

(re)source

sealed barriers



Photo by David Brumgard

sealed barriers

A Whole Systems Approach means building a home with a tightly sealed air barrier that protects the inside of walls from air infiltration and condensation. Using traditional building materials, we are able to stop air leakage and reduce a home's energy consumption.

The sealed air barrier

Between a home's interior walls and its exterior sheathing, there are many opportunities for air leakage. And air moving through walls is always bad. It not only causes energy loss, it causes condensation to set on framing materials. A sealed air barrier is a simple framing technique that prevents air flow through walls.

We simply glue the exterior sheathing to the home's framing. We also use a continuous sealant, adhesive or gasket to attach the interior wall finish to the framing. And around ducts, pipes, wires and other small openings, we spray open-cell expanding foam to completely eliminate air flow. The sealed air barrier creates a tight building envelope and a stronger wall structure. Resulting in a green home that consumes one-third less energy than a home built with conventional methods.



Image courtesy of Eric Myers, Elemi Architects