

RECD1-3-22

IECC: TABLE R402.5.1.1

Proponents: Emma Gonzalez-Laders, representing IECC RE Envelope and Embodied Energy Subcommittee

2024 International Energy Conservation Code [RE Project]

Revise as follows:

TABLE R402.5.1.1 AIR BARRIER, AIR SEALING AND INSULATION INSTALLATION^a

Portions of table not shown remain unchanged.

COMPONENT	AIR BARRIER CRITERIA	INSULATION INSTALLATION CRITERIA
General requirements	A continuous air barrier shall be installed in the building envelope. Breaks or joints in the air barrier shall be sealed.	Air-permeable insulation shall not be used as a sealing material.
Ceiling/attic	A sealed air barrier shall be installed in any dropped ceiling or soffit to separate it from unconditioned space. Access openings, drop down stairs or knee wall doors to unconditioned attic spaces shall be air sealed with gasketing materials that allow for repeated entrance over time.	The insulation in any dropped ceiling/soffit shall be aligned with the air barrier. Access hatches and doors shall be installed and insulated in accordance with Section R402.2.4 Eave Baffles shall be installed in accordance with Section R402.2.3
Walls	The junction of the foundation and sill plate shall be sealed. The junction of the top plate and the top of exterior walls shall be sealed. Knee walls shall be sealed.	Cavities within corners and headers of frame walls shall be insulated by completely filling the cavity with a material having a thermal resistance, <i>R</i> -value, of not less than R-3 per inch. Exterior thermal envelope insulation for framed walls shall be installed in substantial contact and continuous alignment with the air barrier.
Windows, skylights and doors	The space rough opening gap between framing and the frames of skylights, and the jambs of windows and doors, shall be sealed in accordance with fenestration manufacturer's instructions.	Insulation shall not be required in the rough opening gap. Framing cavities around windows, skylights, and doors shall be completely filled with insulation or insulated per window manufacturer's instructions.
Rim joists	Rim joists shall include an air barrier. ^b The junctions of the rim board to the sill plate and the rim board and the subfloor shall be air sealed.	Rim joists shall be insulated so that the insulation maintains permanent contact with the exterior rim board. ^b
Floors, including cantilevered floors and floors above garages	The air barrier shall be installed at any exposed edge of insulation.	Floor framing cavity insulation shall be installed to maintain permanent contact with the underside of subfloor decking. Alternatively, floor framing cavity insulation shall be in contact with the top side of sheathing, or continuous insulation installed on the underside of floor framing and extending from the bottom to the top of all perimeter floor framing members.
Basement crawl space and slab foundations	Exposed earth in unvented crawl spaces shall be covered with a Class I vapor retarder/air barrier in accordance with Section R402.2.11. Penetrations through concrete foundation walls and slabs shall be air sealed. Class 1 vapor retarders shall not be used as an air barrier on below-grade walls and shall be installed in accordance with Section R702.7 of the <i>International Residential Code</i> .	Crawl space insulation, where provided instead of floor insulation, shall be installed in accordance with Section R402.2.11. Conditioned basement foundation wall insulation shall be installed in accordance with Section R402.2.9.1. Slab-on-grade floor insulation shall be installed in accordance with Section R402.2.11.
Shafts, penetrations	Duct and flue shafts to exterior or unconditioned space shall be sealed. Utility penetrations of the air barrier shall be caulked, gasketed or otherwise sealed and shall allow for expansion, contraction of materials and mechanical vibration.	Insulation shall be fitted tightly around utilities passing through shafts and penetrations in the building thermal envelope to maintain required <i>R</i> -value.
Narrow cavities	Narrow cavities of 1 inch or less that are not able to be insulated shall be air sealed.	Batts to be installed in narrow cavities shall be cut to fit or narrow cavities shall be filled with insulation that on installation readily conforms to the available cavity space.
Garage separation	Air sealing shall be provided between the garage and conditioned spaces.	Insulated portions of the garage separation assembly shall be installed in accordance with Sections R303 and R402.2.8.
Recessed lighting	Recessed light fixtures installed in the building thermal envelope shall be air sealed in accordance with Section R402.5.5.	Recessed light fixtures installed in the building thermal envelope shall be airtight and IC rated, and shall be buried or surrounded with insulation.
Plumbing, wiring or other	All holes created by wiring, plumbing or other obstructions in the air barrier assembly shall be air	Insulation shall be installed to fill the available space and surround wiring, plumbing, or other obstructions, unless the required <i>R</i> -value can be met by installing insulation and air barrier systems completely to the exterior side of

obstructions	sealed.	installing insulation and air barrier systems completely to the exterior side of the obstructions.
Shower/tub on exterior wall	The air barrier installed at exterior walls adjacent to showers and tubs shall separate the wall from the shower or tub.	Exterior walls adjacent to showers and tubs shall be insulated.
Electrical/phone box on exterior walls	The air barrier shall be installed behind electrical and communication boxes. Alternatively, air-sealed boxes shall be installed.	—
HVAC register boots	HVAC supply and return register boots that penetrate building thermal envelope shall be sealed to the subfloor, wall covering or ceiling penetrated by the boot.	—
Concealed sprinklers	Where required to be sealed, concealed fire sprinklers shall only be sealed in a manner that is recommended by the manufacturer. Caulking or other adhesive sealants shall not be used to fill voids between fire sprinkler cover plates and walls or ceilings.	—

- a. Inspection of log walls shall be in accordance with the provisions of ICC 400.
- b. Insulation full enclosure is not required in unconditioned/ventilated attic spaces and at rim joists.

Reason: Reconciles the differences between RED1-232, RED1-227, RED1-234 and RED1-183.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will neither increase nor decrease the cost of construction.

This proposal will not increase the cost of construction. It will remove conflict with installation instructions and will prevent consumers, builders, and manufacturers from incurring costs related to repairs caused by code requirements that contradict the manufacturer's instructions.