

Technical Tip

What is ZIP System® Sheathing?



ZIP System® sheathing are wood structural panels with built-in, protective overlays that eliminate the need for building wrap or roofing felt. It is code recognized in ICC-ES ESR 1474 as an alternate to the water-resistive barrier required in Chapter 14 of the IBC and Chapter 7 of the IRC and satisfies the requirements for air barriers as defined in the ICC International Energy Conservation Code. It is also code recognized in ICC-ES ESR-1473 as an alternate to roofing underlayment (felt paper) required by code when panel seams are taped with the ZIP System tape.

The OSB wood structural panel substrate is available in 7/16", 1/2" or 5/8" thicknesses and carries the Exposure 1 bond classification. 7/16" panels have a green overlay and the 1/2" and 5/8" are identified by their "sienna red" color. The oriented strand board (OSB) substrate satisfies the provisions of U.S. Department of Commerce Voluntary Product Standard 2 (PS2) *Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels* as specified in Section 3.1 of the evaluation report. It is code-recognized as "rated" sheathing for 7/16"* thick panels and "structural 1" for 1/2" and 5/8" thicknesses. Refer to Chapter 23 of the International Building Code for allowable shear values for wall sheathing (not Structural I) when designing shear walls using ZIP System sheathing. Also see the Technical Tip, *Allowable Shear Capacity for ZIP System Sheathing* on zipsystem.com for more information about shear. Fastener type and spacing do not affect the performance of ZIP System wall sheathing to function as a water-resistive and air barrier

*7/16" thick, long-length (4'x9', 4'x10') ZIP System sheathing panels are stamped with a Structural 1 panel grade. Also, Structural 1 7/16" (4'x8') ZIP System sheathing panels may be available by special order.

When used on a wall, approved wall coverings include brick, vinyl, stone, fiber cement, wood, traditional hard-coat stucco and mechanically attached and drainable EIFS on buildings of Type V constructions and construction permitted under the IRC.

For roof applications, approved roof coverings include asphalt-fiberglass shingles, metal tiles and panels, clay and concrete tiles, slate and slate-type shingles, and wood shakes and shingles on buildings of Type III and V constructions and construction permitted under the IRC.

Caulk sealants compatible with ZIP System sheathing and tape are polyurethane, butyl, and 100% silicone sealants. Do not use latex caulks or other water-based sealants with ZIP System.

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