

# Introduction

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Polyguard Products has developed a systems approach to the Integrated Building Envelope. The systems are: Underseal© and Drainage for below grade, and Air and Vapor Barriers and Through Wall Flashing for above grade. Each system is compatible with the other and can be matched with the overall performance objectives of a job.

This edition of the *Integrated Building Envelope© Handbook* focuses on the connections between the Air and Vapor Barrier and Through Wall Flashing (TWF) products. It also addresses in overview the connections between above and below grade systems.

When an above grade wall assembly is designed with a defined air and vapor permeance its performance will depend in summation on how effectively the components have been chosen, installed, and interfaced. High performing exterior wall assemblies rely on fully integrated components, and complete connection with the Through Wall Flashing. As the AIA/CES Module on Enclosures and Cladding states:

*“Of the many different connection points, one that requires the most careful detailing and is most often subject to failure, is the interface between the air/moisture membrane and window openings, curtain walls, or storefront framing edges.”*

Enclosures and Cladding AIA/CES Module, <http://www.bdcnetwork.com/enclosuresandcladding>

TWF is an independent waterproofing system for all above grade exterior wall assemblies regardless of the air and vapor permeance requirements. The ease of installation and performance of TWF system connections with the Air and Vapor Barrier system is a Polyguard advantage.

If your building objective is to have a structure with a high performance building envelope, we invite you to look through this handbook to get acquainted with Polyguards products and how they integrate. If you are just looking for one of our individual systems, that will also work. Alone each of our systems is an industry leader.

To get information about a listed product, click on the product name in one of the handbook images and it will connect with the product data sheet. We developed this website to connect with you. Connect with one of our knowledgeable technical support staff for a more personal experience. The important thing is to stay connected. We think that is part of our mission.

P. Michael Collins – Technical Director Wall Systems

[Link - list of flashing products](#)