

Technical Tip

ZIP System® R-Sheathing Panel Orientation

ZIP System® R-Sheathing is an insulated sheathing that combines 7/16" ZIP System Sheathing with a 1/2" or 1" layer of rigid polyisocyanurate foam plastic insulation laminated to its interior face. R-sheathing delivers thermal, air and moisture resistance, while providing strength and durability. ZIP System R-Sheathing panels are available in 4' X 8' dimensions. The true dimensions of the wood structural panel layer are approximately sized just less than a true 48" X 96" to allow for proper gapping. The polyisocyanurate foam bonded to the structural panel layer is sized at a true 48" X 96". R-Sheathing will have approximately a 1/16"-1/8" foam overhang located on two of its four panel edges.

During typical OSB and plywood sheathing installation, it is important that end and edge joints are properly spaced. Industry standard is to gap wood sheathing edges approximately 1/8". APA also recommends a spacing of 1/8" at all panel edges. R-sheathing provides a self-spacing profile on the 8' edges that accounts for the required 1/8" gap. When possible, panels should be installed with factory foam edges touching, which provides adequate gapping for the ZIP System sheathing layer. Please coordinate panel field placement and orientation in order to take advantage of this gapping feature. See Figure 1 below.

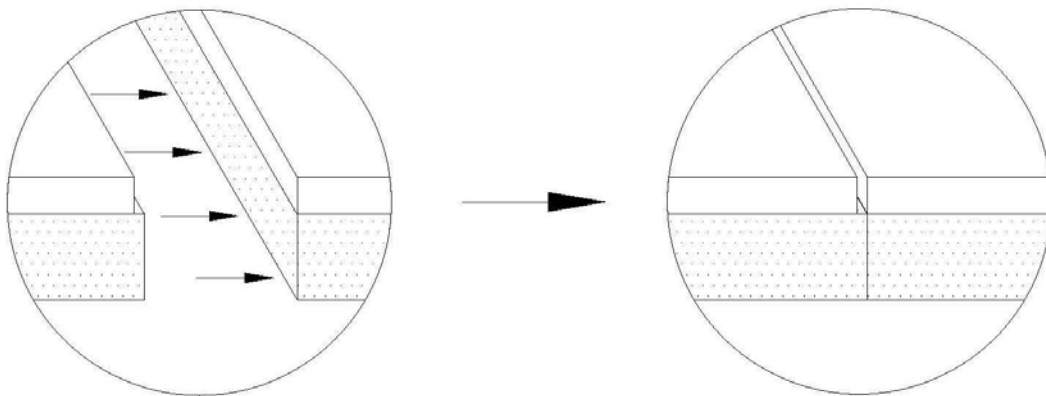


Figure 1: R-Sheathing Panel Edge Alignment

Installing R-sheathing panels according to the correct panel orientation makes installation easier. Failure to align the flush end of a panel with the foam edge of an adjacent panel will not result in any significant loss of R-value in the wall system.

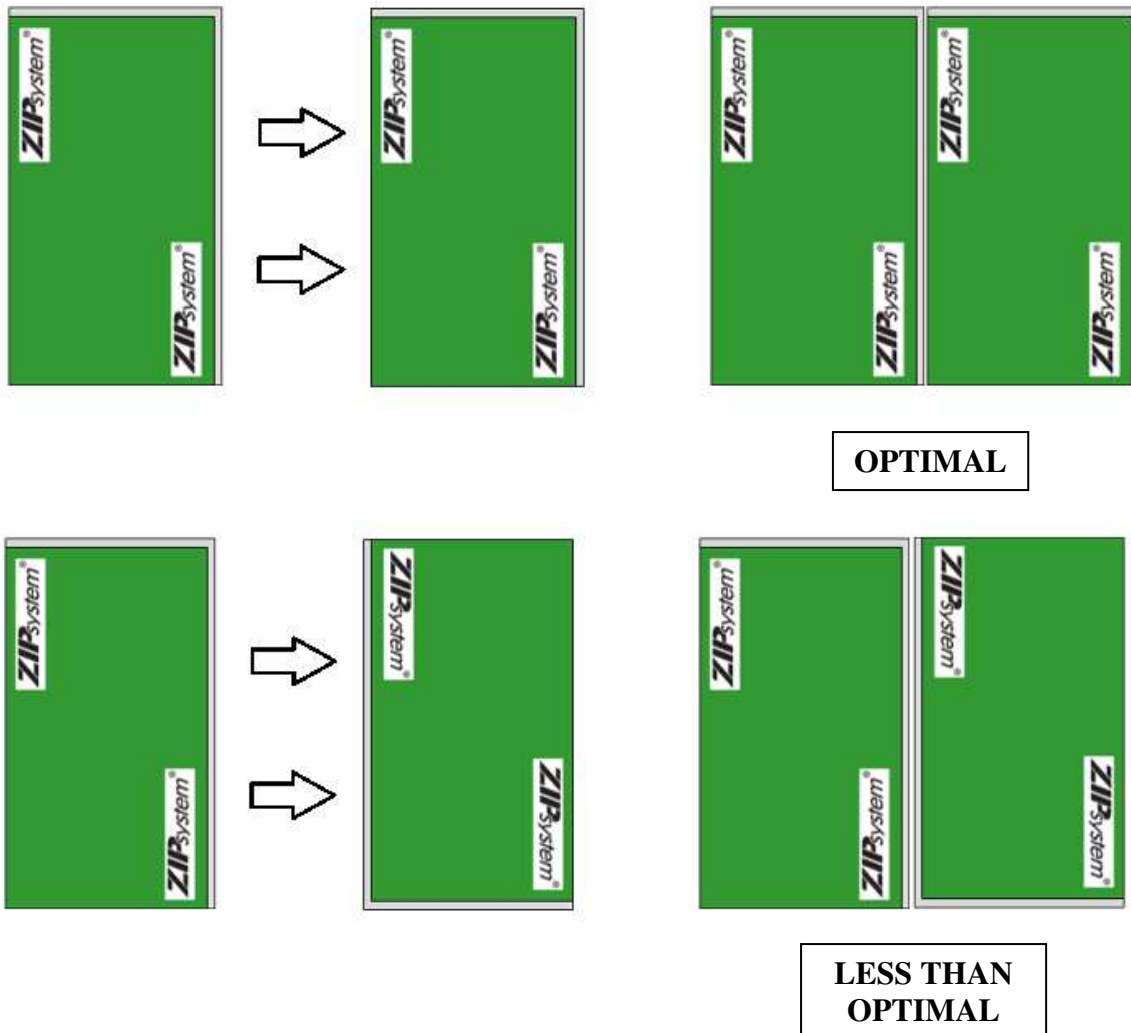


Figure 2: Proper R-Sheathing Panel Orientation

In situations where R-Sheathing panels are cut to fit areas smaller than the full panel size, the 1/16"-1/8" foam overhang is not always retained. Small panel segments can be installed regardless of the foam insulation orientation without significantly affecting the thermal performance of the wall assembly.

Please visit zipsystem.com or contact our technical services department at 800-933-9220 ext. 2716 with any questions or comments.