

Quick Reference Guide

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Chapter 12 – Air Sealing (Poly)

General Poly Vapor Barrier Installation Rules	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minimize staples. Staple about every 24".2. Tape holes and seams with red poly tape.3. All poly overlaps must cover two studs or trusses.4. Before stapling at corners:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Tuck poly TIGHT INTO corners - NO AIR GAPS or "stretched" corners but a nice 90 degree crease formed into cornerb. Verify poly is not bunched up (especially at ceiling/wall corners)c. Staple corners with hand tack stapler tight to corner5. Room length = perpendicular to trusses; room width = parallel to trusses.6. Use nominal 12' poly for ceiling; 8' poly for walls.7. Install all ceiling poly before installing wall poly.
Install Ceiling Poly	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Create a reference chalk line on the bottom of trusses -- at room width center for bedrooms/baths, 7' from one end for kitchen/dining/living rooms9. Begin installation in a bedroom/bath along an interior wall, kitchen/living room at either side of the starting point line10. If room width >10', cut poly 2' longer than room width, mark poly center with felt marker line. Use line to align to reference chalk line11. If room width < 10', cut poly 2' longer than room width, use center crease to align to reference chalk line12. Extend ceiling poly 8-12" down onto wall13. Staple at and near room center first for entire length, then move to sides keeping poly taught with push brooms as you go14. Overlap seams minimum of 24" (or cover 2 trusses). All overlap seams must be parallel to the trusses. Tape seams along the bottom truss chord.15. Cover entire upper portions of closets with flush sliding doors with ceiling poly. Cover front from ceiling downward and trim excess along bottom of header. Use a separate piece for ceilings inside closets.16. X-out poly at electrical boxes & gently stretch poly around box and push poly back at least 1/2" from surface of box.17. Cut out poly at bath fan along the outer edge of the flange and tape to the flange perimeter with red poly tape18. X out poly over scuttle access. Fold back and staple to framing. Trim excess.
Install Wall Poly	<ol style="list-style-type: none">19. Verify insulation is not covering inside edge of studs; vanity, door bell & thermostat wires visible20. Run poly PAST an exterior corner to the 2nd stud on the intersecting wall21. Line up factory edge of wall poly with top of the wall top plate, overlapping ceiling poly hanging down on wall22. Start stapling near the corner, only stapling to the top plate of the 1st 4-5 studs, then begin stapling down the studs. Staple these studs down to the base plate before working back to the corner, keeping poly taught as you go23. Staple to top plate, studs, and window/door framing24. X-out poly at electrical boxes & gently stretch poly around box and push poly back at least 1/2" from surface of box25. Tape all seams with <2 stud overlap with red poly tape26. Cut a "U" shape piece to fit around flush sliding closet door headers. Wrap to 1st interior wall stud past the inside closet corner. Seal around header with red poly tape27. Cut poly along the outside edge of exterior door jambs. Roll up poly and tape above door with Weathermate construction tape28. Uncover window openings. From each corner, make a 2" diagonal cut. Then cut straight down and across. Remove and place in the tub. Wrap remaining poly into framing and staple29. Place all poly scraps greater than 3' long in the bath tub for use as painting tarps/drop cloths. Smaller pieces can be stapled to any INTERIOR wall except bathroom walls30. Poke vanity wire, door bell/thermostat wires thru poly. Tape if poly seal is not tight

Quality Points

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- All ceiling area is covered with poly
- Ceiling poly has 8-12" hanging down walls, 2 stud overlap on all overlap seams AND taped along trusses
- Ceiling poly corners are tucked neatly and flat (like gift wrapping) at wall corner. Taped areas around posts, outside corners, T-headers etc. have 90° tight corners
- Closet headers with flush sliding doors are covered with poly (inside and outside) and header corners are sealed with red poly tape
- Poly around ceiling and wall electrical boxes have a snug fit (otherwise tape as needed) and poly is pushed back at least ½" from surface of box
- All exterior wall areas are covered with poly (including 1st 2 studs on intersecting walls)
- Wall poly has minimum 24" (2 stud) overlap of seams (otherwise seams must be taped)
- Wall corner poly is neatly tucked into corners (NOT STRETCHED across corner) so that sheetrock will not stretch or tear poly (look for nice 90 degree crease tucked into corner)
- Any holes or tears in poly are taped with Red poly tape. Bath fan perimeter is sealed
- Floor heat ducts are nailed & sealed; seams between cold air return boot and cold air duct are sealed
- Window and scuttle access poly is cut from each window and excess poly is stapled to framing
- Poly covering bath fan is cut out along outer edge of the fan flange and taped to flange
- Unusable small scraps of poly (< 3') are stapled to interior wall surfaces (other than bathroom walls) and larger pieces are temporarily stored in the bathtub for painting day
- Poly cut along exterior door jambs, rolled and taped above door with Weathermate Construction tape