

Are all housewraps created equal

The short answer is no. But they all have to pass identical standards in order to be CCMC certified for sale in Canada. In the eyes of the building inspection community if it is CCMC certified, it is approved. Buying housewrap is a lot like buying a car. All of the models perform the same function just slightly differently. Is one better than the other? It is all in the eyes of the purchaser. Is a luxury automobile better than an economy car? Yes, but with a higher price tag. Both get the essential job done

WRB's – Weather Resistive Barrier

WRBs are primarily intended to provide resistance to bulk water (rain) that may penetrate the outer cladding. WRBs are integrated with flexible flashings at penetrations to provide additional water resistance and a positive connection to all penetrating items. A WRB is typically not accessible and is expected along with flashings to remain functional for the life of the building wall system. There are numerous types of WRBs including, asphalt felt, building paper, housewraps, liquid applied WRBs, rigid foam, Zip system sheathing.

History of HOUSEWRAP

The energy crisis of the 1970's spawned a number of building energy conservation products. Originally designed for their energy saving properties they were subsequently tested for water resistance in order to obtain equivalency for building code approval as a weather resistive barrier (WRB). Prior to the introduction of polymer housewraps, felt paper and building paper were the only products approved. The building code equivalency standards are based on the characteristics of felt paper and building paper.

What is HOUSEWRAP?

Like a windbreaker jacket you zip up on a chilly day, housewrap is a protective barrier against the elements. Installed behind an exterior cladding, they protect an exterior wall from exposure to water that penetrates the exterior covering, and prevent air leakage in a building while allowing the wall to breath.

Why use a HOUSEWRAP?

First and foremost because a WRB is required by the building code and housewraps offer the best combination of performance and cost of any WRB. As well, housewraps enhance the heating and cooling efficiency of a building by controlling air leakage and infiltration. They improve the quality of indoor air by blocking external pollutants from odors to biological contaminants. Housewraps protect the wall system from water and moisture damage, which could potentially lead to mold or mildew or even rot and degradation of wall system materials.

IS HOUSEWRAP an air barrier?

Housewraps protect buildings from drafts, conditioned-air leakage, and water. All housewraps function as air retardants and control air leaks through wall systems. Some housewraps, like HomeGuard Titan meet the requirements for an Air Barrier Material (0.02 L/s·m² @ 75 Pa OR 0.004 cfm/ft² @ 1.57psi). Housewraps that do qualify as air barrier materials must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in order to perform as required.

How does a HOUSEWRAP work?

Housewraps resist bulk water penetration resulting from wind-driven rain that penetrates the exterior cladding and can ultimately migrate into a well-built wall cavity. Housewraps enable walls to dry out by allowing moisture vapor to escape when liquid water evaporates. Housewrap also decreases air infiltration into the wall cavity. This allows the insulation to function properly by trapping air and creating a dead air space.

Why is it important for walls to breathe?

Any moisture that is trapped in wall assembly must have the chance to escape, otherwise rot and mold occur. Moisture in a wall assembly can come from a number of sources. It can be present in the sheathing and framing lumber prior to housewrap installation, from a break in the WRB, or vapor condensation.

Can you use HOUSEWRAPS under any exterior facade?

Housewraps are used under most exterior cladding materials. In fact, the International Building, Residential and Energy Codes require the use of a water-resistive barrier (Housewrap or felt building paper) in exterior walls. Most housewraps are not appropriate for all exterior facades, but HomeGuard HP Plus housewrap is specified and approved for use behind EIFS, stucco, cement, hardboard, vinyl, wood siding, brick and stone veneer. Use under stucco and brick veneers requires a two-layer system consisting of any combination of 2 layers of housewrap or building paper.

Do HOUSEWRAPS really improve the energy efficiency of the building?

Yes. The average 2500 square foot house (232m²) has more than ½ mile (806m) of cracks and crevices, which are open to wind and wind driven rain. A properly installed Housewrap system, which includes proper flashing and seals, will vastly improve the overall thermal efficiency and performance of the building's wall system.

Do HOUSEWRAPS have an R-value?

Housewraps have no intrinsic R-value. However, they enhance the thermal performance of a wall system by reducing air leakage in the wall system.

How does HOUSEWRAP differ from Grade D building paper?

Most commercially available polymeric Housewraps are highly moisture-resistant and therefore do not absorb water like typical Grade D or felt building papers. Polyolefin Housewraps are typically stronger than Grade D or felt building papers, thus they tend to have better durability than conventional building papers (paper-based) or felt building paper.

Will using HOUSEWRAP prevent mold growth?

Housewraps that are made from a plastic or spun-fiber polyethylene textile material, like HomeGuard Housewraps, are recognized as not providing a food source for fungus, mold, mildew or insects. Furthermore, Housewrap will block rain from soaking the walls and it is breathable to allow moisture vapor to escape. The ability to breathe is what allows the wall cavity to dry thoroughly and inhibits the growth of mold.

Are there different types of housewrap?

Yes. Housewraps can be woven or non-woven, perforated or non perforated, translucent or opaque, UV Resistant or not. It is important to choose the correct housewrap material for the correct job.

Every manufacturer makes claims about their housewrap and compares certain specifications. How do you make sense of this?

All housewraps must pass the same CCMC standards for breather type sheathing membranes and optionally the CCMC standards for air barrier material. The standards for breather type sheathing membranes are based on building paper specifications. The testing methods used are not consistent as there are multiple approved tests. All testing is done by accredited testing agencies and the results just need to pass regulatory approval. Today's materials easily exceed these specifications leading to the wide range of claims made by the manufacturers.

What are the primary differences between housewraps?

There are 2 primary differences, the type of base material and how they achieve permeability. The base material will be either a woven fabric or a non woven fabric. Permeability is achieved using either micro perforations or a breathable membrane.

Is housewrap an environmentally friendly product?

Ecological accountability concerns everyone in every industry. HomeGuard housewrap is an ecologically friendly choice for several reasons.

- Controls Air Leakage
- LEED Home Green Building
- Protects Indoor Air Quality
- Recyclable

What does it all mean?

All housewraps sold in Canada must meet CCMC standards. Claims made of one being better than another are as much about marketing as about reality. The reality is that plywood, OSB, and CGSB poly have a perm rating of less than 1. They will retard moisture vapor migration through your wall assembly. Any perm rating higher than building paper (5 perms) will allow your wall to breathe properly and prevent rot and mold. All have passed water ponding tests that ensure bulk water will not penetrate through the housewrap within a reasonable time frame. Proper construction techniques and workmanship are extremely important especially around doors and windows. Good wall design and proper flashing is more important than the choice of housewrap.

What is important?

What is important to the contractor/installer is how the product feels and handles in real world job site conditions, not in a laboratory setting. Does it go up on the wall easily, does it resist blow offs, and is it cost effective. HomeGuard has different products and price points to meet all customer requirements.

One other benefit of housewrap which is not performance related is the advertising benefits. Essentially housewrap is "billboard on a roll" and "free advertising". This aspect of selling housewrap sales should not be under rated. HomeGuard offers a one pallet minimum for private label, no plate charges, and fast turnaround times.

Why choose HomeGuard Housewrap?

We offer a complete solution to protecting the building envelop from weather elements.

- Products to meet all market demands from one source
- Longest and most inclusive warranty in the industry
- All Canadian code compliant
- Custom imprinting with short lead times and low minimums
- Widest range of roll sizes, length and width
- Shipping points in Winnipeg, MB

HomeGuard Housewrap Family

HomeGuard Housewrap – a value priced woven, micro perforated, high quality poly olefin housewrap

HomeGuard Titan Protective Housewrap- a mid priced high perm, non woven, non perforated housewrap

HomeGuard Titan Drainage Wrap – for the most rigorous applications.

HomeGuard Arctic Flash Window and Door Flashing and Tape – an all-weather flashing for all the finishing details.
Can be installed to -28C with no primer required

Custom Imprinting = Free Advertising

** Let HomeGuard Housewrap advertise for you. Turn your next sale into a billboard that creates future sales, all at no additional charge