providing leak-free protection for their building owners.

ASTM 4434 Test Results

The samples, sent to the National Research Council of Canada (NRCC) Institute for Research in Construction, were tested according to the requirements of ASTM D-4434, Standard Specification for Polyvinyl Chloride Sheet Roofing. The properties of the samples were compared to the ASTM standards for new membrane.

Remarkably, 94 percent of the samples met the minimum thickness standards, 97 percent met the requirement for linear dimension change and 100% of the seams remained intact following the seam-strength tests. This is truly an impressive performance for roofs of this age.

Charrette Leads the Way

Charrette's roof, one of the oldest tested, was installed in 1977 soon after the retailer moved into its Woburn, Massachusetts building that houses corporate offices, a retail store, and a 200,000-sq.-ft distribution warehouse. First order of business: replace the old built-up roof (BUR) with one that could provide:

- A lightweight solution compatible with the building's construction
- Dependable protection of its employees, customers, and inventory for at least ten years
- Sufficient flexibility to absorb normal building movement
- Low-cost maintenance
- Energy-efficient performance

Charrette replaced the old roof with a high-quality Sarnafil membrane. Today, that very roof measures up to standards for brand-new membrane, even after 27 years of exposure to broiling summer heat; frigid New England winters; and blizzards, hurricanes, and other storms delivering wind-driven rain, sleet, and snow.

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“By selecting a durable roof that has performed exceptionally well, Charrette demonstrated its commitment to sustainability decades ago,” said Sarnafil President Brian Whelan. “When a long lasting, energy efficient roofing system is chosen, less energy is used, fewer raw materials are consumed, and less waste is generated. The specification of a Sarnafil roof results in the lowest lifecycle costs and the lowest total environmental impact. That’s why we felt Charrette’s roof deserved the 2004 Sarnafil Sustainable Roofing Performance Award.”

While gratifying, the National Research Council’s test results were no surprise to Sarnafil. Its record of proven performance is unmatched by any other thermoplastic roofing manufacturer. For the last 40 years, the manufacturer has used the same basic formulation that has protected properties in every climate all over the world.

About Sarnafil

Sarnafil Inc. is a subsidiary of Switzerland-based Sarna Group, a manufacturer of high-tech plastic polymers for a wide range of applications including roofing, waterproofing, civil engineering, and automotive applications. Since 1964, Sarnafil has manufactured 3.5 billion sq. ft of membrane in Switzerland, China, and Canton, Mass. The company’s roofing and waterproofing systems protect some of the world’s most valuable structures and treasures, including schools and universities, libraries, museums, medical centers, commercial and retail buildings, and Olympic venues. For more information about Sarnafil in the U.S., visit www.sarnafilus.com



Charrette, Woburn, MA



Jay Thomas of Sarnafil (far right) presents the Sustainability Award to Roy Demmons (second from right) and Ed Kowalski of Charrette

High resolution photos available upon request.

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