

Technical Bulletin

Importance of Properly Back-Wrapping EIFS with Drainage

Back-wrapping is typical detailing of EIFS terminations—especially commercial, noncombustible construction—to provide an encapsulated insulation board edge, acceptable surface for sealant application and fire protection. Different means of back-wrapping can be accomplished depending on the location of the termination.

Stapling method for window jambs and sills, pipe or electrical box penetrations, vertical terminations at dissimilar materials and vertical expansion joint terminations;

Backwrap mesh can be applied to the substrate with staples or with Parex adhesive, followed by adhering the insulation board over the backwrap mesh on the wall. The backwrap is completed after the adhesive has dried. Pre back-wrapped insulation can also be used in these areas but is not required.

Pre back-wrapping at horizontal terminations with drainage detailing – at window and door heads, top side of horizontal expansion joints, terminations at foundation, etc.;

Where the system is designed to allow incidental moisture to exit, the insulation board can be pre back-wrapped or wet on wet partially wrapped. As explanation, a pre back-wrapped board includes Parex 121 reinforced base coat on three sides (min. 2 ½" onto back of board, across the edge and onto the face several inches) that has been premade and allowed to dry prior to board installation.

The wet on wet (partially wrapped board) is made as the insulation board is being installed. The backwrap mesh is applied only to the back of the insulation board (min, 2 ½")

embedded in a strip of base coat, but not embedded on the edge or front face yet. Then the adhesive ribbons are applied to the back of the insulation board and it is put in place. The back-wrapping is completed the next day (or after the adhesive has dried) with base coating the edge and face and wrapping the mesh, embedding it in the base coat to complete the backwrap. For this method care must be taken that in the process of completing the backwrap that the base coat applied to the bottom edge of the insulation board does not block the drainage path from behind the insulation board. Sufficient space must also be provided between the EPS termination to be back-wrapped and any flashing to allow application of the base coat on the edge of the insulation board. To alleviate this the back and edge can be base coated/meshed, leaving the tab of mesh for the face loose to be completed once the adhesive has dried.

1. Parex 121 base coat applied on the back of EPS



2. Embed Parex reinforcing mesh on to the wet adhesive a minimum 2½"



3. Embed Parex reinforcing mesh on to the wet adhesive a minimum 2½"



4. Install the EPS board directly to the Parex WeatherSeal Spray and Roll On coated substrate. Take care not to slide the board, press evenly on the substrate



It is important to remember that consecutive boards must be "tied" together where they abut. On the partial wrap method this can be done by leaving one side of the mesh longer than the board; for pre-backwrapped boards a strip of mesh would be attached to the substrate, centered on the butt joint to wrap over the board joint after the boards are installed, to form a splice.

Backwrapping is basic, fundamental detailing for EIFS but very important to do correctly.