

N1101.6

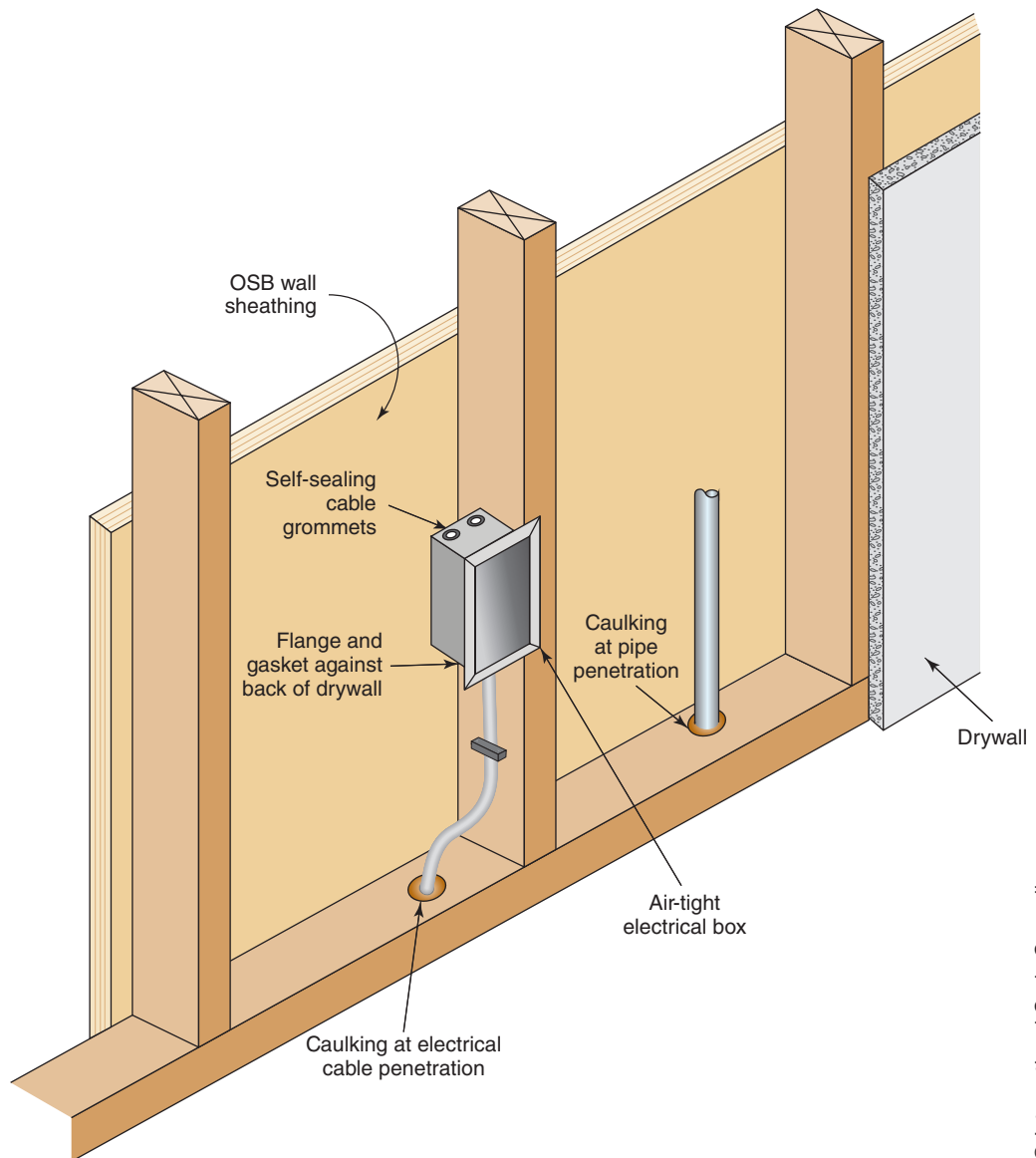
Definition of Air Barrier

CHANGE TYPE: Clarification

CHANGE SUMMARY: The definition for air barrier has been revised for clarification and the duplicate definition for continuous air barrier has been removed.

2018 CODE: N1101.6 (R202) Defined Terms

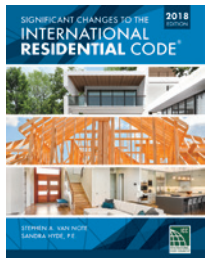
AIR BARRIER. Material(s) One or more materials assembled and joined together in a continuous manner to provide a barrier to restrict or prevent the passage of air leakage through the building thermal envelope and its assemblies.



Components of a continuous air barrier

~~**CONTINUOUS AIR BARRIER.** A combination of materials and assemblies that restrict or prevent the passage of air through the building thermal envelope.~~

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: An air barrier is an important component of the building thermal envelope to reduce air infiltration into the dwelling unit as well as exfiltration of air from the conditioned portions of the building. Table N1102.4.1.1 details the mandatory requirements for installation of the required air barrier and insulation. To be effective, the air barrier must be continuous and breaks or joints in the air barrier must be sealed. Combinations of many different materials satisfy the air barrier requirements, including plywood, oriented strand board (OSB), gypsum board and extruded polystyrene (impermeable insulation) sheathing, to name a few. Air-permeable insulation is not approved as an air barrier. Sealing of joints and breaks is accomplished with tape, caulking or sealants designed for the specific application. Revisions to the definition of air barrier are editorial to clarify the meaning and to better align with the code provision requiring continuity. The definition for continuous air barrier has been removed because it is redundant; air barriers must always be continuous. The air leakage rate of the building thermal envelope is measured through the mandatory blower door test.



This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Residential Code®*, 2018 Edition.

Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.