

THE ARCHITECT, THE BUILDER AND THE HOMEOWNER – ECOPLY® BARRIER SYSTEM



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Zane Raphael of Smith & Sons, renovation and extension specialists, moved his family into a 1960s Auckland home with plans to renovate and create a safe, healthy, dream home for his family. Within a short time frame however, the urgency for the renovation increased dramatically when the family began to fall ill.

“We’ve visited the doctor more this year than we have in the past 10 years,” says Zane. “Plus the house was very cold. As soon as the sun went down it was near impossible to warm the home.”

Using his contacts in the industry, Zane contacted Allan McIntosh of Buildology, an Auckland based team of contemporary design and draughting experts that provides inspiring architectural designs. Allan jumped on board and saw an opportunity to try something different and target the Homestar® rating.

“It is hard to explain to people the advantage of buying or building a well-designed, healthy home. The Homestar rating gives them some way to define the improvement.”

Homestar is an independent rating tool that certifies the health, efficiency and sustainability of New Zealand homes.

Allan and Zane agreed on a challenge to achieve the highest rated Homestar renovation project in New Zealand, the target was a 9 star rated home out of a possible 10. During the design phase they set to work looking for products which could help them achieve the 9 stars. After rejecting building wrap and other products on the market they came across Ecoply® Barrier.

Ecoply Barrier is a BRANZ Appraised solution that provides a secondary line of defence against the elements. The Ecoply Barrier System contributes towards two of the crucial 4 D's of weathertightness, namely, drying and drainage. Ecoply Barrier is compliant

with NZBC Clause B2 ensuring it meets the durability standards vital to meeting the strict New Zealand Building Code.

Zane hadn't used Ecoply Barrier before, but quickly turned into an advocate:

“Ecoply Barrier is a lot stronger than building wrap. I didn't have to worry about any major or minor breaches in the building envelope like you can get with paper. Any hole is made with purpose and cannot accidentally happen. Plus the insulation we used is rigid polyester and this has been firmly pushed up against the barrier. If this were paper we could hinder the integrity of the building wrap if the staples were popped”.



"As a builder, Ecoply® Barrier is a great product to handle: it's light and not brittle. It's easily handled by one person and can be cut using conventional tools without creating large amounts of dust. We installed it using a coil nailer with stainless steel round-head nails – this was fast! Ecoply Barrier gives our house a real feeling of strength."

There was one feature of the Ecoply Barrier System that Zane was sold on more than any other:

"I think Ecoply Barrier is a fantastic product for a number of reasons. The main benefit is down to the time it catapults a project forwards, as it enables you to start on the inside quicker – it saved us approximately 4 to 5 weeks of building time."

In no time at all, Zane was able to work on the inside of the build before the cladding had even gone up. This meant they could save money on the build and the associated costs that come from running building sites.

Allan, at Buildology, recently won two awards for his work from Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) Auckland. Specifying Ecoply Barrier or any product for that matter, meant that it had to reach his high expectations;

"My criteria for product selection is that the product would need to be something I'd be happy to use in my own house: it's reliable, tested and trustworthy. The company manufacturing it should be ethical, and the product has to be sustainable."

"This is the second time we've used Ecoply Barrier. I like it for the bracing it provides. Besides, timber is a great, reliable product that has been around forever – and it's more ethical and sustainable compared to fibre cement products."

Zane summed it up;

"We are really happy to be living in a way that's more energy efficient, environmentally aware, and self-sustainable – and passing on these values to our two girls."



Zane Raphael and the family.