



THE 1ST UL APPROVED AIR SEALANT FOR AREA SEPARATION WALLS

PROBLEM

Area separation walls in multi-family and single-family attached buildings have proven difficult for builders to air seal effectively and consistently.

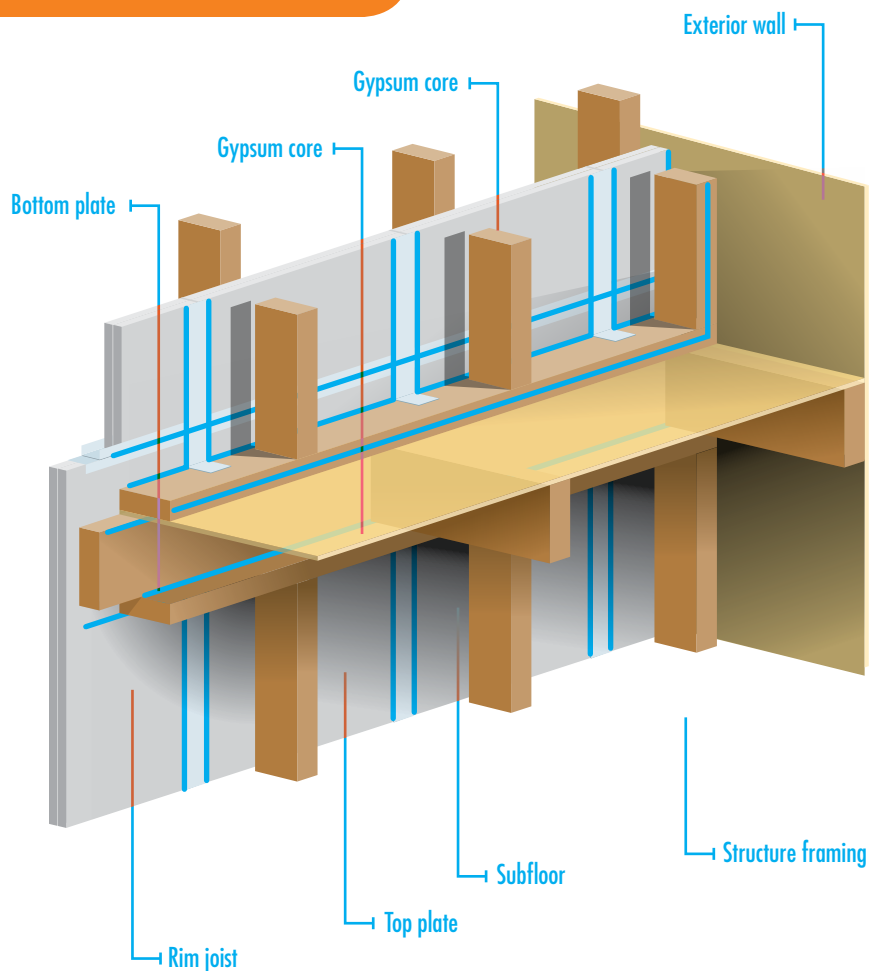
Fire blocking sealants approved for use in framing penetrations are not certified for use in UL 263 area separation wall designs.

SOLUTION

ECOSEAL Plus[™] is now a UL approved air sealant in U336 wall designs.

Use ECOSEAL Plus to seal all gaps between floors, at exterior wall transitions and other air leakage points within area separation walls to compartmentalize attached dwellings.

Request ECOSEAL Plus as part of the ECOSEAL Plus System for your homes. Call 1-800-825-4434 ext. 8727 or visit us online at ecoseal.knaufinsulation.us





USG - U336 AREA SEPARATION WALL

Stringent air leakage rates are a challenge for many builders, particularly in multi-family buildings. Multi-family and single-family attached buildings have a particularly hard detail to air seal: area separation walls (ASW). “[A]ir sealing of area separation wall assemblies in multifamily buildings ... is an identified barrier that limits the ability of builders to cost effectively achieve higher energy efficiency ... Air leakage through these assemblies is also a barrier to achieving air leakage limits mandated by the IRC and IECC.”¹ Also, ASW 2-hour fire ratings are such an important life safety feature, that code officials are hesitant to allow installation of non-UL listed products in these assemblies. “[F]ire blocking sealants approved for use to seal framing penetrations within a dwelling are not allowed to be used to seal the perimeter of the 3/4" air space required in UL 263 area separation walls.”²

To help builders meet both the fire and air sealing requirements, Knauf Insulation and U.S. Gypsum have teamed up to create the first air sealed UL 263 area separation wall design. UL design U336 now includes Knauf Insulation ECOSEAL Plus for use within the assembly to air seal the various joints that allow air leakage between units and to the outside. “In multifamily construction, research has shown that good compartmentalization is vital for fire, smoke, odor, contaminant, and sound control. In multi-story/high-rise construction, compartmentalization can ensure more reliable suite ventilation in buildings with common ventilation systems.”²

¹ Building America Expert Meeting: Code Challenges with Multifamily Area Separation Walls <http://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/building-america-expert-meeting-code-challenges-multifamily-area-separation>

² Field Testing of Compartmentalization Methods for Multifamily Construction. Building America Report – 1508. Kohta Ueno, Joe Lstiburek. March 2015. <http://www.buildingscience.com/documents/bareports/ba-1506-field-testing-compartmentalization-methods-multifamily>

HIGH PERFORMANCE



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