

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0298**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	January 16, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Barrier to Vapour Diffusion
Keywords:	Heat Transfer, Air Leakage, Condensation Control, Vapour Barrier
Building Code Reference(s):	9.25.4.1.

## **Question:**

Does the Building Code provide specific installation details of a vapour barrier?

## **Interpretation:**

No.

The Code does not provide specific installation details of a vapour barrier. Sentence 9.25.4.1.(1) sets a minimum set of requirements for moisture control requiring a vapour barrier to provide a barrier to diffusion of water vapour from interior spaces into wall spaces, floor spaces or attic or roof spaces. The Code requires vapour diffusion to be limited, but not eliminated entirely. Notes A-9.25.5.1. provide guidance regarding the relationship of vapour barriers to construction assemblies in different climates.

The Designer needs to detail the vapour barrier installation to ensure they meet the intent of the code “to limit the probability of an uncontrolled diffusion of water vapour from air in heated space into insulated wall, ceiling and floor assemblies”

Sentence 9.25.5.1.(2) states that when the interior space results in high moisture generation, the assembly shall be designed to Part 5. Notes A-9.25.5.1. provide guidance on what a high moisture generating use may be.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.