

Technical Tip

Copper Roofs on ZIP System® Roof Sheathing

ZIP System® roof sheathing is a combination wood structural panel and roofing underlayment. It is code recognized by International Building (IBC) and Residential Codes (IRC) as an alternate to roofing underlayment (felt paper) required by code when panel seams are taped with the ZIP System™ tape. ZIP System panels conform to the requirements of PS2, *Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panel*. PS-2 encompasses performance requirements, qualification procedures, and test methods for wood-based structural-use panels such as plywood and OSB. The ZIP System roof OSB substrate is a wood structural panel and satisfies the performance requirements outlined in the IBC and IRC for wood sheathing.

Copper, like most metals, conducts heat and expands and contracts with fluctuations in ambient temperature. Copper roof systems must be designed to accommodate normal expansion and contraction without resulting in premature fatigue of the metal. An approved slip sheet should be installed between the copper and the ZIP System roof sheathing. A slip sheet allows the metal to expand and contract freely. Asphalt-impregnated felts and building papers should not be used as slip sheets. The asphalt in these products can heat up and actually bond the copper to the sheathing surface. Rosin paper is commonly used as a slip sheet material in metal roof installation. There are some synthetic products available that may also perform well. Check with the copper roofing manufacturer for what products are acceptable slip sheets. Follow the copper roofing manufacturer's installation instructions.

Please contact our technical services department at 800-933-9220 with any questions or comments.