

November 20, 2020

TECHNICAL BULLETIN #164 – Vapour Barrier at Garage Ceiling

It is the acceptable practice to install Genyk 'Floraseal' open cell spray foam to the sub-floor sheathing without an additional layer of polyethylene for several reasons.

1. the sub-floor material is a vapour retarder. Please check the characteristics of OSB at the following link - <https://buildingscience.com/documents/information-sheets/info-312-vapor-permeance-some-materials>.
2. the vapour retardant properties of the OSB/open cell spray foam combination are similar to that of fibrous material with a polyethylene vapour retardant layer (see attached chart).
3. because of the moisture laden environment of the garage, it is desirable to use material assemblies with excellent drying potential in the envelope. The OSB/open cell spray foam combination will allow wood structural members to dry throughout the seasons.

The inclusion of polyethylene will significantly impair the adhesion of the 'Floraseal' open cell spray foam. The long-term problems associated with this methodology will create heat loss, moisture entrapment, and potentially, structural member rot.

For the above reasons, Genyk Polyurethanes recommends the installation of 'Floraseal' open cell spray foam directly to the OSB. This application is fully warranted by Genyk Polyurethanes.

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