



Keeping The Good In and The Unwanted Out

Johns Manville insulation in a Las Vegas school helps keep cool air indoors, while also solving other challenges related to a desert environment.

Desert conditions can present unique building challenges. For example, building insulation in a desert climate needs to help keep hot air outdoors and air-conditioned air indoors. And a good strong, well-sealed building envelope can also help with small-in-size problems like insects.

These, plus more, were the considerations of insulating a brand-new school in Las Vegas, set to open in the fall of 2025. Johns Manville AP™ Foil helped make construction of a junior high school in the greater Las Vegas area a success.

Polyiso vs. Batts and Rolls

In intensely hot environments like Las Vegas, for this new school and many others recently built in similar climates, polyiso insulation like AP Foil makes better sense for exterior walls than using fiberglass batts and rolls. For starters, R-value is a big hurdle. To get the necessary R-value, AP Foil is 2" thick, while fiberglass batts would need to be 6" thick. That alone is a big consideration.

"Definitely one of the reasons to use a continuous polyiso rigid insulation is that it envelops the building a little tighter and thinner," said Joe Traster, Project Manager with Jetstream Construction, leading the Vegas school project.

"It also helps with things like critters on the exterior of the building coming in, little bugs like scorpions and things. The crew likes to seal the envelope tight because of that. Plus, without the fluff (of a fiberglass batt), there's less air to escape making it easier to keep it cooler."

PRODUCT

Johns Manville AP™ Foil

LOCATION

Las Vegas, Nevada, US

INSTALLER

Jetstream Construction, Inc.



JM AP Foil Installation





JM AP Foil



Another benefit that Traster mentioned was the classroom durability, noting that combined with the drywall finish, it's harder for students to accidentally make a hole in the wall, for example, because of AP Foil's rigidity.

The Choice of JM

Officials with Clark County School District said that they leave product choice mostly up to the engineers and architects who know products best. They depend on standard products – such as polyiso – on their jobs.

"The school district has a list of preferred manufacturers, and JM is a name that has a trust factor," said Hung Tran, from Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto Architects, the firm that designed the new school. "We've used it on other projects as well."

Traster said AP Foil is easily accessible from their suppliers, making it a good choice for the school project. He said Jetstream can "get what we need, plus the quality of the material is better over others we've used."

The school will replace an already existing one, and because of space and location constraints, the new school is built in the football field/play area of the old school. Once the new school is finished and open, the old school will be torn down and a new outdoor play area will be created.

Using a rigid polyiso product does take a little more installation work than putting in batts and rolls, but Traster said all the benefits of AP Foil make it worth it.


"Sure, it's easy to throw batts in, just about anybody can do that," he said. "That's easier than having to cut the rigid board. (Polyiso) takes more skill, the installers have to know how to frame and put it up, and that takes more time, but the quality is worth it."

About Jetstream

Established in 1996, Jetstream Construction, Inc., serves California, Nevada, North Dakota and Montana areas. Known for work on major resorts, high rise apartments and hotels, gaming and entertainment centers, schools, hospitals, government facilities and more, Jetstream focuses on high quality, cost-effective work, building projects with the greatest efficiency possible.

For more information on JM products for your next project learn more [here](#).



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