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## VAPOR RETARDERS - WHAT IS A PERM?

When architects or designers start reviewing vapor retarders for building construction, it doesn't take long before the question regarding water vapor transmission performance is evaluated and the "Perm" value is sought.

A Perm is a term used to describe a certain amount of water vapor that migrates through a product over a specific area over a specified time period for a specific pressure difference. The technical units used to describe a Perm are: one grain/hr-square foot-inch of Mercury. The use of the Perm terminology allows materials tested under a variety of test conditions to be compared to each other. These various options will not be covered in this article.

How much water vapor are we talking about when we talk about a Perm and the unit "grain". A grain of water vapor is equivalent to about two drops of water. All of the Griffolyn® Vapor retarders have a Perm rating less than one Perm and many are less than .03 Perms which equates to about .06 drops of water which is very small amount of water.

For an extended description of a Perm, please follow the link below:  
[Griffolyn Vapor Retarders](#)

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