

THE FIRE HAZARDS OF UNTESTED MATERIALS

The use of coatings on foam shapes

*This TekTip should be carefully read. It pertains to the use of our systems with other materials and the effects they may have on the fire performance **of the entire wall assembly.***

Teifs does not allow our materials to be installed with or over materials that have not been fire tested by us as required by the building Type and classification.

RULES FOR NON-COMBUSTIBLE EIFS CONSTRUCTION

- 1) MUST BE INSTALLED AS TESTED
 - 2) NEVER ALLOWED OVER POLYURETHANE OR OTHER COATINGS
 - 3) OPENING HEADS INSTALLED AS TESTED
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INSTALLED AS TESTED

EIF systems (EIFS) consist of:

1. Foam insulation board
2. Adhesive and/or mechanical attachment of the insulation board to a substrate
3. Base coat on the face of the insulation
4. Glass fiber reinforcing mesh
5. Textured colored finish coat

Optional Additional Materials may include: Weather Barrier, Drainage medium, drainage tracks and/or flashing materials.

EIFS components are tested together for their ability to effectively resist fire, as required by all US model building codes. To ensure fire performance, installed assemblies must be comprised of the same components that are tested. Additional materials or coatings must be tested with the assembly to be allowable.

Each system has an International Code Council Evaluation Report with printed wall assemblies for non-combustible and fire rated assemblies.

Framing and Sheathing are also specified for Non-combustible and Fire-Rated Assemblies and must always be used for compliance.

NEVER ALLOWED OVER OR NEXT TO POLYURETHANE OR OTHER COATINGS

EPS shapes must be coated completely with EIFS base coat, mesh and finish. The use of polyurethane coatings on foam shapes has not been tested by Teifs, or at this time, by any EIFS manufacturer. When these shapes are coated and an acrylic finish installed on the exterior it becomes difficult to visually differentiate it from a



tested EIFS assembly. There have been cases in which untested materials were installed next to an EIF system and resulted in flame spread.

Teifs does not allow our materials to be installed over or next to Polyurethane or polyurea materials in non-combustible or fire-rated walls.

OPENING HEADS INSTALLED AS TESTED

The use of trim accessories at the heads of wall penetrations and at horizontal terminations (expansion joints) should only be undertaken after appropriate fire test(s) have been conducted to verify no adverse affects on fire performance.

To avoid the potential for unsatisfactory performance in a fire, architects and contractors who specify and install EIFS should employ only fire-tested, code-approved full EIFS on their projects.

Fire resistance versus Non-combustible construction

Although a wall may be both, a fire rated wall assembly is not necessarily the same as a non-combustible wall assembly and vice versa. They are tested under different methods and the criteria is quite different. Fire Rated Assemblies are tested according to ASTM E 119 (Test Method for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials) and Non-combustible assemblies are tested according to ANSI/NFPA 285-1998 (UBC 26-9), (Standard Method of Test for the Evaluation of Flammability Characteristics of Exterior Nonload Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components Using the Intermediate Scale Multi-Story Test Apparatus).

In addition to the tested assemblies listed in our Evaluation Report, Teifs EIF Systems are allowable over any tested combustible fire-rated assembly without effecting the fire rating of the building.

Teifs Literature and Evaluation Reports can be found at www.teifs.com or you can contact the Teifs Technical Department at techdept@teifs.com.



Look for more TekTips coming next quarter!



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