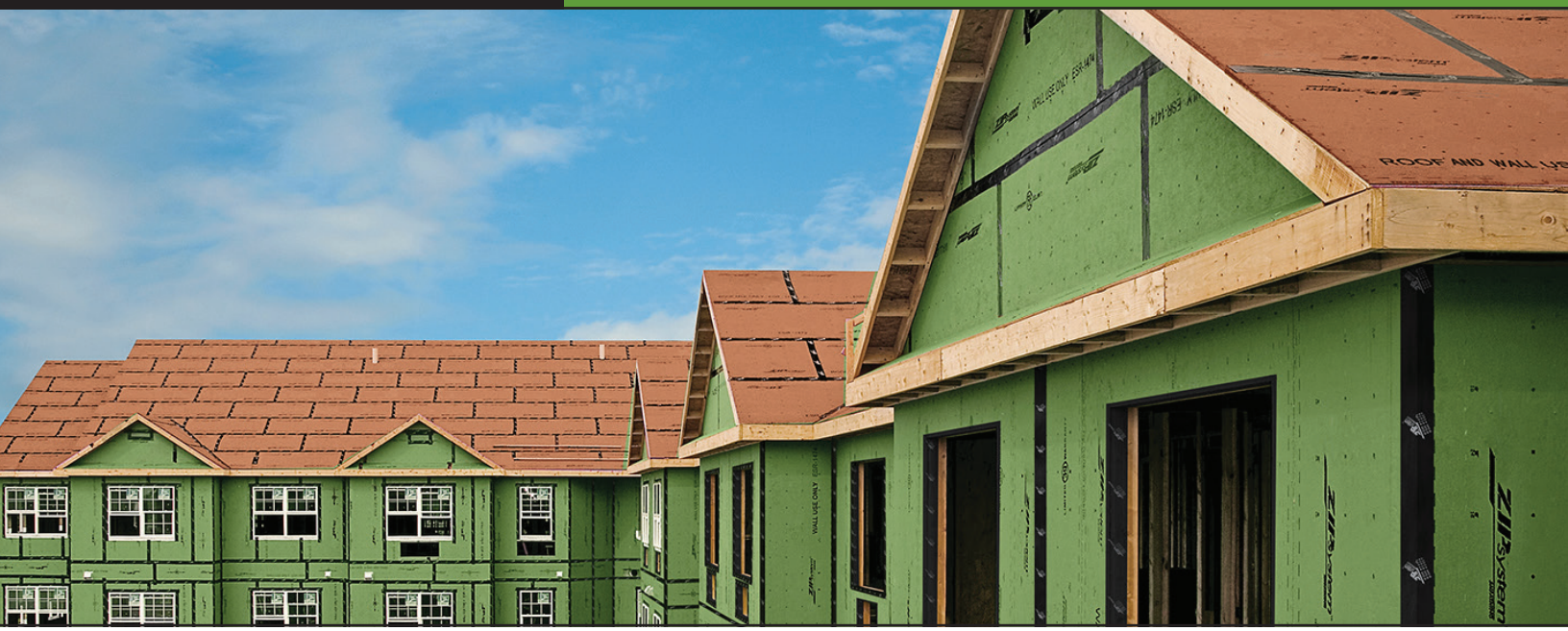
ZIPsystem™
SHEATHING & TAPE

WHITE PAPER: PROTECTING HOMES IN HIGH WIND ZONES WITH RESILIENT ROOF PRODUCTS & PRACTICES



Weather can be unpredictable, but how well your home stands up during a storm doesn't have to be. Storm season is a relative term, but many Americans have a heightened awareness at certain times of the year. Real estate research firm RealtyTrac found that 29% of single family homes and condos with a combined estimated market value of $4.7 trillion are in counties with a high or very high risk for hurricanes.[1]

According to the National Weather Service, the Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June 1 - Nov. 30, while the Pacific's stretches a bit longer, from May 15 - Nov. 30. Inland storm seasons, including tornadoes and cyclones, vary by region. In Southern states, it's usually March to May. In the Southern Plains, it can last from May to early June. In the Northern Plains and upper Midwest, peak tornado season is in June or July.[2]

Any homeowner in areas at risk for damaging storms can benefit from taking measures to increase their home's resiliency--the ability to make a home inhabitable after a natural disaster. In fact, many builders in high-wind zone areas are now building to higher standards to help their customers withstand natural disasters.

One such standard is the FORTIFIED Home™ program, designed by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS). It provides step-by-step resiliency building methods, based on extensive disaster simulation testing. Homes built to FORTIFIED Home standards are designated at a bronze, silver or gold level. The designation gives homeowners not only peace of mind, it can also significantly reduce their home insurance premiums.

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> - TODD PIPER, Builder

Todd Piper, owner of Tidal Wave Construction in Carolina Beach, N.C., builds all his homes to FORTIFIED Home standards.

"It's not that much more difficult to build to FORTIFIED Home standards, and the end product is so much better," Piper says. "In the overall scheme, the cost is negligible. In my experience, it adds a nominal cost to building and investments may be returned in lower insurance costs and ongoing energy savings."

In a hurricane-simulated test,[3] IBHS used ZIP System™ tape to seal the roof deck and protect it from extensive waterdamage through the panel seams. In the test, researchers built a 1,300-square-foot, single-story duplex with construction features common in many hurricane-prone areas. One side of the duplex included a sealed roof deck using ZIP System™ tape, the other test home had a traditional roof deck without tape at the panel seams. Testing included prolonged exposure to high winds and rain typical of a hurricane. The structure sustained extensive damage, with water cascading into the home. With such damage, it may not be habitable for months. The sealed side had very minimal water leakage and virtually no damage inside. The results demonstrated installing a sealed roof deck with a strong acrylic tape like ZIP System™ tape can dramatically reduce water intrusion during a storm and reduce the amount of costly damage and time it takes to make the home inhabitable again.

ZIP System tape is a critical component in an innovative roof deck and exterior wall product system manufactured by Huber Engineered Woods LLC. ZIP System® sheathing and tape is an all-in-one solution incorporating taped panel seams and an integrated water-resistive barrier that eliminates the need for housewrap. ZIP System roof sheathing and tape help reduce air leakage and help protect homes from damaging moisture intrusion on the roof, particularly in storm-risk areas susceptible to wind-driven rain.

As a FORTIFIED Homes builder, Piper says one thing that sets him apart is that he's adopted ZIP System sheathing and tape for all roof and wall applications. "It differentiates me from other builders. Only the best builders use this product."

"The idea behind using ZIP System sheathing and tape on a roof is that during high winds, even with the loss of shingles or other roof covering, the house is built with added protection against water penetration," he added.

Another reason Piper uses ZIP System sheathing and tape is to compensate for what he calls "worker skill inefficiencies."

"Oftentimes, properly taping and sealing the house wrap to prevent moisture from damaging the structure isn't completed with the greatest attention to detail. At the beach, especially, high winds are the rule, not the exception. As a result, the high winds will always drive water past your external siding. If the house wrap isn't applied properly, it allows water to get behind the house wrap and affect the structure of the house."

Piper says that in his experience and opinion, ZIP System sheathing and tape is the best exterior roof and wall system on the market. "I believe, it's better than any house wrap system out there. The ease of simply installing the tape over the seams takes away all question of whether water is going to get past the exterior barrier. It's very simple."

Wind-driven water by hurricanes causes catastrophic damage each year. ZIP System sheathing and tape can go a long way to keeping wind and water out of a home during a storm.

"The end goal is if a storm comes through it's not catastrophic," Piper says. "You sweep off your lawn, you put new shingles on your roof, but you're not having to move out of your home."

For more information on ZIP System sheathing and tape, visit ZIPSystem.com. Or visit DisasterSafety.org, to learn more about the FORTIFIED Home™ program.

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ZIPsystem™ SHEATHING & TAPE

1. www.realtytrac.com/news/realtytrac-reports/realtytrac-2015-u-s-natural-disaster-housing-risk-report/
2. http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS4kTWDeHOY