

# 3M™ Vapour Permeable Air Barrier 3015VP Installation Guidelines

Technical Bulletin

June 2017

## Introduction

3M™ Vapour Permeable Air Barrier 3015VP with high performance 3M™ Acrylic Adhesive, adheres on contact to most exterior sheathing, concrete, masonry, wood and more. For installation and flexibility, it can be applied without priming, torching or asphalt mess.

Can be applied in temperature as low as -18°C to 66°C (0°F to 150°F) helping to extend the building season. 3M™ Vapour Permeable Air Barrier 3015VP resists UV exposure for up to twelve months.

## Installation Best Practices

### Substrate Information and Surface Preparation

3M™ Vapour Permeable Air Barrier 3015VP can be applied to a wide variety of sheathing substrates, typically without priming. Substrate condition is crucial to the adhesion performance of any adhesive membrane. Substrate surfaces must be free of grease, oil, un-bonded paint, corrosion or other substrates that would adversely affect the adhesive bond between the membrane and substrate. For optimum performance, substrate surface must be dry to the touch with the ambient temperature above -18°C to 66°C (0°F to 150°F). Additionally, consider the following for success with specific surfaces:

- Exterior gypsum sheathing shall have moisture content below 19% with no open joints or cracks wider than 1.27 cm (½ inch).
- Plywood substrates shall have moisture content below 16% with no open joints or cracks wider than 1.27 cm (½ inch).
- Concrete substrates shall have fins ground flush and void areas filled. Masonry substrates must have mortar joints struck flush.
- Fill gaps and cracks exceeding 6.35 mm (¼ inch) width with 3M™ Polyurethane Sealant 540 (or similar), and tool the surface flush and smooth.
- Fill gaps exceeding 1.27 cm (½ inch) width with closed cell foam backer rod, seal with 3M™ Polyurethane Sealant 540 (or similar), and tool the surface flush and smooth.

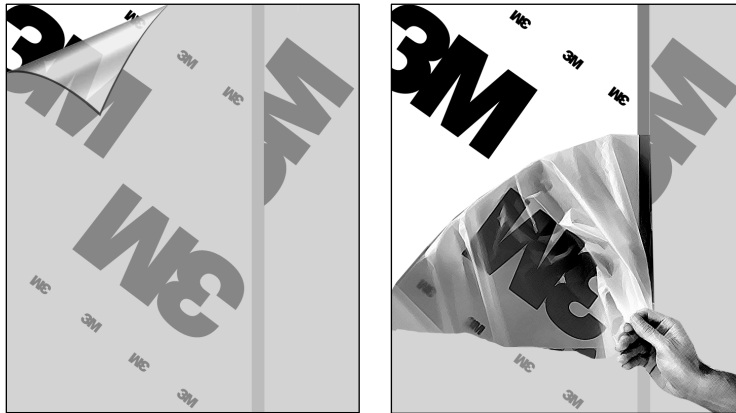
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**Application  
Techniques**

**Wall Application**

3M™ Vapour Permeable Air Barrier 3015VP is wound with the adhesive on the outside surface of the roll to accommodate easy installation. After removing the roll from the box, remove the plastic wrap on the roll to expose the adhesive. Align the roll on the wall and ensure the leading edge is tacked to the wall. Unwind the roll along the wall in a continuous motion to install the membrane.

After the strip of membrane is applied to the wall, roll with a rubber roller to ensure a tight, secure bond. **Remove the clear poly liner from the white backing** before installing the next strip.



*Remove the protective film covering the red 3M logo protection barrier.*

While the membrane may be applied horizontally or vertically, horizontal installation is preferred. Best practice includes a “weatherboard” or “shingle fashion,” starting with the first strip of membrane across the bottom of the wall. Moving up the wall, placing the next strip higher and overlapping the previous strip by 5.08 cm (2 inches).

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**Penetration  
Areas**

Window and door penetrations can be detailed pre or post-installation of the membrane. Pre-installation, however, is recommended. All penetrations, including windows and doors, must be installed in proper sequence for appropriate moisture management. 3M recommends using either 3M™ Air Barrier and Vapour Barrier 3015, 3M™ Through Wall Flashing 3015TWF or 3M™ All Weather Flashing Tape 8067 for flashing and detail work. Penetrations should be additionally sealed with 3M™ Polyurethane Sealant 540 (or similar) to achieve a weather-tight result.

Vertical seams should be staggered from floor to floor, or separated by a horizontally applied strip of 3M™ Vapour Permeable Air Barrier 3015VP.

For best air barrier membrane performance, roll the membrane with a rubber roller to ensure a tight seal against the wall and between overlapped edges. Best practice methods recommend sealing the leading edge of the membrane at the end of each work day. 3M recommends the use of 3M™ Polyurethane Sealant 540 (or similar) to seal any exposed leading edge. Smooth the bead to the surface to avoid creating areas where water may collect.

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**Technical Information**

The technical information, recommendations and other statements contained in this document are based upon tests or experience that 3M believes are reliable, but the accuracy or completeness of such information is not guaranteed.

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