Application of two layers of water-resistive barrier (WRB) may be done in a variety of ways. Historically, there are three (3) basic methods:

1. The “Double Layer” Method
   This is a common method when a roll of “Double” or Two-ply product is used. Both layers go on in one operation; each upper layer overlaps both lower layers.

2. The Single “Separate” Layer Method
   This method is often used when applying two different products. Each layer is applied separately from each other.

3. The “50/50” Method
   This method is a single layer that is overlapped by at least 50% by the upper succeeding layer of WRB. This ultimately gives you two (2) layers.

As of January 1st 2014, The California Building Code, section 2510.6 states the “Single” layer method is the new required practice. If the other methods are preferred by designers/architects, they should verify the procedure with the local Building Department prior to installation. Each method has advantages and disadvantages.

The application of the WRB shall be free from holes and breaks other than those created by fasteners and construction system due to attaching of the WRB, and shall be applied over framing member or sheathing of all exterior walls.

The application shall start at the base of the wall and lap over the attachment flange of the weep screed, flashing or any other accessory that is used to weep moisture out from behind the plaster assembly.

The WRB shall be installed in a “shingle” fashion, meaning the upper layer(s) shall overlap the lower layer(s). The building code requires all laps to be a minimum of 2 inch. Some WRB manufacturers or propriety systems may recommend or require a larger lap.

The WRB should lap **under** the attachment flanges of sill locations (attachment flanges facing downward) and **over** the attachment flanges of all jamb and head accessories.

When flashing accessories, flashing membranes and secondary water barriers are used, they should not only be integrated to create the “shingle” fashion, but should also be integrated with the first (primary) layer of WRB, creating a primary barrier against incidental moisture. The second [top] layer is sometimes referred to as the “sacrificial” layer. Grade “D” building paper or paper-backed laths are most often used for this layer.

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