



ecoply®

FLOORING

ecoply®

ROOFING

ecoply®

Square  
EDGE

ecoply®

BARRIER

# ECOPLY® SPECIFICATION & INSTALLATION GUIDE

JUNE 2025



Information contained within is specific to Ecoply® structural plywood products and must not be used with any other plywood products, no matter how similar they may appear.



# ECOPLY® SPECIFICATION & INSTALLATION GUIDE

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## 1.0 ECOPLY® PRODUCT RANGE

Manufactured and/or distributed by Carter Holt Harvey Plywood, the Ecoply® portfolio represents a range of structurally rated plywood products.

Ecoply is manufactured under a third party audited quality control programme to monitor compliance with AS/NZS 2269 Plywood Structural.

For information relating to Shadowclad® panels and plywood used as an exterior cladding, refer to the current Shadowclad Specification and Installation Guide for Cavity Construction. For information relating to Ecoply Barrier used as a rigid air barrier refer to the current Ecoply Barrier Specification and Installation Guide. Both of these documents can be downloaded from [www.chhply.co.nz](http://www.chhply.co.nz).

Ecoply products must be competently installed in accordance with good building practices and sound design principles to satisfy the requirements of the Building Act 2004, the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC), and applicable New Zealand Standards. This is the responsibility of building owners and the design professionals and builders that they engage. This document contains information, limitations, and cautions regarding the properties, handling, installation, usage, and the maintenance of Ecoply products. However, to the maximum extent permitted by law, Carter Holt Harvey Plywood assumes no legal liability to you in relation to this information.

### 1.1 TECHNICAL INFORMATION & CAD DETAILS

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When specifying or installing any Ecoply plywood products visit [www.chhply.co.nz](http://www.chhply.co.nz) or call 0800 326 759 to ensure you have current specification material and any relevant technical notes.

*The information contained in this document is current as at June 2025. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the most up to date information available.*

*The information contained in this publication relates specifically to Ecoply® structural plywood products manufactured and/or distributed by Carter Holt Harvey Plywood and must not be used with any other plywood manufacturer's product no matter how similar they may appear.*

*Alternative plywood products can differ in a number of ways which may not be immediately obvious and substituting them for Ecoply structural plywood products is not appropriate, and could in extreme cases lead to premature failure and/or buildings which do not meet the requirements of the NZBC.*

## 1.2 PRODUCT DESCRIPTION & RANGE

Ecoply® structural plywood panels are manufactured from wood veneers. The veneers are placed at right angles to each other for maximum strength and stability then bonded together with synthetic phenolic (PF) resin to form a strong and permanent Type A bond.

The strength of Ecoply plywood is optimised for maximum performance parallel to the face grain with cross plies providing enhanced stability across the grain.

The Ecoply plywood range can be specified for:

- Surface grade (e.g. CD) - where the first letter describes the face veneer appearance and the second letter describes the back veneer of the Ecoply sheet. Surface grades are defined in AS/NZS 2269 and summarised in Tables 2A and 2B.
- Stress grade - utilises the symbol F and a suffix for both parallel and perpendicular to the grain directions, for example;
  - F8/F8 as a code to apply a full suite of strength and stiffness properties to plywood products of that stress grade in both directions.
  - For plywood 15mm thick and below all Ecoply products are minimum F8/F8.
  - For Ecoply plywood products 17mm thick and above most products are F8/F5.
  - Ecoply 19mm Longspan Flooring is F11/F8 stress grade (See Tables 1, 4 and 5).

- Thickness - ranging from 7mm to 25mm.
- Length - being 2400mm and 2700mm with a standard nominal width of 1200mm.
- Preservative treatment - being untreated, H3.2 CCA or H3.1 LOSP Azole treated.
- Edge finish - being square edge or for Ecoply Flooring and Roofing, routed on the long edges of the sheet with a polypropylene plastic tongue inserted into one side for a tongue-in-groove joint.

For general installation advice refer to section 2.0: General Installation Guide.

For specification and installation advice for Ecoply used in typical applications refer to the following sections.

### Typical Application

### Section

Structural bracing and ceiling diaphragms	3.0
Roofs and decks	4.0
Flooring	5.0

**Note: Technical notes referenced in this guide can be downloaded from [www.chhply.co.nz](http://www.chhply.co.nz) or contact Carter Holt Harvey Plywood on 0800 326 759.**

**Table 1: Ecoply® Product Range**

Stress Grade (UNO)		F8/F8								F8/F5							
Nominal Thickness (mm)		7		9		12		15		17		19		21		25	
Sheet length (x 1200mm width)		2400	2700	2400	2700	2400	2700	2400	2700	2400	2700	2400	2700	2400	2700	2400	2700
Ecoply® Structural Square Edge	CD	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	DD	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ecoply Flooring (pt)	CD											●	●	●	●	●	●
Ecoply Roofing (pt) <sup>1</sup>	DD							●									

● Available untreated only

● Available either untreated or H3.2 CCA

● Available H3.2 CCA only

**pt** Machine grooves on both long edges with a plastic polypropylene tongue in one groove, 1200mm cover.

**1** Ecoply 15mm Roofing and Ecoply 19mm Longspan Flooring are supplied as standard in F11/F8 stress grade.

- Full range may not always be available ex stock, check with your Ecoply supplier to ensure availability.
- Non standard specifications, including thicker sheets may be available to special order in significant quantities.





## 1.3 SURFACE GRADES



Table 2A summarises the surface appearance grades in which Ecoply® structural plywood is available with some typical applications for each surface grade.

**The surface grade specifications are defined in AS/ NZS 2269.** Table 2B details surface appearance grades for speciality Ecoply plywood and typical applications.

**Table 2A: Ecoply® Structural Square Edge Products**

Face Grade C	Face Grade D
	
<p>Solid sanded surface with filled holes and splits, with intergrown knots. Suitable for a basic paint finish. Ecoply panels may include minor imperfections associated with veneer based wood products.</p> <p>Ecoply Panels are subject to natural characteristics of timber; Ecoply may contain filler and require additional preparation prior to coating application to achieve the desired aesthetic requirements.</p>	<p>Non appearance grade allowing open imperfections up to 75mm across the face veneer. Splits and knots allowable.</p>
<p><b>Possible Uses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural gussets</li> <li>• Stressed skin panels</li> <li>• Bins, boxes, crates</li> <li>• Hoardings</li> <li>• Membrane substrate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Possible Uses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non visual bracing</li> <li>• Strength critical pallets</li> <li>• Structural components</li> <li>• Portal frame gussets</li> </ul>

**Table 2B: Speciality Ecoply® Products**

Flooring CD	Roofing DD
	
<p>Solid sanded C grade surface with tongue and groove profile on long edges.</p>	<p>Unfilled D grade surface with tongue and groove profile on long edges.</p>
<p><b>Possible Uses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substrate for flooring overlays such as linoleum, tiles and rigid coverings</li> <li>• Substrate for membrane roofing and decking where visible appearance is critical</li> </ul>	<p><b>Possible Uses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substrate for asphalt shingles</li> <li>• Substrate for roof systems where a smooth substrate is not required</li> </ul>

Notes: A higher visual grade may be substituted if required, e.g. Ecoply® CD can be used anywhere DD is used. Pictures shown above are scaled down versions of typical Ecoply sheets. Grain pattern and colour may vary. If sheet appearance is critical select panels individually.

## I.4 PRESERVATIVE TREATMENT

Ecoply® structural plywood is available untreated or treated in accordance with AS/NZS 1604.3:2012. If treated, Ecoply structural plywood is treated with either H3.2 CCA (Copper Chrome Arsenate) or H3.1 LOSP (Azole) clear treatment.

H3.2 CCA and H3.1 LOSP treated plywood in accordance with AS/NZS 1604.3 is described as suitable for: “outside, above ground, subject to periodic moderate wetting and leaching.”

**Ecoply® plywood is envelope preservative treated. Where sheets are cut, cuts must be coated with a brush on timber preservative. Soudal® Metalex® Concentrated Timber Preservative Clear (Soudal® Metalex® Clear) is recommended. Failure to do so will affect the long term durability of the panel.**

The characteristics of the treatments are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Preservative Treatment**

	Untreated	H3.2 CCA	H3.1 LOSP (Azole)
<b>Preservative Carrier</b>	N/A	Water	Light organic oil (white spirits)
<b>Colour</b>	Natural	Green	Clear (i.e. natural)
<b>Fungicide</b>	Heat treated dry wood	Copper	Propiconazole and Tebuconazole
<b>Insecticide</b>	Heat treated dry wood	Arsenate	Permethrin
<b>Other Chemicals</b>	N/A	Chrome (to fix preservative in wood)	Butyl Oxitol (co-solvent to assist active stability)
<b>Mouldicide</b>	N/A	Copper (limited efficacy)	IPBC
<b>Notes</b>	Plywood for dry interior use, supplied ex mill at <15% moisture content	Dried after treatment to average 18% moisture content for use in service at higher moisture contents	Solvent does not affect dimensions. Solvent smell disappears over time
<b>Availability</b>	Readily available	Standard treatment	Treated to order for CD, DD, flooring and roofing products.
<b>Applications (Refer NZS 3602)</b>	Interior dry protected	Exterior/Interior damp (service performance subject to detailing and coatings)	

### H3.2 CCA

Ecoply structural plywood, which is H3.2 CCA treated (waterborne preservative with a green colour), is dried following treatment so that sheets may return to the correct dimensions. The moisture content after treatment with CCA and drying will be higher than the limits placed in AS/NZS 2269 on untreated product. The target is for an average moisture content of approximately 18% to provide a panel closer to the expected equilibrium moisture content for most H3.2 CCA applications.

The fillets used to separate sheets in drying may leave marks on the sheet surface. These will fade over time as the plywood weathers, and can be disguised with paint but may be visible under stain. The process of treating with H3.2 CCA and subsequent drying is likely to increase the face checking of the panel.

For more information on face checking refer to section 1.8 General Design Considerations - Aesthetics.

### H3.1 LOSP

H3.1 LOSP treated Ecoply retains the wood colour and does not contain moisture so the plywood remains at the same dimensions and moisture content during treatment. However, the plywood when freshly treated may contain more than 60 litres of organic fluid per cubic metre. When coating H3.1 LOSP treated plywood, traces of residual solvent may be present on the sheet surface from the treatment process. Sheets feeling greasy to touch should be placed in a well ventilated area and allowed to flash off to ensure proper adhesion of paints and stains to the sheet surface.

The H3.1 LOSP solvent smell can be quite strong and venting is recommended until most of the solvent has evaporated. Untreated plywood is recommended for internal applications where NZS 3602 allows the use of untreated plywood.

Mechanical fasteners are recommended to fix H3.1 LOSP treated Ecoply to framing. If adhesives are required, thorough venting is recommended and H3.1 LOSP tolerant adhesives should be applied according to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. See section 2.3 Adhesives.

## 1.5 SECTION PROPERTIES

**Table 4A: Section Properties of Ecoply® Structural Plywood**

Section Properties per mm width								
Nominal Plywood Thickness <sup>2</sup> (mm)	ID Code <sup>2</sup>	Mass (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Parallel to the Face Grain			Perpendicular to the Face Grain		
			Parallel Moment of Inertia (mm <sup>4</sup> )	Section Modulus Z (mm <sup>3</sup> )	Shear Constant <sup>3</sup> I/Q (mm <sup>2</sup> )	Perpendicular Moment of Inertia I (mm <sup>4</sup> )	Section Modulus Z (mm <sup>3</sup> )	Shear Constant <sup>3</sup> I/Q (mm <sup>2</sup> )
7	7-24-3	4.6	30.0	8.3	5.2	2.1	1.0	1.6
9	9-30-3	5.9	58.6	13.0	6.5	4.0	1.5	2.0
12	12-24-5	7.8	114.9	19.0	9.3	33.4	8.3	5.2
15	15-30-5	9.8	224.5	29.7	11.6	65.2	13.0	6.5
17	17-24-7	11.0	284.5	33.5	12.2	122.5	19.0	9.3
19	19-30-7	12.3	450.7	46.5	13.8	156.8	21.7	10.5
21	21-30-7	13.6	555.7	52.3	15.3	239.2	29.7	11.6
25	25-30-9	16.2	896.7	72.0	18.0	381.1	38.1	13.5

**Table 4B: Nominal Strengths of Sections of Ecoply® Structural Plywood For Limit States Design**

Nominal Strengths (Limit States) per mm width								
Nominal Plywood Thickness <sup>2</sup> (mm)	ID Code <sup>2</sup>	Stress Grade	Parallel to the Face Grain			Perpendicular to the Face Grain		
			Bending Stiffness EI (1000 Nmm <sup>2</sup> )	Bending Moment f <sub>pb</sub> Z (Nmm <sup>2</sup> )	Rolling Shear f <sub>pr</sub> I/Q (N)	Bending Stiffness EI (1000 Nmm <sup>2</sup> )	Bending Moment f <sub>pb</sub> Z (Nmm)	Rolling Shear f <sub>pr</sub> I/Q (N)
12	12-24-5	F8/F8	1046.0	475.2	15.8	303.7	208.0	8.8
15	15-30-5	F8/F8	2043.0	742.5	19.8	593.2	325.0	11.1
	15-30-5	F11/F8	2357.3	920.7	21.0	593.2	325.0	11.1
17	17-24-7	F8/F5	2589.0	836.6	20.7	845.1	266.1	13.8
	17-24-7	F11/F8	2987.3	1037.3	22.0	1114.6	475.2	15.8
19	19-30-7	F8/F5	4101.4	1162.5	23.4	1082.0	304.2	15.5
	19-30-7	F11/F8	4732.4	1441.5	24.8	1427.0	543.3	17.8
21	21-30-7	F8/F5	5056.7	1307.1	25.9	1650.6	415.8	17.2
25	25-30-9	F8/F5	8159.8	1800.9	30.5	2629.7	533.7	19.9

<sup>1</sup> Actual thickness of Ecoply® sheets manufactured to thickness tolerances stated in AS/NZS 2269.

<sup>2</sup> Identification code: panel thickness – outermost veneer thickness x 10 – number of plies.

<sup>3</sup> I/Q values for rolling shear are for stress at the neutral axis calculated as in NZS 3603.

Notes:

- The section properties in Tables 4A and B have been calculated in accordance with AS/NZS 2269.
- For section properties for other thicknesses and Shadowclad® products contact CHH Plywood on 0800 326 759.

## Structural Properties of Ecoply® Plywood

The majority of Ecoply® plywood is either F8/F8 or F8/F5 grade (exceptions are identified in section 1.2: Product Description and

Range) and the characteristic values may be used in conjunction with both NZS 3603 and NZS AS 1720.1 for the design of timber components. The characteristic strengths in Table 5 have been used to provide the nominal strengths in Table 4B.

**Table 5: Structural Properties of Ecoply® Plywood**

Stress Grade	Characteristic Strength MPa		
	F5	F8	F11
Bending ( $f_{pb}$ )	14	25.0	31.0
Tension ( $f_{pt}$ )	9.6	15.0	18.0
Panel Shear ( $f_{ps}$ )	3.7	4.2	4.5
Rolling Shear ( $f_{pr}$ )	1.5	1.7	1.8
Compression in Plane of Sheet ( $f_{pc}$ )	12.0	20.0	22.0
Compression Normal to the Plane of the Sheet ( $f_{pn}$ )		9.7	12.0
Modulus of Elasticity (E)	6900	9100	10500
Modulus of Rigidity (G)	345	455	525

Source: AS/NZS 2269

Wood is strongest when stressed parallel to the grain and weakest across the grain, so the lay up or arrangement of veneers in the panel determines the properties. Because of its cross banded construction, plywood possesses significant strength and stiffness both parallel and perpendicular to the direction of the face grain, but is generally strongest and stiffest along the direction of the face grain.

The section properties of structural plywood in Table 4A are calculated in accordance with AS/NZS 2269 to allow for the reduced contribution of veneers perpendicular to the direction of stress. For engineering design to NZS 3603 and/or NZS AS

1720.1, the section properties are multiplied by stresses and 'k' and  $\phi$  factors to determine resistances for limit states design.

Resistances and nominal strengths in Table 4B assume all 'k' factors are equal to 1.0. Multiply tabled values by the strength reduction factor  $\phi$  and 'k' factors for specific in-service conditions for design to a structural code such as NZS 3603.

Strength Reduction Factors and Capacity Reduction Factors can be taken from NZS 3603 Clause 2.5 and NZS AS 1720.1 Clause ZZ2.3 as applicable.

## 1.6 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

In accordance with AS/NZS 2269, Ecoply structural plywood sheets have the following information marked on the back:

- Brand name and/or manufacturer: e.g. ECOPLY.
- Face grade, back grade: e.g. CD.
- Intended application: e.g. STRUCTURAL.
- Panel construction code: e.g. 15-30-5 (Thickness (mm)-Face veneer thickness (mm x 10)-Number of veneers).

**Note:** In some cases the Panel construction code may be replaced by the Section Properties, in which case the values of second moment of area (moment of inertia) (I) and section modulus (Z) in the grain orientations are declared: e.g. 626.2, 58.6/191.7,25.4.

### Untreated example:

ECOPLY CD FLOORING STRUCTURAL  
19-30-7 A BOND EO AS/NZS 2269.0:2012  
AS/NZS 1604.3:2012 046 01 H3 E H3.2 CCA RETREAT CUTS  
PAT 12/12/2023 12:23:45 F11/F8 CHH.COM

### Treated example:

ECOPLY CD STRUCTURAL  
12-24-5 A BOND EO AS/NZS 2269.0:2012  
AS/NZS 1604.3:2012 046 01 H3 E CCA RETREAT CUTS  
PAT 12/12/2023 12:23:45 F8/F8 CHH.COM

- Glue bond: e.g. A BOND.
- Formaldehyde emission class: E0 for A Bond Ecoply.
- Australasian Standard: e.g. AS/NZS 2269.
- Treatment Standard (if applicable): e.g. AS/NZS 1604.3:2012.
- Date and time of manufacture: e.g. 01/12/15 12:23:45.
- Stress grade: e.g. F8 (exceptions include Shadowclad® and Grooved Lining which are performance rated).
- Where applicable sheets may note the country of manufacture: e.g. "Made in Australia."

### Alternate branding (untreated example):

STRUCTURAL CD 19-30-7 F8/F8 A BOND EO AS/NZS  
2269.0:2012 PAT 12/12/23  
MANUFACTURED BY ##### - DISTRIBUTED AS  
ECOPLY BY CHH PLY CHH.COM

**Note:** Performance based products like Grooved Lining and Shadowclad® may include brand identification instead of visual quality, stress grade, and panel code. These panels, when accompanied with specification literature, are still deemed to comply with AS/NZS 2269.



## 1.7 CODE COMPLIANCE

Ecoply® plywood manufacture is third-party audited through a product quality control programme.

Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2269 Plywood – Structural, is referenced in the NZBC Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods through:

- NZS 3602 The Use of Timber and Wood-based products for Use in Building.
- NZS 3603 Timber Structures.
- NZS 3604 Timber Framed Buildings.
- AS/NZS 1604.3:2012 Specification for Preservative Treatment, Part 3:Plywood.
- E2/AS1 External Moisture.

**WARNING:** Plywood which is non-certified or is manufactured to standards other than AS/NZS 2269, such as US voluntary standard PS1-95, is not referenced in the NZBC. There can be significant differences between AS/NZS 2269

certified and non certified plywood around bond durability, structural ratings and veneer quality.

### Structure B1

Design to NZS 3603 Timber Structures complies with the NZBC in Verification Method B1/VM1 Clause 6.0 Timber. Plywood is the only sheet material with properties listed in NZS 3603. Ecoply structural plywood is available in F8/F5 and F8/F8 stress grade. Some specialty products are available F11/F8 or with specifically designed properties for specialised applications.

## 1.8 GENERAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

### Durability (Clause B2) and Exterior Moisture (Clause E2)

Ecoply plywood is made from wood veneer. Designers should assess the level of exposure to biological, moisture, and other hazards and apply appropriate preservative treatment and detailing to minimise exposure to these hazards.

Information in this manual outlines suggested practices for detailing building components to exclude moisture to comply with the durability requirements of the NZBC.

### Formaldehyde

Ecoply plywood is manufactured using phenol formaldehyde resins which are fully cured in the hot press. Cured resin is thermally and moisture stable and formaldehyde emissions for the glued plywood are similar to background levels for the wood by itself when tested to AS/NZS 2098.11 Determination of formaldehyde emissions for plywood. Accordingly every panel is branded with the lowest emission class (less than 0.5mg/litre for E<sub>0</sub>).

### Moisture Content and Dimensional Change

At the time of leaving the factory, the moisture content of untreated Ecoply plywood should generally be in the range of 8% to 15% as required by AS/NZS 2269. All wood products including plywood respond to changes in ambient humidity so the eventual moisture content of plywood varies according to how dry or how wet the environment is. After manufacture, the moisture content will move to equilibrium with the environment, and the veneers swell or shrink across the grain in response. The total expansion both along and across a 2400 x 1200mm panel can be in the order of 1.5mm to 3mm as the plywood changes from a dry to a saturated state.

Ecoply that is treated with waterborne preservatives (e.g. H3.2 CCA) is expected to be used in applications that have higher humidity than interior dry use, so following treatment it is dried to a higher average moisture content of approximately 18%. This provides for a more stable panel in service than placing a dry (less than 15%) sheet in a higher moisture environment.

Detailing and construction must allow for movement if the plywood will be subject to cycles of moisture change. Seasonal and daily cycles can be significant depending on the end use.

## Temperature

Wood will expand upon heating as do practically all solids. The thermal expansion of plywood is quite small and there is little effect on the structural performance or durability of plywood when used in temperatures below 54°C. The average co-efficient of thermal expansion of plywood is  $4.5 \times 10^{-6}$  mm/mm/°C. At temperatures above 55°C wood begins to deteriorate. Colours of coatings and finishes should be selected to reduce heat gain. For extreme conditions, further technical information is available by calling CHH Plywood on 0800 326 759.

The thermal resistance or insulating effectiveness of plywood panels can be calculated using NZS 4214 Methods of determining the total thermal resistance of parts of buildings. e.g. Plywood has a Conductivity (k) of 0.13W/mK so a 12mm panel has a thermal resistance  $R = 0.012/0.13 = 0.09$ .

## Aesthetics

Ecoply® plywood products can be selected for weather protection functions as well as structural performance. Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 - External Moisture allows plywood manufactured to AS/NZS 2269, (minimum CD appearance grade, minimum 12mm thickness and treated as required by NZS 3602) to be used for exterior cladding. For exterior cladding applications CHH Plywood strongly recommends Shadowclad® exterior cladding rather than smooth faced plywood such as Ecoply.

Shadowclad features a textured (bandsawn) face which reduces the visibility of face checking and other appearance related issues which can occur on smooth faced plywood if not regularly maintained by the homeowner. For more information on plywood used as an exterior cladding refer to the current Shadowclad Specification and Installation Guide for Cavity Construction.

## Face Checks on Plywood Exposed to Weather

Face checks are lengthwise separations of wood fibres in the face veneer of the plywood. They result from the normal swelling and shrinking of wood as it gains and loses moisture. It is important to realise that these checks are superficial, being confined to the face veneer. They do not alter the structural integrity of the plywood in any way. **If you are the specifier, it is important to discuss these issues with your client and consider the length of exterior exposure, climate conditions and protection offered by the surface coating before finalising product choice.**

## Overlaps in Plywood

Overlaps, pleats and core gaps are a function of manufacture and lay-up of individual veneers within plywood. Overlap is where there is overlapping of the individual veneers, often cross-bands, that are then pressed together to create plywood. In general, and as noted in AS/NZS 2269.0 Clause 3.4.4, overlaps and pleats are permitted "provided the strength or utility of the sheet is not reduced". Overlaps do not affect the durability, structural integrity or weathertightness of plywood.

## Durability

The durability of Ecoply structural plywood will depend on the application. Detailing, treatment and installation details need careful consideration to satisfy the requirements of the NZBC.

Normally, 50 year durability can be achieved with untreated Ecoply in dry, interior exposure. For internal environments subject to high humidity or condensation H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply should be used.

For plywood as a rigid air barrier (including rigid air barrier acting as bracing) refer to the current Ecoply Barrier Specification and Installation Guide which can be downloaded from [www.chhply.co.nz](http://www.chhply.co.nz).

## Fire, Spread of Flame and Smoke Development

Data on early fire hazard properties of uncoated plywood are available in our Technical Note: "Early Fire Hazard Properties of Ecoply Products."

For plywood with decorative finish coatings or intumescent coating, performances depend on spread rates of the coating. For advice on specific coating systems and their suitability for use with Ecoply products, always refer to the coating manufacturer.

## Fire Rated Systems

The NZBC has specific requirements about the use of combustible materials in buildings. As a wood veneer based product, plywood is considered to be a combustible material.

For specific information about the use of combustible materials used in building solutions please refer to the NZBC Clauses C1 - C6 - Protection from Fire.

## 1.9 ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

Carter Holt Harvey has developed a new Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting programme. The company has focused on setting out what its stakeholders have identified as material ESG issues, how it manages, or plans to manage those issues, and key environmental indicators. In the future,

Carter Holt Harvey will celebrate its ESG achievements and acknowledge those areas where it needs to improve, keeping on a path of steady improvement that will further strengthen Carter Holt Harvey in the years to come.

### 1.10 FSC® AND SUSTAINABILITY ACCREDITATIONS

CHH Plywood sources plywood and/or logs from sustainably managed plantation forests. The globally recognised independent body, the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) has recognised the Tokoroa mill for using and trading responsibly sourced wood and plywood, awarding CHH Plywood with FSC certification (FSC® C012019). This measure provides a formal assurance that gives

CHH Plywood's customers confidence about its sustainability credentials. CHH Plywood's products can be supplied with a FSC certificate on request.

**To view and download certificates and documents related to Sustainability please visit [www.chhply.co.nz/sustainability](http://www.chhply.co.nz/sustainability)**

### 1.11 HEALTH & SAFETY

Ecoply should be handled in accordance with the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for untreated, H3.2 CCA and H3.1 LOSP treated Ecoply, which can be downloaded from [www.chhply.co.nz](http://www.chhply.co.nz).

Always wear safety glasses or non-fogging goggles when machining Ecoply panels.

If wood dust exposures are not controlled when machining (sawing, routing, planing, drilling etc.) a class P1 or P2 replaceable filter or disposable face piece respirator should be worn.

Wear comfortable work gloves to avoid skin irritation and the risk of splinters. Wash hands with mild soap and water after handling panels.

### 1.12 STORAGE & HANDLING

Ecoply panels must be stored and handled with care to maintain good condition before use and after installation:

- The storage area must be protected from sun, rain and wind that would otherwise bring about rapid changes in temperature and humidity.
- Support for the sheets must be provided at both ends and middle to avoid distortion. Ensure bearers in packs above are aligned over bearers below (to avoid inducing curves in sheets).
- The stack must be kept dry and clear of ground contact, and placed so that it will not be exposed to mechanical damage.
- The sheets must be stacked flat, NOT on edge.
- To avoid staining, fading and surface checking, the sheets must not be exposed to the weather while awaiting installation.
- Store in well-ventilated areas away from sources of heat, flames or sparks.

## 2.0 GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDE

The following is a general guide to be followed unless otherwise specified. For additional installation instructions for typical applications refer to sections 3, 4 and 5.

### 2.1 FRAMING

Use kiln dried framing e.g. Laserframe® in accordance with timber framing manufacturer's specifications and treated in accordance with NZS 3602. All timber frame sizes and set out must comply with NZS 3604 (or be specifically designed to NZS 3603). The current Laserframe Product Guide can be downloaded from [www.chhwoodproducts.co.nz](http://www.chhwoodproducts.co.nz). Ecoply® may be specified for frame spacing determined by design, or using tables in section 3 for specific product applications such as bracing, flooring and as a substrate for shingle roofs or membrane roofs and decks.

H3.1 LOSP treated framing should be vented before fixing and if construction adhesives are required (for example to screw and glue floor panels) the adhesive must be compatible with H3.1 LOSP. See section 1.4: Preservative Treatment.

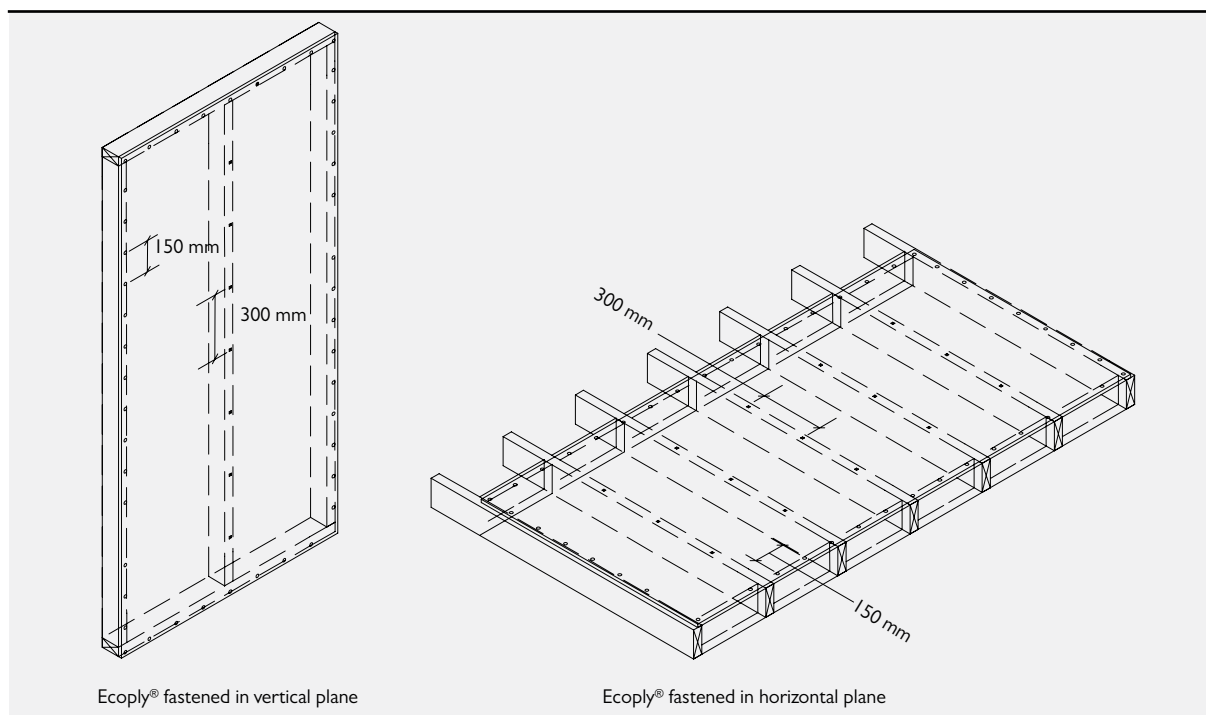
For plywood used as exterior cladding refer to the current Shadowclad® Specification and Installation Guide for Cavity Construction which can be downloaded from [www.chhpoly.co.nz](http://www.chhpoly.co.nz).

For plywood used as a rigid air barrier refer to the current Ecoply Barrier Specification and Installation Guide which can be downloaded from [www.chhpoly.co.nz](http://www.chhpoly.co.nz).

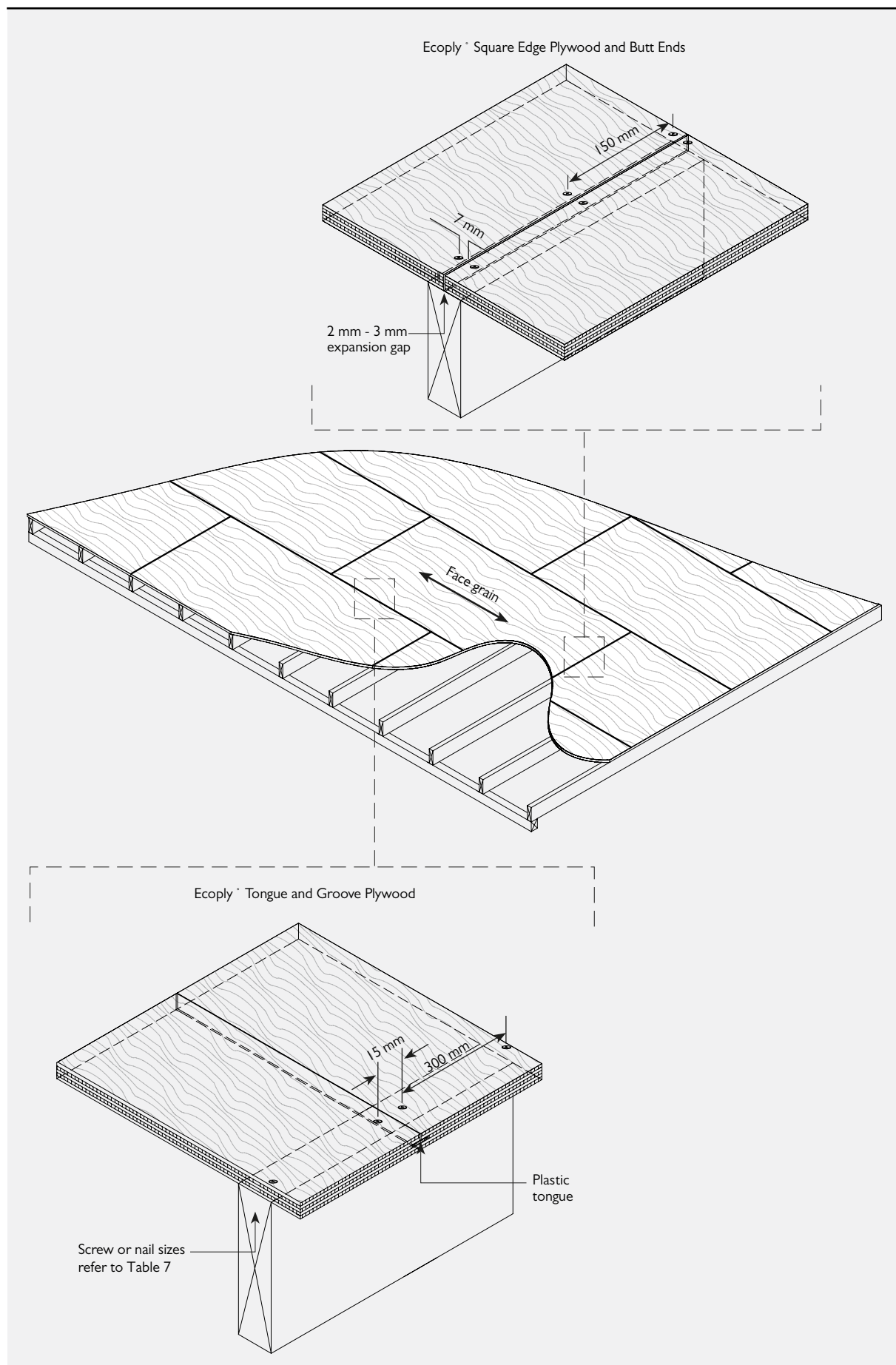
### 2.2 SHEET FASTENERS & FIXING

- Where there is risk of panel size change due to changes in moisture levels, allow a 2 to 3mm expansion gap between sheets.
- Use only flathead nails or screws, with or without construction adhesives.
- Fastener length should penetrate at least 10 nail diameters into the framing or be three times the sheet thickness, whichever is the greater. Longer or ring shank nails may be specified.
- Fasteners must be at least 7mm from the edge of the sheet.
- Where using power driven nails some applications including bracing may require full round head nails: Confirm prior to installation.
- For tongue and groove products such as flooring and roofing fasten 15mm from tongue and groove edges.
- Standard fixing pattern: unless otherwise specified fasten edges and ends of sheets at 150mm centres, and within the panel at no more than 300mm centres (see diagram below).
- Use hot dipped galvanised fasteners or corrosion resistant fasteners (i.e. stainless steel) determined by design for specific hazards.
- Where using stainless steel nails, nails must be annular grooved
- Refer to Table 7 for minimum fastener sizes.
- Do not overdrive power driven nails.

#### EC001: Fastener Spacings for Ecoply®



EC002: Fastener Spacings from Edges





**Table 7: Fasteners and Characteristic Shear Loads for EcoPLY®**

Nominal Thickness (mm)	7mm 9mm	Load <sup>1</sup>	12mm 15mm	Load <sup>1</sup>	17mm	Load <sup>1</sup>	19mm 21mm	Load <sup>1</sup>	25mm	Load <sup>1</sup>
<b>Minimum nail size in timber framing<sup>2</sup></b>	40 x 2.5mm	570	60 x 2.8mm	736	60 x 2.8mm	736	60 x 2.8mm	736	75 x 3.15mm	883
<b>Screw size in timber framing<sup>2</sup></b>	8g x 30mm	1230	8g x 40mm	1230	10g x 40mm	1650	10g x 45mm	1650	10g x 50mm	1650
<b>1.15mm steel framing<sup>3</sup></b>	10-24-35 <sup>4</sup>	1300	10-24-40 <sup>4</sup>	2000	10-16-45 <sup>4</sup>	2100	10-16-45 <sup>4</sup>	2100	10-16-45 <sup>4</sup>	2100
<b>Screw size in 2.80mm steel framing<sup>3</sup></b>	10-24-35 <sup>4</sup>	1200	10-16-40 <sup>4</sup>	1200	14-20-45 <sup>4</sup>	3000	14-20-45 <sup>4</sup>	4000	14-20-45 <sup>4</sup>	5000

<sup>1</sup> The load is the characteristic load (N) for one fastener in single shear.

<sup>2</sup> Characteristic load based on fixing into a timber of J5 joint group or better.

<sup>3</sup> Self tapping, self countersinking screw.

<sup>4</sup> Screw Numbers indicate: Gauge – Threads per inch – Length (mm).

Notes:

- Steel thickness, screw sizes, characteristic loads, refer to assemblies actually tested.
- Other screw sizes may be used. Screw properties vary between screw suppliers and the suitability of a particular size should be verified by the designer for performance under changing physical conditions and cyclic loading.
- Non-standard nailing may be specifically designed with NZS 3603, NZS AS 1720.1 or similar.

### Fasteners for H3.2 CCA Treated EcoPLY®

Where fasteners are in contact with H3.2 CCA treated timber or plywood, fasteners shall be a minimum of hot dip galvanised. In certain circumstances stainless steel fasteners may be required. Refer to section 4 of NZS 3604 for these

circumstances. Where stainless steel nails are required, annular grooved nails must be used.

Notes: H3.2 CCA treated timber should not be fixed in direct contact with light gauge steel products. Refer to the framing manufacturer for advice on fixing and treatments.

## 2.3 ADHESIVES

### Tube Applied Construction Adhesives

Site applied construction adhesive may be used together with nails and screws for non-permanent loads, reduced fastener popping, and to lower the risk of squeaking in floors. Available types include polyurethane (e.g. Soudal® Gorilla Grip) and solvent (e.g. Soudal® Gorilla Grab or Bostik® "tuff as Nails") based adhesives.

Adhesives should have appraisal from an independent authorising body such as BRANZ or equivalent authorities (e.g. AFG 01 Adhesives for field gluing) for plywood to wood framing for the specific application proposed. Follow manufacturer's recommendations. In addition:

- Use a bead or daubs of adhesive as per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Apply pressure using fastener patterns outlined in section 2.2: Sheet Fasteners and Fixing.
- Work from the middle of the sheet outwards to develop glue-line pressure.
- Ensure adhesives are compatible with treatment in the framing timber; see section 1.4: Preservative Treatment.

### Structural Adhesive Joints

Structural bonds are generally only achievable in factory controlled conditions using approved structural adhesives in accordance with approved standards for glue lamination, e.g. Resorcinol formaldehyde joints made to AS/NZS 1328 Glued laminated structural timber. Site gluing is not recommended for structural plywood components and is subject to specific engineering design.

## 3.0 STRUCTURAL BRACING & CEILING DIAPHRAGMS

The Ecoply® bracing system provides bracing resistance for walls and subfloor foundations for light timber framed buildings under wind and earthquake loading, to meet the requirements of the NZBC - B1 Structure, and NZS 3604 Timber Framed Buildings or specifically designed to NZS 3603 Timber Structures Standard.

Any Ecoply structural panel may be used for bracing as long as it is 7mm, 9mm or 12mm thick, has a minimum wall length as described in Table 9, treated for the specific application in accordance with NZS 3602 (summarised in Table 8) and fixed in accordance with Ecoply bracing specifications outlined in this guide.

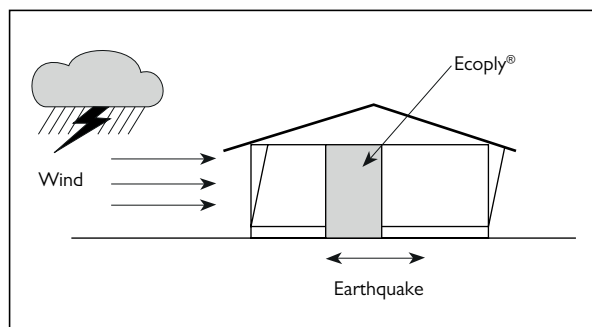
### 3.1 DESIGN TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BUILDING CODE

#### Structure

Timber framed buildings to NZS 3604 Timber Framed Buildings is listed as an Acceptable Solution under Clause 3.0 Timber in Acceptable Solution B1/AS1 Structure.

CHH Plywood have developed a range of wall bracing elements tested using P21 testing methods referenced in NZS 3604.

#### Specific Design



Ecoply structural plywood is manufactured to AS/NZS 2269, and it is suitable for design and use in earthquake and wind bracing systems constructed in accordance with NZS 3603 and AS/NZS 1170.

Structural plywood to AS/NZS 2269 is the only sheet brace material with properties defined in a published New Zealand engineering design code, NZS 3603 Timber Structures, and so can be designed in compliance with Verification method B1/VM1 under Clause 6.0 Timber for use in buildings over three storeys in height.

Demand is calculated by following section 5, Bracing Design of NZS 3604 or using the GIB EzyBrace® software, downloadable from [www.gib.co.nz](http://www.gib.co.nz).

EP bracing systems properties can be easily loaded into the EzyBrace software by way of an Excel patch downloadable from [www.chhpoly.co.nz](http://www.chhpoly.co.nz) together with loading instructions.

#### Timber Floors

When carrying out a bracing design for buildings with timber floor structures, the maximum bracing rating that can be accounted for when summing up the bracing units is 120BU/m. This does not exclude the installation of bracing elements that are rated higher than 120BU/m, however the extra bracing capacity can not be accounted for in the bracing design.

Specific design of floor and sub-floor framing is required for elements rated higher than 120BU/m.

#### Durability

Ecoply plywood is manufactured to meet the requirements of NZS 3602 Timber and Wood based products for use in buildings. If the product is used, handled and installed in accordance with CHH Plywood product literature it will meet the durability Clauses of the NZBC.

Table 8 summarises the applications in which Ecoply can be used as structural bracing together with the required preservative treatment and fastener material.

**Table 8: Ecoply® Suitability for Bracing Applications Including Treatment Type and Fastener Material**

Application	Plywood Treatment	Fastener Material
<b>Plywood bracing in interior spaces with no risk of exposure to weather or moisture penetration conducive to decay (all exposure zones as per section 4 of NZS 3604, including sea spray):</b> E.g. Interior linings.	Ecoply® Untreated	Hot dipped galvanised or better
<b>Plywood bracing in enclosed spaces (protected from the weather) but with a risk of moisture penetration conducive to decay in exposure zones B and C, as per section 4 of NZS 3604:</b> E.g. Plywood bracing and/or rigid underlay (rigid air barrier), fixed to framing with/without building paper/wrap over, with/without cavity battens behind cladding.	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply Barrier (rigid air barrier)	Hot dipped galvanised or better
<b>Plywood bracing in enclosed spaces (protected from the weather) but with a risk of moisture penetration conducive to decay in exposure zone D (sea spray), as per section 4 of NZS 3604:</b> E.g. Plywood bracing and/or rigid underlay (rigid air barrier), fixed to framing with/without building paper/wrap over, with/without cavity battens behind cladding.	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply Barrier (rigid air barrier)	Stainless steel
<b>Rigid Air Barrier</b>	Refer to Ecoply® Barrier Specification and Installation Guide	
<b>Bracing on framing exposed to ground atmosphere in exposure zones B and C, as per section 4 of NZS 3604.</b>	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Hot dipped galvanised or better
<b>Bracing on framing exposed to ground atmosphere in exposure zones D.</b>	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Stainless steel
<b>Bracing in wet process buildings in all exposure zones, as per section 4 of NZS 3604 (including sea spray).</b>	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Stainless steel

Note: Power driven nails are suitable for use. Do not overdrive, nails must be full round head.

#### Rain Wetting and Construction Bracing

Untreated Ecoply® will withstand normal exposure conditions during construction for up to 3 months however aesthetically the sheet appearance will deteriorate as the level of exposure increases. Rain and exposure can cause thinner plywood panels to buckle. Plywood stability is related to the number of veneers and thickness of the panel. Where panel stability is critical, consider using thicker panels.

#### Humidity and Condensation

In conditions where the moisture content may exceed 18% for prolonged periods, Ecoply must be H3.1 LOSP or H3.2 CCA treated to resist decay or insect hazard.

#### Subfloor Sheet Bracing

H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply can be used as sheet bracing where dampness does not allow the use of untreated plywood or other sheet materials (section 5 of NZS 3604). Where Ecoply subfloor sheet bracing is exposed to both rain and sun, it must be coated with a three coat, 100% acrylic exterior coating system with a light reflectance value of 50% or greater.

#### Ecoply Bracing Used in Internal Wet Area Applications

Ecoply Structural plywood can be used for bracing behind a bath or shower providing it is protected by an impervious lining and must be installed in accordance with the bracing specification, where plywood is H3.2 CCA treated stainless steel fasteners are required.

Best building and design practice would be to relocate the bracing element along the bracing line, if possible, where it was away from the shower liner.

Plywood expands and contracts with environmental changes so therefore design consideration should be given to the impervious lining used over the top of it, to protect the plywood.

Note: A dummy liner may then be required over the plywood to ensure the plywood sheet remains complete from bottom plate to top plate in situations where the shower design requires the base to be checked into the lining.

#### Adjustments for Wall Height

Use section 5 of NZS 3604 to calculate bracing values: "Adjustment of bracing capacity of walls of different heights and walls with sloping top plates shall be obtained by the following method:

- For wall bracing elements of heights other than 2.4m, the bracing rating determined by test or from Table 9 should be multiplied by  $2.4 \div \text{element height in metres}$ , except that elements less than 2.4m high shall be rated as if they are 2.4m high.
- Walls of varying heights, should have their bracing capacity adjusted in accordance with section 5 of NZS 3604 using the average height."
- Walls with heights < 1.5m, Specific Engineering Design is required.

#### Joining Panels for Walls Higher Than Maximum Sheet Length

Ecoply bracing panels must be fixed from top plate to bottom plate. For wall heights over 2.4m, Ecoply and Shadowclad is available in 2.7m sheet lengths. Alternatively, a part sheet can be stacked above a full sheet, butt joined on a single row of nogs with each sheet/part sheet independently nailed off as per the nail spacing in the Ecoply bracing specifications and must be a minimum of 0.3m in height. (e.g. 2.4m x 1.2m sheet with a 0.3m x 1.2m part sheet above it to give a 2.7m x 1.2m bracing element).

### Joining Panels for Walls Longer Than Maximum Sheet Width

Ecoply bracing panels must be fixed from start to finish of bracing element. For panel lengths greater than the width of a plywood sheet a part sheet, or sheets, can be stacked next to a full sheet, butt jointed a stud with each sheet/part sheet independently nailed off as per the nail spacing in the Ecoply bracing specifications and must be a minimum of 0.3m in width. (e.g. 2.4m x 1.2m sheet with a 2.4m x 0.3m part sheet next to it to give a 2.4m x 1.5m bracing element).

### Cladding as Bracing

12mm Ecoply® (CD face grade or better) can be H3 treated to meet the requirements of Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and will perform as a structural, durable and weathertight cladding and bracing element when installed in accordance with E2/AS1.

It should be noted smooth faced plywood such as Ecoply may be prone to appearance related issues such as face checking which occurs naturally and is not considered by CHH Plywood to be a manufacturing or product fault. For more information refer to section 1.8: General Design Considerations - Face Checks on Plywood Exposed to Weather. H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply may also have a green tinge to the wood surface and may have fillet marks on the face of the sheet.

### Plywood for Exterior Cladding

Plywood for exterior cladding applications where a high visual appearance is desired, CHH Plywood recommends the use of Shadowclad® as an exterior cladding. Shadowclad has a textured (bandsawn) face which reduces the visibility of face checking and is most commonly H3.1 LOSP treated (clear preservative treatment) which does not leave fillet marks on the panel face.

For further information on Shadowclad as an exterior cladding refer to the current Shadowclad Specification and Installation Guide for Cavity Construction which can be downloaded from [www.chhpoly.co.nz](http://www.chhpoly.co.nz).

### Soil

Ecoply must not be allowed to come in contact with soil. The bottom edge of the plywood sheet must be a minimum of 100mm above decks or paved ground and a minimum of 175mm above unprotected ground.

### Service Penetrations in Bracing Elements

A small opening (e.g. power outlet) of 90 x 90mm or less may be placed no closer than 90mm to the edge of the braced element, or a waste pipe outlet of maximum 150mm diameter placed at no closer than 150mm to the edge of the braced element. Maximum one penetration per bracing panel.

## 3.2 ECOPLY® BRACING SPECIFICATIONS SUMMARY

CHH Plywood has a range of bracing specifications called the EP bracing series. The EP bracing series simplifies the design and construction of bracing elements using plywood, by itself or in conjunction with GIB® Plasterboard and features:

- Single sided and double sided bracing elements  
High performance bracing element utilising GIB® Standard plasterboard.

- A single type, GIB Handibrac®, hold-down for all bracing elements.
- Specifications for each bracing element type.

**Table 9: Summary P21 Ratings for 2.4m High Ecoply® Wall Elements**

Specification No.	Minimum Wall Length	Lining Requirements	BU's/m Wind	BU's/m Earthquake
<b>EPI</b>	0.4m	Ecoply® one side	80	95
	0.6m		95	105
	1.2m		120	135
<b>EPG</b>	0.4m	Ecoply one side and 10mm GIB® Standard plasterboard other side	100	115
	1.2m		150	150

**Note: Bracing and other technical information has been specifically tested using Ecoply® branded structural plywood. This information cannot be used with any other plywood brand and bracing data must be sought directly from the specific plywood manufacturer.**

### More Information

The following pages provide a full specification of EP bracing elements. Copies of specifications can be downloaded from [www.chhpoly.co.nz](http://www.chhpoly.co.nz).

NZS 3604 provides the method of calculating demand on a building. Calculation sheets are available from BRANZ or GIB EzyBrace® software is available as a free download from [www.gib.co.nz](http://www.gib.co.nz). Information is available at [www.chhpoly.co.nz](http://www.chhpoly.co.nz) which can be placed in the custom elements of GIB EzyBrace® for ease of calculation.

Ecoply® Bracing Systems are designed to meet the requirements of the NZBC and have been tested and analysed using the P21 method referenced in NZS 3604:2011 listed as an acceptable solution B1/AS1 Structure. Testing was carried out using Ecoply manufactured and/or

distributed by CHH Plywood and SG8 timber framing, and GIB® products manufactured by Winstone Wallboards Ltd. Substituting materials may compromise performance of the system. GIB® and GIB Handibrac® are registered trade marks of Fletcher Building Holdings Ltd.

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### 3.3 ECOPLY® BRACING SPECIFICATION - EPI

**Table 10: Singled Sided Structural Plywood Brace**

Specification No.	Minimum Wall Length	Lining Requirements	BU's/m Wind	BU's/m Earthquake
<b>EPI_0.4</b>	0.4m	Ecoply® one side	80	95
<b>EPI_0.6</b>	0.6m	Ecoply one side	95	105
<b>EPI_1.2</b>	1.2m	Ecoply one side	120	135

#### Framing

Wall framing must comply with:

- NZBC B1 - Structure: ASI Clause 3 Timber (NZS 3604).
- NZBC B2 - Durability: ASI Clause 3.2 Timber (NZS 3602).

Framing dimensions and height are as determined by the NZS 3604 stud and top plate tables for load bearing and non load bearing walls. Kiln dried verified structural grade timber must be used. Machine stress graded timber, such as Laserframe® of SG8 stress grade minimum, is recommended.

#### Bottom Plate Fixing

Use GIB Handibrac® hold-down connections at each end of the bracing element. Refer to manufacturer installation instructions supplied with the connectors for correct installation instructions and bolt types to be used for either concrete or timber floors. Within the length of the bracing element, bottom plates are fixed in accordance with the requirements of NZS 3604.

#### Lining

One layer of 7mm, 9mm or 12mm Ecoply® plywood fixed directly to framing. If part sheets are used, ensure nailing at required centres is carried out around the perimeter of each sheet or part sheet. A 2-3mm expansion gap should be left between sheets.

The panels must be installed with the long side of each panel orientated vertically to the framing members.

#### Fastening the Ecoply® Panels

Fasten with 50 x 2.8mm hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel flat head nails for direct fix. Place fasteners no less than 7mm or 3 fastener diameters from sheet edges. Screws cannot be used. Power driven nails are suitable. Do not overdrive, nails must be full round head.

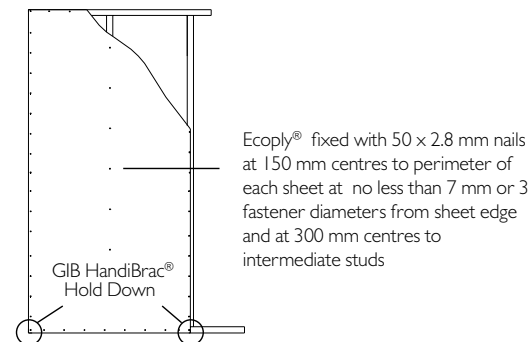
#### Fasteners for H3.2 CCA Treated Ecoply Panels

Where fasteners are in contact with H3.2 CCA treated timber or plywood, fasteners shall be a minimum of hot dip galvanised.

In certain circumstances stainless steel fasteners may be required. Refer to Table 8 of the Ecoply Specification and Installation Guide for these circumstances and further fastener selection advice. Where stainless steel nails are required, annular grooved nails must be used.

#### Fastening Centres

Fasteners are placed at 150mm centres around the perimeter of each sheet and 300mm centres to intermediate studs. Where more than one sheet forms the brace element each sheet must be nailed off independently.



Ecoply® Bracing Systems are designed to meet the requirements of the NZBC and have been tested and analysed using the P21 method referenced in NZS 3604:2011 listed as an acceptable solution B1/ASI Structure. Testing was carried out using Ecoply manufactured and/or

distributed by CHH Plywood and SG8 timber framing, and GIB® products manufactured by Winstone Wallboards Ltd. Substituting materials may compromise performance of the system. GIB® and GIB Handibrac® are registered trade marks of Fletcher Building Holdings Ltd.

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**Table 11: Ecoply® Suitability For Bracing Applications Including Treatment Type and Fastener Material\***

Application	Plywood Treatment	Fastener Material
Plywood bracing in interior spaces with no risk of exposure to weather or moisture penetration conducive to decay (all exposure zones as per section 4 of NZS 3604, including sea spray):	Ecoply® Untreated	Hot dipped galvanised or better
Plywood bracing in enclosed spaces (protected from the weather) but with a risk of moisture penetration conducive to decay in exposure zones B and C, as per section 4 of NZS 3604:	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply Barrier (rigid air barrier)	Hot dipped galvanised or better
Plywood bracing in enclosed spaces (protected from the weather) but with a risk of moisture penetration conducive to decay in exposure zone D (sea spray), as per section 4 of NZS 3604:	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply Barrier (rigid air barrier)	Stainless steel
Rigid Air Barrier	Refer to Ecoply Barrier Specification and Installation Guide	
Bracing on framing exposed to ground atmosphere in exposure zones B and C, as per section 4 of NZS 3604	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Hot dipped galvanised or better
Bracing on framing exposed to ground atmosphere in exposure zones D, as per section 4 of NZS 3604	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Stainless steel
Bracing in wet process buildings in all exposure zones (including sea spray), as per section 4 of NZS 3604	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Stainless steel

\* Refer to Table 8, page 16 of Ecoply® Specification and Installation Guide.

Ecoply® Bracing Systems are designed to meet the requirements of the NZBC and have been tested and analysed using the P21 method referenced in NZS 3604:2011 listed as an acceptable solution B1/AS1 Structure. Testing was carried out using Ecoply manufactured and/or

distributed by CHH Plywood and SG8 timber framing, and GIB® products manufactured by Winstone Wallboards Ltd. Substituting materials may compromise performance of the system. GIB® and GIB HandiBrac® are registered trade marks of Fletcher Building Holdings Ltd.

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### 3.4 ECOPLY® BRACING SPECIFICATION – EPG

**Table 12: Structural Plywood Brace With Plasterboard Other Side**

Specification No.	Minimum Wall Length	Lining Requirements	BU's/m Wind	BU's/m Earthquake
<b>EPG_0.4</b>	0.4m	Ecoply® one side and 10mm	100	115
<b>EPG_1.2</b>	1.2m	GIB® Standard plasterboard other side	150	150

#### Framing

Wall framing must comply with:

- NZBC B1 - Structure: ASI Clause 3 Timber (NZS 3604).
- NZBC B2 - Durability: ASI Clause 3.2 Timber (NZS 3602).

Framing dimensions and height are as determined by the NZS 3604 stud and top plate tables for load bearing and non load bearing walls. Kiln dried verified structural grade timber must be used. Machine stress graded timber, such as Laserframe® of SG8 stress grade minimum, is recommended.

#### Bottom Plate Fixing

Use GIB HandiBrac® hold-down connections at each end of the bracing element. Refer to manufacturer installation instructions supplied with the connectors for correct installation instructions and bolt types to be used for either concrete or timber floors. Within the length of the bracing element, bottom plates are fixed in accordance with the requirements of NZS 3604.

#### Lining

Side 1: One layer of 7mm, 9mm or 12mm Ecoply® plywood exterior wall cladding fixed directly to framing. If part sheets are used, ensure nailing at required centres is carried out around the perimeter of each sheet or part sheet. A 2-3mm expansion gap should be left between sheets.

The panels must be installed with the long side of each panel orientated vertically to the framing members.

Side 2: One layer of 10 or 13mm GIB® Standard plasterboard vertically or horizontally fixed. Sheet joints are touch fitted and fastener heads and joints stopped in accordance with the GIB® Site Guide.

#### Fastening the Ecoply® Panels

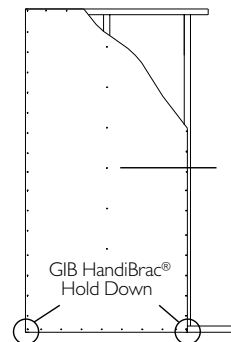
Fasten with 50 x 2.8mm hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel flat head nails for direct fix. Place fasteners no less than 7mm or 3 fastener diameters from sheet edges. Screws cannot be used. Power driven nails are suitable. Do not overdrive, nails must be full round head.

#### Fasteners for H3.2 CCA Treated Ecoply

Where fasteners are in contact with H3.2 CCA treated timber or plywood, fasteners shall be a minimum of hot dip galvanised. In certain circumstances stainless steel fasteners may be required. Refer to Table 8 of the Ecoply Specification and Installation Guide for these circumstances and further fastener selection advice. Where stainless steel nails are required, annular grooved nails must be used.

#### Fastening Centres

Fasteners are placed at 150mm centres around the perimeter of each sheet and 300mm centres to intermediate studs. Where more than one sheet forms the brace element each sheet must be nailed off independently.



Ecoply® fixed with 50 x 2.8 mm nails at 150 mm centres to perimeter of each sheet at no less than 7 mm or 3 fastener diameters from sheet edge and at 300 mm centres to intermediate studs

Ecoply® Bracing Systems are designed to meet the requirements of the NZBC and have been tested and analysed using the P21 method referenced in NZS 3604:2011 listed as an acceptable solution B1/ASI Structure. Testing was carried out using Ecoply manufactured and/or

distributed by CHH Plywood and SG8 timber framing, and GIB® products manufactured by Winstone Wallboards Ltd. Substituting materials may compromise performance of the system. GIB® and GIB HandiBrac® are registered trade marks of Fletcher Building Holdings Ltd.

JUNE 2025

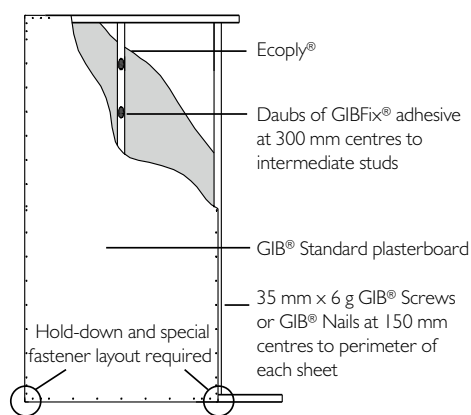
## Fastening the GIB® Plasterboard

32mm x 6g GIB® Grabber® Screws or 35mm GIB® Nails.

## Fastening Centres

Fasten 50, 100, 150, 225 and 300mm from each corner and 150mm thereafter around the perimeter of the bracing element. For vertical fixing place fasteners at 300mm centres at intermediate sheet joints. For horizontal fixing place single fasteners in the tapered edge where sheets cross studs.

Place fasteners 12mm from paper bound edges and 18mm from cut sheet edges. GIB® plasterboard must be treated in every respect in accordance with relevant GIB® literature.



**Table 13: Ecoply® Suitability for Bracing Applications Including Treatment Type and Fastener Material\***

Application	Plywood Treatment	Fastener Material
Plywood bracing in interior spaces with no risk of exposure to weather or moisture penetration conducive to decay (all exposure zones including sea spray, as per section 4 of NZS3604):	Ecoply® Untreated	Hot dipped galvanised or better
Plywood bracing in enclosed spaces (protected from the weather) but with a risk of moisture penetration conducive to decay in exposure zones I B and C, as per section 4 of NZS 3604:	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply Barrier (rigid air barrier)	Hot dipped galvanised or better
Plywood bracing in enclosed spaces (protected from the weather) but with a risk of moisture penetration conducive to decay in exposure zone I D (sea spray), as per section 4 of NZS3604:	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply Barrier (rigid air barrier)	Stainless steel
Rigid Air Barrier	Refer to Ecoply Barrier Specification and Installation Guide	
Bracing on framing exposed to ground atmosphere in exposure zones B and C, as per section 4 of NZS 3604.	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Hot dipped galvanised or better
Bracing on framing exposed to ground atmosphere in exposure zone D, as per section 4 of NZS 3604.	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Stainless steel
Bracing in wet process buildings in all exposure zones (including sea spray), as per section 4 of NZS 3604.	Ecoply H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated	Stainless steel

\* Refer to Table 8, page 16 of Ecoply® Specification and Installation Guide.

### 3.5 GIB HANDIBRAC® – RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION METHOD

Developed in conjunction with MiTek®, the GIB HandiBrac® has been tested for use as the hold-down in all EP bracing elements.

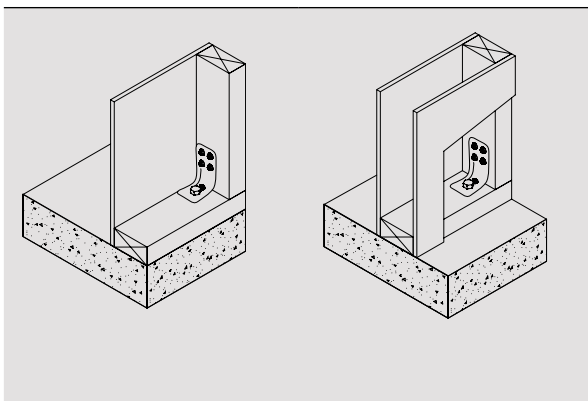
- The GIB HandiBrac® registered design provides for quick and easy installation.
- The GIB HandiBrac® provides a flush surface for the wall linings because it is fitted inside the framing. There is no need to

check in the framing as recommended with conventional straps.

- The GIB HandiBrac® is suitable for both new and retrofit construction.
- The design also allows for installation and inspection at any stage prior to fitting internal linings.

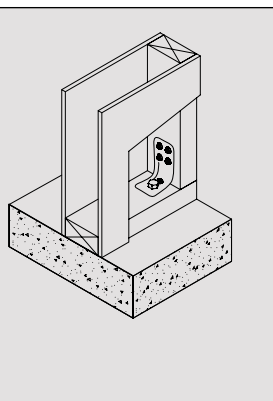
#### Concrete Floor

##### External Walls



Position GIB HandiBrac® as close as practicable to the internal edge of the bottom plate.

##### Internal Walls



Position GIB HandiBrac® at the stud/plate junction.

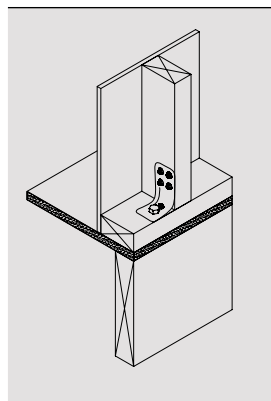
#### Hold-down Fastener Requirements

Bowmac Screw Bolt

Reproduced with the permission of Winstone Wallboards Ltd

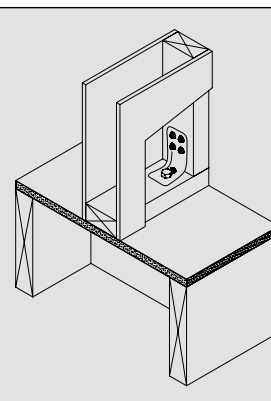
#### Timber Floor

##### External Walls



Position GIB HandiBrac® in the centre of the perimeter joist or bearer.

##### Internal Walls



Position GIB HandiBrac® in the centre of the floor joist or full depth solid block.

#### Hold-down Fastener Requirements

Bowmac Screw Bolt

### 3.6 STRUCTURAL CEILING DIAPHRAGMS

Diaphragms are used to transfer lateral loads to braced walls and allow for greater spacing between bracing lines. Diaphragms do not have a BU rating themselves.

Plywood diaphragms are an acceptable solution as described in section 13 of NZS 3604 13.5.2 which allows for plywood not less than 6mm thick and a minimum of three ply for:

- Diaphragms not steeper than 25 degrees to the horizontal and not exceeding 12 metres long under light or heavy roofs and;
- Diaphragms not steeper than 45 degrees to the horizontal and not exceeding 7.5 metres long under light or heavy roofs.

Plywood ceiling diaphragms required to comply with NZS 3604 must be constructed as follows:

- The length of diaphragm shall not exceed twice its width measured between supporting walls.
- The ceiling lining must consist of plywood over the entire area of the diaphragm.
- Complete sheets with a minimum size of 1800 x 900 must be used.
- Framing size and spacing must comply with NZS 3604.
- Fastener size should comply with Table 7 of this guide. E.g. 40mm x 2.5mm flat head nails for 7mm and 9mm Ecoply®.
- Fastening is at 150mm centres around the perimeter of each sheet and at 300mm centres to intermediate framing.
- Fixings are no closer than 10mm from sheet edges.
- Perimeter ceiling framing must be connected to wall framing by a perimeter 140mm x 35mm ribbon plate nailed to the top of the top plate or alternative such as a 0.55mm thick steel angle or proprietary steel channel.
- Sheets must be laid in a staggered pattern.
- The basic shape of a ceiling diaphragm should be rectangular. Protrusions are permitted but cut-outs are not (see Figure 13.4 NZS 3604).

## 4.0 ROOFS & DECKS

The section below covers the use of Ecoply® plywood used as a substrate for flexible membrane and tile systems in roofing and decking applications. The information below should be considered as supplementary to system specifications from roofing and decking suppliers.

Further guidance on installation and detailing factors can be found in the EWPA Technical Note; Plywood Roofing and Flooring: Installation and Detailing Factors.

Ecoply is not recommended as a substrate for exterior decks without a properly detailed barrier material such as butyl rubber, vinyl or E.P.D.M to protect the surface from weathering.

**Always refer to the roofing and decking system supplier for installation, plywood selection and surface preparation requirements for specific roofing and decking products.**

### 4.1 FLEXIBLE MEMBRANE SYSTEMS

- Roofing and decking membranes may comprise synthetic rubber sheeting glued to the Ecoply, or torch welded bitumen membranes.
- Always ensure Ecoply is dry and free of imperfections such as surface dust and blemishes as membranes coatings will telegraph any substrate imperfections.
- Use Ecoply Flooring or Structural Square Edge (CD Grade).
- Where Ecoply Flooring is used consider the use of a small daub of glue or nail in the Tongue and Groove of each sheet if potential movement of the plastic tongue joint is not acceptable.
- For trafficable decks use a minimum 17mm thickness, refer to Table 15A and 15C for specification.
- Use countersunk stainless steel screws and adhesive on framing to avoid head popping. Apply adhesive between screw locations.
- Use kiln dried timber framing such as Laserframe® or appropriate LVL framing from the Futurebuild® range.
- Consult the membrane manufacturer regarding use of bond breaker tapes over joints to allow elongation with natural plywood movement.
- Where treatment is required use only H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply. Do not use H3.1 LOSP treated Ecoply (solvent based carrier). It is not compatible with most membrane systems. If there is evidence of treatment salt crystals on the Ecoply surface remove by scrubbing with a small amount of water and allow the surface to dry prior to laying the membrane system.

#### Plywood Substrates, Face Checking and Flexible Membrane Systems

All natural wood based products (including Ecoply) have the potential to develop natural surface face checks when exposed to external environmental conditions. The degree of face checking is dependent on a number of factors including the length of time and level of exposure to weather during construction which is outside the manufacturing control of CHH Plywood. For more information see section 1.8: General Design Considerations - Face Checking on Plywood Exposed to Weather.

Face checks, while typically not present after manufacture, do not affect structural performance of the sheet and are acceptable under AS/NZS 2269. They are not a manufacturing fault.

**Designers and membrane suppliers must carefully consider the suitability of plywood as a substrate for the membrane system in question if the potential of telegraphing of face checks onto the membrane surface is not acceptable.**

**The risk of telegraphing can be reduced by protecting the plywood surface from weather and moisture during the construction process.**

**Where the potential of face checking in the plywood substrate is not acceptable designers should consult the membrane supplier for a more suitable membrane or an alternative substrate.**

#### Allowing for Moisture Expansion of Plywood Under Roof and Floor Coverings

Membrane suppliers have held different views on the requirements for plywood substrates. The fixing instructions within this guide are the starting point but designers must detail joints that allow for expansion in accordance with practices recommended by the chosen membrane supplier.

CHH Plywood's view, and the recommendation of a number of suppliers here and in North America is that expansion and contraction at sheet edges should be allowed for by loosely butting tongue and grooved edges so that the tongues can absorb movement and providing a small gap (2 to 3mm) between square sawn edges. Use a bond breaking tape over these joints to spread elongation in the membrane over a longer distance than the narrow gap in the joint itself. This tape can double as a rain seal over the sheet edges during construction.

Other membrane suppliers believe that sheets should be tightly butted and glued and screwed hard up to each other. This practice constrains movement at the small joint between sheets, but over a wider area requires significant allowance for movement around the perimeter of a roof segment. Junctions between the roof slopes and walls need careful detailing to allow for the potential movement. Movement control joints should be provided at regular intervals following the recommendation of the membrane manufacturer, especially if this method is adopted.



## 4.2 ROOF TILE SYSTEMS

Most fibreglass, asphalt or wooden shingle and tile systems will tolerate DD grade surface characteristics.

- Use unsanded Ecoply® Roofing (DD grade), or sanded Ecoply of the required thickness in Table 15A.

- The unsanded surface provides extra grip on steeper roofs for roofers.
- Fix tiles according to the tile manufacturer's specification.
- Under asphalt shingles use felt underlay over the Ecoply.

## 4.3 ROOFING & DECKING – PRODUCT SELECTION GUIDE

**Table 14: Roofing and Decking Product Selection Guide**

	Structural Square Edge (CD Grade)	Flooring (CD Grade)	Roofing (DD Grade)
Product Description	CD face grade sheets are available in a range of thicknesses and size	Solid sanded C grade surface with tongue and groove profile on long edges	Unfilled D grade surface with tongue and groove profile on long edges
Recommended Applications	Substrate for flexible coverings requiring a smooth substrate and where avoidance of visible surface indentations is critical. Use as a substrate for flexible roof and deck membranes and thin roofing tiles		Substrate for coverings with the ability to span holes in the D face grade (up to 75mm in diameter) such as asphaltic roof tiles and torch welded polyester reinforce membranes.  Do not use under flexible membrane coverings or where avoidance of visible surface indentation is critical
Face Grades	Front: C solid sanded. Back: D unsanded		Front and Back: D unsanded
	Refer to Table 1 for range and treatment options		
Product Features	Blocking required to support all edges	Blocking not required to support tongue and groove edges (unless otherwise specified).	Specifically designed for use under shingles and tiles that have a courser finish. Unsanded surface for extra grip for installers on steep roofs. Blocking not required to support tongue and groove edges (unless otherwise specified).
Thicknesses Available	12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25mm	17, 19, 21, 25mm	15mm
Sheet Sizes Available	2400/2700 x 1200m		
Stress Grades Available	F8/F8, F8/F5' (F11/F8 available upon request)	F8/F5 (F11/F8 available upon request) 19mm Longspan supplied F11/F8 as standard	F11/F8
Treatment	Untreated, H3.2 CCA and H3.1 LOSP	Untreated, H3.2 CCA, (H3.1 LOSP available upon request)	
Span Capabilities	Refer to frame spacings in Tables 15A to 15C		

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1 and 4B for availability of F8/F8 and F8/F5 products and thicknesses.

<sup>2</sup> Where roofing products use tongue and groove CHH Plywood recommends fastening the tongue to rafters/joists at a minimum of one point.

## 4.4 FRAME SPACINGS FOR ECOPLY® ROOFS & DECKS

**Table 15A: Roofing - Sheathing, Non Trafficable, Above 2 Degree Pitch**

Application	Roof Pitch	Maximum Wind Zone	Maximum Frame Centres (mm) for Ecoply® With Face Grain Across Framing			
			Ecoply Nominal Thickness (mm)			
			15	19	21	25
			Stress Grade			
			F11/F8	F8/F5		
Sheathing, non trafficable roof for all roof pitches above 2 degrees. Suitable for roof mass up to 30kg/m² (additional to Ecoply® weight or 40kg/m² including Ecoply).	>2°	Extra High		800	800	900
	>28°	High	900			
		Very High	800			
		Extra High	800			
	>20°	Very High	900			
		Extra High	800			

- Suggested applications include substrates for Asphalt Shingle and Membrane type roofs. The above suggested maximum framing spans are based on the following deflection criteria:
- Under a short term 1kN point load, deflection is less than Span/130.
- Under a long term self weight load, deflection is less than Span/400.
- Under a short term wind gust load, deflection is less than Span/150.

**Table 15B: Sub-Sheathing**

Application	Maximum Frame Centres (mm) for Ecoply® With Face Grain Across Framing				
	Ecoply Nominal Thickness (mm)				
	12	15	19	21	25
	Stress Grade				
		F8/F8	F11/F8	F8/F5	
Under steel or self supporting cladding for support of building paper or lateral diaphragm action. Sag not critical.		800	1200		

**Table 15C: Decking**

Application	Maximum Frame Centres (mm) for Ecoply® With Face Grain Across Framing			
	Ecoply Nominal Thickness (mm)			
	17	19	21	25
	Stress Grade			
		F8/F5	F11/F8	F8/F5
1. Trafficable roof decking limited by dynamic response of roof as floor		540	600	750
2. Roof decking to Clause 8.5.5.1 c) of E2/AS1		400	400	400

- The current requirement in E2/AS1 is extremely conservative when compared with calculations determined for other applications using VM1 Clause 6 and calibrating the spans against codes of practice from North America and Australia. CHH Plywood recommends designers consider the alternative solution in row 1 of Table 15C for membrane decking in consultation with the membrane manufacturer. Unless otherwise stated spans apply equally to square edge or tongue and groove panels. Check Table 1 for availability of grades and lengths to match span multiples in Table 16.
- Use the next lower recommended frame spacing or thicker Ecoply® where appearance is critical.
- To suit trusses at 900 centres, 2700 long sheets are available. See Table 16.

**Table 16: Frame Set Outs to Match 2400mm and 2700mm Sheet Modules**

Length (mm)	Typical Frame Spacing to Suit Sheet Length			
2400	400	480	600	800
2700	450	540	675	900

- Limitation for the use of Table 16.**
- CHH Plywood does not have access to information about designs for specific sites. Table 16 is a guide to estimate the initial selection of a span for design. Each site should be evaluated by qualified persons to ensure all loading parameters and site conditions have been considered, and appropriate changes should be made by the building designer.

## 4.5 ROOFING – DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

### Durability

In general, H3.2 CCA treatment of Ecoply® plywood with waterborne preservatives is recommended for roofing.

### Roofing Materials

Various roofing materials used over Ecoply plywood have different durability expectations, normally in excess of the 15 years required by the NZBC Clause B2. Durability of the roofing is subject to the specifications, installation and maintenance requirements of the roofing manufacturer. The durability of the Ecoply can only be assured as long as the overlying roofing and detailing excludes moisture. With good building practice and maintenance, roofing materials can be repaired or replaced at regular intervals to achieve life from the Ecoply in excess of the original roofing. The durability of Ecoply structural plywood will continue to satisfy the relevant requirements of the NZBC for 50 years, if installed in accordance with the instructions and limitations within this guide and the roof system is adequately maintained.

### High Humidity, Condensation and Solar Driven Moisture

Where the moisture content of wood may exceed 18% for prolonged periods, Ecoply must be H3.2 CCA treated, to resist decay hazard. This includes Ecoply used under roof coverings that may be subject to condensation, or where rain moisture soaked in the roof covering can be driven into the Ecoply by the sun. Appropriate building detailing and ventilation is recommended which can reduce the need for treatment.

### Roof Ventilation

Good ventilation and the avoidance of moisture are important design considerations when using H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply panels. Poorly ventilated spaces can develop very high temperature and moisture levels. The most likely source of moisture is the condensation of vapour from warm interior air on the underside of cold roofing. Good ventilation can limit the build up of excess moisture vapour in warmer climates

but in regions where winter nights are consistently colder, H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply should be used. Moisture induced decay is only one risk that needs to be managed. If incorrectly detailed, roof spaces can be very tight and the dark colour of many roofing materials means that excessive heat can build up causing distortion in plywood or even framing members. Use the suggested details or alternatives to suit. Designers must consider roofing type, seasonal conditions, wind effects and the intended use of the building.

As a minimum, CHH Plywood recommends a vent area of 1/300th of the ceiling plan area (approx. 3350mm<sup>2</sup> per square metre of ceiling) equally distributed at the eaves and ridge to allow free flow under the Ecoply, up the roof slope, and out.

Roofing material suppliers should detail vent systems suited to their specific membrane or tile roofing. Proprietary ridge capping profiles or vents are available from roofing suppliers.

Detail gaps of 25mm in the plywood at ridges, and at walls where a roof slopes up to an upper storey. For flat roofs, natural ventilation flows may be impeded. Use proprietary roof vents. Consider forced ventilation as appropriate.

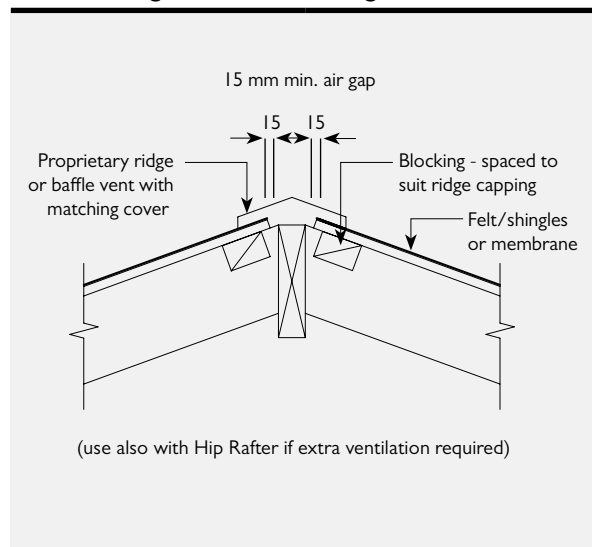
### Bubbling

Plywood bubbling occurs when moisture trapped in knot holes in inner veneers expands as the temperature rises. This moisture will dissipate through the face veneer and will not affect the structural integrity of the plywood panel. As membrane coverings can prevent moisture dissipation, Ecoply Flooring and Structural Square Edge CD is recommended if the visual appearance of bubbling is not acceptable, or a higher visual finish is required.

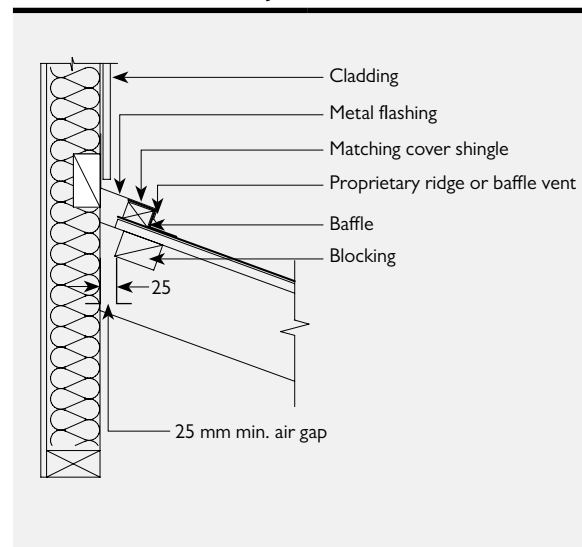
### Soil

Ecoply plywood (untreated or H3.1 LOSP/H3.2 CCA treated) must not be allowed to come in contact with soil. Surfaces, flashings and gutters should be detailed to avoid trapping detritus and moisture.

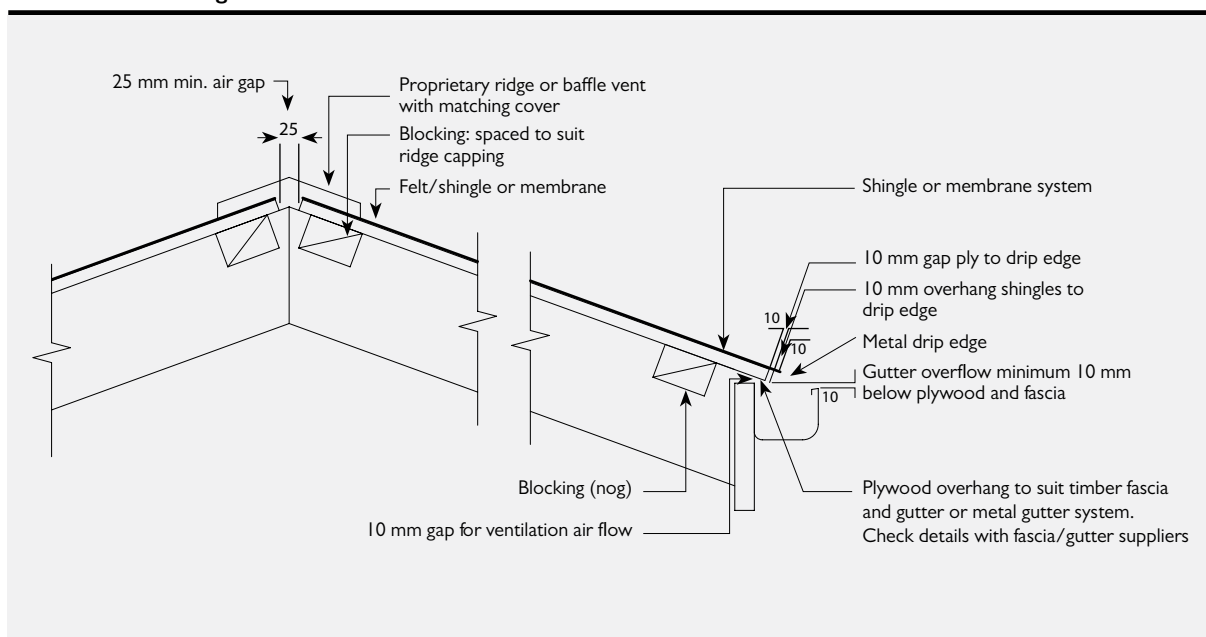
#### EC003: Ridge Detail With Ridgeboard



#### EC004: Roof to Wall Junction Vent



## EC005: Truss Ridge Detail



### Rain Wetting and Construction Time

Untreated Ecoply® will withstand a reasonable amount of rain wetting and exposure during construction for up to three months. In extreme weather conditions of high temperature and/or high rainfall this period may be less. Appearance issues such as discolouration and face checking of the sheet surface can be expected if Ecoply is exposed. For roofs uncovered for longer periods use H3 treated Ecoply to lower the risk of decay. Return Ecoply to below 18% moisture content before installing moisture sensitive materials, coverings, coatings or adhesives. Where a high visual finish is desired (such as membrane roofing and decking) protect Ecoply from exterior moisture during construction. For detailed information see section 4.1 Flexible Membrane Systems.

### Gutter Details

Where Ecoply structural plywood sub-sheathing supports roofing at gutters, a metal drip edge must be provided with appropriate gaps to shed water. Gutters should have a front edge overflow or ends lower than the back to shed water overflow away from framing and sub-sheathing Ecoply.

H3.2 CCA treatment is recommended for Ecoply sheets that protrude into gutters, with regular maintenance to avoid leaf mould (soil) development. Untreated Ecoply must not be exposed to gutter splash or moisture.

### Fastener Spacing for Wind Suction

Wind pressure applies withdrawal loads to nails holding plywood to purlins and trusses. For the frame spacing in Table 15A designers may use the following guidelines for wind zones expressed in NZS 3604.

**Note:** Full penetration of fasteners into the supporting member is assumed.

### The Main Body of the Roof

For wind zones up to and including high, use 60 x 2.8mm nails spaced at 150mm centres on all cross framing. For very high and extra high wind zones, use 75 x 3.15mm nails spaced at 150mm centres on all cross framing.

### Roof Edges

All Ecoply structural plywood used at local pressure suction zones at the roof edges, gutters, eaves and gable ends must be supported on framing, and fixed at 75mm centres with minimum 60 x 2.8mm nails for regions up to, and including high wind zones (use 75 x 3.15mm nails for very high and extra high wind zones). Local pressure zones are interpreted from AS/NZS 1170 as being within 20% of the building length, width or the average of the gutter and ridge height.

Designers and builders should review site conditions to ensure adequate fixing is applied. Buildings in exposed sites and lee zones should be specifically designed using the loading standard (AS/NZS 1170) and the timber structures standard NZS 3603. In some wind conditions, the tiles themselves may be sucked from the plywood. Use a consulting engineer to assess site conditions, calculate wind pressures for the specific site, and determine the fastening and span requirements, and to check that the truss system can resist the loads being applied through the plywood.

### Fixing of Roofing

**Fixing methods for tile, shingle and membrane systems must be designed for the expected wind and weather exposure to protect the Ecoply substrate.**

Some shingle systems may not be suitable for use in very high or cyclonic wind zones.

Follow the specifications of the roofing manufacturer and refer to the appropriate BRANZ Appraisals.

## 4.6 ROOFING – INSTALLATION

### Framing

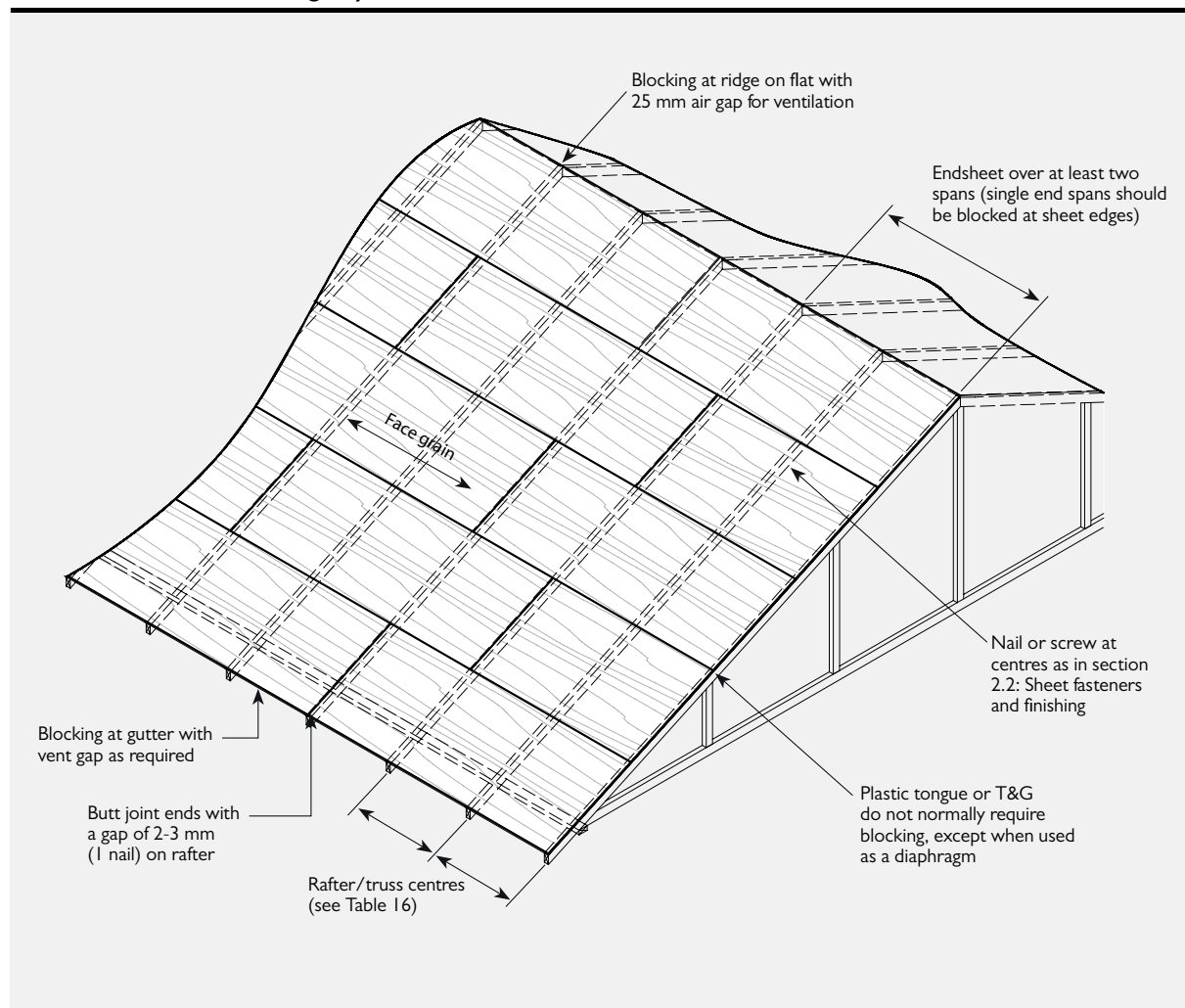
Frames should be at spacings to suit plywood thicknesses in Table 15A, page 25. Additional requirements for roof framing are:

- Ensure top edges of framing are properly aligned.
- Use dry Laserframe®, hyJOIST® or hySPAN® framing to lower moisture level in roof spaces, second floor spaces, and reduce differential truss, rafter or joist deflections.

### Blocking (Nogs, Dwangs)

- Block all edges of Ecoply® Structural Square Edge plywood.
- Block all edges at the ridge and gutter lines to prevent sag at capping or gutters.
- Block for high face loads or under areas accessed for maintenance.
- Blocking within the body of the roof is not required under tongue and grooved edges when using Ecoply Flooring and Roofing, unless required for framing stability or the plywood is being used as a diaphragm to resist horizontal wind or earthquake loads. In this case fixings transfer shear across the joints and details should be specified on drawings.
- Use blocking on the flat to provide gaps where air flow is needed for ventilation.
- Specific roofing suppliers may require blocking to suit their system.

### EC006: Sheet and Framing Layout





## Sheet Layout

- Ensure Ecoply® sheets are dry before installation.
- Place face grain at right angles to supports.
- Sheets must be continuous over at least two spans (three framing members).
- Lay the sheets in a staggered pattern.
- Allow sufficient clearance inside confining structure such as concrete or brick walls adjacent to the roof. Use extra allowances with large areas.
- Allow clearance for ventilation as required.

## Fixing of Sheets

Ecoply may be fixed to different types of framing with nails, screws or a combination of fasteners and construction adhesives.

Fasteners should be corrosion resistant to a level appropriate to the end use life expectancy (15 or 50 years) and expected exposure to moisture. Where fasteners are in contact with H3.2 CCA treated timber or plywood, fasteners must be a minimum of hot dip galvanised. In certain circumstances stainless steel fasteners may be required. Refer to section 4 of NZS 3604 for these circumstances. Where stainless steel nails are required, annular grooved nails must be used.

The integrity of a plywood based roof system is directly related to how well the panels are fixed to the framing. Ecoply must be fixed to resist wind suction loads, and to maintain surface qualities of the overlying roof covering.

- Always refer to the roofing system supplier for system requirements.
- For roofing, check the additional requirements according to wind exposure.
- For very exposed sites, cyclonic conditions or roofs above 10 metres in height, carry out specific structural design to the relevant standards.
- Screw fixing must be used for membrane roofing, and is preferred for all systems because of increased holding power and avoidance of head popping.
- For minimum fastener spacing for wind suction, refer section 4.5 Roofing - Design Considerations - Fastener spacing for wind suction.

## Fixing to Timber Frames

- Ring shank nails or annular grooved nails or screws are recommended for additional holding power.
- Use flathead nails. Do not use jolt or bullet head nails.
- Stainless steel nails must be annular grooved.
- Ensure fastener is compatible with the roofing cover (consult roofing system supplier).
- Staples may be used provided that the withdrawal load is equivalent to the hand driven galvanised flathead nail. A suggested minimum is a 50mm long staple with 12mm crown and legs 1.8mm diameter. Space staples 20% closer than nails. Refer to the manufacturer's information for corrosion resistance and durability.

## Fixing to Steel Frames

- Fix directly to roll formed steel (up to 2mm thick) with self-drilling, self-tapping screws. If plywood gets damp and expands, screws in thicker steel may shear. Keep Ecoply dry or use larger screws or;
- Bolt or screw battens to the steel and apply Ecoply as above for timber. Ensure that battens have adequate thickness for the minimum nail or screw length.
- H3.2 CCA treated plywood must not be fixed to steel framing.

## 5.0 FLOORING

The following section covers the use of Ecoply® Flooring plywood used as a flooring substrate with flexible and rigid overlays.

Ecoply Flooring is suitable as a substrate for overlays such as carpet, tiles and some membrane products (refer to flooring manufacturer).

### 5.1 FLOORING – RANGE

- The tongue and groove on long sheet edges does not require support blocking under the joint (unless otherwise specified).
- Supplied in F8/F5 stress grade (F11/F8 available upon request).
- Ecoply 19mm Longspan Flooring supplied as standard in F11/F8 stress grade.
- Supplied standard with a sanded C grade surface with D grade back.
- Designers must expect the surface to dent or mark more easily than hardwood flooring systems as Ecoply is manufactured from relatively soft timber veneers.
- Available untreated or H3.2 CCA treated, (H3.1 LOSP treated available upon request).
- LOSP treated plywood is not recommended for internal applications.
- Refer to Table 1 for range and treatment options.
- Flooring - Critical Radiant Flux C/VM2 Appendix B gives a value of 2.2kW/m<sup>2</sup> for plywood and timber floors more than 12mm thick.

### 5.2 FLOORING – INSTALLATION

**Table 17: Flooring Frame Spacings**

Application	Maximum Frame Centres (mm) for Ecoply® with Face Grain Across Framing			
	Ecoply Nominal Thickness (mm)			
	17	19	21	25
1. Domestic flooring 2kPa - 1.8kN	540	600 F11/F8 Longspan	600	750
2. Institutional and public assembly up to 4kPa - 2.7kN	300	480	540	750
3. Institutional and crowd assembly up to 5kPa - 3.6kN		400	450	600
4. Corridors, industrial up to 5kPa - 4.5kN		300	400	540
5. Domestic garage floor** 2.5kPa - 9kN				270

\*\* Provide blocking to all edges of the sheet.

- Use the next lower recommended frame spacing or thicker Ecoply® flooring where appearance is critical.
- To suit frames at 900 centres, 2700 long sheets are available. See Table 16.

#### Floor Loads

For domestic garage floors blocking is required under all edges to control wheel loads on the tongue. Testing with 113mm diameter load head (0.01m<sup>2</sup>) confirms commercial floor capabilities.

Refer to Table 16 to match frame set outs with 2400mm and 700mm sheet modules.

#### Framing

- Joist spacings should be at spacings to suit plywood thicknesses in Table 17.
- Use dry Laserframe®, hyJOIST® or hySPAN® framing to achieve a moisture content of 18% or less.

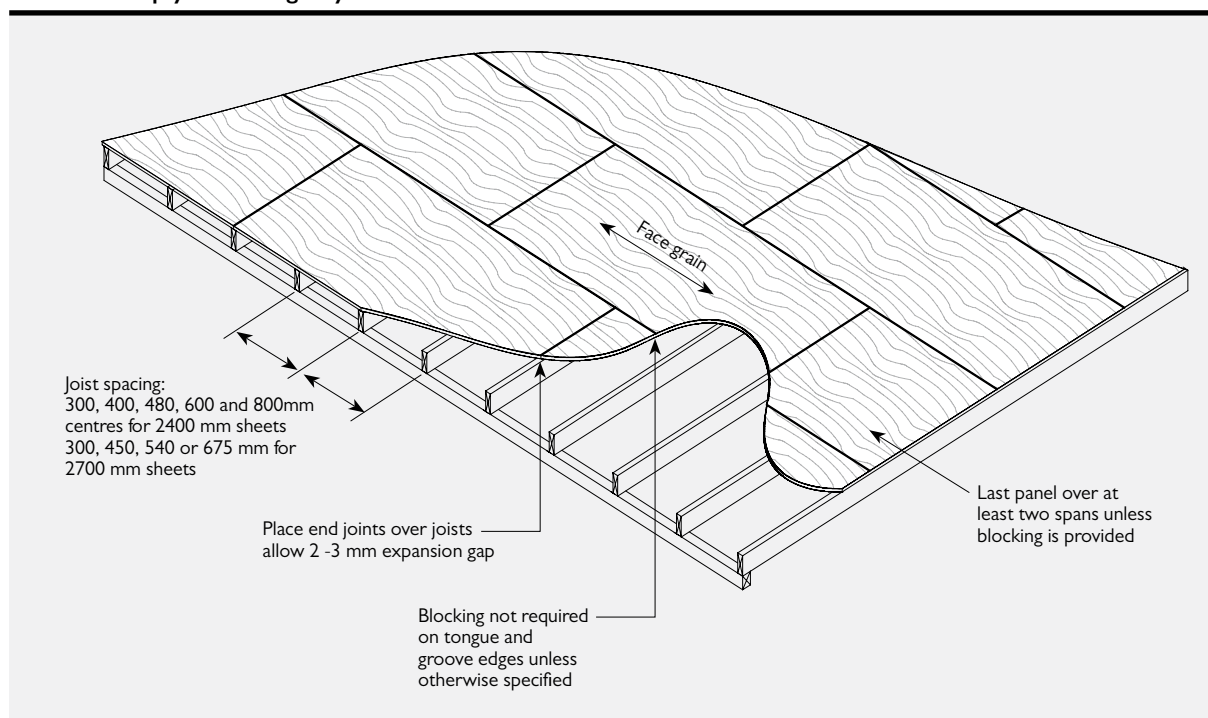
#### Blocking

- Blocking within the body of the floor is not required under tongue and groove edges unless otherwise specified (such as in domestic garage floors).

#### Sheet Layout

- Ensure Ecoply sheets are dry before installation.
- Place face grain at right angles to supports.
- Sheets must be continuous over at least two spans (three framing members).
- For panels at floor edges where a continuous two span coverage is not possible, sheet edges must be supported by blocking.
- Lay sheets in a staggered pattern.
- Allow clearance for ventilation as required.

## EC007: Ecoply® Flooring Layout



### Fastener Selection and Treatment

Fasteners should be corrosion resistant to a level appropriate to the end use, life expectancy (15 or 50 years) and expected exposure to moisture.

Where fasteners are in contact with H3.2 CCA treated timber or plywood, fasteners shall be a minimum of hot dip galvanised. In certain circumstances stainless steel fasteners may be required. Refer to section 4 of NZS 3604 for these circumstances. Where stainless steel nails are required, annular grooved nails must be used.

### Fasteners and Fixing of Sheets

- Ecoply® Flooring may be fixed with nails or screws or a combination of mechanical fasteners and construction adhesives.
- For fastener specifications (including lay out and sizes) refer to section 2.2: Sheet Fasteners and Fixing.
- For construction adhesive specifications refer to section 2.3: Adhesives.
- Ring shank or annular grooved nails, or screws are recommended for additional holding power.
- To reduce the risk of fastener popping or floor squeak the use of construction adhesives is advised.
- Do not use jolt or bullet head nails.

## 5.3 FLOORING – FINISHING

- Overlays and coatings should be applied following the manufacturer's specifications.
- Avoid heavy sanding that may remove the critically important structural face veneer.
- Adhesives must be compatible with CCA (Copper Chrome Arsenic) treatment in H3.2 CCA treated sheets. Compatibility can often be improved by lightly washing, scrubbing and drying the plywood surface prior to fixing.
- Where clear or stained finishes are desired, designers should select sheets and protect the floor as much as possible from the weather and construction activities.
- Ecoply is made from relatively soft timber veneers and as such will dent or mark more easily than hardwood flooring systems. This is to be expected and designers must consider the long term appearance requirements of the project. Ecoply Flooring is a good substrate for harder wearing flooring overlays, and is not primarily intended for clear finishing, especially if it is exposed to moisture during construction.
- For improved surface finish, floors should be protected from weather during construction as soon as possible.

## 6.0 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** How much space should be allowed for expansion?

**A:** Allow a 2 - 3mm expansion gap between square edges of Ecoply® sheets. If using Ecoply Flooring, a 5mm expansion gap is recommended at the perimeter of the floor or deck. Check by calculation for large areas.

**Q:** Can power driven nails be used to fix Ecoply®?

**A:** Paslode power driven nails have been tested for fixing Ecoply and Shadowclad® plywood products for particular bracing and cladding applications. For power driven nail specifications refer to the Paslode Special Fixing Applications document available from <https://www.paslode.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/CHH-Woodproducts-Fixing-Matrix.pdf>. Use the Paslode Impulse Compact Nailer fitted with a No Mar(k) work contact element to eliminate any contact marks on the plywood. Adjust the work contact element to the flush position and fire the nail at 90° to the work surface. Hammer any nails flush which are left proud. Do not overdrive.

**Q:** How close to sheet edges can I nail?

**A:** Fixings must be at least 7mm from the sheet edge.

**Q:** Do I have to use stainless steel nails when using Ecoply for bracing?

**A:** Where fasteners are in contact with H3.2 CCA treated timber or plywood, fasteners must be a minimum of hot dip galvanised. In certain circumstances stainless steel fasteners may be required. Refer to Table 8 of the Ecoply Specification and Installation Guide for these circumstances. Where stainless steel nails are required, annular grooved nails must be used.

**Q:** What is the weight of Ecoply?

**A:** Refer to Table 4A for weight (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) of different Ecoply thicknesses.

**Q:** What is the R-value of Ecoply?

**A:** The thermal resistance or insulating effectiveness of plywood panels can be calculated using NZS 4214. Plywood has a conductivity (k) of 0.13W/mK so a 12mm panel has a thermal resistance  $R = 0.012/0.13 = 0.09$ .

**Q:** Are there any compatibility issues when using Ecoply with other materials?

**A:** Adhesives for flexible rubber membranes may react with LOSP treatment and should therefore only be applied to H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply unless the membrane supplier advises differently. Check with the membrane manufacturer if in doubt. H3.2 CCA treatment is also corrosive and this must be taken into account when specifying H3.2 CCA treated plywood next to metals. For further guidance, refer to Tables 21 and 22 in Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.

**Q:** Can Ecoply be used as a rigid sheathing (air barrier)?

**A:** CHH has a specific system called Ecoply Barrier. Ecoply Barrier has been developed as a rigid air barrier. Refer to the current Ecoply Barrier Specification and Installation Guide for further information. 7mm H3.2 CCA treated Ecoply can also be used if combined with building underlay in accordance with E2/AS1 for a rigid air barrier system.

**Q:** Flooring - what is the Critical Radiant Flux?

**A:** C/VM2 Appendix B gives a value of 2.2kW/m<sup>2</sup> for plywood and timber floors more than 12mm thick.

**Q:** What is the relevance of AS/NZS 2269?

**A:** Ecoply structural plywood is manufactured to AS/NZS 2269 Plywood Structural. This Standard is referenced by the NZBC Compliance Documents including NZS 3602 Timber and Wood-based Products for Use in Building, NZS 3603 Timber Structures, NZS 3604 Timber Framed Buildings, AS/NZS 1604.3 Specification for Preservative Treatment, Part 3: Plywood and Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 - External Moisture. Plywood not manufactured to AS/NZS 2269 does NOT meet the requirements of these NZBC Compliance Documents.

**Q:** What is marine ply?

**A:** Marine plywood manufactured to AS/NZS 2272 Plywood Marine may contain species of low durability (source: BRANZ Good Practice Guide – Timber Cladding). Whilst marine plywood has a Type A glue bond, it is generally specified for its high surface appearance grade and lack of core knots as opposed to structural performance. AS/NZS 2272 limits marine plywood to a number of approved species that pass stringent property requirements for things like moisture permeability. These requirements are different from those in standards from other countries. Marine plywood is rarely treated as it is usually coated with resin, fibreglass, or a paint finish for long term durability.

**Q:** What should a specification for structural plywood include?

**A:** A specification for structural plywood should include:

Specification Check List	Example
Quantity/size	20 sheets of 2400 x 1200
Thickness	12mm
Edge finish	Square edge
Brand name	Ecoply® structural plywood
Reference to Standard	To AS/NZS 2269
Stress grade/(layup)	F8/F5 (12-24-5)
Surface grade/bond type	CD A-Bond <sup>2</sup>
Accreditation	Third party product certified

<sup>1</sup> Stress grades and layups may vary between different manufacturers and products.

<sup>2</sup> Type A-bonds are suitable for permanent exposed applications and structural applications.

**Q: What are F-grades?**

**A:** The stress grading system is a ranking system which utilises the symbol F and a suffix 8, 11 etc. as a code to apply a full suite of strength and stiffness properties to plywood products of that stress grade. For plywood of a given thickness, the higher the F-grade, the further it will span. For load bearing applications (e.g. flooring, roofing) the required F-grade as well as the plywood thickness must be specified to achieve the required span. F8/F5 is the most common structural plywood grade found in New Zealand. All Ecoply® structural products are F8 in parallel to the grain direction. Ecoply 19mm Longspan Flooring are F11/F8. Other Ecoply Flooring products are also available in F11/F8 upon request.

**Q: What are surface/appearance grades (e.g. CD)?**

**A:** Appearance grades (e.g. CD, DD) denote the appearance grade of the plywood including the number and size of knot holes as defined in AS/NZS 2269 and summarised in Table 2A and 2B of this guide. The first letter describes the appearance of the face veneer and the second letter describes the back face.

**Q: How long can Ecoply® be left exposed to the weather?**

**A:** Untreated Ecoply will typically maintain its structural integrity when exposed to the weather during construction for up to 3 months. The surface colour will start to silver off and face checking will become evident. Where the finished appearance of the Ecoply is important, it should be protected during construction. Ecoply is also available H3 treated to resist decay or insect hazard. When used in accordance with this guide, it can be specified to meet the durability requirements of the NZBC, however appearance issues such as face checking may still occur dependent upon the degree of exposure to weather during construction.

**Q: What treatment levels and types are used for Ecoply?**

**A:** Ecoply is available untreated or preservative treated. Ecoply is treated to the H3 hazard class for above ground use. The standard Ecoply treatment type is H3.2 CCA (Copper Chrome Arsenate) although H3.1 LOSP Azole (Light Organic Solvent Preservative) may also be specified where a clear treatment is required. LOSP Azole is the standard treatment type for Shadowclad®. CCA treatment gives the plywood sheets a green tinge and the drying process after CCA treatment may leave fillet marks on the face of the sheet.

**Q: Does Ecoply have to be treated when used as structural bracing?**

**A:** Ecoply used as bracing must be treated unless it is installed in an interior dry situation. Note, behind exterior cladding and in cavities (even if the Ecoply is covered with building wrap) are not considered to be an interior dry situation.

**Q: Do I have to re-treat cut edges of treated Ecoply?**

**A:** It is important to re-treat any cuts and holes with a brush on remedial treatment such as Holdfast® Metalex® Clear.

**Q: What type of glue is used to manufacture Ecoply?**

**A:** Phenol formaldehyde (PF) resins are used to bond the plywood veneers. This forms a Type A (Marine) bond suitable for structural applications and exterior use. Phenol formaldehyde resins are dark red/brown in colour. Product details printed on the back of Ecoply sheets indicate the 'A Bond'.

**Q: Does Ecoply emit formaldehyde?**

**A:** Formaldehyde occurs naturally in the environment and is emitted by processes such as combustion, decay and naturally by all timber species. Ecoply and Shadowclad meet the E0 formaldehyde emission class, less than 0.5mg/litre.

**Q: How should Ecoply be installed to maximise its stiffness properties?**

**A:** Structural plywood has greatest stiffness along the long grain of the sheet (i.e. along its length). Therefore, flooring/roofing should be laid across joists/rafters rather than parallel to them.

## 7.0 REFERENCES & SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- New Zealand Building Code (NZBC).
- CHH Plywood technical notes - downloadable from <https://chhply.co.nz/librarytools>.
- NZS 3640:2003 "Chemical Preservation of Round and Sawn Timber".
- NZS 3602:2003 "Timber and Wood-based products for use in Buildings".
- NZS 3603:1993 "Timber Structures Standard".
- NZS 3604:2011 "Timber Framed Buildings".
- AS/NZS 1170:2011 "Structural design actions".
- AS/NZS 2269:2012 "Plywood Structural".
- AS/NZS 1604.3:2012 "Specification for Preservative Treatment, Part 3: Plywood".
- US Product Standard PSI-95.
- Acceptable Solution 'E2/AS1 – External Moisture'.
- Acceptable Solution 'B2/AS1 – Durability'.
- BRANZ Bulletin 289: Asphalt shingle roofing.
- BRANZ Appraisals 307, 404, 411.
- BRANZ Bulletin 630: Roof Space Ventilation.
- BRANZ Bulletin 610: Preventing Moisture Problems In Timber-Framed Skillion Roofs.
- Shadowclad® Specification and Installation Guide for Cavity Construction.
- Ecoply® Barrier Specification and Installation Guide.
- Safety Data Sheets.
  - SDS Azole Treated Plywood, LVL and I-Joists.
  - SDS H3 CCA Treated Plywood and I-Joist.
  - SDS Untreated Plywood.
- APA ([www.buildabetterhome.org](http://www.buildabetterhome.org)).
- EWPA (www.ewp.asn.au).
- Product Technical Statement and Building Product Information Sheet for Ecoply available online at [www.chhply.co.nz/librarytools](http://www.chhply.co.nz/librarytools).
- EWPA Technical Note - Plywood Roofing and Flooring: Installation and detail factors.

Standards can be purchased online at [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz). Building Code Compliance Documents can be downloaded free of charge at [www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/](http://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/)

## 8.0 LIMITATIONS

The information contained in this document is current as at June 2025 and is based on data available to CHH Plywood at the time of going to print.

All photographic images are intended to provide a general impression only and should not be relied upon as an accurate example of Ecoply products installed in accordance with this document or NZBC compliance documents.

This publication replaces all previous CHH Plywood design information and literature relating to Ecoply structural plywood products. CHH Plywood reserves the right to change the information contained in this document without prior notice. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the most up to

date information available, including at the time of applying for a building consent. You can call toll free on 0800 326 759 or visit [www.chhply.co.nz](http://www.chhply.co.nz) to obtain current information.

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