

Technical Tip

Installing Ice and Water Membranes with ZIP System® Sheathing

When used on the roof, ZIP System® sheathing is a combination wood structural panel and roofing underlayment. It is code recognized by the International Building and Residential Codes as an alternate to roofing underlayment (felt paper) required by code when panel seams are taped with the ZIP System tape. ZIP System sheathing complies with the requirements of PS2, *Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels*.

Ice damming is something that occurs in cold climates that has the potential to cause moisture infiltration in your ceiling or wall cavities. Ice damming is the situation where snow builds up on a roof then heat escapes from the living space into your attic. This heat begins to melt the snow on the upper sections of the roof, which travels to the colder areas of the roof (e.g. eaves and valleys) where it then refreezes, forming a dam. The dam then begins to trap any other ice/water that travels down the roof. This ice/water can eventually make its way underneath the shingles and then find its way into your attic or wall cavities.

There are many preventative methods used in today's construction industry and one of the more common methods is the use of ice and water membranes. These products are typically a peel-and-stick type of sheet membrane that is installed on the eaves and also in the valleys on roofs. ZIP System sheathing is not a replacement for these types of membranes. Ice and water membranes need to be installed according to code if ZIP System sheathing is installed. If a continuous ice and water membrane is desired on the entire roof, then we recommend the design and construction of the roof/attic assembly be in strict accordance with the 2009 International Residential Code, section R806, *Roof Ventilation*.

When used on the roof, covering ZIP System sheathing with a continuous ice and water membrane will not void any associated warranties as long as the ZIP System is installed according to the installation instructions and the recommendations above are followed.

NOTE: Ice and water membranes should not be installed over ZIP System sheathing in wall applications, and will void all associated warranties.



IF AN UNVENTED ATTIC ASSEMBLY IS DESIRED IN ADDITION TO COVERING THE ENTIRE ZIP SYSTEM SHEATHING WITH AN ICE AND WATER MEMBRANE, HUBER ENGINEERED WOODS HIGHLY RECOMMENDS CONSULTING A BUILDING SCIENCE OR INSULATION SPECIALIST PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.