

# Surface-Leveling Silicone to the Rescue

## Louisiana Church Save Big with a PM Restoration



### SILICONE ROOFING SYSTEMS

**Roof Size**  
3,300 square feet

**Substrate**  
Gravel Built Up & Metal

**Location**  
New Orleans, LA



#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Founded in 1937, Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church has been providing Christian worship services to New Orleans for decades. This facility has a metal and gravel built-up roof, with the problem area centering around the built-up section. As a non-profit religious center, a costly roof replacement would have been put financial strain on the church. Due to the large price tag of a replacement, the church administrators began looking into other options that could offer the church a long-term fix, without breaking the bank.

#### THE PROBLEM

After decades of wear and tear, the church had begun noticing leaks in their building. Like any roof leak, as time went on, the leak began to spread and got bigger and more concerning. To make matters worse, the leaks were centered over the church's musical equipment, posing another costly concern to the church.



After getting in contact with one of PM Silicone's Certified Licensed Contractors (CLA), the Church decided a roof restoration was the smartest move. Given that the roof had gravel on it, PM's Surface-Leveling Silicone (SL 800) became the proposed solution. SL 800 is a cheaper silicone that goes on before the top coat to fill in the cracks and crevasses in the gravel. It still gets great adhesion and is completely watertight, but it is not as UV protective and would break down more quickly without a top coat. This is used to ensure a fully seamless membrane without the cost of applying the top coat in bulk. SL 800 can be poured on more generously to fill in all the gaps in the gravel without drastically raising the final project cost.



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### 1) Clean Up

To begin the process, the CLA first needed to clean the roof. In order for the primer and silicone to adhere, the roof was scraped clean. This entailed removal of all loose rocks and debris. The removal of these objects is crucial to allowing the primer to offer maximum hold. When dealing with a roof with this much wear and tear, trying to get to a clean starting point is one of the most important steps in the process.



### 2) Priming the roof

After the CLA thoroughly cleaned the roof, it was time to put down the primer. On most silicone jobs, primers aren't necessary. On gravel roofs, however, PM's P-160 is important due to the amounts of mini crevasses on the roof. The primer works its way into the cracks and crevasses of the gravel, offering the surface-leveling silicone stronger adhesion. On gravel-built up roofs it's always important to hit every gap.



### 3) Self-Leveling Silicone

Application of SL 800 is the main differentiator between gravel built-up roofing jobs and your typical restoration jobs. This silicone is applied generously to penetrate all gaps in the gravel and makes the bumpy surface able to be coated with a silicone top coat. You should note that SL 800 does not fully level out the roof. You will still have a bumpy surface from the gravel. It will be level enough, however, for the top coat to hold strong for years.



### 4) Silicone Top Coat

After the roof was cleaned, primed, and leveled, it was time to apply the top coat. The reason you need a top coat over SL 800 is because the top coat is more UV stable and more durable. Additionally, the top coat is usually white which keeps energy costs down in the building. PM's white 3201 top coat silicone reflects up to 88% off the sun's UV rays making it the perfect roof coating for the hot Louisiana climate.



### Final Analysis

After all was said and done, the client was very pleased with their roof restoration. The 4-step, surface-leveling silicone roof restoration proved to be the appropriate method to keeping water out of the church and off of their musical equipment. This project only took a week to complete which is far quicker than a complete roof replacement would take. It also only required a 5-man team which was another cost-saving measure that could be passed down to the church. Now the church has a fully restored roof and a 10-year warranty to go along with it.

