

Michigan Contractor and DuPont™ Tyvek®: Perfect Together

CASE HISTORY

How the use of DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® helped a Detroit-based contractor to secure a large remodeling job in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



“DuPont™ Tyvek® is a household name recognized by many. Having the DuPont™ Tyvek® Residing Specialist as a resource and using DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® could only enhance our reputation.”

Dave Adamczyk
Owner and President,
D.A. Home Improvements

Dave Adamczyk is the owner and president of D.A. Home Improvements, Inc., a \$15 million a year remodeling and renovation contractor serving the Detroit, Michigan area.

When the Board of Directors at University Townhouses, a 30-year-old, 690-unit co-op development in Ann Arbor, decided it was time to replace the old aluminum siding on its 135 buildings, it narrowed its choice down to three contracting firms. One of those was D.A. Home Improvement, Inc., a 35-person operation in business for 25 years.

To gauge which of the three contractors would be best suited to complete the project, the Board asked each contractor to install foam, a housewrap and vinyl siding on the front of three different buildings in the complex. Adamczyk had considerable experience in remodeling large, multi-unit condominium and co-op projects. He knew that community boards or their management companies are often accountable to hundreds of owners. They need to know that the contractor and products they are choosing are reliable. Adamczyk called his vinyl siding supplier and Norm Fleming, DuPont™ Tyvek® Residing Specialist at Hansen Marketing Services, Inc. in Walled Lake, Michigan. He felt their presence and their product knowledge could be a plus when he made his presentation to the University Townhouses board. “DuPont™ Tyvek® is a household name recognized by many,” observed Adamczyk. “Having the DuPont™ Tyvek® Residing Specialist as a resource and using DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® could only enhance our reputation.”



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Adamczyk worked closely with Fleming to present the co-op's board with a video presentation that focused on how housewraps work and what differentiated DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® from competitive brands. "When we finally presented, we talked in detail about the benefits of the housewrap we planned to use and compared it to other housewraps—which was very important to the board," said the Michigan contractor.

The presentation included micro-photography that shows how DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® is a fibrous structure engineered with microscopic pores to allow moisture vapor to escape but not permit bulk water and air to penetrate the wall surface.

Adamczyk also asked the DuPont™ Tyvek® Specialist to meet with D.A. Improvement's installation team to review how DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® should be properly wrapped around the foam sheathing, cut out around windows and doors and taped at the seams. The installation review even led the Remodeler to counter flash around the top and bottom of windows, creating a secure, continuous seal around the outside of the building. "Even though we weren't required to do the double flashing, I wanted to make sure these homes would still be protected 10 years from now," he said.

"It helped our presentation when we showed the Board how important it is to install housewrap correctly to give it optimum performance," said the remodeler, adding that: "DuPont™ Tyvek® is a big reason we received the bid on this job."

"Dave Adamczyk had the best presentation of how the DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® would work," said Mandel Armstrong, maintenance administrator for University Townhouses and the customer monitoring the work. Important to Armstrong was that the D.A. presentation talked about mold concerns, particularly how wind-driven rain and moisture can create a breeding ground for mold, mildew and wood rot if they penetrate behind siding and saturate walls.

Adamczyk's preparation and the installation tips for the crew paid off. "One of our competitors installed foam and another brand of housewrap," recalled the Michigan contractor. "The housewrap was then seamed and taped over with duct tape. That had to be corrected. The other contractor actually installed another brand of housewrap under the foam until the maintenance administrator at University Townhouses noticed and told him how to do it correctly."



"I wanted to make sure these homes would still be protected 10 years from now," said Dave Adamczyk, owner and president of D.A. Home Improvements, a remodeling and renovation contractor in Detroit, Michigan.

Utilizing the knowledge of the manufacturer representatives, including the DuPont™ Tyvek® Specialist, was critical in securing the entire job, emphasized Adamczyk. "I feel the Board chose our company because of DuPont™ Tyvek®, the Specialist's knowledge, and the literature and presentation materials we used," he said. "We generated the confidence that the job would be completed properly."



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