

TECHNICAL BULLETIN #8**WEATHER RESISTANT BARRIERS**

Water infiltration is one of the most common causes of call backs on exterior work. Most often the cause is something other than the lathing or plastering, but the proper choice and application of the lathing paper or equivalent is extremely important. Codes and specifications may call for grade “D” or grade “B” paper. Each has a place in the industry depending on the particular exposure to which the plastered surface may be subject.

Type “B” paper is more water resistant but breathes less. It is most commonly used in wet areas although is now being specified for some exterior commercial applications. Grade B paper should not be exposed to the direct weather any longer than absolutely necessary (maximum 14 days) to avoid shrinkage and rippling of the paper. Such shrinkage and rippling will cause the paper to dry out, crack or pull away from staples and nails, thereby creating holes through which moisture can find its way thus defeating the purpose of the lathing paper. *Grade “B” paper is not recommended for use over sheer panel walls or other exterior applications.*

Type “D” paper is the most commonly used weather barrier. It is water vapor permeable to avoid a buildup of moisture inside the wall and sheds excess water. There are several kinds of Grade “D” paper such as 30 minute, 60 minute, two ply, etc. Care should be taken to follow the specifications for the particular project. If necessary, the contractor may recommend the use of a different type paper but the final decision should rest with the architect or designer.

Paper must be applied “shingle fashion” horizontally with each succeeding layer lapping the one below by 3”. End laps should be lapped 6” and staggered. Paper must be continuous around corners and angles and behind joints and should fit snugly around mud rings, vents, door frames and other orifices. Care should be taken that nailing or stapling does not create holes in the paper through which moisture can enter.

DISCLAIMER

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