

VAPOR BARRIER

Vapor Barriers help to reduce the rate at which water moves through a material.

It is more accurately called Vapor Diffusion Retarder (VDR), since it retards the vapor transfer.

MATERIAL

Vapor barriers are available as membranes, coatings and paints.

ADVANTAGES

- It helps in moisture control in basements, ceilings, crawl spaces, floors, slab-on-grade foundations and walls.
- It prevents rot and fungi, thereby preventing the decay of building materials and insulation

The effectiveness of the material is measured in terms of permeability or perms. Any material with a perm rating of < 1.0 is considered a vapor barrier.

INSTALLATION

- It is difficult to install a VDR in homes unless it is an extensive remodeling project. Vapor barrier paints are an effective and easier option in existing homes.
- Vapor barriers are used on the interior in colder climates (the warmer side in winter).
- Glossy paints are more effective than flat paints.
- Acrylic paints are more effective than latex paints.
- Always follow directions from the manufacturer for maximum effectiveness of the product.

Effective moisture control in any area is a combination of the vapor barrier and [air sealing](#).

Source: www.energysavers.gov