

MYTHS versus FACTS

Polyurethane Foam

- Myth** The National Building Code does not recognize sprayed-in-place polyurethane foam and therefore it cannot be used for new construction projects.
- Fact** **The 2005 NBC recognizes sprayed-in-place polyurethane foam. It identifies the product and the application with the following standards, CAN/ULC-S705.1 “Thermal Insulation - Spray Applied Rigid Polyurethane Foam, Medium Density, Material – Specification” and CAN/ULS-S705.2 “Thermal Insulation – Spray Applied Rigid Polyurethane Foam, Medium Density, Installer’s Responsibilities – Specification”.**
- Myth** WALLTITE® must have CCMC evaluation to be used on new construction projects in Canada.
- Fact** **WALLTITE has been tested at accredited laboratories and meets CAN/ULC-S705.1. It meets the requirements of the NBC and further. A CCMC evaluation is not required to meet the NBC. BASF Canada, as a leader in the insulation/air barrier system market, decided to get a CCMC approval so that architects, building inspectors and owners can be assured that what they are using conforms to the NBC.**
- Myth** WALLTITE must be fire stopped in cavity walls because the air space cannot be maintained at 25mm or less.
- Fact** **WALLTITE insulation/air barrier system can be installed in cavity wall environments without additional fire stopping requirements provided the air space is maintained at 25mm (1 inch) or less. Overall thickness and tolerance is mandated in project applications and the foam can only be performed by approved applicators from our Quality and Training Program, Raising Performance To New**

Heights® certified by Morrison Hershfield and approved by CCMC.

Myth WALLTITE system will not last in the cavity wall environment, nor can it withstand the shrinkage, settlement and creep experienced on a concrete block back-up wall.

Fact **WALLTITE have performed in the field since 1987 and the polyurethane since early 1940 therefore the polyurethane is one of the oldest insulation materials. Polyurethane DOES resist the long-term creep and settlement.**

Myth Either a Type 1 or Type 2 vapour barrier must protect sprayed-in-place polyurethane foam insulation in cavity wall environments.

Fact **Sprayed-in-place polyurethane foams have been tested by National Research Council (NRC) over concrete blocks walls and have proven that interface skin development and inter laminar skin development reduce the vapour permeance like that of a vapour barrier. Part 5 of the 2005 NBC is primarily performance-based thereby providing that any material, which can be proven to perform this function, can do so. WALLTITE have been tested with various substrates at various thicknesses Ref: our Technical Data sheet and Technical manual.**

Myth Letters from manufacturers of sprayed-in-place polyurethane foam insulation indicate that a separate air/vapour barrier is required when using polyurethane foam.

Fact **Competitors negative selling included private industry communications from 1989 and 1994. In fact, they were, in one case, a request to investigate the performance of sprayed-in-place polyurethane foams installed over vapour barrier membranes. Some letters went on to discuss the issues of vapour permeance, as they were understood at that time. Since this time, research has confirmed that polyurethane foam is indeed a vapour barrier under certain conditions. We could refer to the report in the Journal of "THERMAL INSULATION and BUILDING ENVELOPES (M. Mark T. Bomberg and M. Joseph W. Lstiburek), Field Applied Spray Polyurethane Foam in Building Envelopes: Performance**

Evaluation of System Components". In all of the test methods used for polyurethane foam, the skins, which form on contact with a surface and develop on the outermost surface, were cut off to make a sample to fit in the test apparatus. Refer to our Section Vapour Permeance Yes or No.

WALLTITE is the sole polyurethane insulation / air barrier system listed by CCMC for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential. Ref:

- **CCMC # 12840-R for insulation**
- **CCMC # 12877-R for air barrier material**
- **CCMC # 12932-R for insulation / air barrier system**

WALLTITE insulation / air barrier system provides a level of performance equivalent to that required in the 2005 National Building Code of Canada, Sentence 5.4.1.2. 1).

Myth CAN/CGSB-51.33-M89 is the standard to which vapour barriers must conform.

Fact In both Part 5 and Part 9 of the NBC the references to this standard is for "pre-fabricated sheet vapour barrier". Ref. Article: 5.10.1.1 and 9.25.4.2.5)

At BASF Canada we are available to address your questions regarding the use and application of **WALLTITE**. Contact us directly:

Eastern Region
ON, QC, MAR.
1-866-474-3538

Western Region
BC, AB, MB, SK, NWT, YK, NU
1-800-891-0671

- www.walltite.com
- www.foammasters.ca

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