

Breathable Roofing Underlayment's and PBS SIPs

One of the many benefits of building with PBS SIPs is speed of construction. Speed of roof installation is especially beneficial in climates where precipitation is prevalent. However, precipitation during installation of roof panels and roofing materials should be properly addressed. The proper construction methodology and sequencing for the installation of roofing assemblies is to allow the OSB to dry adequately prior to the installation of the roofing underlayment.

When and if these conditions present themselves on your project, you may want to consider the use of a synthetic, breathable roofing underlayment as an alternative to traditional 15# or 30# roofing felts underneath the final roof covering. Breathable roofing underlayment's have perm ratings much greater than one. These materials allow water vapor to pass through the membrane yet restrict the bulk water movement back through the membrane toward the OSB skin of the SIP roof panel.

The idea behind this concept is to allow water that maybe trapped in the OSB to pass though the synthetic roofing underlayment as a vapor and once on the exterior side of the membrane it can eventually evaporate or condensate on the underside of the roofing material and run off the roof.

There any many manufactures of breathable underlayment's in North America. A quick internet search will turn up manufactures and suppliers available to supply your project. Be sure to check with the manufacture of the breathable underlayment for the perm rating of the underlayment and to see if there are any compatibility issues with asphalt shingles or the finished roof covering material you are using on your project.