Products for Canada’s Energy Step Code

Building codes across Canada are changing rapidly to deal with climate change and create more energy efficient buildings. British Columbia’s “Energy Step Code” is an example of this.

As part of our work toward making a positive contribution, PowerHouse offers products that are complimentary to the ‘Passive’ philosophy of design and construction.

What is “Passive design”?

“Passivhaus”, originating in Germany, is a standard for energy efficiency in a building, which reduces a building’s ecological footprint. It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling to remain comfortable.

Passive design is the process by which these outcomes are achieved; the process integrates with architectural design, and specific construction methods and products to achieve high-energy efficiency buildings.

Passive design is fast becoming a globally recognised building standard for addressing the environmental challenges that face us. But whether you’re building to the Passive standard or just trying to meet your new energy code, these products will help.
Vertibreak® is a rigid, exterior, expanded polystyrene* (EPS) product with embedded rainscreen channels that virtually eliminate the need for wood furring, and offers the applicator time and labour savings while draining moisture and promoting drying.

*Although our hope is that a commercially viable alternative to foam plastics becomes readily available in the future, in the meantime, EPS is a good locally-sourced material expanded with steam (water) making it one of the lower carbon footprint foam plastics available.

Vycor env-S, a vapour permeable, fully adhered water & air barrier membrane will seriously improve a building’s energy efficiency when properly installed over the exterior substrate (i.e. sheathing). Third party independent reports suggest up to a 5X greater air barrier versus common building wraps.

PassivTape is an air barrier sealing tape that reduces air leakage via the building’s exterior envelope. Builders will tape housewrap joints, seams in plywood, interior poly and virtually any other penetrations in order to drastically improve their “blower door test” results. PassivTape also holds the Emicode EC1 Plus European standards label put forth by GEV which means the product meets the strict standards for excellent indoor air quality.

PassivPanels seal cable and pipe wall penetrations to prevent air leakage and stop moisture penetration. They form an integral part of a high performing air barrier system, helping to achieve new energy building code regulations.

For more information on these and additional Power-Passiv System products, visit: www.powerhousebuildingsolutions.com/passive-step-code