



EXTERIOR FOAM INSULATION *and* HOUSEWRAP

One-inch Extruded Polystyrene (XPS) rigid foam provides a continuous blanket of R-5 insulation on the exterior of the home. The continuous layer of insulation helps minimize “thermal bridges” or pathways for rapid heat loss across building framing members.

The housewrap overtop the XPS insulation provides a drainage plane for any water that gets behind the siding (rain can get behind every type of cladding) to run down and away from the wall. When properly connected to the window and door flashing systems, the housewrap is an integral part of the exterior moisture management system that should greatly improve the longevity of the home. When properly taped at seams and connected to top and bottom plates, housewrap also acts as an exterior air barrier to improve energy efficiency and comfort.

To save costs, rigid foam insulation could have been used in place of OSB, with OSB at the building corners or with metal bracing as required by code. Alternately, the housewrap could have been eliminated and the foam sheathing, with all seams taped, would serve as the exterior drainage plane.

4 pts. The exterior foam insulation, under **Section 3.3.1** (Continuous Exterior Insulation) of the **NAHB Model Green Home Building Guidelines**, receives **4 points**.

8 pts. The use of taped housewrap receives **8 points** in **Section 2.2.9**, Drainage Plane behind Exterior Cladding, in the **NAHB Model Green Home Building Guidelines**.