

Building Excellence Starts Here

Key insights, technical resources, and industry updates to elevate your projects!

Top 10 FAQs About Air Barriers

Your Guide to Smarter Building Enclosures

Technical Note: Air Barriers

What You Need to Know

QAP Project Spotlight: Hayward Field

Building a World-Class Stadium with Air Barrier Excellence

air barrier
abaa
association of
america

2025

1ST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

TOP 10

Frequently Asked Questions

ABOUT AIR BARRIERS



Building Enclosures require proactive actions by each member of the Design and Construction Teams to deliver a building that meets stated performance requirements. Air Barriers are a critical component to meeting those requirements.

This document addresses ten of the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that Architects, Engineers and Construction Managers/General Contractors ask with respect to air barriers. The answers that follow provide insight for these team players to minimize building enclosure risks and provide assurance that their projects are proactive in meeting the performance requirements.

1

How do the design, bidding, preconstruction and construction processes impact air barrier performance?

Design is critical to the specification of the air barrier material to match up with the project location, occupancy, schedule for installation, and integration of

the project specifications to assure that the continuity of the air barrier is maintained from design through construction. The project specification would include the performance field testing requirements per the ABAA Quality Assurance Program (QAP).

Bidding is critical to the selection of a CM, GC and air barrier installer that have the collective experience and knowledge to plan and implement a successful air barrier installation on the specific project pursuant to the specified ABAA QAP. Preconstruction is critical to the air barrier to provide the submittals, shop drawings, mock up, first work, and coordination scheduling for all trades and the training/demonstration during the mock-up performed by the air barrier installation crew to assure proper transitions and terminations.

2

Do building envelope specifications need to be integrated with the Air Barrier specification?

Yes, all specification sections for work that interface with the air barrier system must be integrated to establish and maintain the integrity and continuity of the whole building air barrier strategy. For example, cladding and insulation manufacturers/subcontractors need to know about air barrier manufacturer requirements for penetration treatments, adhesive compatibilities, etc. Lack of an integrated specification to assist in contractor coordination may lead to inadequate substrate installation, incompatibilities in product selection, or inadequacies in the installation.

➤ **Read more:** bit.ly/3RigK5A

Air Barriers

This Technical Note defines the air barrier, explains the function of the air barrier and offers some history into the evolution of air barriers

AIR BARRIER

An “air barrier” is a combination of materials designed and installed in such a manner in order to drastically reduce or even stop the flow of air into and through the building enclosure. The air barrier of a building is an “air barrier system”. The air barrier system is comprised of “air barrier assemblies”. Air barrier assemblies are comprised of “air barrier materials” and “air barrier accessories”.

DEFINITIONS

air barrier, n, a designed “plane” of reduced air flow.

air barrier material, n, a primary element that provides a continuous barrier to the movement of air.

air barrier accessory material, n, a transitional component of the air barrier that provides continuity.

air barrier assembly, n, the air barrier materials and accessories that provide a continuous barrier to the movement of air through portions of the building enclosure assembly.

air barrier system, n, a combination of air barrier assemblies that provide a continuous barrier to the movement of air through portions of the building enclosure assembly.

FUNCTION

The air barriers control both infiltration and exfiltration of air through the building enclosure assembly. Opponents of air barriers incorrectly assume that air flow through the building enclosure assembly is needed in order for the building enclosure assembly to dry out. Past and present building codes required that building exterior walls “breathe”.

Proponents of air barriers recognize that air has the ability to transport exponentially more moisture into and through the building enclosure assembly than occurs through vapor migration and diffusion.



Air barriers control both infiltration and exfiltration of air through the building enclosure assembly, preventing energy loss, moisture accumulation, and ensuring a stable indoor environment.



A LETTER from the COO

Ryan Dalglish, Chief Operating Officer

We are just over 1 month until our annual conference and we are excited to once again bring the best building enclosure education with diverse topics, expertise and experiences. We have 23 different presentations over 2 days with some of the best speakers in North America. The full schedule of events and presentations can be found here: <https://www.abaaconference.com/>

New for this year is the addition of a track for foundational learning that has been built around the key knowledge area's identified in the Certified Air Barrier Specialist credentialing program. This is an amazing opportunity for individuals to set a good foundation of knowledge in all things air barriers. This is in essence, acting like a study group to supplement the CABS study guide and any self-directed learning to prepare for the exam.

So, if you are a manufacturer, this is perfect for sales representatives and technical field staff. If you are a consultant, this helps start the educational journey for new associates and team members to work towards a credential to help them stand apart. If you are a trade contractor or general contractor, this provides opportunities for your team to be recognized for your knowledge and help with both installation and construction management.

Another new item for this year's conference is special discount rates to reduce financial barriers to attend.

Everything seems more expensive these days and our intent of providing the conference is to provide accessible education and not driven by financial requirements. This includes a new "3 or more" discount when a company send several individuals. The cost saving is \$250 per person, so it is like going to the grocery store and buying 2 items and getting the 3rd free! For students going to college for architectural, engineering or construction management, a special rate has been created that is only \$50 to attendee one day or \$100 to attend both days.

In January, we were excited to publish the completely revamped Certified Air Barrier Specialist Study Guide. This resource has been prepared to assist individuals to study for the exam and has new graphics, illustrations, photos and a completely new look and structure. The study guide is available for anyone to purchase and our members receive a significant discount to do so. To access information on the program, please click here: <https://www.airbarrier.org/cabs/> Once you click on register, you will have the option to simply purchase the manual, register for the program or do both. Previously, the study guide was only available to those that registered for the program.

Our new website will be launching at the conference, and we are excited to provide a resource to industry that is easier to use, easier to find relevant information and keep you up-to-date with the latest and greatest.

I look forward to personally seeing you at the conference!

abaa2025 building enclosure conference

DENVER, COLORADO MAY 6-7, 2025

DON'T MISS OUT

Early Bird Rates Ending Soon!

Register for the ABAA 2025 Building Enclosure Conference.

Take advantage of early bird pricing before it ends on March 31 and join industry leaders in Denver, CO for two days of insight, innovation, and connection.

NEW

New This Year Foundational Learning Track!

Unlock essential industry knowledge with our brand-new Foundational Learning Track.

SAVE

Bring Your Team & Save Big at the Conference!

Register three or more attendees for the conference and save up to \$250 per person!

» Register: www.abaaconference.com/2025-abaa-conference-registration

Thank you to our Sponsors

We're proud to be supported by leaders in the industry who help make this event possible.



CEUs On-Demand

Through-Wall Flashings
and Transition Membranes:
Selection & Installation

➤ REGISTER: bit.ly/45rkGqU

The Evolving Landscape of
Commercial Energy Efficiency

➤ REGISTER: bit.ly/49DXJmt

A Guide for Building Enclosure
Commissioning

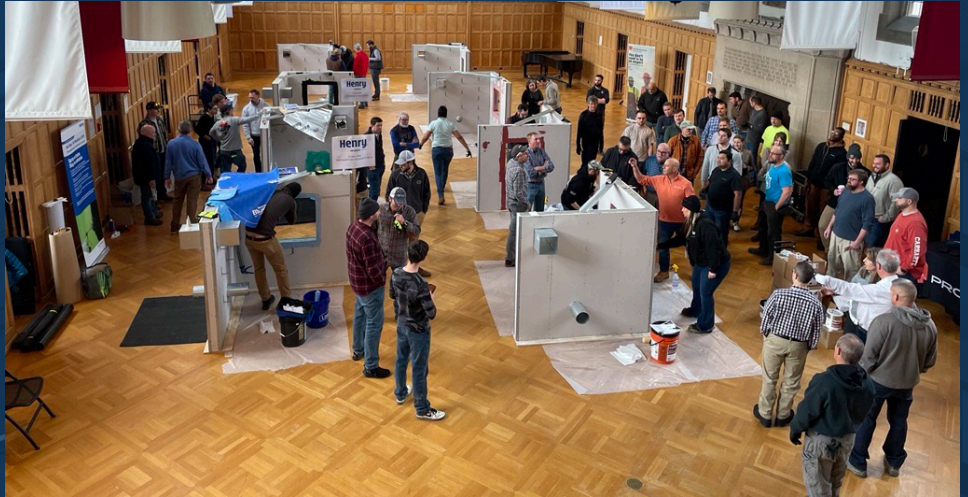
➤ REGISTER: bit.ly/47Nf1wv

Pitfalls and Challenges of NFPA
285 Engineering Analysis

➤ REGISTER: bit.ly/3DKIqFM

Celebrating Another Successful Event at Cornell

A huge thank you to **Cornell University** for hosting and to all the attendees for making this event a success!



Have an Article Idea?



Do you have an article or idea in mind? Publishing an article can be a great way to advance your career and create new opportunities.

We pair ABAA Members with ABAA Mentors that will advise you on your article, and verify technical details.

You have skills and knowledge others are trying to obtain. We are looking to assist with articles on a wide range of air/moisture barrier topics, from absolute beginner to highly technical. Contact us to get started!

Contact Louise at:
lhardman@airbarrier.org



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7

JOINT EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Including the following partners:

Cornell University, BEC/CSI

Philadelphia, BEC MN & CSI

Minneapolis, BEC Kansas City, BEC

Research Triangle, CSI Indianapolis,

BEC St. Louis

Conferences presented at:

Spray Foam 2025, Metal Construction Association

3

ABAA CONTRACTOR WEBINARS

Topics: Building Science Fundamentals, Air leakage testing, Building enclosures, Substrate preparation

10

ABAA webinars

25

Events

JOIN THE ABAA COMMUNITY TODAY!

Elevate Your Expertise and Shape the Future of Air Barriers

- Gain access to industry-leading resources and training
- Enjoy exclusive member discounts on certification programs
- Network with top professionals in the air barrier industry
- Influence industry standards and best practices



➤ **BECOME A MEMBER NOW:** bit.ly/3FBorBf



ABAA IN ACTION



Upcoming ABAA Education

Apr 3	The Evolving Landscape of Commercial Energy Efficiency	➤➤ Register: bit.ly/4ky2lji
Apr 10	Managing Condensation, Water Intrusion, & Energy Efficiency in the Real World	➤➤ Register: bit.ly/4hP12K2
Apr 17	Polyiso: The Next Generation of Air and Water Resistive Barrier	➤➤ Register: bit.ly/41z0cv2
Apr 24	Designing for Sustainability in Division 8: Architectural Aluminum Framing	➤➤ Register: bit.ly/41A2aLF
May 1	CMU Lintels & Associated Veneer Lintels	➤➤ Register: bit.ly/3DQLxn8

Upcoming Certification Trainings

Self Adhered and Fluid Applied Training

Apr 8-10	Online
May 6-8	ABAA Conference in Denver, CO

Sprayed Polyurethane Foam Installer Training

May 6-8	ABAA Conference in Denver, CO
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Future courses being planned!

Field Auditor Training

May 6-8	ABAA Conference in Denver, CO
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Future courses being planned!

Whole Building Airtightness Training

Mar 31-Apr 4	Seattle, WA	Jun 23-27	Seattle, WA
Jun 9-13	Daytona Beach, FL	Oct 13-17	Daytona Beach, FL

Register: bit.ly/3zj5RLb



ABAA at Education Events & Conferences

Apr 2	BEC St. Louis Half-Day Symposium, St. Louis, MO
May 6-7	ABAA Building Enclosure Conference, Denver, CO
Jun 8-10	SCIP Conference, Louisville, KY



Hayward Field

Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, a 25,000-seat track and field venue, was fast-tracked for the 2020 PAC-12 championships and U.S. Olympic trials. Despite challenges like tight schedules and wet weather, WPI applied PROSOCO RGuard CAT5 air barriers to 51,000 SF of radius walls, clad with ARCIS rainscreen panels.

Architect: SRG Partnership

General Contractor: Hoffman Construction Company

Accredited Contractor: Western Partitions, Inc.

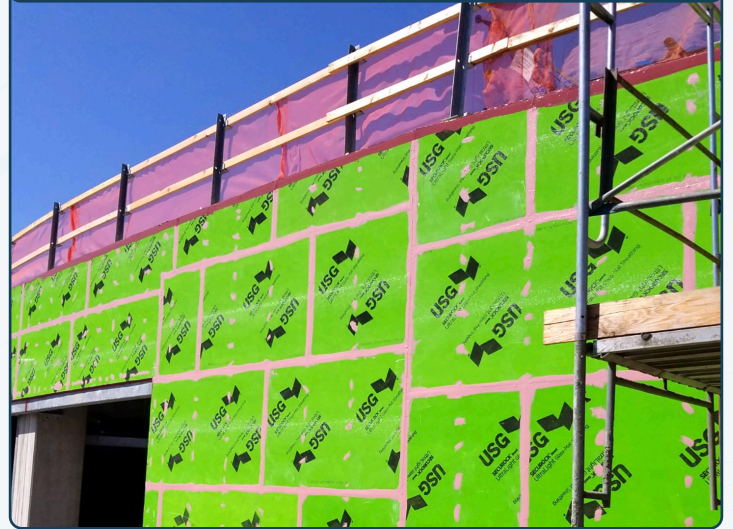
Air Barrier Installer: Alexander Krivoshapov, James Wallace, Elick Carlton, Avery Carlton, Jeff Anderson, Jacob Anderson and Vladimir Kharlamov

Building (sq. ft.): 175,965 **Air Barrier (sq. ft.):** 51,000

Location: 1580 E 15th Ave, Eugene, OR 97403

Type: New Construction – University Stadium

➤ [See more process photos: bit.ly/3WJ6Sff](https://bit.ly/3WJ6Sff)



Quickly Calculate Cost

We have a simple QAP calculator, try it out!

airbarrier.org/qap/qap-calculator



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The ABAA has released a new and improved **CABS Study Manual**, making certification more attainable than ever.



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