Flashing Window Openings with Wall Membrane

This guide details an acceptable method of flashing a window opening utilizing the wall membrane as the flashing material. This method is acceptable for both 3M™ Air and Vapor Barrier 3015 and 3M™ Air Barrier with Permeable Backing 3015VP wall systems.

1. Apply a horizontal row of wall membrane, keeping it the same distance above the window sill as the depth of the window frame.

2. Cut the wall membrane flush on either side of the window opening, then fold over to cover the sill with the membrane.

3. If you are using 3M™ Air Barrier with Permeable Backing 3015VP on the walls, be sure to remove the liner before applying your next layer of tape.

4. Apply a piece of 3M™ Ultra Conformable Flashing Tape 3015UC flush with top edge of the wall membrane, extending at least 2" onto the sill.

5. Apply the next row of wall membrane, wrapping around the window frame.

6. Apply the next row of wall membrane covering the top of the window opening.

Steps continued on next page.
3M™ Air Barrier Products Installation Best Practices

3M™ Air Barrier Products 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 Surface Requirements
- Substrate surfaces must be free of grease, oil, un-bonded paint, corrosion or other substances that would adversely affect the adhesive bond between the membrane and substrate
- Substrate surface must be dry to the touch for optimum performance
- Ambient temperature must be between 0°F and 150°F (-18°C and 66°C)
- Rolls must be stored at a temperature between 0°F and 150°F (-18°C and 66°C) to ensure initial bond performance

Surface Preparation
- Fill gaps and cracks exceeding 1/4" but less than 1/2" width with 3M™ Polyurethane Adhesive Sealant 540 (or similar), and tool the surface flush and smooth
- Fill gaps exceeding 1/2" width with closed cell foam backer rod, seal with 3M™ Polyurethane Adhesive Sealant 540 (or similar), and tool the surface flush and smooth
- Concrete substrates shall have fins ground flush and void areas filled
- Masonry substrates must have mortar joints struck flush

Substrate Specific Guidelines
- Exterior gypsum sheathing shall have moisture content below 19%
- Plywood sheathing shall have moisture content below 16%

Learn about 3M’s advanced technologies for controlling airflow and optimizing the indoor climate at 3M.com/airbarrier or contact your 3M representative at 866-513-4026.