GET THE ADVANTAGES OF BLOCK-IT* HOUSE WRAP

Don't pay extra for ZIP System® Wall Sheathing

The quality of the structures you build depends on the quality of the weatherization products you choose. That's why builders turn to Kimberly-Clark BLOCK-IT* House Wrap for exclusive, patented water-channeling technology and breathability. BLOCK-IT* House Wrap helps to prevent the penetration of water and channels over 98 percent of water away from your structure. It also provides a breathable barrier technology that helps protect your building for years to come.

Providing superior weatherization is important, but it must be balanced against cost, time and ease of installation. Some builders may want to compromise by turning to a wood-based sheathing with water-resistive overlay product like the ZIP System®. Realize this: BLOCK-IT* House Wrap with patented technology offers significant advantages over ZIP System® wall sheathing.

- **BLOCK-IT* House Wrap provides more water drainage.**
- **BLOCK-IT* House Wrap lets more water vapor escape.**
- **BLOCK-IT* House Wrap is easier to install and more durable.**
- **BLOCK-IT* House Wrap is less expensive.**

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap Resists More Water

When moisture seeps into a building structure, it can cause wood and other materials to rot and mold, potentially causing hazardous conditions and structural failure.

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap channels over 98 percent of water away from the wall assembly and onto the ground. Not only is BLOCK-IT* a superior drainage wrap eliminating the need for a specialty wrap, but it provides this premium performance at a mainline price.

When compared with BLOCK-IT* House Wrap, the water resistance of ZIP System® wall sheathing falls flat. Much of its water resistance depends on precise and time-consuming taping. If taping fails or is not done properly to prevent gaps, wrinkles or air bubbles during installation, water can easily seep in. This will degrade the weather-resistant barrier, as well as compromise the underlying structure.

Another concern is that Huber Engineered Woods LLC, the manufacturer of the ZIP System®, instructs crews to install the product in a reverse shingle method around doors, windows and other penetrations.[1] Not only does this method allow water to funnel down the tape and enter the structure, the instruction conflicts with the best practices outlined by most window suppliers.

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap is installed from the bottom up, in a traditional shingled pattern, with a 6- to 8-inch overlay. This method keeps water from funneling toward the structure's sheathing.

Is ZIP System® Really Water-Resistant?

According to the manufacturer of ZIP System®, their panels must be stored off the ground at job sites and covered with a waterproof protective material that cannot be tightly wrapped around the sides or bottom of the stack.[1]

Why would a water-resistant system need a waterproof wrap?

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap Lets More Water Vapor Escape

The breathability of a weather-resistant barrier is crucial to allowing occupant-generated moisture (from cooking, showering and other activities) to escape and not be trapped inside the structure. Trapped moisture can lead to mold, rot and eventual failure of wall cavity materials.

Permeability ratings of at least 5 perms (under the International Residential Code) or 10 perms (under the International Building Code) are required to be considered "vapor permeable."

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap has patented breathable barrier technology engineered to allow water vapor to escape from the wall cavity and to help prevent water damage. It is rated at 15 perms, higher than code requirements.

The published permeability rating for the ZIP System® can be confusing because the maker's claim of 12-16 perms reflects only the overlay material. Third-party laboratory testing[2] shows that the real vapor permeability of the whole system (wall sheathing with the bonded overlay) is less than 1 perm. Moreover, the installed ZIP System® is technically an exterior, non-insulated vapor barrier since all seams must be sealed with tape. Exterior vapor barriers can cause condensation in cold weather conditions and can reduce drying when moisture enters the system.

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap Resists Air Infiltration Better

Unwanted air leakage can decrease energy efficiency, interior comfort and air quality. BLOCK-IT* House Wrap can be used to help you meet the infiltration rates of the ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3, National Program Requirements, as well as LEED v4 Building Design & Construction requirements.

The makers of the ZIP System® claim it provides a "continuous air barrier." This is only the case in perfectly controlled laboratory conditions in which every nail head is perfectly driven and the green overlay remains pristine, with no nicks or holes. Consider how often that happens on a real-world job site.

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap Is Easier to Install and More Durable

Labor is a significant percentage of your budget, so you need your crew to be as productive as possible. They've got to do it fast, and they've got to do it right.

With BLOCK-IT* House Wrap, installation is quick and easy. It resists tears, abrasions and punctures, and it doesn't snag on tools or nails. Its surface remains non-slip, even when wet. Plus, it's self-sealable around nails, meaning water won't infiltrate through openings, even without cap nails.

You may think the all-in-one ZIP System® sheathing and barrier in one, makes it easier and quicker to install than house wrap. That's not necessarily the case.

The ZIP System® forces installation crews to spend extra time to[1]:

- Maintain an exact 1/8-inch gap on all seams before taping. If the gap is not maintained meticulously, the bond between the tape and the panel can fail when the panels expand and contract.
- Precisely tape every seam within 1/2 inch of all panel edge seam centers, including all inside and outside corners.
- Seal all seam tape edges.
- Maintain required pneumatic pressure when driving each of the 52 fasteners required for every 4' x 8' section so the overlay is completely punctured, but fasteners are not over-driven into the sheathing, which can create opportunities for water intrusion.

Not So Fast!

When crews at the NAHB Research Center conducted third-party installation testing[2] on the ZIP System® versus a leading house wrap, they found:

- **It took longer than installing conventional house wrap in some cases.**
- **The seam tape didn't stretch, making it difficult to get full adhesion when taping corner joints. Inside corners were particularly difficult to tape properly.**
- **Damage from over-driven fasteners was common.**

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap Is Less Expensive

BLOCK-IT* House Wrap is about 20% less expensive than ZIP System®.

See the difference for yourself and compare pricing to learn how Kimberly-Clark BLOCK-IT* House Wrap can save you money over ZIP System® wall sheathing.

Don't Take Chances

Better water resistance. Superior breathability. Easier and less costly installation. There are many reasons to choose BLOCK-IT* House Wrap over ZIP System® wall sheathing.

Visit BLOCK-IT.com to learn more about the best way to weatherize your next project.

[1] ZIP System® Roof & Wall Sheathing Installation Tips 3/28/17.
[2] DuPont™ Tyvek® Building Wraps vs. Zip System® Wall Sheathing Tech Talk 3/28/17. http://www.dupont.com/content/dam/assets/products-and-services/construction-materials/assets/Tyvek-vs-ZIP-System-Tech-Talk-K17924-1.pdf

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