



Evaluation Report CCMC 13685-R Rex Wrap Fortis (2nd Generation) Air Barrier Material

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| MASTERFORMAT: | 07 27 09.02 |
| Evaluation issued: | 2014-02-14 |
| Re-evaluation due: | 2017-02-14 |

1. Opinion

It is the opinion of the Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) that “Rex Wrap Fortis (2nd Generation) Air Barrier Material”, when used as an air barrier material in accordance with the conditions and limitations stated in Section 3 of this Report, complies with the National Building Code 2010:

- Clause 1.2.1.1.(1)(b), Division A, as an alternative solution that achieves at least the minimum level of performance required by Division B in the areas defined by the objectives and functional statements attributed to the following applicable acceptable solutions:
 - Sentence 5.4.1.2.(1), Air Barrier System Properties
 - Sentence 9.25.3.2.(1), Air Barrier System Properties

This opinion is based on CCMC's evaluation of the technical evidence in Section 4 provided by the Report Holder.

2. Description

This Report addresses the performance of the product as an air barrier material within the Alpha ProTech “Rex Wrap Fortis (2nd Generation) - Air Barrier Material” system. The air barrier system has not been evaluated, but is covered in Appendix A of this Report for the convenience of building officials and designers.

If the product is installed as part of the designated air barrier system, it will serve a dual function in the wall assembly. Use of the product as a sheathing membrane to control incidental water infiltration behind cladding is covered under a separate CCMC Evaluation Report (see CCMC 13678-R).

The product is made of a non-woven polypropylene layer with a woven polyolefin scrim. The product is available in rolls of various widths and lengths. The product is applied over the exterior sheathing material with the printed side out so that it forms a continuous envelope around the entire building.

3. Conditions and Limitations

CCMC's compliance opinion in Section 1 is bound by the “Rex Wrap Fortis (2nd Generation) Air Barrier Material” being used in accordance with the conditions and limitations set out below.

- The product is capable of being the principal plane of airtightness in an air barrier system by demonstrating a sufficiently low air permeance equivalent to the materials outlined in the requirement in Sentence 5.4.1.2.(1) and in Appendix Note A-9.25.5.1.(1) of Division B of the NBC 2010.
- When the product is installed as part of the airtight element in the designated air barrier system, the vapour barrier must generally comply with Sentences 9.25.4.2.(1), (2), (5) and (6), Vapour Barrier Materials, of Division B of the NBC 2010. In cases where another low water vapour permeance element has been installed in the wall assembly, Sentences 9.25.4.2.(3) and (4) apply.
- A conforming installation must be installed:

- with the printed side facing outward and protected from exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun within 60 days;
 - with a minimum 10-mm air space between the sheathing membrane and the cladding, unless the cladding has been deemed to not require an air space (i.e., deemed by CCMC or by building officials based on past cladding performance); and
 - according to the Alpha ProTech “Rex Wrap Fortis (2nd Generation) - Air Barrier Material” Installation Manual. Examples of the installation details are presented as Additional Information in Appendix A of this Report.
- A concealed air space exceeding 25 mm in width must contain proper fire stopping in accordance with Subsection 9.10.16., Fire Blocks, of Division B of the NBC 2010.

4. Technical Evidence

The Report Holder has submitted technical documentation for CCMC’s evaluation. Testing was conducted at laboratories recognized by CCMC. The corresponding technical evidence for this product is summarized below.

4.1 Performance Requirements

Table 4.1.1 Test Result for Performance Requirements

| Property | Requirement | Result |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| Five 1-m ² membrane specimens tested and measured for air permeance at a minimum of six air pressure differentials (ΔP) between 0 Pa and 250 Pa | Air leakage rate at 75 Pa ΔP (based on linear regression of 30 data points) $\leq 0.02 \text{ L}/(\text{s}\cdot\text{m}^2)$ | 0.0028 L/(s•m ²) |

The assessment of the product’s durability is covered under CCMC 13678-R.

Report Holder

Alpha ProTech
301 South Blanchard Street
Valdosta, GA 31641
U.S.A.

Telephone: 229-242-1931

Fax: 229-242-1947

Plant(s)

Valdosta, GA, U.S.A.

Disclaimer

This Report is issued by the Canadian Construction Materials Centre, a program of NRC Construction at the National Research Council of Canada. The Report must be read in the context of the entire CCMC Registry of Product Evaluations, including, without limitation, the introduction therein which sets out important information concerning the interpretation and use of CCMC Evaluation Reports.

Readers must confirm that the Report is current and has not been withdrawn or superseded by a later issue. Please refer to http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/solutions/advisory/ccmc_index.html, or contact the Canadian Construction Materials Centre, NRC Construction, National Research Council of Canada, 1200 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R6. Telephone (613) 993-6189. Fax (613) 952-0268.

NRC has evaluated the material, product, system or service described herein only for those characteristics stated herein. The information and opinions in this Report are directed to those who have the appropriate degree of experience to use and apply its contents. This Report is provided without representation, warranty, or guarantee of any kind, expressed, or implied, and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) provides no endorsement for any evaluated material, product, system or service described herein. NRC accepts no responsibility whatsoever arising in any way from any and all use and reliance on the information contained in this Report. NRC is not undertaking to render professional or other services on behalf of any person or entity nor to perform any duty owed by any person or entity to another person or entity.

Date modified:
2014-03-06

Appendix A

Additional Information

An Air Barrier Material as Part of an Air Barrier System

CCMC has not evaluated the performance of the “Rex Wrap Fortis (2nd Generation) - Air Barrier Material” product as an air barrier system or as to its conformance with Article 9.25.3.2., Air Barrier System Properties, of Division B of the NBC 2010. However, CCMC’s opinion is that an air barrier system using this material and installed in conformance with the details outlined below and in the Alpha ProTech Installation Manual should satisfy the requirements for continuity of the air barrier system in Articles 9.25.3.1., Required Barrier to Air Leakage, and 9.25.3.3., Continuity of the Air Barrier System, of Division B of the NBC 2010.

Discussion

Authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ) should be aware that this system differs from the typical air barrier approach, which uses a flexible membrane as the principal plane of airtightness. In the typical approach, the membrane (i.e., a polyethylene sheet) is normally sandwiched between two other materials so that it is not required to resist, on its own, the full force of indoor/outdoor pressure differences induced by stack effect, mechanical systems and, most importantly, wind.

In a system in which the membrane is applied to the outer surface of the wall sheathing, as it is in the proposed air barrier system, that membrane does not have continuous support against outward air pressure and must, therefore, have adequate strength to resist that pressure by spanning between points of support, such as its own fastening points or the points where strapping or cladding is fastened to the wall. CCMC’s evaluation of this material does not include the evaluation of this strength or the strength of the continuity details. The AHJ must, therefore, determine whether the product’s air barrier system, described herein, meets the intent of Sentence 9.25.3.2.(1) of Division B of the NBC 2010, as being an effective barrier for the proposed construction in the proposed geographical/climate area. For example, the AHJ may deem the proposed air barrier system adequate for buildings in urban areas, sheltered sites or areas of low wind, based on their experience, but inadequate in areas of high wind and exposed sites in rural or coastal areas.

An air barrier system checklist for the AHJ to consider is the following:

An air barrier system must:

- i. have an acceptable low air leakage rate;
- ii. be continuous;
- iii. be durable;
- iv. have sufficient strength to resist the anticipated air pressure load; and
- v. be buildable in the field.

Installation Details

The product’s material is applied over exterior wood-based wall sheathing material complying with the NBC 2010. It does not contribute to an air barrier system until it is joined to the other components that make up the air barrier system of the building. Alpha ProTech’s Installation Manual outlines how the product’s material must be joined to the foundation wall, windows and doors, penetrations in the wall and the ceiling air barrier in order to form the system.

A successful air barrier system installation is predicated on sequencing during construction. Coordination is required during erection of framing and after completion of the air barrier system to ensure that no other trade breaches the integrity of the installed air barrier system.

The proposed air barrier system is defined as possessing the following features:

- i. “Rex Wrap Fortis (2nd Generation) - Air Barrier Material” material as the principal plane of airtightness;
- ii. accessories including: sealants and CCMC-evaluated sheathing tape to maintain continuity at junctions with penetrations in the wall assembly (i.e., windows, doors, pipes, ducts, electrical outlets, etc.) and in accordance with continuity details in the Alpha ProTech’s Installation Manual;
- iii. durability, meeting UV- and heat-aging requirements; and
- iv. exterior sheathing with specified fasteners and fastening schedule of the product for structural support against anticipated pressure loads.

The air barrier system is to be built in the field by informed builders and reviewed by building officials.

Figures 1 to 7 outline typical construction details on the installation of the product as an air barrier system in the field. See Alpha ProTech’s Installation Manual for additional details.

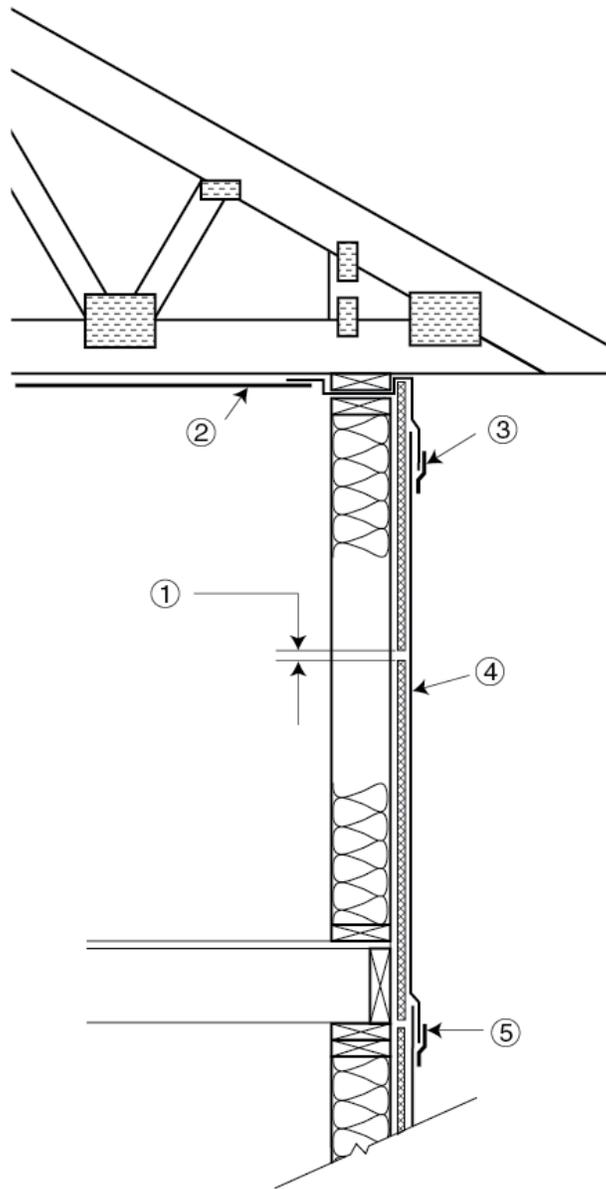


Figure 1. Exterior wall cross-section of the product – top wall/ceiling continuity

- 1. wood-based sheathing installed with open horizontal gap**
- 2. ceiling air/vapour barrier**
- 3. CCMC-evaluated sheathing tape**
- 4. proprietary air barrier material**
- 5. typical overlap of 100 mm and tape**

All horizontal joints in the material must be overlapped by 100 mm and taped with CCMC-evaluated sheathing tape. To maintain continuity of the plane of airtightness, the material must be sealed to the roof by using an appropriate transition membrane. The material should be secured underneath the transition membrane to ensure proper shingling. Wood-based sheathing, glass-fibre-faced exterior gypsum board, or exterior gypsum board having a water vapour permeance of less than 60 ng/Pa·s·m² must be installed in accordance to Article 9.25.5.2., Position of Low Permeance Materials, of Division B of the NBC 2010.

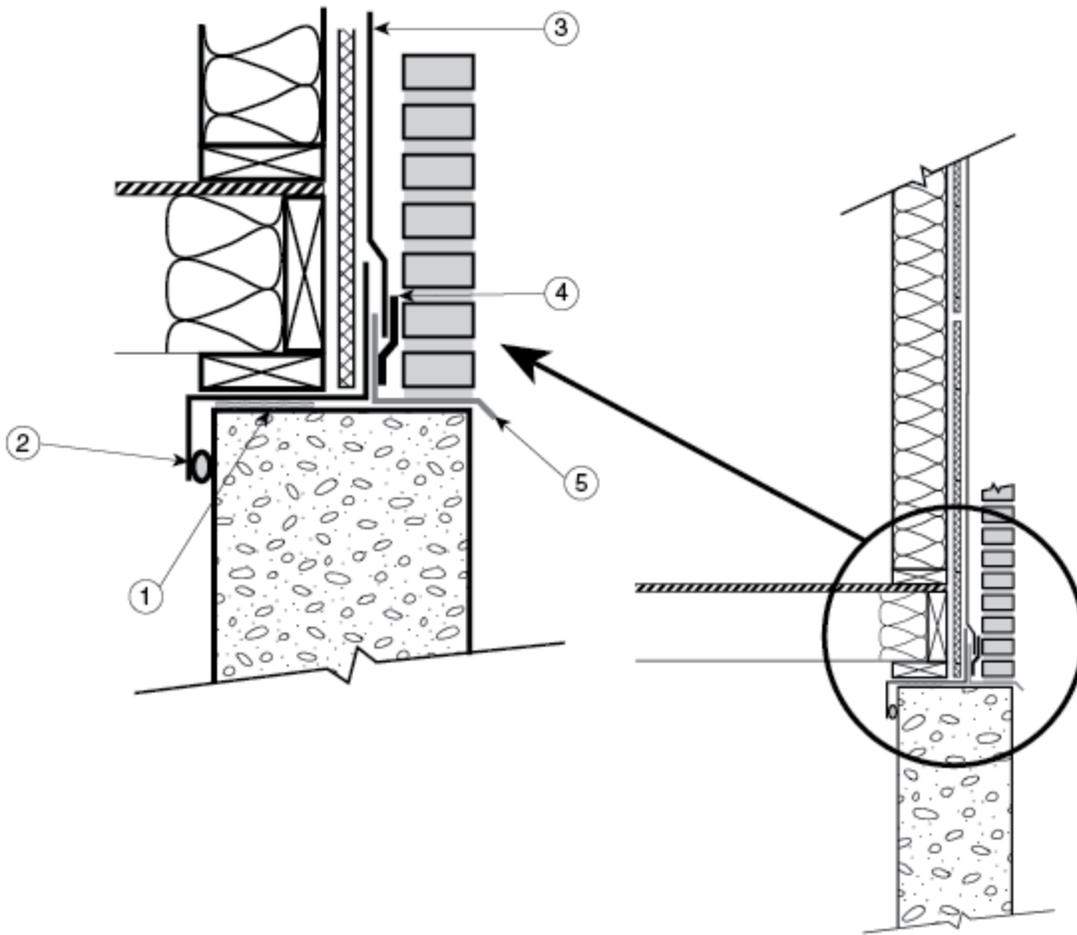


Figure 2. Bottom foundation detail of the product

- 1. sill plate gasket
- 2. sealant
- 3. proprietary air barrier material
- 4. tape
- 5. flashing

As the foundation wall is part of the air barrier system, the product must be sealed to the foundation wall to maintain the continuity of the plane of airtightness. The sealant used must be compatible with the product (e.g., silicone-based sealants must not be used). To maintain watertightness, the product's sheathing membrane must be installed over the flashing and taped to properly drain any rain penetration breaching the cladding.

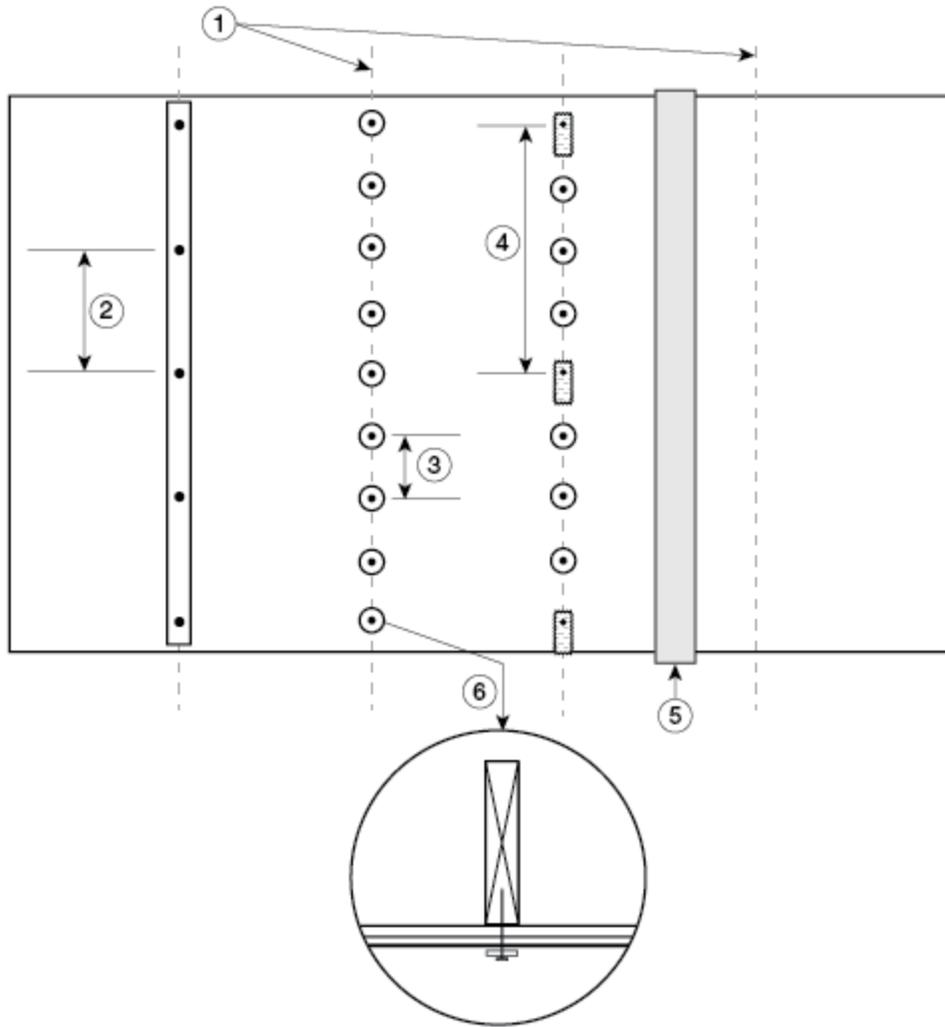


Figure 3. Structural fasteners for the product

1. stud centrelines
2. 300 mm on centre (o.c.)
3. 150 mm o.c.
4. 600 mm o.c.
5. overlap and tape vertical seams
6. 25-mm cap nails or brick ties to be installed 150 mm o.c. into stud

When installed as the principal plane of airtightness, the product must be structurally attached using nails with plastic washers, screws with plastic washers, or appropriate brick tie anchors.

For wood-framed construction where the sheathing is plywood, insulated board, glass-fibre-faced exterior gypsum, or exterior gypsum board, use nails with plastic washers and brick tie anchors.

For steel-framed construction where the sheathing is either glass-fibre-faced exterior gypsum or exterior gypsum, use screws with washers and brick tie fasteners.

All seams require a 100-mm minimum overlap and both vertical and horizontal seams should be secured with a CCMC-evaluated sheathing tape.

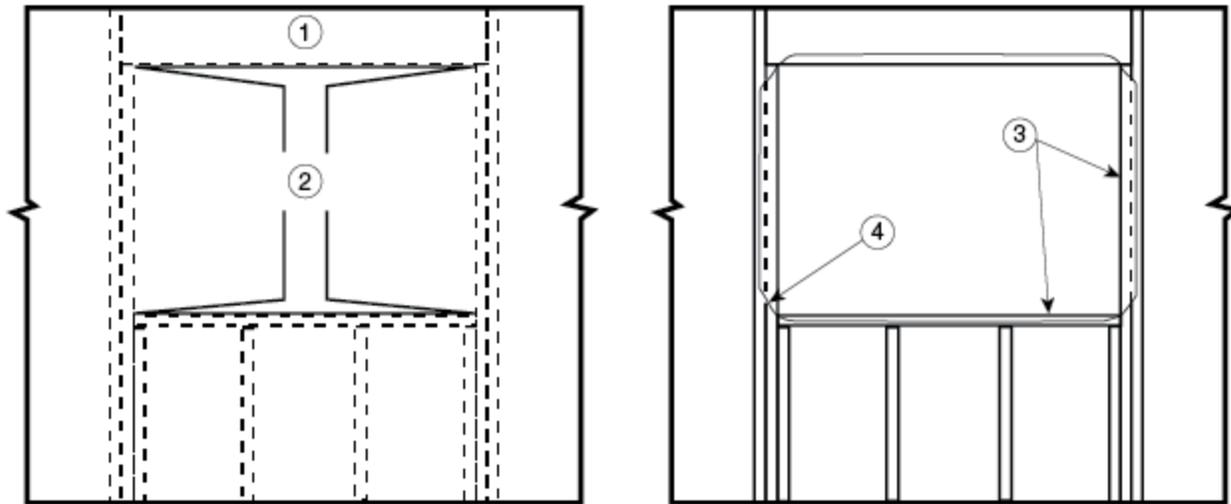


Figure 4. Window and door openings

1. outside view
2. make an inverted “y” cut in membrane
3. fasten proprietary air barrier material to sides and bottom
4. tape cut corners

The material must be cut and wrapped around framing at openings (see Figure 4). Cut ends should then be taped or caulked to the inside frame. To ensure continuity at this junction, a seal must be established with the window or door element (see Figure 5).

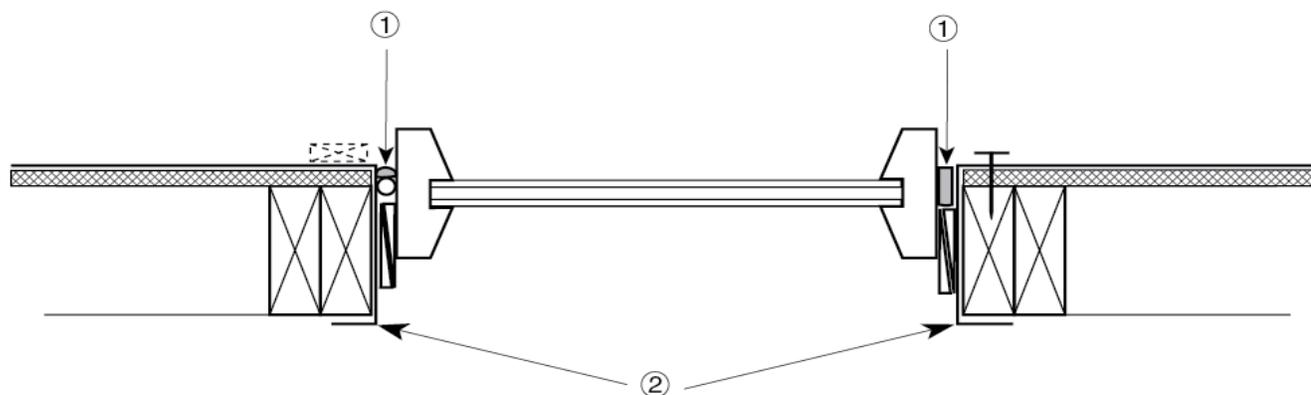


Figure 5. Window frame cross-section

1. seal to window with sealant or foam compatible with proprietary air barrier material and wood/vinyl/aluminum frames
2. wrap around jambs

The plane of airtightness of the material must be made continuous with windows and doors that are part of the air barrier system for the building envelope. The material must be sealed to the window or door frames with either sealant/backer rod or filled with sealant foam. Sealants must be compatible with the material and adhere to the framing material.

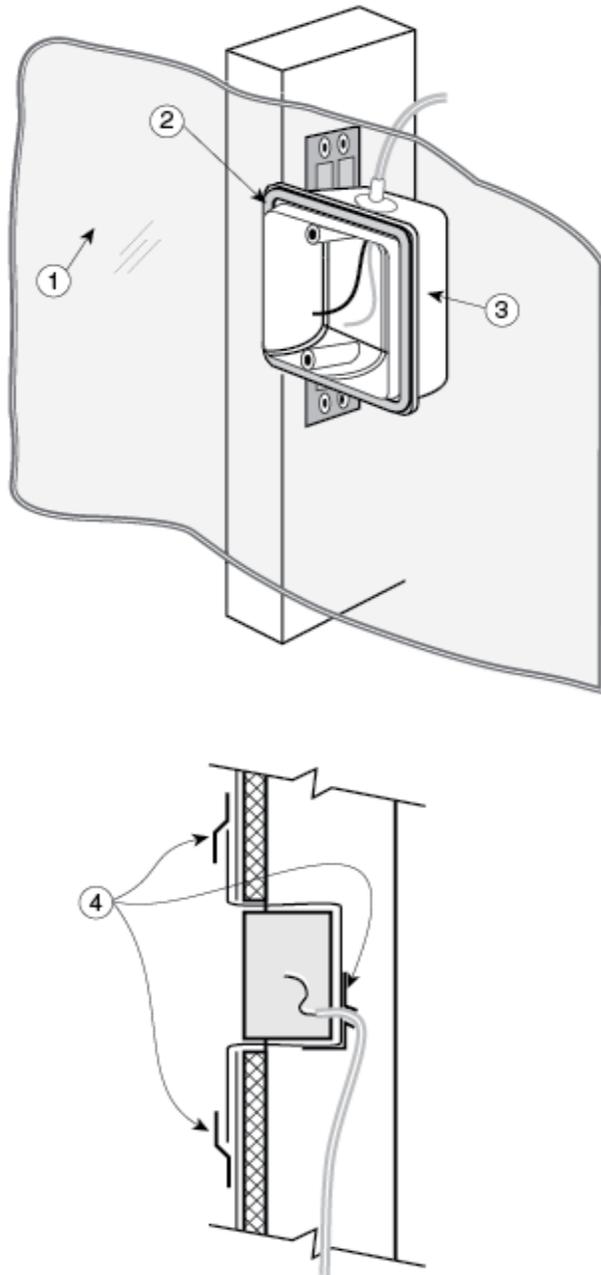


Figure 6. Exterior electrical boxes

- 1. snap-on retainer**
- 2. proprietary air barrier material installed on sheathing (shown in bottom graphic as cross-hatched material)**
- 3. airtight plastic box**
- 4. tape seal**

All exterior electrical outlet boxes or other penetrations through the material must be rendered airtight to maintain the plane of airtightness of the air barrier system. All electrical boxes must be wrapped and taped to the product's membrane, or airtight electrical boxes can be used.

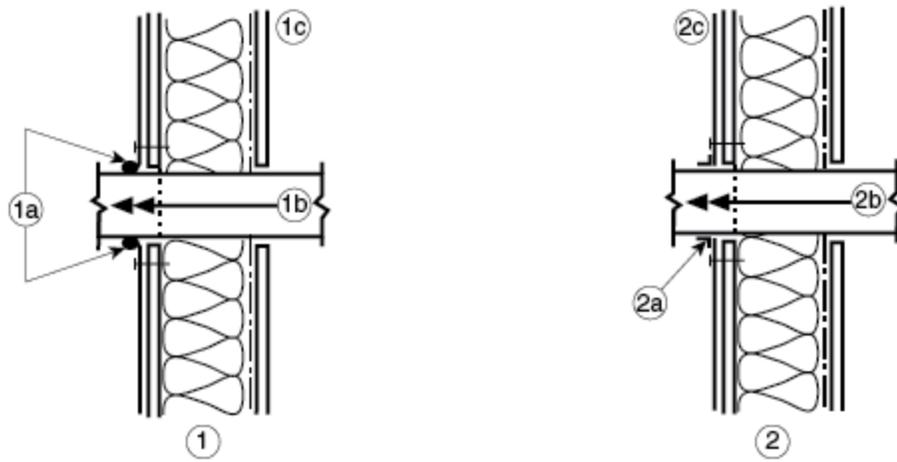


Figure 7. Sealing at wall penetrations

- 1. Method 1: 1a. proprietary air barrier material is sealed around opening; 1b. direction of airflow exhaust; 1c. inside of wall**
- 2. Method 2: 2a. proprietary air barrier material is trimmed around opening and tape connection; 2b. direction of airflow exhaust; 2c. outside of wall**

Where pipes and ducts breach the product's membrane, they must be sealed to the membrane. A sealant bead or CCMC-evaluated sheathing tape compatible with the product and the pipe or duct material is recommended.