

Technical Bulletin Provides Step by Step Instructions for Air/Water-Resistive Barrier Installation

ACROSTOP-R can be used as both an air barrier material and as a water-resistive barrier. With architects increasingly specifying combination air/water-resistive barriers, the application differences between water-resistive barriers and combination air/water-resistive barriers are becoming increasingly important.

Water-resistive barriers are designed to protect walls against liquid water. Air barrier materials are part of systems designed to seal the building envelope from air leakage. Air barrier systems are composed of air barrier assemblies that must work together to seal the building walls, penetrations, roof and foundation.

When an air/water-resistive barrier is specified, ACROSTOP-R must be installed over the entire sheathed substrate and wrapped into rough openings. This must be performed prior to installation of the wall cladding system. Very important: the rough opening treatment requires wrapping the system into the head of the rough opening. The head is treated to ensure the continuity of the air barrier is maintained.

If a specification calls for a water-resistive barrier and not an air barrier, only the jamb and sill of the rough opening must be wrapped.

Note that sealants and transition membranes form important parts of an air barrier system – when bidding a project that requires an air/water-resistive barrier, the scope of work may be larger than would be otherwise expected.

BASF Wall Systems prepared the attached technical bulletin to provide guidelines for protecting rough openings in air and water-resistive barrier installation. Details depicting the transitions at roof and foundation can be found at <http://www.acrocrete.basf.com/en/lit/Details/Pages/default.aspx>.

When you are working with a design professional who is specifying an air/water-resistive barrier behind the cladding, we recommend that you provide this additional information to ensure a continuous water-tight air barrier is achieved.

Prepared by David Bowen, Supervisor In-House Technical Services, Richard Martens, Market Manager – Nonresidential Construction and Kent Stumpe, Manager of Marketing Communications