

# ICC-ES Evaluation Report

**ESR-2971**

Issued November 1, 2009

*This report is subject to re-examination on May 1, 2011.*[www.icc-es.org](http://www.icc-es.org) | (800) 423-6587 | (562) 699-0543

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**DIVISION: 07—THERMAL AND MOISTURE PROTECTION  
Section: 07280—Water-resistive Barriers****REPORT HOLDER:****KB BUILDING PRODUCTS, LLC  
13540 EAST BOUNDARY ROAD  
BUILDING 1, SUITE 102  
MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA 23112-3943  
(804) 744-7253  
[www.kb-bp.com](http://www.kb-bp.com)****EVALUATION SUBJECT:****BREATHE EZ® HOUSEWRAP, BREATHE EZ® MPL  
HOUSEWRAP AND BREATHE EZ® MPH HOUSEWRAP****1.0 EVALUATION SCOPE****Compliance with the following codes:**

- 2006 *International Building Code*® (IBC)
- 2006 *International Residential Code*® (IRC)

**Properties evaluated:**

- Water resistance
- Surface-burning characteristics

**2.0 USES**

The products described in this report are used as water-resistive barriers on the exterior side of exterior walls of buildings of any construction type under the IBC and construction permitted under the IRC. They are equivalent to Grade D paper as described in IBC Section 2510.6 and IRC Section R703.6.3, with a 60-minute water-resistance rating. All products have a flame spread index of less than 25 and a smoke-developed index of less than 450, when tested in accordance of ASTM E 84.

**3.0 DESCRIPTION**

The water-resistive barriers listed in this report are all comprised of a polyolefin fabric with variations in composition as described in Sections 3.1 and 3.2.

**3.1 Breathe EZ® Housewrap:**

This product consists of a woven, microperforated, polyolefin fabric with an additional polyolefin coating, and is available in various colors. The finished product has a nominal basis weight of 65 grams per square meter (1.9 ounces per square yard) and is produced in rolls of varying sizes.

**3.2 Breathe EZ® MPL Housewrap and Breathe EZ® MPH Housewrap:**

These products consist of a nonwoven, microporous polyolefin fabric and membrane and are available in various colors. The finished product is available in low-perm (MPL) and high-perm (MPH) versions. The finished product has a minimum nominal basis weight of 90 grams per square meter (2.6 ounces per square yard) and is produced in rolls of varying sizes.

**4.0 INSTALLATION**

The water-resistive barriers described in this report are installed after wall framing is completed and before or after windows and doors are installed. The roll is placed approximately 6 inches (152 mm) from the starting corner and is fastened to the sheathing with corrosion-resistant staples with minimum 1-inch (25.4 mm) crowns, corrosion-resistant nails having minimum  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-diameter (9.5 mm) heads, or corrosion-resistant nails having 1-inch-diameter (25.4 mm) plastic washer heads, spaced at a minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) vertically; and is then unrolled around the building and fastened with nails or staples spaced between 16 and 24 inches (406 to 609 mm) on center at top and bottom sill plates and at framing members, and no more than 24 inches (609 mm) on center in the field. The printed side of the barrier is installed facing the outside. A minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) of overlap is to be provided for vertical seams and 2 inches (51 mm) for horizontal seams, except where the manufacturer's installation instructions specify a greater overlap dimension. When use is over wood-based sheathing in exterior plaster applications, two layers of Grade D water-resistive barrier with a 60-minute water-resistive rating must be applied over sheathing in accordance with IBC Section 2510.6 or IRC Section R703.6.3. For cementitious coatings or exterior insulation and finish systems, application is to be in accordance with the evaluation report on the exterior coating.

The manufacturer's published installation instructions and this report are to be strictly adhered to. If requested by the code official, a copy of this report is to be available at the jobsite during installation.

**5.0 CONDITIONS OF USE**

The water-resistive barriers described in this report comply with, or are suitable alternatives to what is specified in, those codes listed in Section 1.0 of this report, subject to the following conditions:

- 5.1 The water-resistive barriers must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's published installation instructions, the requirements of the applicable code and this report. In the event of a conflict between this report and the manufacturer's published installation instructions, this report governs.
- 5.2 The water-resistive barriers must be covered by an exterior wall finish complying with the requirements of the applicable code.

## **6.0 EVIDENCE SUBMITTED**

- 6.1 Data in accordance with the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Water-resistive Barriers (AC38), dated February 2008.

- 6.2 Report of a test in accordance with ASTM E 84.

## **7.0 IDENTIFICATION**

The products described in this report are identified by a label on the container of each roll of membrane and by printing on the product, with the name, address and telephone number of KB Building Products, LLC, the product name, and the evaluation report number (ESR-2971).