

Weather-Resistant Barrier Statement

Vinyl siding provides a supplemental rain screen that enhances the weather-resistant exterior wall system by reducing the amount of water that reaches the underlying weather-resistant barrier. Because of its design and application, vinyl siding allows the material underneath it to breathe, helping to keep the structure of the home or building safer and healthier.

A weather-resistant exterior wall system is defined as a system that includes water shedding materials and water diversion materials. The exterior wall system commonly consist of a combination of exterior cladding such as vinyl siding, flashed wall openings and penetrations, weather resistant barrier material, and sheathing. Effective exterior wall systems will shed the water initially, control moisture flow by capillary and diffusion action, and minimize absorption into the wall structure. The weather resistance requirement is determined by the applicable building code and climate.

Requirement: 2004 International Residential Code (IRC) Supplement

To achieve designed performance and to comply with the IRC, vinyl siding must be installed over a weather resistant barrier system that includes both:

- A continuous weather resistant material complying with ASTM D226 or other approved weather-resistant material, and
- A properly integrated flashing around all penetrations where vinyl siding interfaces with other building products such as brick, stone, or stucco.

Refer to VSI's "Vinyl Siding Installation Manual" (www.vinylsiding.org/install/guide.pdf) which is based in part on ASTM D4756, Standard Practice for Installation of Rigid Poly (Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Siding and Soffit or the manufacturer's installation manual for specific product applications and recommendations. Any product(s) used as part of a weather-resistant exterior wall system should meet the applicable code. Contact the manufacturer of the weather resistant barrier material(s) to ask about building codes.

Always consult the applicable building code for minimum weather barrier requirements in a given area. Note that additional measures may provide increased protection against water intrusion than the minimum requirements of the building code.

For more information visit www.vinylsiding.org or call Kisha Riddick at VSI at (202) 587-5106.

The Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc., is located at the National Housing Center in Washington, DC, and represents manufacturers of vinyl siding and suppliers to the vinyl siding industry.