

## Use of Masonry Anchors in Conjunction with Air-Bloc Liquid or Blueskin<sup>®</sup> SA Air Barrier Membranes

Henry Company's Air-Bloc and Blueskin SA air barrier membranes are effective in 'self-gasketing' around many self-drilling screw fasteners used on exterior sheathing. The unique ability to provide a gasketing seal is a result of the membrane thickness and elastic properties designed into these products. Sealing of drilled holes, bolts and masonry anchors, however, can present critical detailing challenges to the installing contractor to assure the integrity of the air barrier membrane. These include sealing technique and sequencing of the application.

Drilling pilot holes through the air barrier membrane will lacerate the membrane and cause drill shavings to be deposited on the membrane surface, possibly preventing an effective seal at the fastener. As a result, these areas must be cleaned and a compatible primary sealant applied to seal around the fastener and drilled hole prior to tightening to maintain the function of the air barrier membrane. Care should be taken to ensure fasteners are not over-tightened to the point of stripping through the substrate. Sealant options vary depending on the membrane but can include a small amount of the primary liquid Air-Bloc material or 570 Polybitume for Blueskin SA.

Where bolts are used for attachment, compression alone by the bolt will not, in most cases, assure a seal. Again, a primary sealant - compatible with the dried air barrier membrane - must be applied after the hole is cut and cleaned.

Application of the air barrier membrane prior to installation of masonry anchors is generally the recommended sequencing for best performance. This construction sequencing is critical to achieving an air and watertight seal due to the difficulties in sealing behind the offset slot on the anchor after anchor installation.

Some anchor manufacturers recommend a self-adhesive foam tape be used directly behind their anchors to provide an additional gasket around the fasteners. These foam tapes may be applied directly over the Air-Bloc or Blueskin membrane. Henry Company's water-based air barrier products, such as Air-Bloc 31, 32, and 33, are compatible with and will not affect the tape in a detrimental manner.

Henry Company recommends that field-testing be performed prior to the start of a project to confirm that an air and watertight seal can be achieved around the proposed masonry anchors and fasteners.

Please contact our Technical Services Department for additional information at 800-486-1278.