

CRITERIA, HINTS & TIPS

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- Applications must be made online via the SPRA website <http://www.spra.co.uk/awards-application/>
- Applications can be made by any SPRA member
- If an application is made by a SPRA manufacturer member, the contractor must be a manufacturer Approved Contractor. If they are not also a SPRA member, the contractor from any winning or highly commended project in any category will be offered SPRA membership free for the first year.
- The deadline for submission of SPRA Awards is always the 30th of April. Awards are presented at the Annual Conference, usually held in June.
- It is possible to submit one project for more than one SPRA Award Category, tick all boxes that apply.
- It is also possible to submit any SPRA Award project for the UK Roofing Awards-Single Ply category, by ticking the appropriate box on the SPRA Awards application form. (meaning you only have to fill out one form!).

HOW TO WIN THE ROOFING AWARDS

Entries for both the National and SPRA Awards must be projects which achieved PC the previous year and entries for the National close in January so Autumn is a great time to start gathering evidence. Here are my top five tips (and my favourite 'don'ts').

1. Pick a good project:

Job size may matter, but not as you might think. A big shed may not show off your abilities as effectively as an extension to a residential home or the refurbishment of a city-centre hotel. It's all about the design challenge and how you went about overcoming it. True, the National Awards judges may be swayed by good architecture – we all want to show off what single ply can do - but it will all come down to the quality achieved. If you plan to enter for both competitions, remember the SPRA Awards have the following categories, one or more of which you'll need to nominate:



- Best new build
- Best refurbishment
- Most innovative
- Best health and safety
- Best detailing
- Best waste recycling

2. Tell the story, concisely:

Keep it short, under suitable headings. Whether you are the SPRA contractor or a membrane manufacturer submitting the entry on behalf of a contractor, imagine the judges know nothing but have to understand what was achieved. There are marks for the application itself and so marks will be lost if the story is like a folk singer's jumper (long and woolly). State the specification clearly so that we can judge quality achieved in the technical and financial constraints.



...and don't submit reams of product marketing stuff. The attributes of the product may be irresistible but they are only relevant if they in some way affected the contractor's performance.

3. Explain the circumstances:

The programme; working space; access; seasonal issues or changes to specification.

4. Highlight innovation, safety and sustainability:

How did you overcome problems, co-ordinate other trades; contribute to design improvement; promote safety or least environmental impact?

...and don't claim gold stars for ideas other contractual parties came up with.

5. Choose the right photos:

Imagine having to shortlist from fifty entries, each with twenty photos. You lose the wood for the trees. So pick a maximum of six based on the following:

- Include 'before' (if refurbishment) during and finished.
- Photograph the site so that we can judge the constraints on aspects such as storage or sequencing.
- Choose good weather.
- Choose a good aspect.
- Picture size doesn't matter...but resolution does. So check that option on the camera.
- Let the photo tell the story.
- Don't be afraid to get up close to somebody doing something like welding or fitting trim, if it helps to highlight top quality work.

...and don't include distant aerial photos unless we can judge the job from them. Don't photograph towards the sun, especially on a wet roof and don't submit two photos of the same thing.

Good luck!