

Technical Tip

Why No H-Clips?

ZIP System® Roof sheathing is a combination wood structural panel and roofing underlayment. ZIP System panels conform to the requirements of PS2, *Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panel*.

Table 2304.7(3) of the IBC, *International Building Code*, highlights the span rating, the panel thicknesses and the corresponding maximum span with and without edge support (H-clips or similar) for typical wood structural panels. The IBC states that 1/2" thick, PS-2 panels that have a span rating of 32/16 can have an unsupported edge of 28" and 5/8" thick panels that have a span rating of 40/20 can have an unsupported edge of 32". This means that 1/2" and 5/8" thick roofing panels that are supported by roof framing (rafters or trusses) spaced at 16" o.c. or 24" do not require edge support (H-clips). It should be noted that the use of edge support (H-clips, blocking, tongue-and-groove edges, etc.) does not increase the maximum allowable load on a roof for a given truss or rafter spacing. Edge support only allows for wider on-center spacing of supports under certain conditions. For example: A 1/2" thick roof panel, with roof framing spaced at 24" o.c., can support a maximum allowable design load of 93 psf with or without H-clips. Please see the chart below for the recommended maximum allowable loading for 1/2" and 5/8" thick sheathing at 16" and 24" on-center spacings with or without H-clips.

Maximum Allowable Total Uniform Load (PSF)¹		
	16" o.c.	24" o.c.
1/2" ZIP System Roof	209	93
5/8" ZIP System Roof	283	156

1. Based on L/180 deflection, normal duration of load, 3-span condition, dry end-use conditions and minimal panel width of 24-inches.

Huber Engineered Woods does not currently recommend or warrant the use of H-clips with ZIP System Roof sheathing. The ZIP System Roof sheathing installation manual specifically states not to use H-clips. The use of H-clips with ZIP System Roof sheathing can interfere with ZIP System tape adhesion and will void the 30-year system limited warranty.

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