Quick Reference Guide

March 2024
Version 24.0

Chapter 12 – Air Sealing (Poly)

Installing Poly Vapor Barrier General Poly Installation Rules	1. Install vapor barrier on main floor only 2. Minimize staples. 3. Tape holes and seams with air sealing tape 4. All poly overlaps must cover two studs or trusses 5. Before stapling at corners: a. Tuck poly TIGHT INTO corners - NO AIR GAPS or "stretched" corners but a nice 90-degree crease formed into corner b. Verify poly is not bunched up (especially at ceiling/wall corners) c. Staple corners with hand stapler tight to corner 6. Use nominal 12' poly for ceiling: 8' poly for walls 7. Install all ceiling poly before installing wall poly 8. After installing poly, cut an X across electrical box corners and push poly up ½' around box
Installing Ceiling Poly In Bedrooms and Bathrooms Installing Ceiling Poly in Kitchen/Living Rooms	9. Install bedrooms and kitchen/living room areas 1st (before bathroom) 10. Create a chalk reference line on bottom of trusses @ room center 11. Measure room width (parallel to the trusses). Cut poly 1' longer 12. Determine best poly orientation for poly reference: a. if > 10' wide, mark a reference line across entire poly width @ middle of sheet (@ 1/2 its length) b. if < 10', no reference line is required c. if >10' wide, rotate to align reference lines: if < 10', align center fold to chalk line 13. Begin installation at a wall, typically opposite a closet, parallel to the trusses 14. On the starting wall, mark on the wall studs 6" below bottom of trusses 15. Lift poly up to the trusses. 16. Extend starting edge of poly down 6" to the stud marks. **At a minimum, both top and upper wall plates must be covered with wall poly.** 17. Begin stapling to trusses – one over the aligned lines, then one about 2' away on each side of center. Keep poly tight to truss/upper plate corner. Staple to plate 18. Keeping poly tight, continue stapling along reference lines to the opposite wall, then work out toward adjacent walls 19. Use a separate poly piece inside closets and cover the backside of the header 20. For bathrooms, mark studs 6" below trusses. Reference lines are not necessary 21. Use 8' wall poly or scrap pieces if available and will work 22. On the starting wall, mark studs 6" below trusses. 23. Extend poly down walls 6".. 24. Start by stapling to end truss at room center, then one staple about 2' away on each side of center. Keep poly tight to truss/upper plate corner. Staple to top plate 25. Continue to opposite end, keeping poly tight, then work inward toward adjacent walls 26. Cut out poly over bath fan opening and seal to flange with air sealing tape 27. Create a chalk reference line on bottom of trusses, 6' in from the exterior wall 28. Measure room width (typically from the interior wall furthest from the exterior wall) 29. Cut poly 1' longer than measured width and mark a reference line across poly 6' -6" from a cut end 30. Measure distance from the 6th truss in from an exterior starting wall and add 6-8" a. If < 12', begin installation on the 6th truss; if > than 12' begin on the 5th truss 31. Lift poly uo to desired starting truss and line up the two reference lines 32. Extend poly edge to 6" marks 33. Install one staple over the lines and one about 2' away on each side of center 34. Keep the poly tight and continue aligning reference lines and stapling until the opposite wall is reached 35. Complete installation outward toward adjacent walls 36. Fold in corners and staple tight to framing 37. For outside corners, cut poly about 1" in from outside corner, peel back free end and staple to truss 38. Cut poly (X) from scuttle opening. Fold back and staple free ends to framing 39. Cut poly along outer edge of bathroom fan flange and seal with air sealing tape **(Continued on Next page)**

Installing Wall Poly	40. Verify insulation is not covering inside edge of studs, vanity, door bell & thermostat wires 41. Verify **all** wall stud centers have been marked on the sub-floor 42. Cover all exterior walls. 43. At intersecting corners, extend wall poly to cover the 1st stud beyond the corner of intersecting wall 44. Begin in a corner of an interior and exterior wall. Align factory edge along the top edge of the exterior wall top plate 45. Staple along the top plate only for at least four studs, then staple to studs straight down to the floor 46. Check free end. Verify its length will cover 1st adjacent stud beyond corner. 47. Staple to starting wall corner stud first, 1" away from corner, then staple free end to stud. Ensure poly fits tight to corner 48. Continue installing toward opposite corner, keeping factory edge aligned to top of top plate 49. For closets with non-flush sliding doors, wrap poly around front of closet wall 50. For closets with flush sliding doors, cut a "U"- shaped slot to fit around the header, enter closet and continue to 1st stud around the corner 51. Seal seams to framing along cut-outs for closet walls, hallways, etc. with air sealing tape 52. Cut poly (X) over windows, fold and staple remainder to framing 53. Cut an X over house scuttle hole and wrap around rough opening and staple to framing 54. Cut poly over exterior doors along the outside of the side jambs. Roll up and tape above doors 55. Push loose wires thru poly at stud attachment height. Tape if poly not tight around wire 56. Install unusable scrap poly remnants <3' long along any interior wall (except bathroom walls) 57. Tape any seams having less than a 2 stud overlap

Quality Points

Chapter 12 – Air Sealing (Poly)

- All ceiling area is covered with poly
- Ceiling poly is covering upper and top plates around entire house exterior, " and there's a 2 truss overlap on all overlap seams AND taped along trusses
- Ceiling poly corners are tucked tight to framing,. Taped areas around posts, outside corners, T-headers etc. does not interfere with sheet rocking
- Closet headers with flush sliding doors are covered with poly (inside and outside) and header corners are sealed with air sealing tape
- Poly around ceiling and wall electrical boxes has a snug fit (otherwise tape as needed) and poly is pushed up at least ½" from room surface of box
- All exterior wall areas are covered with poly (including 1st 2 studs on intersecting walls)
- Wall poly has minimum 24" (2 stud) overlap of seams (otherwise seams must be taped)
- Poly in wall corners is tucked tight to framing (NOT STRETCHED across corner) so that sheetrock will not stretch poly or break upon installation
- Any holes or tears in poly are taped with air sealing tape. Bath fan perimeter is sealed with air sealing tape.
- Window and scuttle access poly are cut from each window and excess poly is stapled to framing (Hold off from cutting scuttle poly in the winter. See Construction Supervisor)
- Window poly cut-outs are placed in tub
- Poly covering bath fan is cut along outer edge of the fan flange and taped to flange
- Unusable small scraps of poly (< 3') are stapled to interior wall surfaces (other than bathroom walls) and larger pieces are temporarily stored in the bathtub for painting day
- Poly cut along exterior door jambs is rolled up and taped above door with painter' tape