Windows Installed into Walls with FPIS and Wood Framing

Window Buck Method

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Background

• There are many acceptable ways to mount and detail windows for support and weather resistance.
• This installation best practice provides only a representative solution for integrating windows with Foam Plastic Insulating Sheathing (FPIS).
• It is the responsibility of the user to verify the appropriateness of any specific detail for their specific conditions.
Scope

• The installation approach featured in this presentation:
  – Is a “window buck” installation concept with window flanges mounted directly over a limited thickness of FPIS.
  • Represents a common method for installing windows in walls with generally more than 1-1/2 to 2-inches-thick FPIS.
Scope

• The installation approach featured in this presentation:
  – Uses FPIS as the water-resistive barrier (WRB).
    • Refer to DrJ DRR 1410-05 and the FPIS manufacturer’s installation instructions.
    • Use of a separate WRB material layer is also common and acceptable with appropriate installation and detailing.
Scope

• The installation approach shown includes windows with integral mounting flanges.

• Integral mounting flange windows:
  – Are sometimes referred to as “integral nailing flange,” “integral fin,” or “integral mounting fin.”
  – An integral flange is extruded with the frame and forms one continuous piece around the perimeter.
  – A mounting flange is typically about 1½” wide and is set back about 1” from exterior window face. Fasteners are installed through the pre-punched holes in the flange.
About FPIS

- Three types of FPIS:
  - Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) - ASTM C578
  - Extruded Polystyrene (XPS) - ASTM C578
  - Polyisocyanurate (Polyiso) - ASTM C1289

- R-values ranging from R-4 to more than R-6 per inch.
- Come in many thicknesses, compressive strengths, and densities.
Typical FPIS Applications

- Often used as exterior **continuous insulation (ci)** on buildings to comply with energy codes or for improved performance.
  - Can be used as an **air-barrier (AB)** and **water-resistive barrier (WRB)** per manufacturer’s code approvals and instructions.
  - Proprietary FPIS products are also available as a structural insulating sheathing composite for **wall bracing**.
Installation Guidance

• **DrJ Best Practices**
• Window, FPIS, WRB, or Flashing manufacturer’s installation instructions
• An approved design
• The following general installation guidelines
Key Principles

• The intent of any acceptable detail for integrating windows with FPIS is:
  – To provide adequate structural support to the window unit.
  – To prevent water penetration at the window-wall interface by flashing to direct water onto the exterior surface of the WRB layer and/or cladding and away from the window opening.
  – To provide adequate drainage at the window sill for any incidental leakage of water that may still penetrate into the rough opening.
Framing Methods

• There are four typical methods for window framing.
• This program covers the “Lumber Window Buck” method.
Window Buck Installation - Sill

- Window Unit (Shim as required at sill)
- Sealant
- Shims
- Sealant (Backdam)
- Extended window jamb or drywall return
- 2x Window Buck (or equal)
- Trim
- Framing nail. Fastener must penetrate 1-3/4" into wood framing
- Interior finish
- Sill pan flashing (recommended for all installations)
- Window nailing flange with bedding joint sealant (intermittent for sill pan drainage) and sill pan flange sealed continuously to drainage plane
- Drainage plane
- Siding
- FPIS / WRB
- WSP sheathing (optional as required for bracing or other purposes)
Window Buck Installation - Jambs

- Trim
- Extended window jamb or drywall return
- Framing
- Interior finish
- 2x window jamb (or equal)
- Sealant
- FPIS fastener
- Framing nail. Fastener must penetrate 1-1/4" into wood framing
- Shims
- WSP sheathing (optional as required for bracing or other purposes)
- FPIS / WRB
- Drainage plane
- Standard window flashing per window manufacturer installation instructions
- Seal flange to WRB surface per window manufacturer’s installation instructions
- Termination joint tape (acrylic or equal)
- Siding
- Window unit (shim as required at jamb)
Window Buck Installation - Header

- Siding
- Sheathing / Drainage WRB (FPIS)
- Termination Joint Tape (Acrylic or Equal)
- Adhered Flexible Head Flashing (Butyl or Equal) (Continuous to Nail Flange)
- WSP Sheathing (Optional as required for bracing or other purposes)
- Interior Finish
- Framing Nail. Fastener must penetrate 1-1/4" into wood framing
- Standard Window Flashing per Window Manufacturer Installation Instructions
- 2x Window Buck (or Equal)
- Trim
- Min Window Head Clearance to Framing
Step 1: Frame Window Opening

- Frame walls as required by the applicable code.
- Ensure window rough opening is square and true.
- Ensure appropriate framing in accordance with window installation method selected and support for FPIS edges is provided.
Step 2: Verify and install FPIS

- FPIS material must comply with:
  - ASTM C578 (EPS, XPS)
  - ASTM C1289 (Polyiso)
- Wind pressure resistance
  - See ANSI/SBCA FS-100 for guidance
  - Only required when FPIS not used as oversheathing

ASTM D 1621
Step 2: Verify and Install FPIS

• Drive nails flush and snug with the surface of the insulation board.
• Do not overdrive nails.
• Do not underdrive nails.
• Many FPIS manufacturers recommend use of cap nails.
Step 2: Verify and Install FPIS

- Follow manufacturer’s installation guidelines
- While not prohibited, avoid placing vertical joints in the sheathing over a window head where practical.
- See “FPIS Installation Instructions” program.
Step 3: Verify Flashing and Sealant Materials

- Ensure chemical compatibility of all sealants and flashings with intended substrates; refer to sealant and flashing manufacturer’s data.
- Use flashing tape and sealants recommended by the window and FPIS/WRB manufacturers.
Step 4: Apply Sill Flashing

- Apply all flashings in shingle fashion (e.g., jamb flashing overlaps sill flashing and head flashing overlaps jamb flashing).
- Overlap and seal sill flashing at center of sill if a multi-piece sill or pan flashing is used.
Step 4: Apply Sill Flashing

- Alternatively, use a manufactured sill pan to simplify sill drainage installation.
Step 5: Apply Jamb Flashing

- Apply flashing at jambs
Step 6: Apply Head Flashing

- Apply flashing at head
Step 7: Apply Sealant

- Apply sealant at jambs and head (or as required by manufacturer’s install instructions).
- Sill is left open to allow the cavity below the window to drain to the exterior.
Step 8: Install Window Shims at Sill

- Apply setting blocks and/or shims between the rough opening and window frame.
- The window frame must be anchored to the wood rough opening as required by the window manufacturer or in accordance with an approved design for sill support.
Step 9: Install Window

• Install window plumb, level, and square per manufacturer’s instructions.
Step 7: Install Window

• The window frame must adequately bear on the wood sill particularly if using a non-structural flange window.

• Providing adequate sill support is good practice and often required by window manufacturer installation instructions.
Step 8: Verify Window Fasteners

- Window flange fasteners must penetrate a minimum of 1¼” into framing members per IRC 2015.
- Follow manufacturer installation requirements for size and spacing.
Step 9: Install Window Shims

- Apply shims between the rough opening and window frame.
- Anchor the window per the manufacturer’s installation instructions.
Step 10: Apply Jamb Flashing

- Install flashing over the nailing flanges of the jambs to provide a final layer of protection against water intrusion.
- The sill is not sealed, allowing for drainage of the rough opening, back to the exterior.
- Where applicable, install drip cap per manufacturer
Step 11: Apply Head Flashing

• Apply head flashing.
  – Typically, butyl flashing tapes are used for this purpose.

• Overlap window head flange and jamb flashing.
Step 12: Tape Head Flashing

- For extra durability and protection, terminate the top edge of the head flashing tape with the FPIS manufacturer’s approved joint tape.
- Typically, acrylic tapes are used for this purpose.
Step 13: Apply Sealant

- Air seal window around entire perimeter on the interior with sealant or expanding foam made for this purpose.
Step 14: Install Cladding

- See Installation Instructions
  “Attachment of Exterior Wall Coverings Through Foam Plastic Insulating Sheathing (FPIS) to Wood or Steel Wall Framing.”
Additional Reading

• *Fastening Systems for Continuous Insulation*, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), April 2010.


• *ASHRAE Journal*, “Windows can be a pain,” Lstiburek, April 2015.