Quick Reference Guide

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Chapter 12 – Air Sealing (Poly)

Installing Poly Vapor Barrier	1. Install vapor barrier on main floor of the house only 2. Minimize staples. Target every 24". Tape holes seams having less than a 2-stud overlap and ceiling poly seams with air sealing tape 3. All poly overlaps must cover two studs or trusses 4. 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. Keep staples 1" away from corners 5. Use nominal 12' poly for ceiling: 8' poly for walls 6. Install all ceiling poly before installing wall poly 7. After installing poly, cut an X across electrical box corners and push poly up ½' around box 8. Cut an X across house scuttle and staple to framing 9. Cut an X across windows and staple to framing 10. Cut out poly over bath fan opening and seal poly to housing with air sealing tape 11. Cut out the poly covering the door along the outside edges of the door jamb. Roll up and tape over door 12. Tape around exterior corners along top plates 13. Extend ceiling poly 6" down the top of walls 14. Pull vanity, thermostat, and doorbell wires through poly 15. Install bedrooms and kitchen/living room areas 1st (before bathroom and closets) 16. Use scrap pieces (if available) for bathrooms and closets 17. At intersecting corners, extend wall poly to cover the 1st stud beyond the corner of intersecting wall 18. Move any insulation covering wall studs before covering with poly. 19. Keep poly tight. Tuck poly tightly into to corners before stapling. Keep staples 2' apart. 20. Before stapling free ends at wall corners, staple the factory edge of at least 4 adjacent studs, then staple the down the 4 studs top to bottom before securing the free end wrap. 21. When stapling corners, staple down one stud at a time, top to bottom. Staple exterior corner stud 1st before intersecting wall stud 22. Cover all ceiling areas, exterior walls, two studs of intersecting walls and flush sliding closet headers with poly. 23. At ceiling/wall intersections, staple to truss first before securing to top plate 24. Check all poly areas for holes and tape with air sealing tape

Quality Points

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- All ceiling areas are 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
- Poly corners are tucked tight to framing and will not interfere with sheetrocking
- Poly around exterior corners and posts is sealed to top plates
- Closet headers with flush sliding doors are covered with poly (inside and outside) and header ends are sealed with air sealing tape
- Poly around ceiling and wall electrical boxes has a snug fit (or otherwise taped)
- 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)
- All holes or tears in poly are taped with air sealing tape.
- Window and house 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. Bottom of fan is taped to surrounding poly
- 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