

## Maximum Spacing for ZIP System® Sheathing and ZIP System® R-sheathing Panels

### ZIP System sheathing

ZIP System® sheathing should be installed in accordance to the ZIP System sheathing installation instructions and per ESR-1474. The installation instructions recommend that all ZIP System sheathing panels be installed with a minimum 1/8" gap between square edges (4' ends of the panel) of all adjacent panels in accordance with industry standards for wood structural panel sheathing installation. The long dimension (8' ends of the panel) of the ZIP System sheathing panels has a self-spacing profiled edge to achieve the recommended minimum 1/8" spacing. When spacing the ZIP System sheathing panels during installation, it is recommended not to space the panels more than 1/2".

### ZIP System R-sheathing

ZIP System® R-sheathing panels should be installed in accordance to the ZIP System R-sheathing installation instructions and per ESR-3373. The installation instructions recommend that all ZIP System R-sheathing panels be installed with factory foam edges touching, which provides adequate gapping for the ZIP System sheathing layer. R-Sheathing will have approximately a 1/16"-1/8" foam overhang located on two of its four panel edges. When possible, panels should be installed with factory foam edges touching, which provides adequate gapping for the ZIP System sheathing layer. Please coordinate panel field placement and orientation in order to take advantage of this gapping feature. In situations where R-Sheathing panels are cut to fit areas smaller than the full panel size, the 1/16"-1/8" foam overhang is not always retained. Small panel segments can be installed regardless of the foam insulation orientation without significantly affecting the thermal performance of the wall assembly.

### Over Gapping Solutions

#### Gaps up to 1/2"

For panel seam gaps that are 1/2" or less, use ZIP System flashing tape as described in the installation manual, ESR-1474 or ESR-3373. The maximum gap ZIP System flashing tape can span without support is 1/2" and the maximum gap ZIP System liquid flash can span without support is 1/4".

#### Gaps greater than 1/2"

For panel seams that exceed 1/2" in width, ensure the panels are continuously backed with framing for perimeter fastening of the panels, and please see the following recommendations:

- 1) **Backer Rod:** If gaps are between 1/2" and 5/8" in width, it is recommended to install a foam backer rod or low expanding foam in the gap and then flush the foam to the panel's surface. Please refer to proper installation steps shown later in this tech tip for each method.
- 2) **Filler Strip:** If gaps are greater than 5/8" in width, it is recommended that these gaps are filled with strips of ZIP System sheathing. Ensure a 1/8" gap is achieved between the filler strip and the existing panels. Please refer to proper installation steps shown later in this tech tip.
- 3) **Low-expanding Foam:** If gaps are greater than 1/2" in width with ZIP System R-sheathing, another option to help add R-value is to fill the gap with low expanding spray foam insulation.

Please refer to proper installation steps shown later in this tech tip.

- 4) **Alternative:** Remove existing ZIP System sheathing panels or ZIP System R-sheathing and replace with new panels ensuring gaps do not exceed 1/2 inch.

**\*Note:**

- If new fasteners penetrate existing tape, new ZIP System flashing tape should be installed over the existing tape.
- Ensure ZIP System flashing tape at panel seams achieves a minimum 1" of contact on green overlay surface of both panels. It may be necessary to use one piece of 6" ZIP System flashing tape or multiple pieces of overlapping 3.75" ZIP System flashing tape.
- ZIP System flashing tape should be applied over all panel seams.

**Backer Rod**

Step 1: Insert the appropriately sized backer rod into the gap. When using backer rod the gap should not be larger 5/8". For gaps between 5/8"-1" refer to the filler strip or low expanding spray foam sections.



Step 2: Install the ZIP System flashing tape or ZIP System liquid flash over the backer rod. Ensuring a minimum of 1-inch of coverage is achieved on to the ZIP System sheathing panels on either side of the joint.



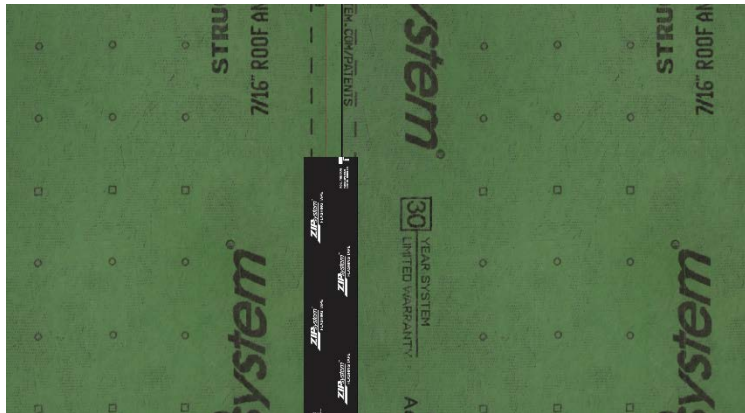
**\*Pro Tip:** when using ZIP System liquid flash, install a bead into the groove over the backer rod and then apply a bead on either side of the joint to ensure proper mil thickness and width of ZIP System liquid flash.

## Filler Strips

Step 1: Install the ZIP System sheathing as a filler strip between the over gapped panels. Ensure a minimum of a 1/8" gap is achieved at all panel edges.



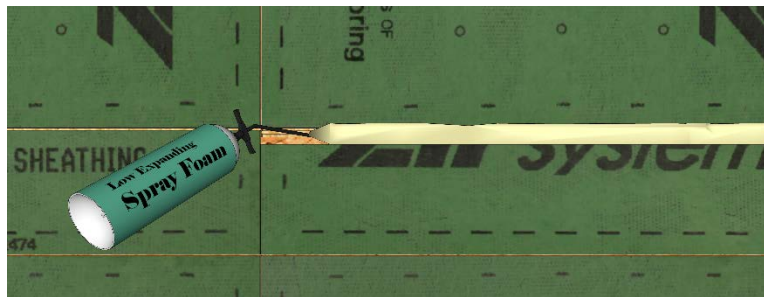
Step 2: Install the ZIP System flashing tape or ZIP System liquid flash over the filler strip. Ensuring a minimum of 1-inch of coverage is achieved on to the ZIP System sheathing or ZIP System R-sheathing panels on either side of the joint.



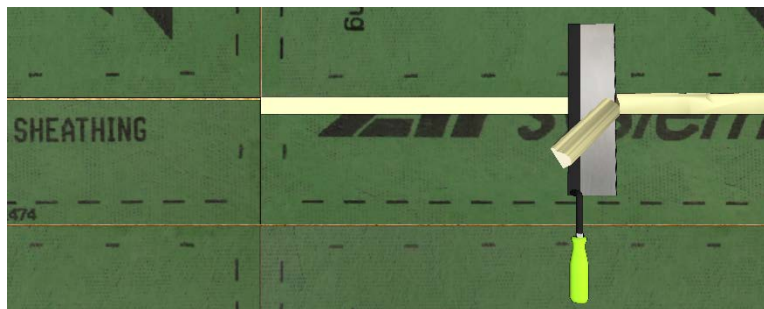
## Low-Expanding Foam

Step 1: Ensure the ZIP System R-sheathing panels are free of any dirt or debris and there is solid framing for the low-expanding spray foam. The framing will provide the required surface for the low-expanding spray foam to adhere. Fill the gap with the low-expanding spray foam and let it fully cure per the manufacturer's written instructions. The cure time should be found on the low-expanding spray foam can.

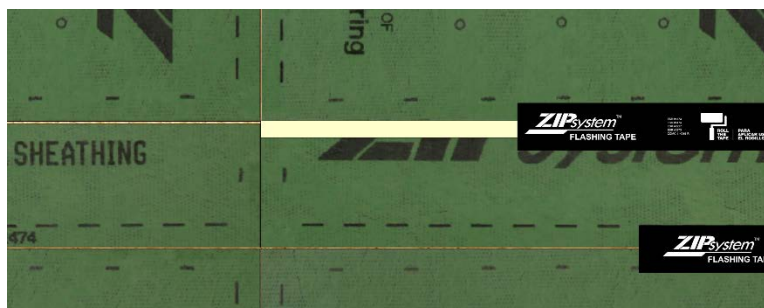
Pro Tip: Do not modify the nozzle provided by the low-expanding spray foam manufacturer unless otherwise instructed as this can lead to a mis-installation of the low-expanding spray foam.



Step 2: Once fully cured, use a saw or utility blade to cut the low-expanding spray foam flush to the surface of the ZIP System sheathing panels.



Step 3: Install the ZIP System flashing tape or ZIP System liquid flash over the low-expanding spray foam. Ensuring a minimum of 1-inch of coverage is achieved on to the ZIP System sheathing panels on either side of the joint.



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