

PWA-105 Water-Resistive Barrier and Sheathing

Sheathing: Sheathing is not mandatory for PWA 105, but strongly recommended. In some fire rated assemblies the layer of gypsum sheathing under the cement may be required to meet the fire rating.

If the sheathing is eliminated, this is commonly known as “open stud” construction, a paper-backed lath will need to be used. Only very experienced and qualified wall and ceiling contractors should be allowed to install paper-backed lath.

Water Resistant Barrier (WRB): The water resistant barrier shall meet the code criteria of section 2510.6 of the International and/or California Building Code. Alternates are acceptable provided they have a recognized Legacy Report from the International Code Council. All alternates to traditional felts and kraft paper, including liquid applied WRB's, shall be applied per the manufacturer's instructions.

Two Layers: It is recommended to install two layers of Grade D Building Paper (WRB's) over sheathings. The product should be vapor permeable and a minimum water resistance rating of 30 minutes per layer. For all alternate products, refer to manufacturers recommendations.

Application: Asphalt saturated kraft papers shall be applied horizontally with minimum 2 inch horizontal and 6 inch vertical laps. These products shall be installed in a “Shingle-Fashion” and integrated with flashings to direct moisture down and ultimately out at a weep-screed or similar device at the base of framed wall.

The WRB shall lap over the weep screed flange by a minimum of 2 inches.