

Best Practices for Rasing Clean-Up

INTRODUCTION

Rasing EPS or GPS insulation boards before the application of base coat and fiberglass reinforcing mesh in a typical EIFS installation is an important step to achieving an aesthetically pleasing finished wall. Rasing ensures that the insulation boards are flat with square edges, any UV damaged material is removed, and allows the base coat to mechanically bond to the foam as well as adhesively bond.

The beads generated during rasing can be a challenge to manage as they are easily blown about by even a slight wind. As with any general construction debris, these beads must be managed to prevent release into the environment. Beads settling into waterways and blowing around adjacent properties have generated complaints and fines, and jobs have been shut down until the complaint is resolved.

Find information, below, gleaned from the field for containment and waste disposal of EPS/GPS beads.

CONTAINMENTS

- Enclose the scaffolding with netting.
- Tent the area, vacuuming beads as they accumulate.
- Periodically vacuum the beads that accumulate on the ground or drift out of the netting area.
- Use a rasing tool with a vacuum attachment.
- Mist the surface of the foam board to dampen the foam; the damp foam beads are heavier and tend to drop down rather than drift, making them easier to collect.
- Rasp on calm days and vacuum beads before the wind increases.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Dispose of the foam beads via sanitary landfill or incinerator according to federal, state, and local regulations. Do not discharge into waterways or sewer systems. Expanded polystyrene is recyclable.

Contact your local waste management service for recycling methods or visit the following:

- EPS Industry Alliance: www.epsindustry.org - Use the Recycling Locator to find a facility near you.
- Earth911: www.earth911.com
- Home for Foam: www.homeforfoam.com/foam-101/foam

Some EPS manufacturers will accept clean, dry, tape-free and label-free EPS foam. The recycled EPS gets reused in the manufacturing process. Please contact your EPS or GPS vendor for more information.

Reference the EPS/GPS Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for complete information.
