

W-Wall FAQ

1. What is the difference between a UL (Product IQ), ICC-ES (ESR), Intertek (CCRR), DrJ (TER), etc. listing?
 - a. In short, nothing! These companies are 3rd party certification entities that test, certify and list tested products and assemblies. Each company certifies the products and assemblies listed on their certification database, or technical reports, meet the specific requirements of the building code. There are no requirements in the Building Code to use a specific 3rd party listing company, and each of these can be used interchangeably.
2. Can electrical, plumbing or mechanical be run in the W-Wall?
 - a. Per IRC Section R302.2, no plumbing, mechanical equipment, ducts or vents may be installed within the common wall. However, electrical is allowed and must follow applicable IRC requirements.
3. I am using an existing 2-hour fire-rated wall design, that has a different footprint than the W-Wall. Do I need to change my building footprint?
 - a. No. The air gap between the 2 stud rows is a min 1". If desired, this can be increased to maintain the existing footprint design.
4. Where do I need to install fire blocking?
 - a. Per Section R302.11 in the IRC, fire blocking shall be provided vertically at the ceiling and floor levels, and horizontally at intervals not exceeding 10'. We offer several connection details which show options for fire blocking in conjunction with our assembly.
5. Am I required to use the exact connection details provided?
 - a. No. These are common details used across the US and are provided to help design and visualize these connections with the W-Wall. Although each detail follows the intent of the building code, these are not prescribed solutions. Each AHJ will still have the final say in meeting code compliance.
6. What can be used as a fire-blocking material?
 - a. Approved fire-blocking materials are listed in Section R302.11.1 of the IRC.
 - 2" nominal lumber
 - Two thicknesses of 1" nominal lumber with broken laps
 - 23/32" wood structural panels with joints backed by 23/32" wood structural panels
 - 3/4" particleboard with joints backed by 3/4" particleboard
 - 1/2" gypsum board
 - 1/4" cement-based millboard
 - Batts or blankets of mineral wool or glass fiber or other *approved* materials

7. The W-Wall only has spray foam in one stud row. How does this affect the fire and sound ratings of the wall?
 - a. Our W-Wall was evaluated from both directions for both fire and sound resistance. Although this wall assembly is asymmetrical, the assembly is approved for the 2-hour fire-resistance rating as well as minimum sound transmission from either direction.

8. My AHJ is requiring insulation in both stud rows. Can this be done, and how?
 - a. Yes. Though not required by the building code, some municipalities may require insulation in both stud rows. We have approvals for fiberglass, mineral wool, or cellulose to be used in the stud row opposite the row filled with SPF. The min 1" air gap must still be maintained if insulation is added to the wall assembly.

9. Are there any specialty products used in the W-Wall?
 - a. No. Aside from HBS-specific open-cell spray foam, all other products are generic and commonly sourced materials. Any brand of 5/8" Type X gypsum (paper-faced or glass-faced), drywall screws, tape and joint compound, and typical stud framing members can be utilized.