



HOUSEWRAP

Technical Bulletin

TYPAR® HouseWrap continues to set the standard in water hold-out even when surfactants are present.

What is a Surfactant?

Surfactants are compounds that lower the surface tension between two liquids or liquid and a solid. Surfactants that can contaminate the surface of water and reduce its ability to manage moisture, include:

- detergents, soaps and exterior siding cleaners
- turpentine
- bonding agents in stucco
- water-soluble extractives in wood (wood tannins and cedar oils)

The Problem With Surfactants.

The problem with surfactants is they could cause “wetting” of the housewrap surface depending on the product design. Once the wetting of the housewrap occurs, pores within the housewrap become filled, allowing transport of liquid phase water across the housewrap by capillary action.



Left: Surfactants such as exterior siding cleaners used in pressure-washing can break down the resistance of a housewrap.

TYPAR HouseWrap helps prevent the damage caused by exposure to surfactants.



A Simple Surfactant Test.

1. Cut pieces of TYPAR HouseWrap, Tyvek Homewrap and Pactiv Raindrop, and fold the edges of the product to form a “boat” or bowl.
2. Add a few drops of dishwashing soap - a typical surfactant - to ordinary water.
3. Pour a small amount into each of the housewrap bowls and swirl the mixture on the surface. Allow boat to sit on a sheet of paper for 60 minutes.

What Are The Results?

TYVEK HOMEWRAP

When exposed to a surfactant liquid, the Tyvek HomeWrap fabric **LEAKS**, allowing water to seep through.



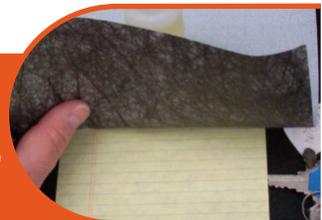
PACTIV RAINDROP

Like Tyvek, the Pactiv Raindrop fabric performs poorly and **LEAKS**, allowing water to readily penetrate through to the paper.



TYPAR HOUSEWRAP

TYPAR HouseWrap sets the standard in water hold-out and **DOES NOT LEAK** when exposed to a surfactant liquid.



For more information on TYPAR HouseWrap and the TYPAR Weather Protection System of products, visit typar.com.

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