

4TH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

Achieving a High-Performance Air Barrier System

Proper Design, Installation, and Field
Quality Control

Save the Date: ABAA Building Enclosure Conference

Denver, CO |
May 6-7, 2025 |
Only a few
booths left

ABAA 2024/2025

Accomplishments to
Date & Coming Soon

Upcoming ABAA Education & Events

Stay ahead with upcoming training,
webinars, and industry events

Bottleworks Hotel Project Spotlight

Historic charm meets modern luxury with
ABAA-certified air barrier installation



A LETTER from the COO

Ryan Dalglish, Chief Operating Officer

Can you believe it is almost 2025! This year went by so fast, but it was amazing to see what we accomplished. I am sure it has been a busy year for everyone and hope you are gearing up for an amazing holiday season. We know this is a busy time of year, both professionally and personally, so we wanted to take a brief opportunity to provide a year in review for 2024.

We are pleased that ABAA continues to grow and has increased the membership to over 700 members (the largest amount ever!). As we enter the year of 2025 membership, it is a great accomplishment that ABAA has never increased the membership fees for 23 years. We are only able to do so by growing each year and this year was no exception.

We are also proud of our 2,700 plus certified and registered installers that perform quality work each day. On the educational front, over 22,000 individuals have taken part in our continuing education webinars and face-to-face symposiums – thank you to all those that attended a BIG THANK YOU to our speakers and presenters! All these events are done at no cost to the industry while we offer free webinars and fund travel and expenses for speakers (who graciously volunteer their time) to work with various organizations to deliver face-to-face continuing education.

This year also created a record for the number of training courses for installers, auditors and whole building airtightness with majority of classes at capacity or

sold out altogether. Our first whole building airtightness training program was offered on the east coast and will serve as another location to offer this training.

Our committees do a tremendous amount of work on technical, education, quality assurance, research and marketing initiatives. The combined efforts of all our volunteers is outstanding, as we organized over 120 meetings so far this year. I want to thank each committee member for their volunteer time and all the co-chairs for their leadership in moving the industry forward.

As we move into 2025, we have some exciting things coming your way. I have chosen some of the key initiatives to look forward to:

- A completely re-written and revamped Certified Air Barrier Specialist study guide.
- A set of roof to wall conceptual details done in 2D and 3D as a resource and educational tool.
- More training locations for whole building airtightness training in Chicago, Texas and Winnipeg.
- A new website with greater functionality and value for the industry
- Becoming an accredited standards writing body by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

Again, we reflect with gratitude on the year the ABAA has had, and we know it is due to our active members. So, with great appreciation and cheers to you - we are looking forward to what 2025 has in store for the ABAA and thank you so much for your support.

Achieving a High Performance Air Barrier System

PROPER DESIGN, INSTALLATION,
AND FIELD QUALITY CONTROL

An air barrier system is somewhat different than many of the other building components making up a building. You cannot see air leakage. As a designer, you have to trust the trade contractor and his workers that they will make all the connections air tight. This is being done by an industry that some say are quick to cover everything up so you don't see the level of quality in an installation (or lack of quality). This presentation will walk you through the steps whereby you can reduce your risk in the installation of an air barrier system thereby improving the moisture and energy performance of a building. The presentation will also cover what happens if you do not get it right. Many think of air barriers as simply saving energy, but the main reason you install an air barrier system in a building is to reduce moisture problems. This is true not just in cold climates but in warm climates, as well.

AN ARTICLE BY
LAVERNE DALGLEISH



QA Quality assurance is risk management

The problem with an air barrier system is that you cannot see the air leaks. What you may think is very airtight, can actually be very leaky and what you would expect to be very leaky may actually be very airtight. There are ways to allow you to “see” air leaks by using chemical smoke to see the leaks or you can measure the airflow rate into and out of the building. You can never make a building too tight but you do need to ventilate right. The goal for each building needs to be to make the building as tight as possible. To achieve this you need to do a risk assessment for each component or person that will be involved in the installation of the air barrier system. By determining the potential for risk and then determining the

A high-performance air barrier system is achieved through meticulous design, skilled installation, and rigorous quality control—because what you can't see *can* cost you.

magnitude of the potential risk, you can then take the appropriate steps to mitigate the risk. You cannot rely on any one single action to remove the risks involved in installing an air barrier system in a building. Buildings work as systems and the air barrier is only effective if the air barrier works as a system. I developed a quality circle back in the late eighties that has worked well in addressing this issue.

➤ Read more: bit.ly/3OPRLoW

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

abaa2025 building enclosure conference

DENVER, COLORADO MAY 6-7, 2025



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ABAA 2024/2025

2024 Accomplishments to Date

703

Record number of members

563

Quality Assurance Program Field Audits completed

23

Training programs for installers, auditors and whole building testing

330

Installers trained to apply air barriers properly

123

Committee Meetings in 2024 as of November 30

Coming Soon in 2025

- New Website
- New Whole Building Airtightness Technician Training Program locations
- Completely new and updated CABS Study Guide
- Standardized Roof-to-Wall construction details
- New Members-only portal with enhanced membership benefits

LEARNING UNIT CAFE IS OPEN

Order From the Menu

Sample our Learning Unit Café, an online menu of our most requested air barrier courses that any architectural firm, BEC, CSI, or AIA chapter can schedule at their convenience.

The menu consists of both Live and On-demand presentations and all are 1 LU/HSW, and many are GBCI.

» ORDER NOW

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:
lhardenman@airbarrier.org



AIA
Continuing
Education
Provider



MENU



ORDER ONLINE NOW • ORDER ONLINE NOW • ORDER ONLINE NOW

MAIN COURSE

Oh No! What Did I Miss? How to Properly Specify an Air Barrier

By: Ryan Dalgleish, CSI, CAE

The Big Disconnect: The Importance of Wall to Roof Connections for Your Air Barrier

By: Ryan Dalgleish, CSI, CAE

Please Proceed with Caution: Ensure Your Building Enclosure is Sustainable and Performs

By: Brian Stroik, ACIG, Performance Excellence & Quality Consultant, Chair of the ABAA, Past Chair – BEC National

Trust, but Verify - QC for your Air Barriers

By: Ryan Dalgleish, CSI, CAE

New Tools to Help Drive Decisions in your Air Barrier Specifications

By: Ryan Dalgleish, CSI, CAE

Air Barrier Material Testing – Why Peanut Butter is Good for a Sandwich, but NOT for your Air Barrier

By: Laverne Dalgleish, ABAA Executive Director

TAKE-OUT

Specifying Air Barriers to Achieve Airtightness

By: Laverne Dalgleish, ABAA Executive Director

Game Plan to Getting Air Barriers Right

By: Brian Stroik, ACIG, Performance Excellence & Quality Consultant, Chair of the ABAA, Past Chair – BEC National

“By Others” – The Elusive Subcontractor Responsible for Transitions + GBCI

By: Andrew Dunlap, AIA, CDT, LEED AP, NCARB, Principal, SmithGroup, Inc.

*On-demand Presentations 24/7

DESSERT

Certified Air Barrier Specialist (CABS) LAUNCH WEBINAR

By Roy Schaufele, FCSI, CCPR, FABAA, CABS

*On-demand Presentation 24/7

WWW.AIRBARRIER.ORG

CEUs On-Demand

Through-Wall Flashings and Transition Membranes: Selection & Installation

» REGISTER: bit.ly/45rkGqU

Failure is Not An Option: Air Barrier Continuity Strategies for Storefront & Curtain Wall Systems

» REGISTER: bit.ly/3RC4ihH

The Evolving Landscape of Commercial Energy Efficiency

» REGISTER: bit.ly/49DXJmt

A Guide for Building Enclosure Commissioning

» REGISTER: bit.ly/47Nf1wv



Is Your Organization Getting All the Education Benefits ABAA Has to Offer?

4th Quarter | On Continuing Education Provided to the Industry



38

JOINT EDUCATIONAL EVENTS
Including full day and half day events with partners such as: Australian Passive House Association, CSI Chicago, BEC Nebraska, BEC Iowa, IIBEC CSI West Michigan, CSI/IIBEC Nashville

62

ABAA webinars

ABAA CONTRACTOR WEBINARS
Topics: Building envelope best practices, High performance Wall System Design, Construction Specs, Building codes, etc.

Recent conferences presented at:
METALCON, Wagdy Anis Symposium, Advancing Quality in Construction

JANUARY
TO NOVEMBER

ATTENDEES
20,424

EVENTS
104

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS
22,574



Showcasing highlights from BEC Detroit (top row) and AIA Iowa (bottom row), capturing moments of connection, learning, and industry engagement





ABAA IN ACTION



Upcoming ABAA Education

Jan 9	Top 10 Unknown Enclosure Requirements + Enclosure Process	➤ Register: bit.ly/4iyyW7u
Jan 16	A Case Study in Enclosure Coordination – How The Academy for Global Citizenship Achieved Passive House Air Leakage Rates	➤ Register: bit.ly/49EsvMi
Jan 23	When Codes are in Conflict: Building Science and Life Safety in Wood Framed Construction	➤ Register: bit.ly/4doqhRs
Jan 30	Peeling Back the Onion	➤ Register: bit.ly/3BE9kp0
Feb 6	Building Envelope Case Study: from Initial Constructability Review Through Occupancy	➤ Register: bit.ly/41vgMNS
Feb 13	Resolving Complex Geometries for Iconic Towers: Combining Unitized and Stick-Built Curtain Wall Systems in High-Rise Design	➤ Register: bit.ly/30S7Avu
Feb 27	Energy Efficient Strategies for Building Enclosures	➤ Register: bit.ly/3DbNZ6W

ABAA at Education Events & Conferences

Jan 15	Cornell University Full Day Air Barrier Rodeo, Ithaca, NY
Jan 29-30	Construction Specifications Institute Master Specifiers Retreat, Savannah, GA
Feb 9-12	SPFA, Daytona Beach, FL
Mar 6-9	IIBEC Tradeshow & Conference, Orlando, FL
Mar 11	BEC Minnesota & CSI Minneapolis Symposium, Minneapolis, MN
Mar 20	CSI Indianapolis Chapter Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
May 6-7	ABAA Building Enclosure Conference, Denver, CO

Upcoming Certification Trainings

Self Adhered and Fluid Applied Training

Jan 21-23	Online
Feb 25-27	Online
Mar 18-20	Online

Whole Building Airtightness Technician Training Course

Feb 9-10, Daytona Beach, FL
 Mar 31 - Apr 4, Seattle, WA

➤ Register: bit.ly/3zj5RLb



Bottleworks Hotel

The 140-key Bottleworks Hotel crowns the historic Coca-Cola Bottling Works Building, seamlessly blending classic architecture with modern luxury. Superior BES, an ABAA-certified contractor, ensured precise air barrier installation for the new 3rd-floor addition. Guests enjoy meeting spaces, dining, a fitness center, and valet service.

Architect: Ratio

General Contractor: Hagerman

Accredited Contractor: Superior Insulation Co. LLC

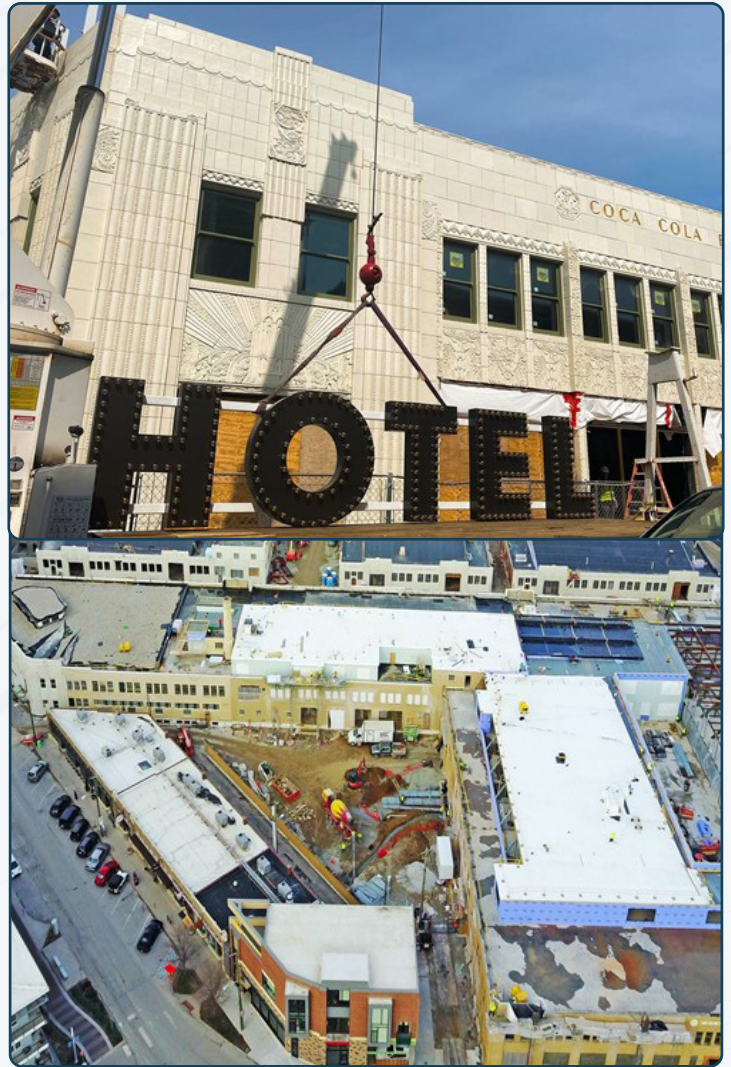
Air Barrier Installer: Matt Layou, Guadalupe Geuvara and Hector Mercado

Building (sq. ft.): 156,800 **Air Barrier (sq. ft.):** 24,000

Location: Indianapolis, IN

Type: Mixed use

[See more process photos](#)

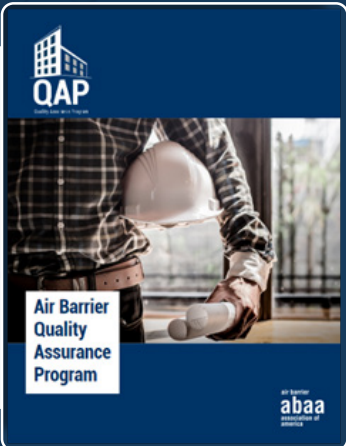


Quickly Calculate Cost

We have a simple QAP calculator, try it out!
airbarrier.org/qap/qap-calculator

Find an Accredited Contractor

Search ABAA-accredited contractors online at
www.airbarrier.org/search-results



ABAA QAP [Quality Assurance Program]

Learn how to make QAP part of your success story in 2024. We have outlined what it takes, the many benefits, and how much it costs to mitigate risk for a variety of building type and sizes.

[Brochure](#)

[Landing Page](#)