

POSITION PAPER

JUNE 2022

air barrier
abaa
association of
america

STOP WATER FROM GETTING INTO YOUR WALLS DURING CONSTRUCTION!

PART 2: PROTECTION OF THE BACK-SIDE OF THE PARAPET

MISSING MEMBRANE

The top of the parapet should be protected by a membrane, as outlined in Position Paper #1.

CORRECT

Figure 1 - Note the transition at floor to backside of parapet.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE BACK-SIDE OF THE PARAPET?

As outlined in ABAA Position Paper # 1 (Protection of the top of CMU from water ingress), there are additional strategies that should be undertaken to protect other ways liquid water can enter the wall assembly.

One of these conditions is the intersection between the roof decking and the backside of the parapet, along with the backside of the parapet itself.

The intent of these strategies is to protect the air barrier once it is installed on the wall, or to ensure proper conditions of the substrate to ensure their performance at time of application. If not properly overseen, you may see things such as a water-based fluid applied system re-emulsify, blister and delaminate from the substrate. Self adhered systems can also completely delaminate and form blisters from loss of adhesion.

REVIEW POSITION PAPER PART #1 ON STOPPING WATER FROM GETTING INTO YOUR WALLS DURING CONSTRUCTION



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- **Discuss this at Mandatory Pre-Construction Meetings**

This should be an agenda item to review with the construction team and outline how this is to be executed, responsibilities and on-going review of the substrate.

- **During Construction**

STEP 1: It is recommended that the air barrier contractor, general contractor or roofer seal the intersection between the roof deck and parapet as demonstrate in FIGURE #1.

STEP2: It is recommended that the air barrier contractor, general contractor or roofer seal the backside of the parapet with a vapor permeable material as demonstrate in FIGURE #2.

CORRECT

FIGURE 2 - Protect the entire back side of the parapet with a vapor permeable building wrap.



WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF YOU DO NOT PROTECT THE BACKSIDE OF THE PARAPET? SEE FIGURE 4 & 5.

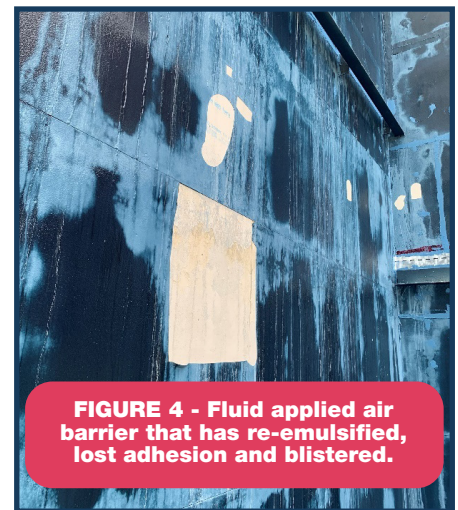


FIGURE 4 - Fluid applied air barrier that has re-emulsified, lost adhesion and blistered.

PLASTIC SHEET

FIGURE 3 - Protection with a plastic sheet is NOT RECOMMENDED as this is vapor impermeable.

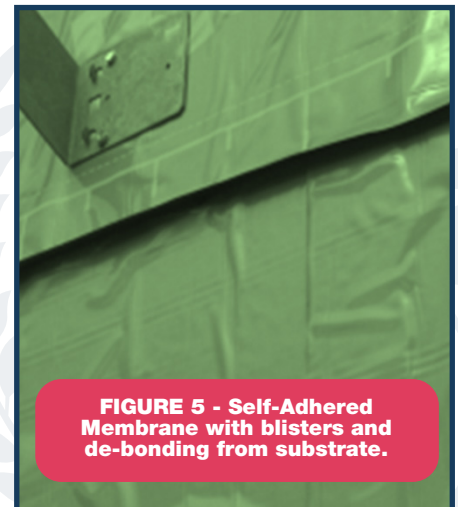


FIGURE 5 - Self-Adhered Membrane with blisters and de-bonding from substrate.

CONCLUSION

There are a number of ways that water can get into the wall cavities. Protecting the walls from moisture during construction is the most effective means in preventing damage to the installed air barrier. This includes protection to the backside of the parapet, floor-to-wall interface AND covering the top of the CMU.

Proceeding with the installation of the air barrier assembly when walls have NOT been protected from moisture ingress from above is taking a huge gamble on the performance and durability of the installed system.