

Insulspan SIPs PIB 212

**Wall Sheathing
Membrane
(Weather-Resistive
Barrier)
Requirements**

Product Information Bulletin

Sheathing Membrane (Water-Resistive Barrier) Requirements

The purpose of this information bulletin is to address requirements for sheathing membranes (also referred to as weather-resistive barrier) applied as a component in wall assemblies constructed with the Insulspan® SIP System.

It is common for exterior finish materials to leak water from the outside, particularly during periods of strong winds accompanied by rain. The function of a sheathing membrane for above grade wall applications is to serve as a secondary line of defence to prevent exposure of the Insulspan SIP System exterior OSB skin to moisture in the form of liquid water – e.g. rain water. While sheathing membranes resist bulk water movement into the wall assembly, they are typically designed to allow smaller moisture vapour molecules to pass through them.

A separate sheathing membrane meeting the requirements below must be applied over the exterior surface of the Insulspan SIP System as soon as practical after installation. It is critical that the sheathing membrane be installed beneath exterior cladding in a manner so that water will drain to the outside. It is also critical that appropriate flashings be used at door, window and other building envelope penetrations.

There are a variety of breather-type polyolefin sheathing membranes that are used to wrap the exterior of the building envelope, such as GreenGuard® MAX Wrap from Pactiv Building Products (see CCMC Evaluation Report 13280-R or ICC-ES Evaluation Report ESR-2906). Alternatively, the required sheathing membrane can be provided using traditional asphalt-impregnated building paper conforming to ASTM D226 for Type 1 No. 15 asphalt felt.

Additionally, in regions where wind driven rain is common, a minimum 3/8 inch wide airspace incorporated into the wall system between the exterior cladding and the sheathing membrane is strongly recommended. This airspace forms a cavity for drainage of water between the exterior cladding and the sheathing membrane. For siding materials, this can be accomplished by vertically strapping or furring out the walls after application of the sheathing membrane. It is also recommended that the airspace be ventilated at the top and bottom to allow drying of any wetting that does occur on the surface of the weather resistive barrier.

Refer to local building code requirements for additional requirements. Local requirement may be more stringent than that those listed above.

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