

WHICH SIDE UP?

From a structural or durability point of view it does not make any difference which side of an APA Rated Sheathing panel is placed "up."

The stamped side of APA Rated Sheathing roof panels often goes down so the inspector can more easily access the APA trademark with the panels in place. Note that many APA OSB sheathing producers make their panels with one rough and one smooth side. On steep roofs, the rough side of OSB is intended to go up to provide a more secure working surface. However, the APA trademark itself may occur on either the rough or smooth side. Plywood sheathing may also be stamped on either side "face" or "back."

While it is unlikely that a plywood APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor panel would be incorrectly placed because of the differences in the face and back surfaces, very often it is difficult to tell on an OSB APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor panel which side should be placed up. For this reason, many manufacturers provide a "this side up" or "this side down" stamp to indicate the appropriate face. This kind of stamp also finds its way onto plywood and OSB panels with asymmetrical tongue-and-groove edges. In this case, all of the stamps should be facing up or down so the T&G joints fit flush. As with APA Rated Sheathing, there is no structural reason for placing either side of an APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor panel up or down. However, if stamped, plywood APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor panels installed as floor sheathing should be installed as indicated by the stamp, since the face ply and cross bands behind the face may be improved veneer grades intended to meet indentation and surface requirements.

The reasons listed above are serviceability related and are traditionally taken to be outside the scope of building codes.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact APA Product Support at (253) 620-7400 ph, (253) 565-7265 fax, or e-mail: help@apawood.org