



Technical Bulletin

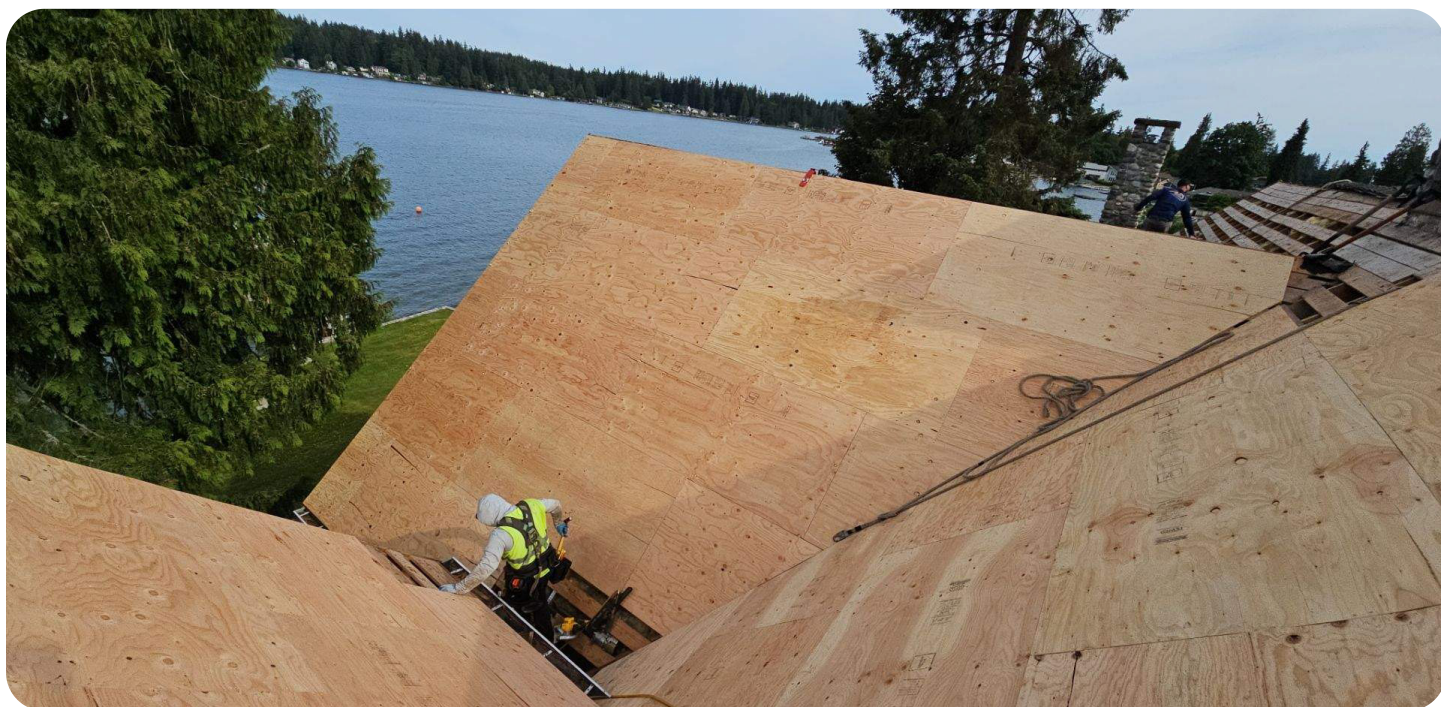
Scope: Installation Supplement

Published August 13, 2026

TB-260801

Roof Sheathing Requirements

Installation Supplement



SUMMARY

Brava roof systems require a smooth, flat, clean deck of solid plywood, Oriented Strand Board (OSB), or approved ZIP System sheathing. Minimum thicknesses: 15/32" CDX plywood, 7/16" OSB, or 7/16" ZIP System. Plywood is recommended for higher fastener head pull-through resistance in high-wind environments and broader code compliance. Plank or spaced sheathing is not recommended. Decks must comply with IBC, IRC, and applicable regional or local codes. Confirm compliance with your building official.

CONTENTS

- Historic Sheathing Materials
- Modern Sheathing Materials
- Benefits of Modern Sheathing
- Sheathing Thickness
- Plank & Spaced Sheathing ⚠
- Warranty Limitations
- Fire & Wind Rating Limitations
- Notes

RESOURCES

Check for updates to this and other Technical Bulletins on our **Resources Page**.

Complete Installation Training, View Resources, and Access Support by visiting our **Technical Services Portal**.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding Brava Roof Tile products and accessories, call **844-290-4196**.

Or contact us through the **Technical Services Portal**.

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Historic Sheathing Materials

Roof sheathing has changed significantly over the last 100 years. Before plywood and OSB became common in the 1970s, roofs often used nominal 1"x6" or 1"x8" planks laid across the rafters, replacing the rough-cut timbers common in the 19th century. When boards were installed edge-to-edge, this was called plank sheathing or plank decking. When spaces were left between boards, it was called spaced or skip sheathing.



PLANK SHEATHING



SPACED SHEATHING

Modern Sheathing Materials

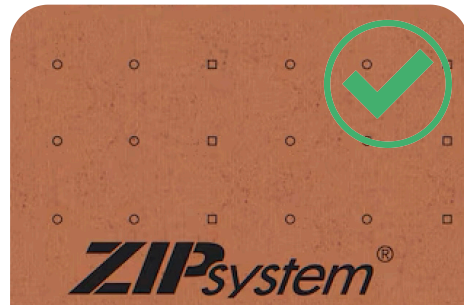
Plywood and Oriented Strand Board (OSB) are the standard and preferred sheathing materials for modern roofs. When reroofing, old plank or spaced sheathing is often replaced or covered with plywood or OSB. These materials are sold in 4'x8' sheets, allowing for consistent, efficient installation. ZIP System roof sheathing may be used if it meets the minimum thickness requirements below; however, a standard underlayment complying with ASTM D226 Type II is still required, even with ZIP System's integrated water-resistant barrier.



PLYWOOD



OSB



ZIP System (OSB)



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Benefits of Modern Sheathing

STRENGTH

Plywood and OSB provide uniform structural strength across the roof, improving resistance to wind and other loads.

STABILITY

Plywood and OSB are dimensionally stable, reducing expansion and contraction compared to planks. This improves fastener connections and reduces stress on roofing materials, especially in areas with large temperature swings.

SUPPORT

Sheet materials create a continuous surface that supports roofing materials and provides a consistent fastening surface, helping prevent sagging, premature failure, and missed fasteners between plank gaps.



Sheathing Thickness

15/32" CDX plywood and 7/16" OSB are the minimum sheathing thicknesses for Brava roof systems and are commonly used when roof rafters or trusses are spaced 24" on center or less.

5/8" sheathing is commonly used in areas with high wind speeds, heavy snow loads, or roof rafters or trusses spaced more than 24" on center.

3/4" sheathing is typically used for applications requiring extra strength or stiffness, such as wider rafter or truss spacing, heavy snow or wind loads, roof-mounted equipment, or engineered structural requirements.

Note: Local or regional building codes may specify required sheathing type and thickness.



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Plank and Spaced Sheathing

Plank or spaced sheathing is not recommended and limits warranty coverage and code compliance certification. Brava recommends covering it with plywood or OSB or replacing it with solid sheathing. Brava Spanish Barrel Tile and Brava Flat Tile may not be installed over plank or spaced sheathing.

If solid sheathing is unavailable and the warranty and code compliance certification limitations are acceptable, Brava Cedar Shake and Brava Slate may be installed over plank or spaced sheathing of at least nominal 1x lumber. Use minimum nominal 1x6 boards spaced on center to match the shake or slate exposure, such as 10" on center for a 10" exposure. Gaps may not exceed 4 1/2" edge-to-edge. A roofing felt interlay system is required between shake or slate courses over spaced sheathing.

Notes

This bulletin is not intended to replace state or local code documents and publications. Check with your building official to ensure deck compliance with applicable codes. Always review the latest source documents for building code requirements. Fasteners must penetrate 3/4" into or completely through the sheathing. Ensure roof venting meets industry standards and code requirements.

Warranty Limitations

Compared with plywood and OSB, plank and spaced sheathing have greater movement and less consistent thermal stability. Fasteners may miss boards at gaps, reducing wind uplift resistance. Movement, uneven ventilation, and temperature changes may cause lifted, buckled, curled, or undulating tiles and courses, along with other performance or appearance issues. Brava is not liable for these or other issues caused by plank or spaced sheathing, and such issues are excluded from its Lifetime Limited Warranty. Full coverage requires $\geq 15/32$ " plywood or $\geq 7/16$ " OSB sheathing.

Fire & Wind Rating Limitations

Brava Roof Systems have not been tested for fire classification or wind rating over plank, spaced, OSB, or ZIP System sheathing and are not certified when installed over those substrates. Fire classification rating and wind uplift testing and certification have been completed using 15/32" plywood sheathing and have not been validated with plank, spaced, OSB, or ZIP System sheathing. Additional testing is projected to expand certified sheathing options. Applicable codes may require plywood sheathing or a thicker roof deck.

For example, in Miami-Dade-compliant counties, $\geq 19/32$ " plywood sheathing is required.