R-Seal FAQ

Q: Do PEMB manufacturers have an issue with foam board between panels/framing? Doesn't R-Seal impact the wall strength by reducing shear?

A: Most manufacturers have supplied buildings where Rigid Board/R-Seal has been used and they have details for rigid on exterior of framing. The MBMA has done studies regarding rigid on the outside of the framing on metal buildings (please contact your specific manufacturer for more details).

Q: Isn't is faster to install Insulated Metal Panels?

A: In the case of most rigid insulations the answer would be yes. R-Seal is designed and detailed with Metal buildings in mind. Most rigid insulation does not come in custom lengths and require the tape to be applied separately. In addition, because it is not as durable it can break when it is being install in longer length (if you can get custom lengths). Because of these reasons, man-hours are reduced in the field making the install more comparable to IMP's (See Install Video's).

Q: Don't the walls have to be sheeted twice with R-Seal?

A: No. R-Seal doesn't need to be screwed off. The base channel and supplied tape for the first girt will hold into place. R-Seal should be treated as if it was MBI. Only do what is necessary in your job conditions to hold it into place until the final sheeting is in place.

Q: Can I use R-Seal on the roof? Can I use R-Seal with Screw Down roof sheets?

A: We recommend using Standing Seam roofs with wide bearing plate clips (per standard MFG details). Using a screw down roof system MAY create expansion and contraction issues with the longer screws creating long-term roof issues.

Q: Doesn't a metal liner panel have to be used to meet fire code?

A: No, R-Seal has successfully passed full scale fire testing and can be left exposed per IBC 2009 Section 2603.9 for exposed rated foam.

Q: How can I meet Air Barrier requirements for Metal Buildings? How can I meet Air Barrier requirements with R-Seal?

A: R-Seal is a great product to meet Air Barrier requirements. Buildings that need to pass the "Whole Building Test" need to have the proper trim ordered with the building and transitions at doors, windows, and other penetrations need to be addressed. R-Seal creates the barrier on the exterior of the framing and NOT on the interior plane of the framing where transitions are harder to seal because of additional surface interruptions.

Q: I have already ordered my building…Can I use R-Seal now? My building is already on the ground…Can I use R-Seal now?

A: PIP has retro-fit base angle and trims for use in these situations but an analysis of whether making the wall thicker will affect the roof panel length needs to be done. In some cases it may not matter but usually the roof panels will have to be longer by the same amount as the thickness of the wall panel (2-4").

Q: Why should I use R-Seal versus cheaper polyiso sheets?

A: R-Seal is a finished looking product. "Exposed rated" and "Finished Look" are two different things. In addition, custom lengths eliminate waste versus 4' x 8' sheets and R-Seal has a much higher compressive strength with more durable finish.

Q: How is R-Seal attached to the building during installation?

A: The bottom rests in J-Channel supplied by PEMB Manufacturer (or PIP if requested) and is held onto the building with custom double faced tape on the first girt. In high wind conditions a self-tapper with fender washer can also be used at this girt. Treat the product like MBI: Only do the minimum to hold it in place until the metal panel is over it.

Q: How do I fasten the panels together?

A: R-Seal comes with pre-applied tape tabs to fasten and complete vapor barrier. For Air Barrier applications non-skinning butyl can be used at joints (Primarily needed at the base and eave. Consult with PIP for further job specific instructions).

Q: What is done at transitions/end laps?

A: R-Seal is detailed to break on a framing member and an angle is recommended to support the transition. Patch tape is used on the exterior to complete the vapor barrier where needed.

Q: What is done at the base?

A: The preferred option is to move out the concrete the thickness of the panel and use a U-Channel instead of angle for base detail. Only about an additional two to three yards of concrete are required for a 20,000 sf building.

Q: How durable is R-Seal for an interior finish?

A: R-Seal is one of the most durable rigid insulation systems available on the market today. Because of its rigidity it is more durable than any of the main stream low density systems for metal buildings (Core density + Facing strength).

Q: What is the perm rating (permeability) of R-Seal?

A: R-Seal has a layer of 0.02 perm rated material on the inside & the outside of a closed cell polyurethane core. The dew point falls in the middle of a closed cell foam which won't absorb water vs. low density or double layer systems where the dew point can be in the middle of the system and condensate in the system. In essence the R-Seal panel product (in total) is the vapor barrier.

Q: How do I patch R-Seal?

A: With patch tape for small areas. Use expanding spray foam (Available at any hardware store) to fill larger damage before covering with patch tape.

Q: What colors of R-Seal are available?

A: The standard color is white. Silver is available but is a longer lead time with an upcharge. Custom colors are available for large quantities.

Q: Are LEED points available?

A: LEED points are available for innovative product and may be available for exceeding energy code requirements as well as local manufacture (in the Pacific Northwest).

Q: How long of panels are available?

A: Currently R-Seal is available up to 24' long. Full truck lengths available by end of 2014.

Q: How much R-Seal fits on a truck?

A: We can fit the following quantities of R-Seal on a 53' truck for the average job:

16,000 sq. ft. of 2.0" (R-15)
14,000 sq. ft. of 2.5" (R-19)
11,200 sq. ft. of 3.0" (R-22)
8,400 sq. ft. of 4.0" (R-30)

Please verify your specific project load quantities.