

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ODESSA

Duro-Last® Duro-Last X™ and EM LokSeam® Case Study



Location: Odessa, Texas **Square Feet:** 123,00

Products: Duro-Last X 60 mil membrane; Duro-Last ROOF-TRAK® III Walkway Pads; DensDeck® StormX™ coverboard; EXCEPTIONAL® Metals' AllTerm®; EM LokSeam metal panels

The residents of Odessa, Texas, know the meaning of severe weather. From high winds and pouring rain to triple-digit temps and grapefruit-sized hail, they have experienced it all and know preparation is key.

Established in 1896, First Baptist Church of Odessa is one of the largest churches in the Permian Basin region. The structure, which features more than 80,000 square feet of flat roof in addition to large sections of standing seam metal and clay tile on sloped portions, was beginning to show significant wear from years of weather extremes. After a particularly severe hail storm in June 2017 caused catastrophic damage to the region, the church began experiencing significant leaks threatening to interfere with operations and impact the building's overall structural integrity.

"In addition to the sanctuary that is filled every Sunday with worshipers, we also facilitate the First Odessa Christian Academy and a child development center during the week," said Pastor Steve Crone, executive pastor of First Baptist Odessa. "We have a

lot going on at the campus throughout the week, so it was vitally important to find a long-term solution to the roof leaks."

After securing insurance funds for storm repair efforts, First Baptist leaders put out a bid request to tackle the project. Merit Roofing Solutions of Prosper, Texas, was ultimately awarded the job after proposing comprehensive roofing solutions from Duro-Last and EXCEPTIONAL Metals.

"We had developed a great relationship with church leadership over the years, so when we got the call to help we were able to walk them through the products that were going to offer them more robust protection," said Brian Kimbrell, owner of Merit Roofing Systems. "Pastor Crone and his team knew that the long-term performance of the new roof depended on the quality of the products and the assembly, so they opted for a Very Severe Hail-rated system and we were able to provide that to them with one-source partners like Duro-Last and EXCEPTIONAL Metals."



Because of the church's unique architecture and additions over the years, each section of the disjointed roof had to be individually evaluated and designed by the Duro-Last Engineering Services team to achieve the Very Severe Hail rating. For flat portions, Merit Roofing was able to save installation time and budget by overlaying the new system on top of the existing built-up roof. After removing loose gravel, the installation team fully adhered ½-inch DensDeck StormX Roof Board directly to the surface before adhering 60 mil Duro-Last X membrane over top. AllTerm from EXCEPTIONAL Metals was used along the perimeter to terminate the membrane. Additionally, to address the deteriorating parapet walls along these sections, the Merit team reinforced each wall with treated wood before encapsulating the structure with Duro-Last X membrane, providing additional watertight protection.

For the pitched portions of the roof, Merit Roofing removed the existing metal panels and clay tile down to the metal deck before installing an ice and water shield underlayment. EXCEPTIONAL Metals 24-gauge EM LokSeam panels in Tundra Gray replaced the old standing seam and clay tile systems. The metal panels were also used as wall panels along portions of the roofing structure, providing a clean and aesthetically consistent appearance. Finally, snow and ice guards were added along the leading edges of the standing seam panels to help prevent dangerous conditions

from developing during the winter months.

A key factor in the metal roofing installation was the large moon-shaped radius featured on the front of the church's sanctuary.

"Ensuring everything lined up perfectly for the radius was a big area of focus for us," Kimbrell said. "We were working three stories up in the air with the famous Odessa wind and elements, so we had to be precise about every move we made. The finished product turned out exactly as we hoped it would - the lines are clean, the radius is smooth and most importantly, the church is finally leak-free."

Working with a crew of eight, Merit Roofing was able to finish the project over four months and deliver a Duro-Last 20-Year NDL Warranty to First Baptist leaders upon completion.

"Merit Roofing was fantastic to work with," Crone said. "We knew this was going to be a difficult project to coordinate around our day-to-day activities and the Merit team was very accommodating. Not only did they make good on their promise to get our building dry, we've also seen a major improvement in our energy bills. Just this summer, our electric costs have dropped by 15%. We are just so pleased with the entire process from start to finish, how sharp the roof looks and the durability of the system that will protect us through many more of Odessa's famous storms."



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