EZSHEATH™
STRUCTURAL INSULATED SHEATHING

AIR AND WEATHER BARRIER ASSEMBLY WITH TAPED JOINTS
RESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION GUIDE

General

Optimum performance of EZSHEATH™ Structural Insulated Sheathing (SIS) panels is dependent on 1) selection of the correct product for the assembly or application onto which it is to be attached and 2) following these installation instructions. General rules that apply to both selection and installation include: The framed assembly surface onto which the panels are to be attached must be even and true. EZSHEATH™ is a rigid product and not intended for uneven surfaces. Any deformation of the application surface can result in a weakening of the attachment points and/or cracking of the panels. There should be no voids or gaps in the panel itself, around any objects that penetrate the panel, or at the interface of the panel and framing members.



EZSHEATH™ may be used as structural sheathing in residential applications up to three stories tall. All structural sheathing and proper bracing must meet structural requirements as determined by the structural engineer. EZSHEATH™ is not intended for roof applications. EZSHEATH™ should only be cut with approved/recommended tools to create smooth and square edges for proper panel installation and for the air and weather barrier system. Panels should not be cut with a chainsaw. See Tips and Tricks (Page 8).

Site Preparation and Inspection

Read all installation instructions and data sheets prior to installation. Verify compatibility of adjacent products, such as below-grade waterproofing. Application of the air and water barrier system should occur only after the roof is installed or the back of the wall is otherwise made water-tight to prevent water becoming trapped behind the air and water barrier assembly. Prior to installation, ensure that the substrate and EZSHEATH™ panels are clean, dry, sound, and free of any ice, dirt, oils, release agents, or debris that would prevent proper tape adhesion. Ensure framing is properly constructed and level, and framing members are at least of minimal width. If not part of the installer's responsibility, bring any deficiencies to the attention of the General Contractor in writing for remedy, and do not proceed until corrected.

Complete any inspections of framing and structural components prior to panel installation. Structural components installed on the exterior of the wall assembly will not be visible after panels are installed. Any cross-bracing, hold-downs, or other connectors intended to resist uplift, shear, or diaphragm loading should be installed prior to installing panels. The EZSHEATH™ Air and Weather Barrier System is only approved for 16-inch on-center framing.

Remove any debris or protrusions that might interfere with panel installation. Panels may be installed on the exterior wall before or after wall erection. (Air and weather barrier detailing must occur after the wall is erected and secure.)

Note: these instructions apply to the installation of EZSheath SIS panels when used as simply sheathing and continuous insulation and when used as the sheathing, continuous insulation, and air and weather barrier assembly with taped joints. If EZSheath SIS panels are only needed as an insulation and/or sheathing, follow "Panel Attachment", omit "Air and Weather Barrier Detailing" and continue with "Protection and Repair" and "Tips and Tricks".

Panel Attachment

Best practice includes installation of the EZSHEATH™ panel from bottom to top to ensure “shingle” fashion installation. Regardless of starting point, EZSHEATH™ SIS panels should be installed in a horizontal or vertical orientation, with print facing outward, continuously moving from one location to ensure continuity, adhesion, and accurate fit without damaging the system. **See Figure 1.**

Panels should come together to create a panel joint at outside corners, inside corners, and in-plane seams. Locate panel joints square to framing members. Center joints over framing. Provide any additional framing/blocking as necessary. Panel joints should be no greater than 1/8 inch wide. **See Figure 2.**

Stagger vertical joints a minimum of one stud space from adjacent joints. Board edges shall be butted together tightly and fit around openings and penetrations.

Fasteners for 1/2- and 1-inch-thick panels should be a minimum 0.113-inch diameter 8d common nail (smooth or ring shank), penetrating the SIS panel completely, and a minimum embedment of 1-3/8 inches into wood stud. For 2-inch panels, use a minimum 0.131-inch diameter fastener, and a minimum embedment of 1-1/4 inches into wood stud. Minimize nail gun angle to ensure nail hits the panel inner face a minimum 3/8 inches. Fastener details in accordance with TER 2404-110.

Fasteners may be installed using pneumatic nailer, cordless nail gun, and/or hand driven with a hammer. When pneumatic nailers are used, air pressure should be set to 80 psi to help avoid surface indentations. Hammer any underdriven fasteners flush to the panel surface. Regardless of nailing method, fasteners should be tight and flush to the panel surface and should not create indentations into the SIS panel outer surface or protrude the surface. Indentations at the nail head should be no greater than 3/64 of an inch (1 mm). Fasteners should be spaced in accordance with TER 2404-110. It is recommended to offset nails at panel perimeter joints. **See Figure 2.**

All panels should be installed and fully fastened before beginning air and weather barrier detailing. Install no more than one layer of SIS panels to achieve desired structural and thermal performance. Install maximum size panels to minimize joints.

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



Air and Weather Barrier Detailing

Before installing tape, ensure all EZSHEATH™ panels are installed and fully fastened. Panel surfaces should be clean, dry, sound, and free of any ice, dirt, oils, release agents, or debris that would prevent proper adhesion. **See Figure 6.** Remove any remaining collated-fastener debris at joint and seam locations that could damage tape, and ensure any underdriven fasteners are driven flush. **See Figure 7.**

When EZSHEATH™ panels with taped joints and seams are considered the air and weather barrier (AWB), all flashings should be installed within the same timeframe to ensure air and weather barrier continuity. Tapes should be installed following the roof dry-in phase of construction to prevent moisture issues inside the wall assembly and following the roof and back of wall being made water-tight to prevent trapping water inside the building.

Use only Owens Corning® EasySealR®, JointSealR®, HomeSealR®, and FlashSealR® tapes for joints and seams in the EZSheath™ Air and Weather Barrier Assembly. Do not install system if ice or frost exists on surface, or if rain, snow, wind, or other adverse weather would prevent or threaten correct installation.

Joints and Seams

Install all joint and seam sealing tapes at the time of the rest of the EZSHEATH™ Air and Weather Barrier tapes to ensure air and weather barrier continuity. Owens Corning® EasySealR®, JointSealR®, HomeSealR®, and FlashSealR® are the only acceptable tapes for joints in the EZSHEATH™ Air and Weather Barrier Assembly. Remove any release film from workable length of tape. Center tape over seams. Tape shall overlap seams a minimum 1-3/4 inches on both sides. **See Figure 8.**

Install the tape in a "shingle" fashion to facilitate drainage. Overlap tape splices, intersections, and changes in plane a minimum 2 inches. Continue from bottom to top, around "shingle-lapped" joints until all joints are sealed. Fasteners at panel joints and seams should be fully covered by tape. Fasteners in panel field do not need to be taped.

Sealants and sill gaskets along window openings are not required at spaces beneath this tape system; however, if used, verify compatibility and curing time prior to installation. Ensure only non-solvent-based products are used.

Roll all tape joints and seams with a smooth rubber J-Roller, applying firm and even pressure to activate adhesive and remove air, wrinkles, or "fish-mouths."

FIGURE 6



FIGURE 7





FIGURE 8





Transitions

Outside/Inside Corners **(See Figure 9.)**

Corners must be flashed using Owens Corning® FlashSealR®. EasySealR®, JointSealR®, HomeSealR®, and other tapes cannot be used. Ensure all panel corners meet flush with adjacent panel to prevent “cold corners” and provide thermal continuity. Install corner overlap and meet flush flashing by attaching flashing tape a minimum 3 inches into both faces of sheathing. Remove any release film from workable lengths of tape. It is recommended to start on a single plane using a length of tape that feels manageable. Center tape over all corner seams and overlap a minimum 3 inches on both sides. Exposed panel edges of thermal foam core at all outside corners should be covered with tape as soon as possible and within 60 days. Lap tape intersections a minimum 3 inches. Lap tape changes in plane a minimum 3 inches. Continue from bottom to top, ensuring “shingle-lapped” joints until all corners are sealed. EZSHEATH™ corners should be fully covered by tape.

Overlap tape splices, intersections, and changes in plane a minimum 3 inches. Continue from bottom to top, ensuring “shingle-lapped” joints to facilitate drainage until all corner seams are fully covered by tape.

FIGURE 9



Penetrations

General: Fill any annular space or gaps larger than 3/8 inch wide with backer rod. Sealant is not required at space beneath this tape system; however, if it is used, verify compatibility and curing time prior to installation. Ensure only non-solvent-based products are used. Best practices include cutting penetration openings with hole saws, oscillating tools, jigsaws, or other tools that leave controlled, even edges. See Tips and Tricks (Page 8) for cutting recommendations.

Pipes

Pipe Penetrations may be flashed using only Owens Corning EasySealR®, JointSealR®, HomeSealR®, and FlashSealR® tapes. Ensure EZSHEATH™ panel is butted tightly to pipe around entire circumference. **See Figure 10.**

Tape a minimum 2 inches of pipe protruding from exterior face and 2 inches along exterior face of panel by cutting radiating “fingers” of tape from pipe penetration. **See Figure 10.**

Cover the junction of the taped pipe and "fingers" with tape a minimum of 2 inches from pipe circumference. If more than one piece of tape is used to cover these taped junctions, install tape in a "shingle" fashion, overlapping tape a minimum of 2 inches. **See Figure 11.**

Roll all tape joints with a smooth rubber J-Roller, applying firm and even pressure to activate adhesive and remove any trapped air, wrinkles, or “fish-mouths.”

FIGURE 10

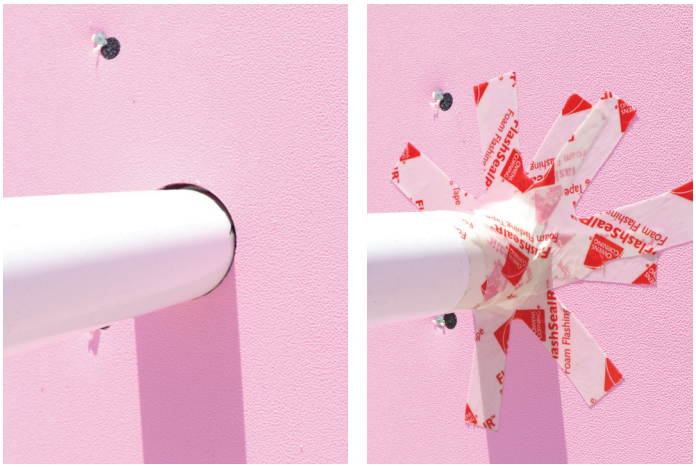
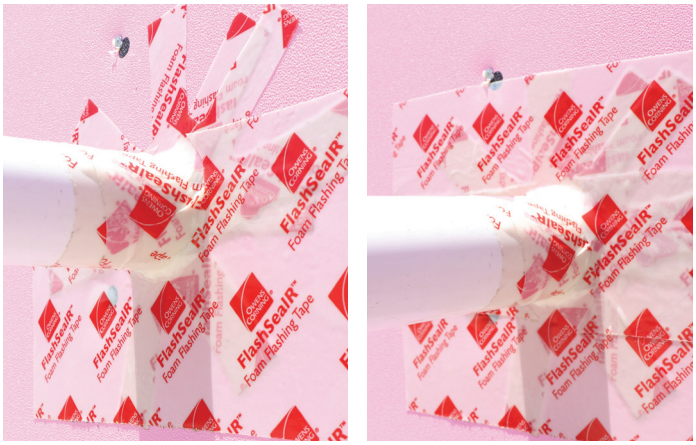


FIGURE 11



Ducts and Junction Boxes

Ducts and Junction Boxes may be flashed using only Owens Corning EasySealR®, JointSealR®, HomeSealR®, and FlashSealR® tapes. Ensure panel is butted tightly to duct or box around entire perimeter of penetration. **See Figure 12.**

Install flashing tape in a "shingle" fashion from bottom to top and properly lap seams. Beginning on bottom surface, tape minimum 2 inches onto face of panel and penetration surface to create change in plane. **See Figure 13.**

Start by smoothly slicing tape parallel to edges of penetration and slightly beyond the corners (tape will stretch a little to cover corner.) Turn up surface of penetration and across face of sheathing. **See Figure 14.**

Repeat process on adjacent vertical sides and ending with horizontal top of penetration, and ensure minimum 2-inch "shingled" laps over previous flashing tape. **See Figures 15 and 16.**

Complete tape flashing at top of penetration by attaching tape as previously described and turning tape onto face of sheathing and face of penetration to create a minimum 2-inch "shingle" lap. **See Figure 16.**

Roll all tape joints and seams with a smooth rubber J-Roller, applying firm and even pressure to activate adhesive and remove any trapped air, wrinkles, or "fish-mouths."

FIGURE 12

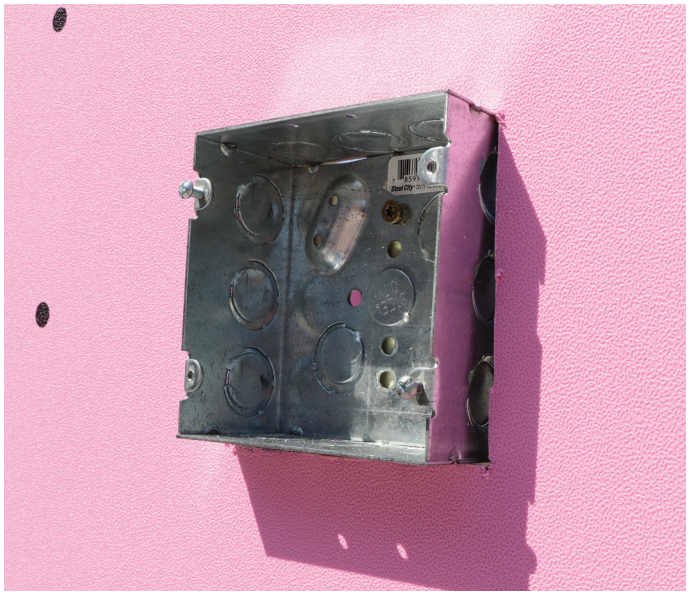


FIGURE 13



FIGURE 14



FIGURE 15



Windows

Ensure panel is tightly butted and flush to framed rough opening. It is required that all window and door openings be flashed using Owens Corning FlashSealR®, EasySealR®, JointSealR®, HomeSealR®, and other tapes cannot be used.

Sealants and sill gaskets along window openings are not required beneath this tape system; however, if used, verify compatibility and curing time prior to installation. Ensure only non-solvent-based products are used.

Best practices include cutting openings with circular saws, oscillating tools, jigsaws, or other tools that leave controlled, even edges. See Tips and Tricks (Page 8) for cutting recommendations.

Flangeless/Punched

Best practice includes beginning flashing tape installation with an extra reinforcing tape joint at the corner transition of both jambs and sill — this is not required but highly recommended.

Install sill flashing tape by attaching tape a minimum 3 inches into horizontal surface of sill and 3 inches on vertical face of sill. **See Figure 17.**

Create transition to change in plane at jamb. Smoothly slice tape parallel to sill beginning slightly beyond the corners of rough opening (tape will stretch a little to cover corner). Turn tape onto jamb of rough opening and across face of panel. Extend flashing tape a minimum 3 inches up the sides to create end dams. **See Figure 18.**

Repeat similar process with both jambs. Extend flashing tape a minimum 3 inches up the side of the jambs beyond the head rough openings. Flash jambs by attaching tape a minimum 3 inches into the vertical surface of the jamb and a minimum 3 inches across the face of the sheathing. Complete by installing flashing tape across head rough opening. Extend head flashing tape a minimum 3 inches beyond jamb flashing tape to create "shingle" laps. **See Figures 19 and 20.**

Transition tape from jamb to sill in a "shingle" fashion by smoothly slicing tape parallel to tape edge and jamb beginning slightly outside corner of window (tape will stretch a little to cover corner). Repeat transition at head. **See Figure 20.**

Repeat flashing at other jamb as described. Complete head transition by attaching flashing a minimum 3 inches on the interior horizontal opening of header and a minimum 3 inches on the exterior face of header surface. Create transition from head to jamb in a "shingle" fashion by smoothly slicing tape parallel to header and tape edge beginning slightly outside corner of window (tape will stretch a little to cover corner) and extending tape a minimum 3 inches across jamb flashing and a minimum 3 inches down jamb flashing.

Roll all taped joints and seams with smooth rubber J-Roller, applying firm and even pressure to activate adhesive and remove any trapped air, wrinkles, or "fish-mouths."

Install any subsequent through-wall head flashing per manufacturer's installation instructions. Tape head flashing or drip caps a minimum 3 inches onto panel surface.

FIGURE 16

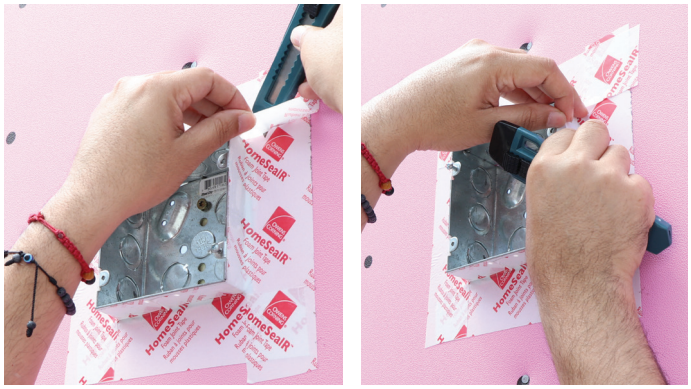


FIGURE 17



FIGURE 18



FIGURE 19



FIGURE 20









Flanged

Best practice includes beginning flashing tape installation with an extra reinforcing tape joint at the corner transition of both jambs and sill — this is not required but highly recommended.

Install sill pan flashing by attaching tape a minimum 3 inches into horizontal surface of sill and 3 inches on vertical face of panel at sill.

Create transition to change in plane at jamb corners by smoothly slicing tape parallel to sill. Start by smoothly slicing tape parallel to sill and slightly beyond the corners of rough opening (tape will stretch a little to cover corner.) Turn tape onto jamb of rough opening and across face of panel. Extend flashing tape a minimum 6 inches up the sides of jambs to create end dams. **See Figure 18.**

Repeat process with both jambs, extending flashing a minimum 6 inches up the side of the jambs.

Roll all taped joints and seams with a smooth rubber J-Roller, applying firm and even pressure to activate adhesive and remove any trapped air, wrinkles, or "fish-mouths."

Install flashing tape on window jamb flanges a minimum 3 inches on either side of flange transition to panel.

Install window as per manufacturer's installation instructions. Verify sealant compatibility prior to installation. Ensure only non-solvent-based products are used.

Once window has been installed per manufacturer's written instructions, flash jambs of window, extending tape a minimum 3 inches on either side of transition of flange to wall and minimum 3 inches over sill flashing at bottom of window, creating a "shingled" lap joint.

Complete by installing flashing tape on window head flange a minimum 3 inches on either side of flange transition to SIS panel. Extend head flashing tape a minimum 3 inches beyond jamb flashing tape to create "shingle" laps.

Complete installation by lapping header flashing a minimum 3 inches across jamb flashings and a minimum 3 inches on either side of flanges and window head surface to create a "shingle" fashion.

Do not install flashing tape at bottom window flange to allow water to drain and avoid trapping moisture.

Install any subsequent through-wall head flashing as per manufacturer's installation instructions. Tape head flashing or drip caps a minimum 3 inches onto panel surface.

Roll all taped joints and seams with a smooth rubber J-Roller, applying firm, even pressure to activate adhesive and remove any trapped air, wrinkles, or "fish-mouths."

Doors

Doors should be flashed similar to flangeless windows as described above with sill dams, through-wall flashing, or other material tied into threshold at jambs in a "shingle" fashion. Roll all tape joints with a J-Roller to remove any trapped air or "fish mouths."

Install door as per manufacturer's installation instructions. Verify sealant compatibility prior to installation. Ensure only non solvent-based products are used.

Install any subsequent through-wall head flashing as per manufacturer's installation instructions. Tape head flashing or drip caps a minimum 3 inches onto panel surface.

Protection and Repair

Cover any small holes, punctures, saw kerfs, and missed stud fasteners using only Owens Corning EasySealR®, JointSealR®, HomeSealR®, and FlashSealR® tapes a minimum of 1-3/4 inches on all sides of penetration. **See Figure 21.**

Protection

Install exterior cladding as soon as possible, best within 90 days. Protect EZSHEATH™ from damage due to weather and physical abuse until protected by permanent construction. Cover dark surfaces as soon as possible to avoid damage due to potential solar heat build-up on the dark surface. Do not permit extruded polystyrene thermal foam core to come into contact with surfaces or temperatures in excess of 165°F. Refer to Owens Corning Technical Bulletin: Heat Buildup Due to Solar Exposure. To protect polystyrene core from solar exposure, tape may be added at locations such as outside corners and openings prior to the rest of the air barrier system being completed.

Tips and Tricks

Cutting Panels

Unlike non-composite XPS boards, EZSHEATH™ is not designed to "score and snap" with a knife or utility blade; it is **required** to cut it with a saw cut with a saw. When cutting panels with a circular saw, a 60-tooth blade helps to increase precise, smooth cuts. **See Figure 22.**

EZSHEATH™ panels should not be cut with a chainsaw or reciprocating saw.

Cutting Pipe Penetrations

When cutting pipe penetrations, hole saws with increased number of teeth can help create more precise openings with smooth annular space. Some saws may create less damage when drilled in reverse with slower pressure. It is recommended to practice cutting a panel on-site until satisfactory prior to cutting actual installed panels. **See Figure 23.**

Spade and paddle style drill bits are not recommended when cutting EZSHEATH™.

Cutting Junction Box/Ductwork/Windows/Doors/ Other Penetrations

When cutting openings, various hand-held power saws or drills may help in creating precise "butting" cuts, including oscillating tools, jigsaws, routers, and small circular saws. Finer toothed blades or routers help to create smoother edges. **See Figure 24.**

Windows and other openings flush with EZSHEATH™ and framing may be cut using approved tools after panel is attached.

TOOLS TO USE	TOOLS NOT TO USE
Circular saw with 60-tooth blade	Chainsaw
Router with adequate cutting length panel pilot bit or standard pilot bit (pre-drill to start)	Reciprocating saw/Sawzall/scroll saw
Fine-tooth hole saw	Spade/paddle-style drill bits
Fine drill bits	
Oscillating tool	

FIGURE 21



FIGURE 22



FIGURE 23



FIGURE 24



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