

# Designing and Specifying Self-Adhering Flashings for the Window-Wall Interface

By Robert Bateman, June 2004

## Abstract

*Self-adhering flashings provide a flexible and durable material that conforms to various wall planes particularly those occurring in recessed wall openings. New flashing methods for the window-wall interface are available for this material. These new methods for designers are illustrated with step-by-step installation details for recessed windows, flush wall openings, recessed sills and sill pan flashings. Considerations for flashing the window-wall interface are presented. A guide specification for self-adhering flashings is included for specifiers.*

## Keywords

*Design, Detailing, Specifications, Weather-Resistant Barrier (WRB), Self-Adhering Flashing (SAF), Flashing, Sill, Head, Jamb, Recessed Opening*

## Introduction

During the last 20 years, innovative building contractors concerned with the durability of traditional window flashing products have used flexible, self-adhering, sheet waterproofing membranes around wall openings for windows, doors and other penetrations. These materials were borrowed from the roof membrane industry and introduced as wall flashings. Only within the last 10 years have the manufacturers of these products recognized the use of their products as wall flashing. And, only recently have manufacturers of self-adhering flashings begun to develop instructions for their use as window flashings. Still, the state of information available to designers and specifiers is incomplete but growing.

Self-adhering flashings typically are 40 mils thick with thinner 20 & 25 mil products also used. The widths used for flashing window-opening perimeters are generally 4, 6, 9 and 12-inches wide. Flashing widths wider than 12-inches become unwieldy to handle with field conditions. Lengths of flashing utilized vary with the window opening size and the number of workers installing the product.

In 2001, ASTM E 2112 recognized self-adhering flashings for the window-wall interface, but it did not illustrate a specific flashing method based on the product's unique features of flexibility and continuous adhesion. This paper is intended to extend the body of information available to assist designers and specifiers desiring to use self-adhering flashings for windows and recessed openings at the window-wall interface.

## Focus and Scope

This paper will cover the use of self-adhering flashings around recessed wall openings at the window-wall interface. It will also include a method for creating a sill pan flashing, as well as, a new method for flashing flush wall openings.

The information for designers will outline issues to consider when using self-adhering flashings, techniques for detailing, example-flashing sequence diagrams for a flush wall opening, a sill pan flashing and a recessed window opening. The details presented in this paper should generally be consistent with current construction practice and comply with most flashing manufacturers' recommendations, except where the author introduces other suggestions as personal opinion.

Specifiers will be introduced to the issues to consider for product and installation specifications. A guide specification for self-adhering flashings is presented that addresses window flashing and can be used for other wall flashing applications.

This paper is not a comprehensive treatise on the subject of flashing or just a case study review. It is a compilation and summation of suggestions representing the experience from many projects intended for an audience of design professionals and specifiers for use as a general reference.

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