



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 695 [2017]

WATERGATE-PLUS 295 FIRE RETARDANT WALL UNDERLAY

Appraisal No. 695 [2017]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ
Appraisal No. 695 [2010]



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of
products for building and
construction.



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Product

- 1.1 Watergate-Plus 295 is a fire retardant, flexible synthetic wall underlay for use under direct fixed and non-direct fixed wall cladding on timber and steel framed buildings. The product is manufactured from coated, non-woven polyolefin and is coloured white.

Scope

Flexible Wall Underlay

- 2.1 Watergate-Plus 295 has been appraised for use as a flexible wall underlay for timber and steel framed buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1 with regards to building height and floor plan area; and,
 - with direct fixed absorbent and non-absorbent wall claddings; or,
 - with absorbent and non-absorbent wall claddings installed over an 18 mm minimum drained cavity; or,
 - with masonry veneer in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 for timber framed buildings or to a specific design for steel framed buildings; and,
 - situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to and including Very High.

Use over Rigid Wall Underlay

- 2.2 Watergate-Plus 295 has been appraised for use as a flexible wall underlay over rigid wall underlays on timber and steel framed buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1 with regards to building height and floor plan area; and,
 - with absorbent and non-absorbent wall claddings installed over an 18 mm minimum drained cavity; and,
 - with masonry veneer in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 for timber framed buildings or to a specific design for steel framed buildings; and,
 - situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to and including Extra High.

Specific Design

- 2.3 Watergate-Plus 295 has also been appraised for use on buildings subject to specific weathertightness design. Building designers are responsible for the building design and for the incorporation of Watergate-Plus 295 into their design in accordance with the declared properties and the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Watergate-Plus 295, if used, designed, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet, or contribute to meeting the following provisions of the NZBC:

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (a), not less than 50 years, B2.3.1 (b), 15 years and B2.3.2. Watergate-Plus 295 meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2.

Clause C3 FIRE AFFECTING AREAS BEYOND THE FIRE SOURCE: Performance C3.4 (c). Watergate-Plus 295 meets this requirement. See Paragraph 10.1.

Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E2.3.2. When used as part of the cladding system, Watergate-Plus 295 will contribute to meeting this requirement. See Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Watergate-Plus 295 meets this requirement and will not present a health hazard to people.

Technical Specification

- 4.1 Watergate-Plus 295 is a white, 112 g/m² non-woven, microporous polyolefin fabric underlay.
- 4.2 The product is supplied in rolls 1.370 m wide x 54.8 and 30 m long and 2.740 m wide x 30 and 18.5 m long. The product is printed with the Watergate-Plus 295 logo repeated along the length of the roll and is labelled with the marketing or construction company's name. The rolls are wrapped in clear polythene film.

Accessories

- 4.3 Accessories used with Watergate-Plus 295 which are supplied by the installer are:
- Fixings - staples, clouts, screws or proprietary underlay fixings, or other temporary fixings to attach the wall underlay to the framing.
 - Wall underlay support - polypropylene strap, 75 mm galvanised mesh or galvanised wire, or vertical cavity battens where required to support the wall underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.5.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Handling and storage of the product, whether on or off site, is under the control of the installer. The rolls must be protected from damage and weather. They must be stored on end, under cover, in clean, dry conditions and must not be crushed.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Watergate-Plus 295. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

- 7.1 Watergate-Plus 295 is intended for use as an alternative to conventional building papers which are fixed over timber or steel framed walls in order to limit the entry of wind into building cavities, and to act as a secondary barrier to wind-driven rain. Refer to Table 1 for material properties.
- 7.2 The material also provides a degree of temporary weather protection during early construction. However, the product will not make the building weathertight and some wetting of the underlying structure is always possible before the building is closed in. Hence, the building must be closed-in and made weatherproof before moisture sensitive materials such as wall or ceiling linings and insulation materials are installed.
- 7.3 Watergate-Plus 295 must not be exposed to the weather or ultra violet light for a total of more than 60 days before being covered by the wall cladding.
- 7.4 Watergate-Plus 295 is suitable for use as an air barrier where walls are not lined, such as attic spaces at gable ends, in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.4 [c].
- 7.5 In cavity installations where the cavity battens are installed at greater than 450 mm centres, the wall underlay must be supported between the battens to prevent the underlay bulging into the cavity space when bulk insulation is installed in the wall frame cavity in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.5. Wall underlay support options include polypropylene strap, 75 mm galvanised mesh or galvanised wire, or vertical cavity battens.

Table 1: NZBC E2/AS1, Table 23 [NZS 2295] Requirements

NZBC E2/AS1, Table 23 [NZS 2295] Wall Underlay Properties	Property Performance Requirement	Actual Property Performance
Absorbency	$\geq 100 \text{ g/m}^2$	Pass
Vapour Resistance	$\leq 7 \text{ MN s/g}$	Pass
Water Resistance	$\geq 20 \text{ mm}$	Pass
pH of Extract	$\geq 5.5 \text{ and } \leq 8$	Pass
Shrinkage	$\leq 0.5\%$	Pass
Mechanical	Edge tear and tensile strength	Edge tear [Average]: Machine direction = 110 N Cross direction = 91 N Tensile strength [Average]: Machine direction = 2.09 kN/m Cross direction = 1.78 kN/m
Air Barrier	Air resistance: $\geq 0.1 \text{ MN s/m}^3$	Pass. Watergate-Plus 295 can be used as an air barrier.

Claddings

- 7.6 Watergate-Plus 295 is suitable for use under wall claddings as a wall underlay as called up in NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23 on timber framed buildings, including non-absorbent wall claddings such as vinyl and metal-based weatherboards in direct fixed situations. Watergate-Plus 295 is suitable for use under cavity based wall claddings as an absorbent synthetic wall underlay as called up in NZS 2295, Table 2.4 on steel framed buildings.

Stucco Plaster

- 7.7 Watergate-Plus 295 is suitable for use as a non-rigid backing material for stucco plaster in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.3.5.1. The underlay must be supported with 75 mm galvanised mesh or plastic tape or wire at 150 mm centres run across the cavity battens to limit deflection to a maximum of 5 mm.
- 7.8 Watergate-Plus 295 may also be used as a slip layer over rigid backings for stucco plaster in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.3.3.1 (b).

Structure

- 8.1 Watergate-Plus 295 is suitable for use in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Very High when used as a stand-alone flexible wall underlay, and all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Extra High when used as an overlay for rigid wall underlays.

Durability

- 9.1 Watergate-Plus 295 meets code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (a), not less than 50 years for wall underlays used where the cladding durability requirement or expected serviceable life is not less than 50 years, e.g. behind masonry veneer, and code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (b), 15 years for wall underlays used where the cladding durability requirement is 15 years.

Serviceable Life

- 9.2 Provided it is not exposed to the weather or ultra-violet light for a total of more than 60 days, and provided the exterior cladding is maintained in accordance with the cladding manufacturer's instructions and the cladding remains weather resistant, Watergate-Plus 295 is expected to have a serviceable life equal to that of the cladding.

Control of Internal Fire and Smoke Spread

- 10.1 Watergate-Plus 295 has an AS 1530 Part 2 flammability index of not greater than 5 and therefore meets the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS2 to C/AS6, Paragraph 4.17.8 (b), for the surface finish requirements of suspended flexible fabric used as an underlay to exterior cladding that is exposed to view in occupied spaces. It may therefore be used with no restrictions in all buildings.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 11.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Watergate-Plus 295 from heat sources such as fire places, heating appliances, flues and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 – C/AS6 and NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

External Moisture

- 12.1 Watergate-Plus 295 must be used behind claddings that meet the requirements of the NZBC, such as those covered by NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, or claddings covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal.
- 12.2 Watergate-Plus 295, when installed in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal will assist in the total cladding systems compliance with NZBC Clause E2.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirements

- 13.1 Installation must always be carried out in accordance with the Watergate-Plus 295 Technical Literature and this Appraisal, by or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant Licence Class.

Underlay Installation

- 14.1 Watergate-Plus 295 must be fixed to all framing members at maximum 300 mm centres with large-head clouts 20 mm long, 6-8 mm staples, self drilling screws or proprietary underlay fixings. The underlay must be pulled taut over the framing before fixing.
- 14.2 Watergate-Plus 295 must be run horizontally and must extend from the upper-side of the top plate to the under-side of the bearers or wall plates supporting ground floor joists, or below bottom plates on concrete slabs. Horizontal laps must be no less than 150 mm wide, with the direction of the lap ensuring that water is shed to the outer face of the membrane. End laps must be made over framing and be no less than 150 mm wide.
- 14.3 The wall underlay should be run over openings and these left covered until windows and doors are ready to be installed. Openings are formed in the underlay by cutting on a 45 degree diagonal from each corner of the penetration. The flaps of the cut underlay must be folded inside the opening and stapled to the penetration framing. Excess underlay may be cut off flush with the internal face of the wall frame.
- 14.4 Watergate-Plus 295 can be added as a second layer over head flashings in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.10.3.
- 14.5 When fixing the product in windy conditions, care must be taken due to the large sail area created by wide roll widths.
- 14.6 Any damaged areas of Watergate-Plus 295, such as tears, holes or gaps around service penetrations, must be repaired. Damaged areas can be repaired by covering with new material lapping the damaged area by at least 150 mm and taping, or by taping small tears.

Inspections

- 14.7 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of Watergate-Plus 295 installations.

Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

Tests

- 15.1 The following tests have been carried out on Watergate-Plus 295 in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23: tensile strength, edge-tear resistance and resistance to water vapour transmission in accordance with AS/NZS 4200.1, shrinkage in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.3, resistance to water penetration in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.4, surface water absorbency in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.6, pH of extract in accordance with AS/NZS 1301.421s and air resistance to BS 6538.3. A range of these tests were completed before and after Watergate-Plus 295 was exposed to ultra-violet light.
- 15.2 The flammability Index of Watergate-Plus 295 has been evaluated in accordance with AS/NZS 1530.2.

Other Investigations

- 16.1 A durability opinion has been given by BRANZ technical experts.
- 16.2 An evaluation of the expected performance of Watergate-Plus 295 in direct contact with metal wall cladding has been completed by BRANZ.
- 16.3 The practicability of installation of Watergate-Plus 295 has been assessed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 16.4 The Technical Literature, including installation instructions, has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Quality

- 17.1 The manufacture of Watergate-Plus 295 has not been examined by BRANZ, but details of the methods adopted for quality control and the quality of the materials used, have been obtained and found to be satisfactory.
- 17.2 The quality of supply to the market is the responsibility of Thermakraft Limited.
- 17.3 Building designers are responsible for the design of the building, and for the incorporation of the wall underlay into their design in accordance with the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.
- 17.4 Quality of installation is the responsibility of the installer in accordance with the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.

Sources of Information

- AS 1530.2: 1993 Test for flammability of materials.
- AS/NZS 1301.421s: 1998 Determination of the pH value of aqueous extracts of paper, board and pulp - Cold extraction method.
- AS/NZS 4200.1: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Materials.
- AS/NZS 4201.1: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Resistance to dry delamination.
- AS/NZS 4201.2: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Resistance to wet delamination.
- AS/NZS 4201.3: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Shrinkage.
- AS/NZS 4201.4: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Resistance to water penetration.
- AS/NZS 4201.6: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Surface water absorbency.
- BS 6538.3: 1987 Method for determination of air permeance using the Garley apparatus.
- NZS 2295: 2006 Pliable, permeable building underlays
- NZS 3604: 2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods for New Zealand Building Code External Moisture Clause E2, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Third Edition July 2005 (Amendment 7, 01 January 2017).
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Watergate-Plus 295 Fire Retardant Wall Underlay** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Thermakraft Limited**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **Thermakraft Limited**:
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions.
 - d) Warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **Thermakraft Limited**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **Thermakraft Limited** or any third party.

For BRANZ



Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

21 September 2017