Nonwovens are used as membranes in pitched roofing, or as facers in external walls. These membranes are often a combination of materials.

The nonwoven carrier supports the mechanical strength of the membrane, while the film keeps water from coming in and lets water vapour out. This effectively protects roof insulation from dust, rain and snow. Nonwoven-film membranes contribute to a lower air exchange between inside and outside and therefore reduce the energy needed to heat the building.

A few decades ago, roofs were insulated using mostly asphalted cardboard under roofing shingles and many roofs were not insulated. Nonwoven carriers began to be used 25 to 30 years ago, and today newly built pitched roofs are generally insulated, and vapour permeable membranes used to protect both the building and its occupants.

Source: Denkstatt case study on nonwovens

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