

The Use of DuPont™ Tyvek® WRBs over Coated Sheathing Products

There are many instances where construction may start with the intent of using a coated sheathing product as both the structural sheathing and as the primary WRB, but for any number of reasons it ends up only being used as sheathing. Below are some reasons builders are using coated sheathing products with a separate WRB:

- There are markets where a coated sheathing is easier to find than standard OSB, but the builder still wants to use a trusted WRB like DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap™.
- Due to product shortages, the building may be sheathed with a combination of coated sheathings and standard OSB product.
- The coated sheathing isn't covered with the cladding within specified UV exposure limits because of construction delays or new ownership, and it needs to be protected with a new WRB layer.

This document explains what considerations should be taken when using DuPont™ Tyvek® WRBs in conjunction with a coated sheathing. If a coated sheathing product is used on a job, such as Huber® Engineered Woods ZIP System® Wall Sheathing ([ZIP System Wall Sheathing](#)), Georgia-Pacific's ([Force Field](#)), Ox Engineered Products ([Thermo-Ply](#)) and RoyOMartin ([Eclipse](#)) and the builder intends on installing a WRB over the sheathing, DuPont has a few recommendations.

1. DuPont™ Tyvek® WRB is suitable for covering coated sheathing products.
2. DuPont recommends the seams of the coated sheathing be left un-taped and install the Tyvek® WRB per the guidance in the applicable DuPont™ Tyvek® Water-Resistive and Air Barriers (WRB) Installation Guidelines.

If the seams have already been taped, and windows installed and flashed per the coated sheathing manufacturer's instructions, there are several considerations to address.

1. DuPont recommends terminating the DuPont™ Tyvek® WRB to the existing window flashing.

- a) The Tyvek® WRB will simply be terminated around the window perimeter. The DuPont Self-Adhered Products are NOT serving as the window flashing.
- b) When terminating Tyvek® WRB to coated sheathings below the sill with DuPont™ Flashing Tape or DuPont™ StraightFlash™, the project team should inspect the coated sheathing to ensure it is a suitable substrate for the adhesion of the self-adhered flashing. A compatible adhesive/primer is recommended to increase the adhesive bond of the flashing to the coated sheathing.
 - i) If fluid applied flashing is used to provide continuity between the DuPont Self-Adhered Flashing and coated sheathing sill flashing, ensure that there is not direct contact of the fluid applied product with the Tyvek® WRB. DuPont recommends the use of DuPont™ StraightFlash to serve as a transition membrane between the fluid applied product and the Tyvek® WRB.
- c) When terminating the Tyvek® WRB with DuPont™ Flashing Tape or StraightFlash™ to a coated sheathing tape/flashing product located at the jambs of windows, inspect the tape/flashing to ensure it has not degraded from exposure to the point that it is not a suitable substrate for adhesion for the DuPont Self-Adhered Flashing Products. DuPont assumes no liability for the long-term performance other manufacturer's tape as the window flashing – The DuPont™ Flashing Tape or StraightFlash™ is only being used to seal the Tyvek® WRB to the top sheet of the flashing.
- d) When terminating the Tyvek® WRB to a coated sheathing tape/flashing at the head of windows with either Tyvek® Tape, DuPont™ Flashing Tape, or StraightFlash™, again inspect the previously installed tape to the point that it is not a suitable substrate for adhesion of the Tyvek® Tape, DuPont™ Flashing Tape, or StraightFlash™. DuPont assumes no liability for the long-term performance of the previous tape as the window flashing – The DuPont™ Tyvek® Tape, DuPont™ Flashing Tape, or StraightFlash™ is only being used to seal the Tyvek® WRB to the top sheet of the flashing. It is acceptable to use Tyvek® Tape to seal at the head, but DuPont™ Flashing Tape or StraightFlash™ is recommended for a stronger bond. Skip-taping is acceptable if the Tyvek® WRB is not being installed as an air barrier.

- 2. The Tyvek® WRB should be installed in strict accordance with the currently published DuPont Installation Guidelines,** including the proper fasteners, overlap, use of Tyvek® Tape at seams, top and bottom of wall details, balcony details, etc. Proper shingling of building materials must be maintained. If there are questions about any specific detail, the project team should work with the DuPont™ Tyvek® Specialist who can contact DuPont as needed.

- 3. At wall penetrations,** follow the currently approved methods for sealing penetrations, which includes the use of DuPont™ FlexWrap™ EZ, DuPont™ Flashing Tape, DuPont™ StraightFlash™ or DuPont™ FlexWrap™.



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