

# CAE 463/524

## Building Enclosure Design

Fall 2013

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**Lecture 8: October 23, 2013**

Moisture management and control

Built  
Environment  
Research

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# Scheduling

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- Take-home exams due today
- One more HW will be assigned next week
  - Building energy simulation
- Campus projects due November 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Present them in class?
- Final project presentations November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>
  
- Three more lectures including today
- Enclosure lecture on November 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Fulbright guest lecturer: Vegetated facades

# Anonymous course survey

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- 7 of you completed the course survey online
- All somewhat/mostly satisfied
- “A little less” to “about the same” workload
- 100% said difficulty was “about right”
- Most said speed was “about right”
- I explain things moderately to very clearly
- Number of examples is “about right” to “not quite enough”
- Comments:
  - More detail drawings, more examples

# Last time

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- Three weeks ago:
  - Moisture management and control in enclosures
- Two weeks ago:
  - Airflows in enclosures
- Last week: No class due to conference
  - Take-home exam given
  - Due today
  - Will grade and get back to you next week

# This time

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- Moisture management and control
  - Practical focus
- Other applications in enclosures if there's time

# **FINISHING WATER VAPOR TRANSPORT**

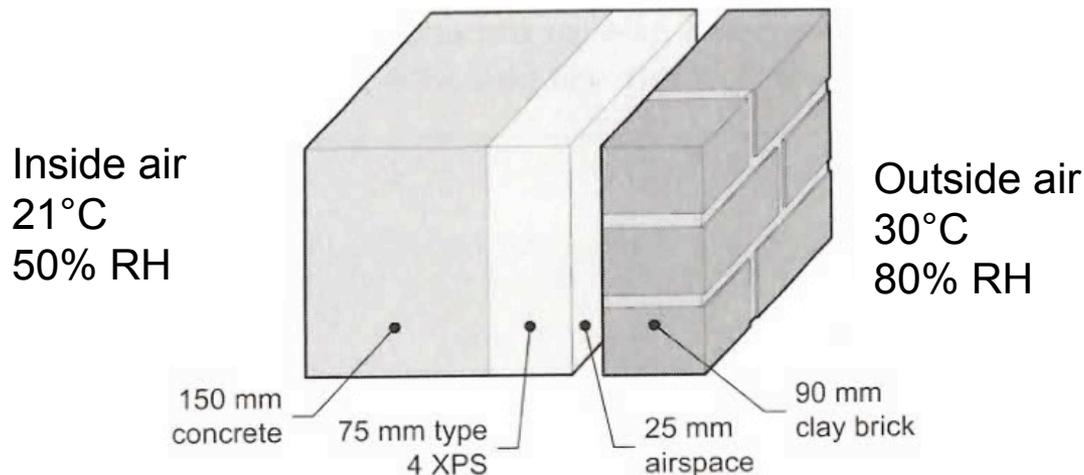
# Water **vapor** transport

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- Went over some examples in winter conditions previously
  - Showed that the rate of water vapor transport via bulk convection was typically **much greater** than by diffusion
- We will now cover a few more examples from Straube and Burnett Ch. 6
  - Summer conditions
  - Materials that are already wet

# Advection: Diffusion and convection

- Summer conditions example:
  - Determine vapor and temperature distribution through the wall assembly from last time for a hot, humid, summer day with exterior conditions of 30 C and 80% RH



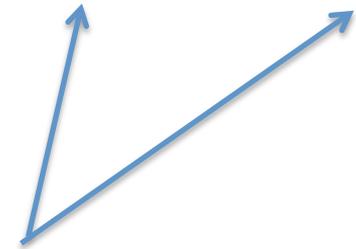
- This time, water vapor is driven inward
  - **Exterior** is the high vapor pressure side

# Summer conditions

	Permeability	Thickness	Permeance	Resistance
	$\mu$	L	$M_j$	$R_{v,j}$
Layer material	ng/(Pa-s-m)	m	ng/(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )	(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )/ng
Indoors				
Interior film			15000	0.000067
Concrete	2.6	0.15	17.3	0.058
XPS	2.0	0.075	26.7	0.0375
Air space		0.025	7200	0.00014
Brick	10	0.09	1000	0.001
Exterior film			75000	0.000013
Outdoors				
			$R_{v,total}$	0.096

# Summer conditions

	Conductivity, k	Thickness, L	Conductance, U	Resistance, R	$\Delta T$	T	T	$P_{w,sat}$
Layer material	W/mK	m	W/m <sup>2</sup> K	m <sup>2</sup> K/W	°C	°C	K	Pa
Indoors						21	294.2	2487.7
Interior film			8.0	0.125				
					-0.4	21.4	294.5	2544.8
Concrete	1.8	0.15	12	0.083				
					-0.2	21.6	294.8	2583.5
XPS	0.029	0.075	0.39	2.564				
					-7.6	29.2	302.4	4055.9
Air space		0.025	n/a	0.17				
					-0.5	29.7	302.9	4175.2
Brick	1.3	0.09	14.4	0.069				
					-0.2	29.9	303.1	4224.9
Exterior film			34	0.029				
Outdoors					-0.1	30.0	303.2	4246.0
			$R_{total}$ (m <sup>2</sup> K/W)	3.04				
			$U_{total}$ (W/m <sup>2</sup> K)	0.33				



New outdoor temperature and saturation vapor pressures,  $p_{w,sat}$

# Summer conditions

	Permeability	Thickness	Permeance	Resistance				
	$\mu$	L	$M_j$	$R_{v,j}$	$\Delta P_{w,j}$	$P_{w,j}$	$P_{w,sat}$	RH
Layer material	ng/(Pa-s-m)	m	ng/(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )	(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )/ng	Pa	Pa	Pa	%
Indoors						1244	2487.7	50%
Interior film			15000	0.000067	-1.5			
						1245.5	2544.8	49%
Concrete	2.6	0.15	17.3	0.058	-1288.4			
						2533.8	2583.5	98%
XPS	2.0	0.075	26.7	0.0375	-837.4			
						3371.3	4055.9	83%
Air space		0.025	7200	0.00014	-3.1			
						3374.4	4175.2	81%
Brick	10	0.09	1000	0.001	-22.3			
						3396.7	4224.9	80%
Exterior film			75000	0.000013	-0.3			
Outdoors						<b>3397</b>	<b>4246.0</b>	80%
			$R_{v,total}$	0.096				

$$\Delta p_{w,j} = \frac{p_{w,interior} - p_{w,exterior}}{\sum_{j=0}^n R_{v,j}} R_{v,j}$$

# Summer conditions (more realistic)

- The last example ignores solar radiation
  - What if the same assembly is exposed to solar radiation?
  - Exterior surface temperature increases
    - We could estimate the surface temperature using surface energy balance
    - Or we could get a rough estimate using this table:

Table 5.5: Approximate extreme radiation-induced surface temperatures (°C)

Situation	Thermally massive	Thermally lightweight
Roofs: direct sun	$t_a + 42 \alpha$	$t_a + 55 \alpha$
Roof: sun + reflected /emitted radiation	$t_a + 55 \alpha$	$t_a + 72 \alpha$
Roof exposed to night sky	$t_a - 5 \varepsilon$	$t_a - 10 \varepsilon$
Walls: winter sun	$t_a + 35 \alpha$	$t_a + 48 \alpha$
Walls: summer sun	$t_a + 28 \alpha$	$t_a + 40 \alpha$
Walls exposed to night sky	$t_a - 2 \varepsilon$	$t_a - 4 \varepsilon$

**Notes:**  $t_a$  refers to the ambient air temperature,  $\varepsilon$  is the surface emittance, and  $\alpha$  is the solar absorptance.

# Summer conditions (more realistic)

- Taking a hypothetical exterior surface temperature in direct sunlight where  $T_{\text{surface,exterior}} = 45^{\circ}\text{C}$ 
  - Change distribution of T and  $p_{w,\text{sat}}$ 
    - But  $p_w$  distribution does not change

	Conductivity, k	Thickness, L	Conductance, U	Resistance, R	$\Delta T$	T	T	$P_{w,\text{sat}}$
Layer material	W/mK	m	W/m <sup>2</sup> K	m <sup>2</sup> K/W	°C	°C	K	Pa
Indoors						21	294.2	2487.7
Interior film			8.0	0.125				
					-1.0	22.0	295.1	2642.6
Concrete	1.8	0.15	12	0.083				
					-0.7	22.6	295.8	2750.5
XPS	0.029	0.075	0.39	2.564				
					-20.2	42.9	316.0	8594.4
Air space		0.025	n/a	0.17				
					-1.3	44.2	317.4	9214.9
Brick	1.3	0.09	14.4	0.069				
					-0.5	44.8	317.9	9479.3
Exterior film			34	0.029				
Outdoors					-0.2	45.0	318.2	9593.2
			$R_{\text{total}}$ (m <sup>2</sup> K/W)	3.04				
			$U_{\text{total}}$ (W/m <sup>2</sup> K)	0.33				

# Summer conditions (more realistic)

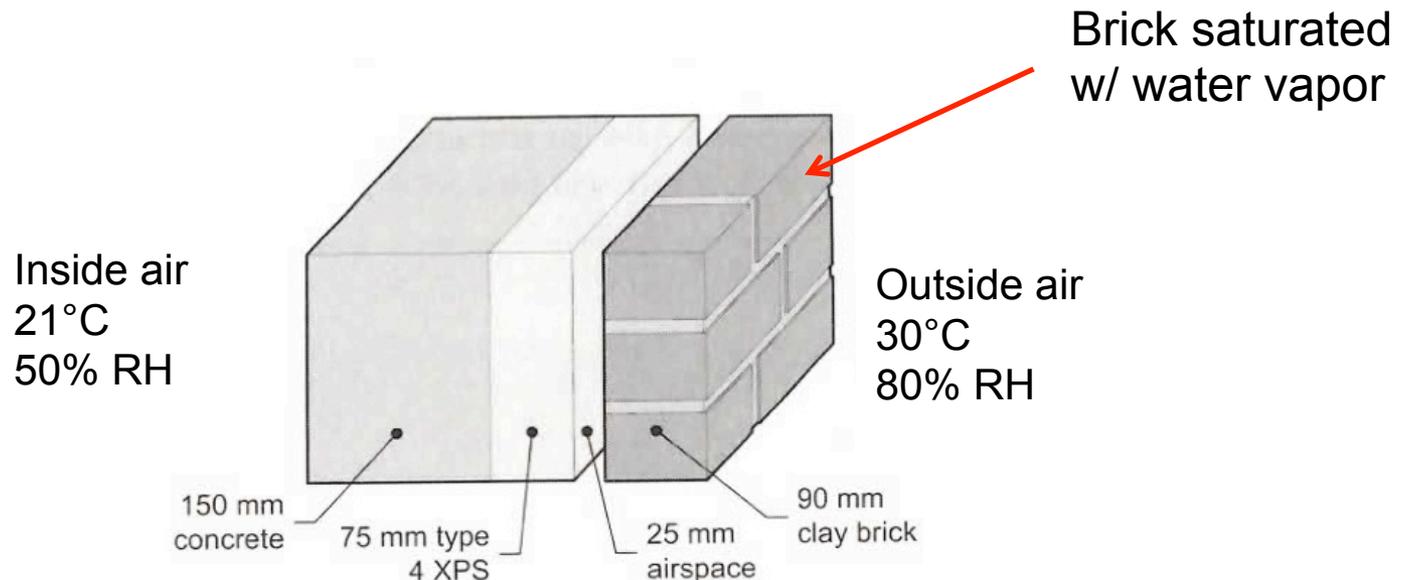
- Taking a hypothetical exterior surface temperature in direct sunlight where  $T_{\text{surface,exterior}} = 45^{\circ}\text{C}$ 
  - Change distribution of  $T$  and  $p_{w,\text{sat}}$ 
    - But  $p_w$  distribution does not change

	Permeability	Thickness	Permeance	Resistance				
	$\mu$	L	$M_j$	$R_{v,j}$	$\Delta P_{w,j}$	$P_{w,j}$	$P_{w,\text{sat}}$	RH
Layer material	ng/(Pa-s-m)	m	ng/(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )	(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )/ng	Pa	Pa	Pa	%
Indoors						1244	2487.7	50%
Interior film			15000	0.000067	-1.5			
						1245.5	2642.6	47%
Concrete	2.6	0.15	17.3	0.058	-1288.4			
						2533.8	2750.5	92%
XPS	2.0	0.075	26.7	0.0375	-837.4			
						3371.3	8594.4	39%
Air space		0.025	7200	0.00014	-3.1			
						3374.4	9214.9	37%
Brick	10	0.09	1000	0.001	-22.3			
						3396.7	9479.3	36%
Exterior film			75000	0.000013	-0.3			
Outdoors						3397	9593.2	35%
			$R_{v,\text{total}}$	0.096				

- Reduced chance of condensation because of warmer surface  $T$

# Water vapor transport: another condition

- What happens if the brick cladding was already wet?
  - From either previous rains, condensation, or built-in moisture (i.e., construction occurred with wet materials)
  - Let's assume the same sun-heated wall assembly and summer conditions, but the brick cladding is wet (already saturated)



# Water vapor transport: wet brick

- Same solution procedure, but the front of the brickwork is assumed to be at RH 100%
  - That becomes the exterior boundary condition
    - Meaning we don't use the outdoor humidity in this calculation

	Permeability	Thickness	Permeance	Resistance				
	$\mu$	L	$M_j$	$R_{v,j}$	$\Delta P_{w,j}$	$P_{w,j}$	$P_{w,sat}$	RH
Layer material	ng/(Pa-s-m)	m	ng/(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )	(Pa-s-m <sup>2</sup> )/ng	Pa	Pa	Pa	%
Indoors						1244	2487.7	50%
Interior film			15000	0.000067	-5.7			
						1249.7	2642.6	47%
Concrete	2.6	0.15	17.3	0.058	-4928.7			
						6178.4	2750.5	225%
XPS	2.0	0.075	26.7	0.0375	-3203.6			
						9382.0	8594.4	109%
Air space		0.025	7200	0.00014	-11.9			
						9393.9	9214.9	102%
Brick	10	0.09	1000	0.001	-85.4			
						9479.3	9479.3	100%
Exterior film								
Outdoors								
			$R_{v,total}$	0.096				

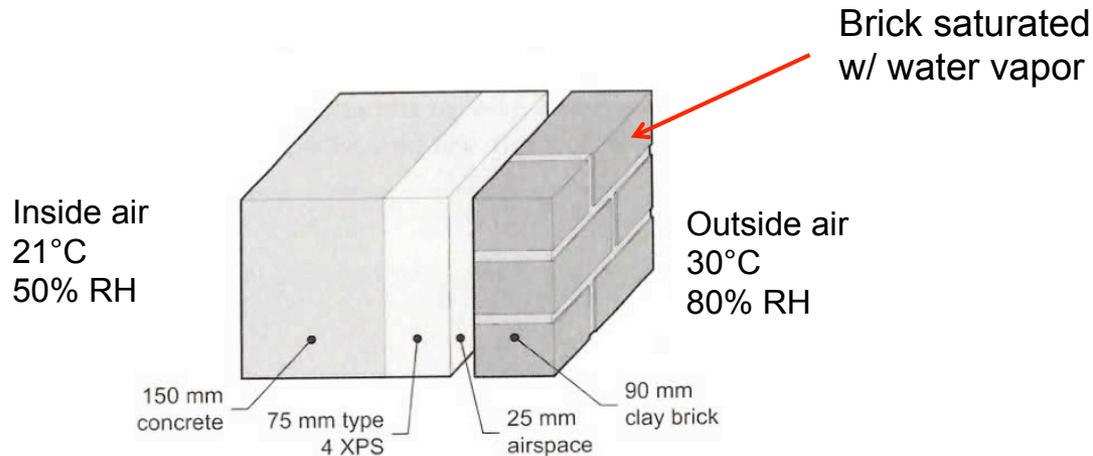
Brick set to 100% RH  
Becomes new boundary condition

Condensation would occur at two interior surfaces

- Inward-driven water vapor can also condense in the interior wall assembly, given the right conditions

# Water vapor transport: wet brick

- Does the condensation matter?

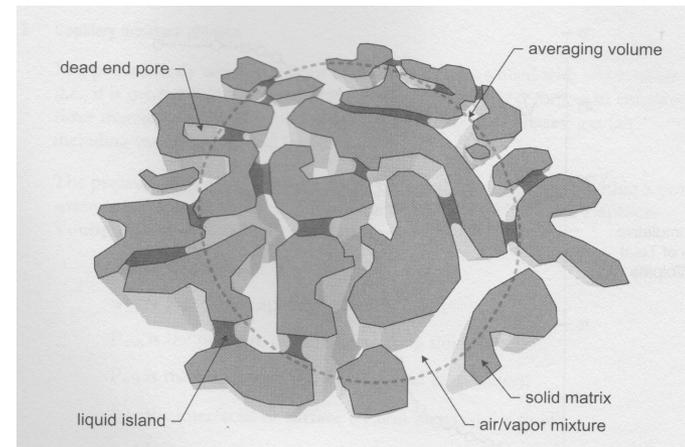


- Condensation would occur between air space and XPS, as well as between the concrete and XPS
  - Largest accumulation occurs at the XPS-air interface
  - What happens to the condensation?
    - **Concrete:** can store a lot of moisture; as long as it's dry by the time freeze-thaw could occur, moisture shouldn't be an issue
    - **XPS-air interface:** condensation can be harmlessly drained away
      - Or drain into the foundation and cause issues (not preferred!)

# **MOISTURE STORAGE**

# Moisture storage and transport in porous media

- Our textbook, Straube and Burnett, has an in depth chapter on moisture and porous materials
  - Focus is on the micro-scale physics of moisture storage, wetting, and drying
  - We will not go into this level of detail
  - Just a summary
- Most materials appear completely solid to the eye
  - But many natural building materials are very porous
  - Large fractions of the material are actually air volumes
    - Wood, brick, gypsum, stone, and concrete
  - Concrete and brick can be 50% air by volume
    - Metals and plastics have almost no porosity



# Moisture content and porosity of common materials

- Because of this porosity, building materials can hold moisture
  - In widely varying amounts

Table 8.1: Moisture contents of some common building materials

Material	Density (dry) kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Open porosity (%)	MC @ $\cong$ 95%RH (M%)	w <sub>cap</sub> (M%)
Concrete	2200	15-18	4-5	6-8
Brick	1600-2100	11-40	3-8	6-20
Cement mortar	1800-1900	20-30	5-7	14-20
Softwood	400-600	50-80	20-30	100-200
Fibreboard	240-380	60-80	20-25	100-200
Wood chipboard	700	50-70	15-20	100-150
Expanded polystyrene	32	95	5	> 300
Gypsum (exterior)	1000	70	10	50-100

Note: these values are approximate and from a variety of sources [e.g., Whitley *et al* 1977, Kumaran 1996, Lohmeyer 1996, Pel 1996, Kuenzel 1994]

# Moisture content influences vapor permeance

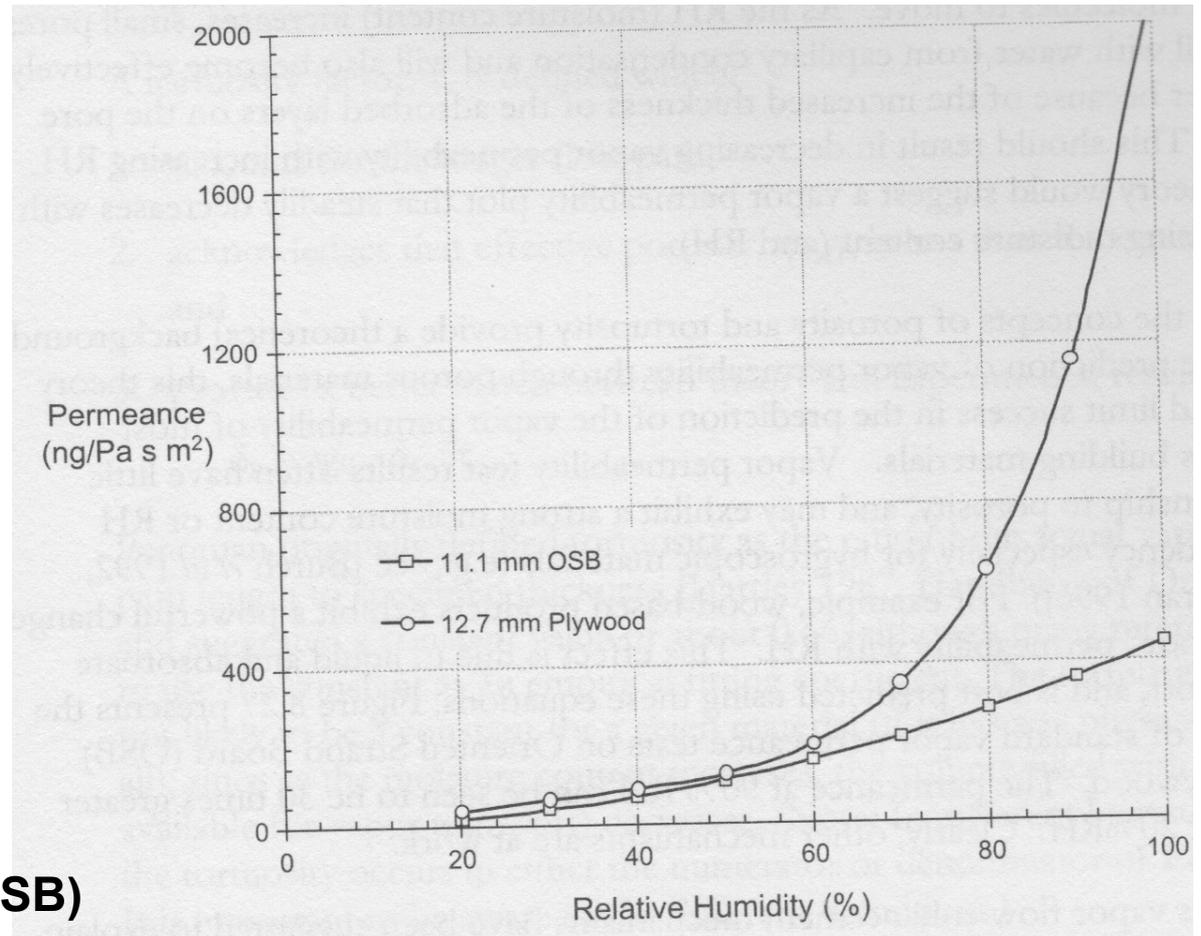
- Increasing RH increases capillary transport in small pores
  - Makes mass flow of water vapor easier (creates a “water canal” effect)



**Plywood**



**Oriented strand board (OSB)**



# Moisture storage and transport in porous media

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- Capillary attraction
  - Occurs within porous bodies
  - Particularly when they are not saturated
    - Mixture of solid, air, water vapor, and liquid
- Capillary suction occurs in small pores under about 0.1 mm in diameter
  - Molecular attraction of water molecules and surfaces

$$s = \frac{2\sigma \cos\theta}{r}$$

$s$  = capillary suction, Pa

$\sigma$  = surface tension of H<sub>2</sub>O, N/mm<sup>2</sup>

$r$  = equivalent radius, mm

$\theta$  = contact wetting angle, °

- A gradient in capillary suction will move liquid water
  - This could be from a variation in pore radius

$$m_l = -k_m \text{grad}(s)$$

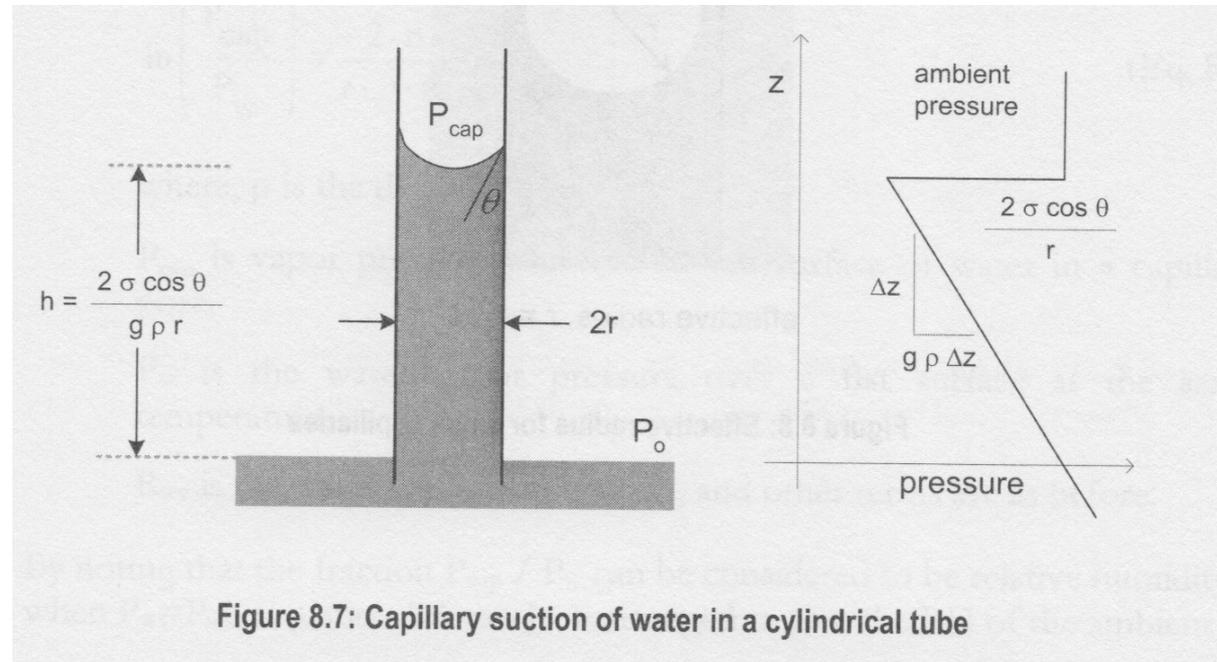
$m_l$  = liquid flux, g/(s- m<sup>2</sup>)

$k_m$  = water permeability, g/(m<sup>2</sup> s Pa)

# Moisture storage and transport in porous media

- Capillary suction in a tube

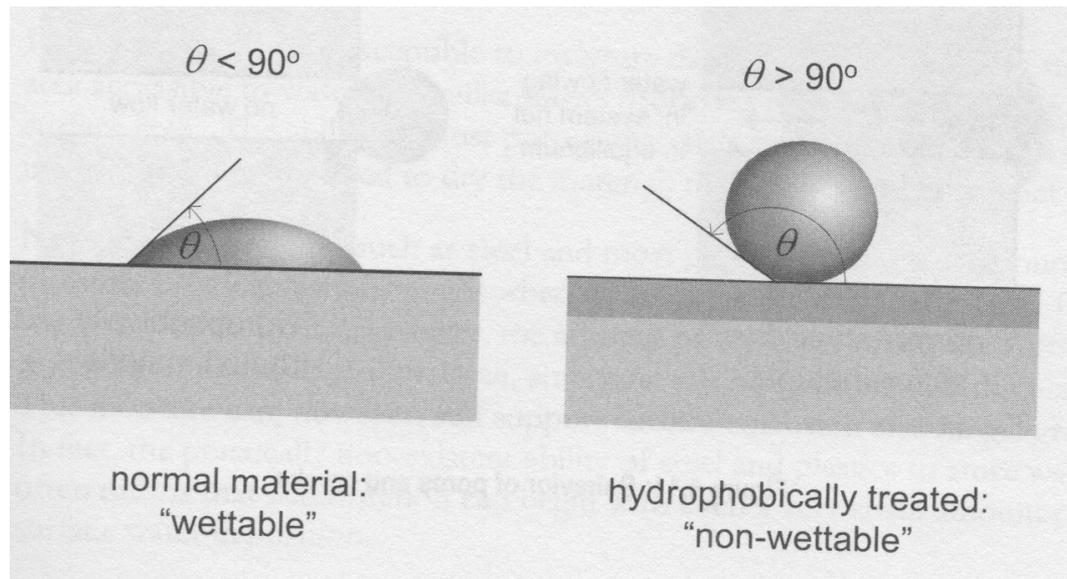
$$s = \frac{2\sigma \cos\theta}{r}$$



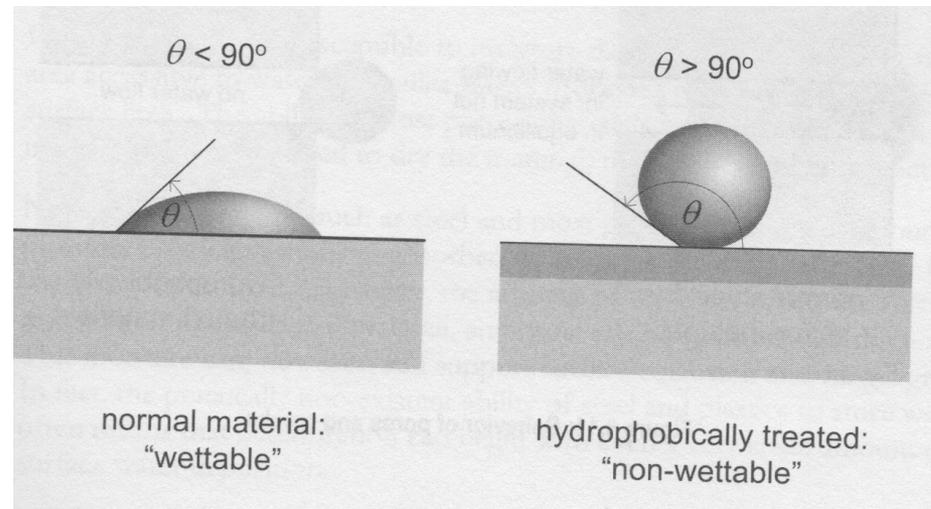
- The pressures involved with capillary suction in small pores (10-1000 nm) that make up a significant volume of concrete and wood generate large suction pressures (kPa to MPa)
  - Wicking water in small pores can be far greater than gravity forces or wind pressures

# Wettable materials and hydrophobicity

- Capillary suction is driven in part by contact angle
  - Contact angle describes the angle of contact between water and a surface
  - “Wettable” materials have a surface structure that strongly attracts polar water molecules
    - Have a small contact angle ( $< 90$  degrees)
  - “Hydrophobic” or “non-wettable” surfaces have a higher contact angle



# Wettable materials and hydrophobicity



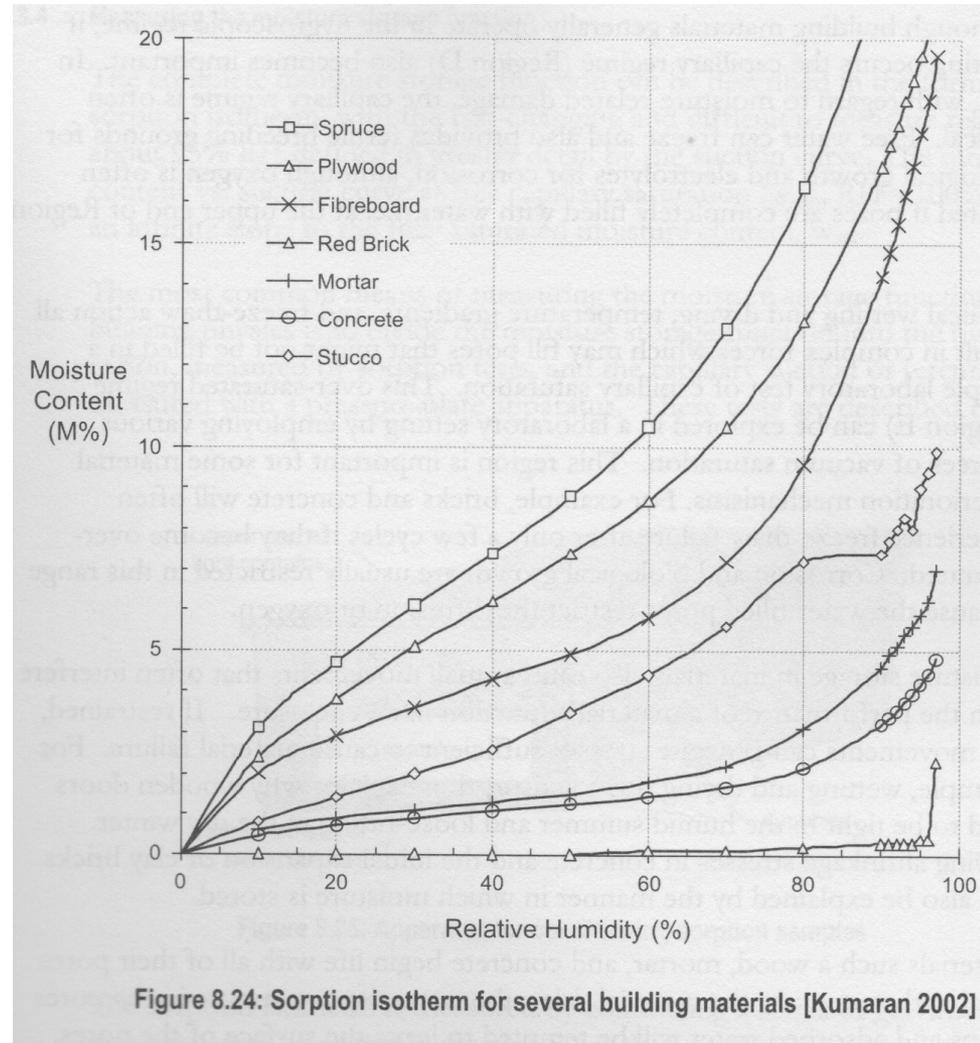
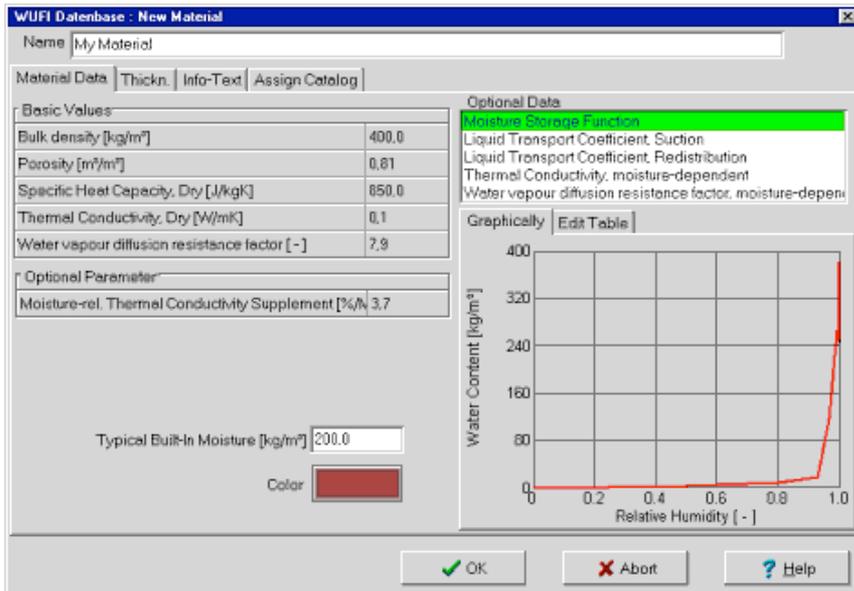
- Materials can be designed with pore radii and contact angles in mind to make them more or less water repellent
  - Waxes, oils, and silicone are all more hydrophobic than wood, brick, and stone
  - Greater contact angles
- Can apply treatments to surfaces of materials to change their wetting potential
  - Sometimes penetrating sealers for porous bodies
  - Sometimes just hydrophobic exterior coatings

# Moisture storage

- Sorption isotherms can also be used to inform how much moisture materials can or will store at various environmental conditions

Notice the different regimes:

- Hygroscopic/absorbent regime
- Saturated/supersaturated regime



You may have seen these in WUFI

# A note on your HW 3

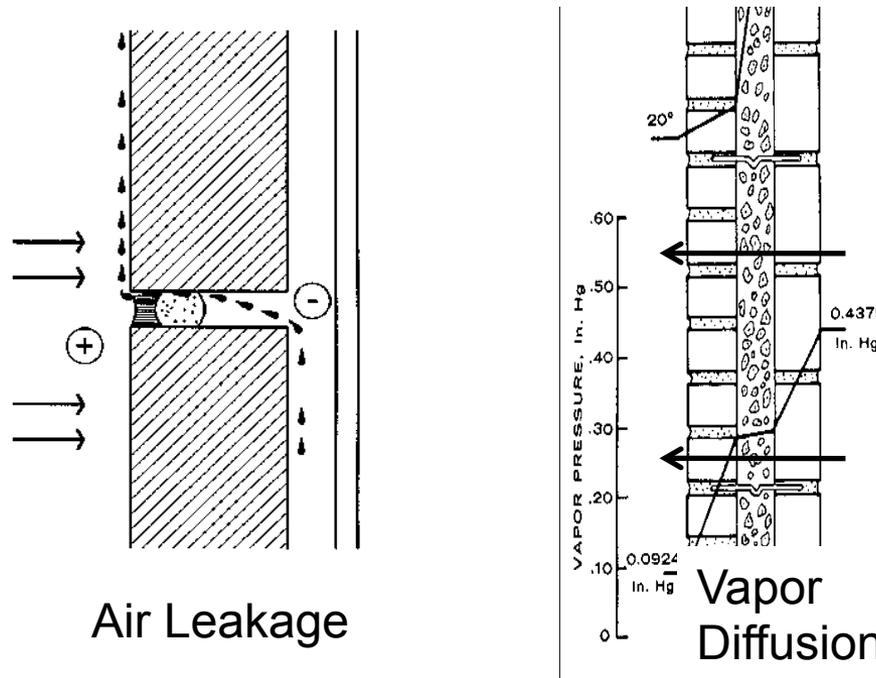
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- Glaser method versus WUFI: What did we see?

# **BULK LIQUID TRANSPORT**

# Moisture transport mechanisms

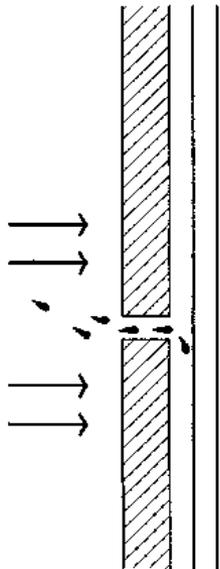
- So far, we've talked mostly about water **vapor**, either in terms of diffusion or water vapor associated with air leakage



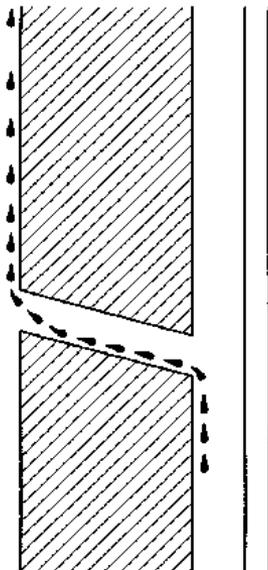
- We showed that water vapor due to air leakage is usually larger than that due to diffusion
  - It turns out that liquid water can be even more important
  - Liquid water can be difficult to control

# Condensed water (liquid) transport

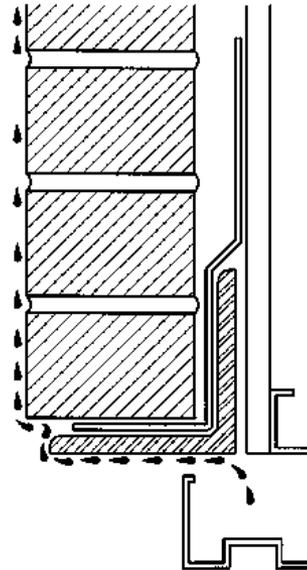
- Four mechanisms for condensed moisture or rain to enter into wall cavities or directly inside buildings
  - These can be stopped fairly easily with simple design ideas



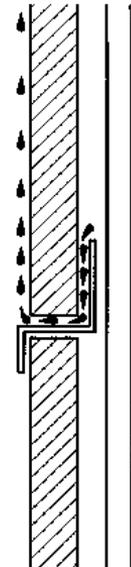
Momentum  
(Kinetic Energy)



Gravity



Surface  
Tension



Capillary  
Suction

# Momentum (kinetic) driven rain penetration

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- Momentum of wind-driven raindrops
- Force will carry raindrops directly through openings of sufficient size
  - Recognize that rain doesn't fall straight down
  - Need to protect intentional openings from direct rain entry



# Pressure gradients (related to momentum driven rain)

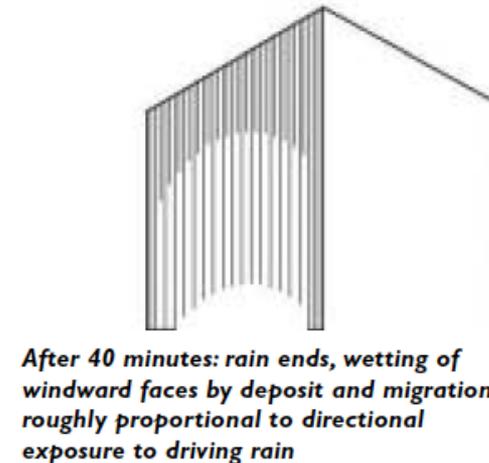
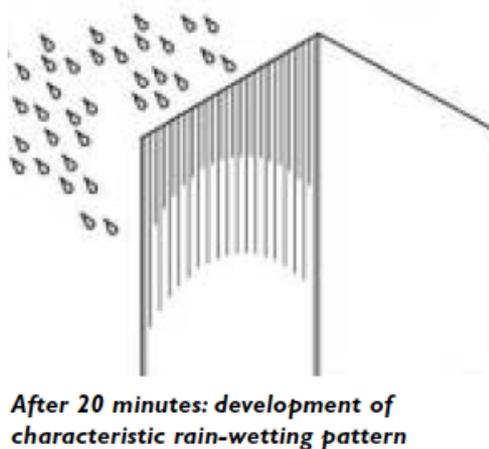
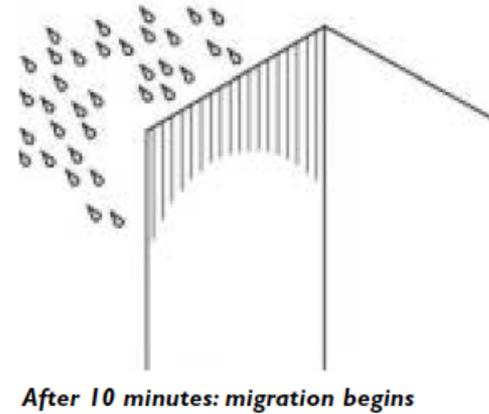
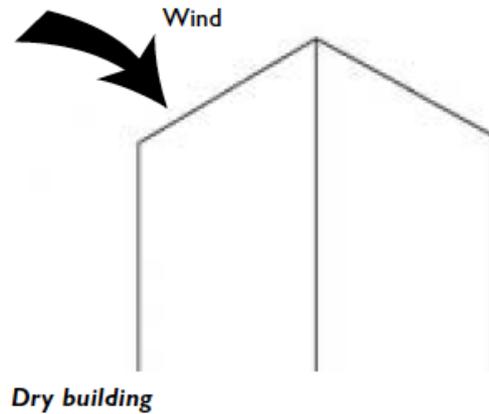
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- Air pressure differences across the building envelope can create suction
  - Draws water through available leakage paths
  - Air movement can also carry water droplets directly
- Pressure due to wind is a big concern for water penetration
  - In wall systems with impervious outer cladding, pressure differences can be the most significant source of driving rain into a building
    - e.g., curtain walls where outer walls are non-structural
- Pressure driven rain penetration can vary a lot within the same building



# Pressure gradients acting on different parts of a building

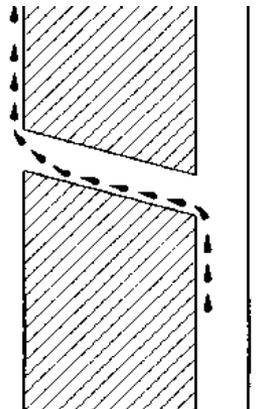
- Wetting of a section of a tall building



# Gravity-driven water penetration

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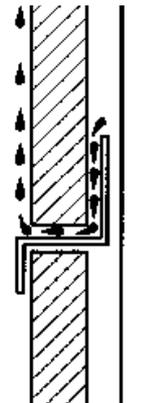
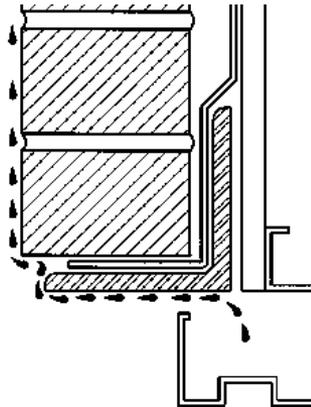
- Gravity-driven water movement seems elementary to prevent
  - Leakage due to gravity still occurs frequently in modern buildings
  - Particularly with near-horizontal or moderately sloped building elements
  - Problems can usually be traced to errors in the design or construction of elements
    - Particularly flashings
    - Also restricted/clogged drainage paths after construction
  - Take care to avoid inward-sloping leakage paths and areas where water can pond



# Capillary action and surface tension

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- Cohesive forces allow water to cling and flow along horizontal surfaces
  - Can move against gravity
  - The force with which capillary action can work against gravity is inversely proportional to the size of openings
    - Small cracks allow more capillary action
  - Also depends on material affinity for water
  - More important in porous materials



# DEALING WITH WATER

Conceptually

# Liquid water problems

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- When we have rain
  - Liquid water directly impacts our roofs and walls
- Without proper design, that water will get into the roof and wall assembly
  - Can lead to the problems we discussed in a previous lecture
- We need to divert that water away from our enclosure

# Keeping moisture away

**A proper gutter system diverts rain on building to sewer or away from foundation**

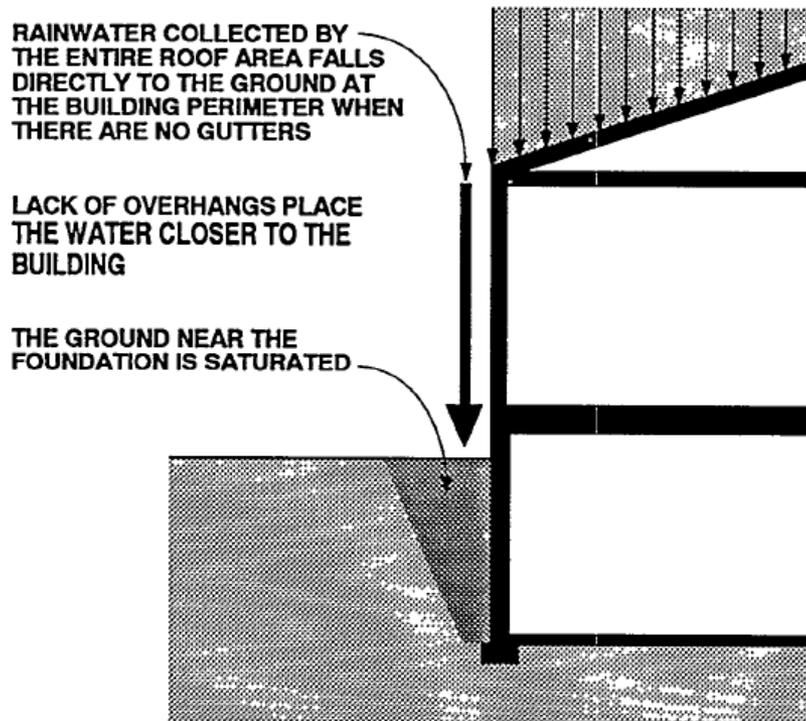


Figure 2-1A: Potential Surface Drainage Problems

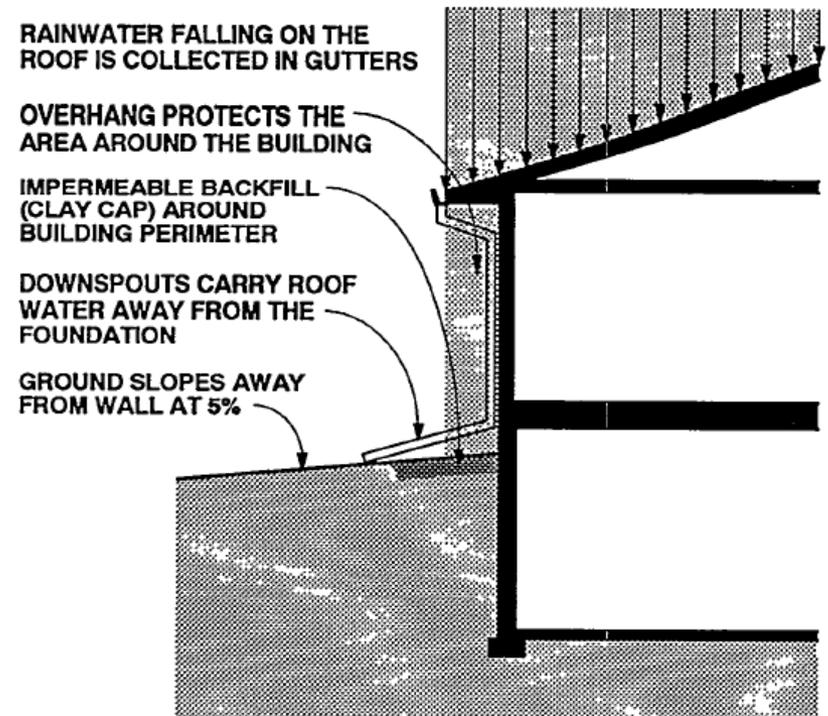


Figure 2-1B: Effective Surface Drainage Techniques

# Good foundation design

## Give water somewhere to go!

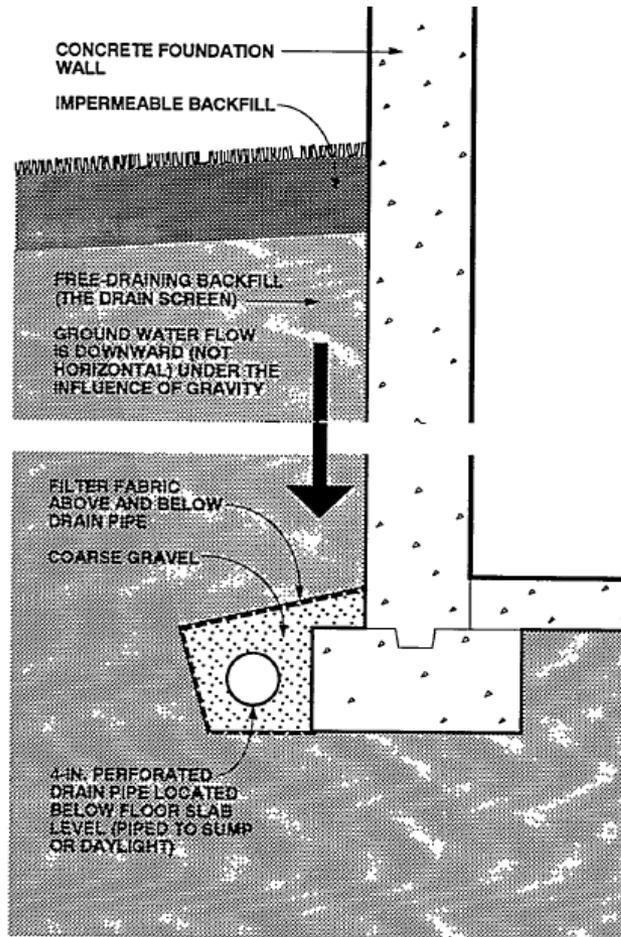


Figure 2-2: Drain Screen Concept Using Porous Backfill

**Porous backfill**

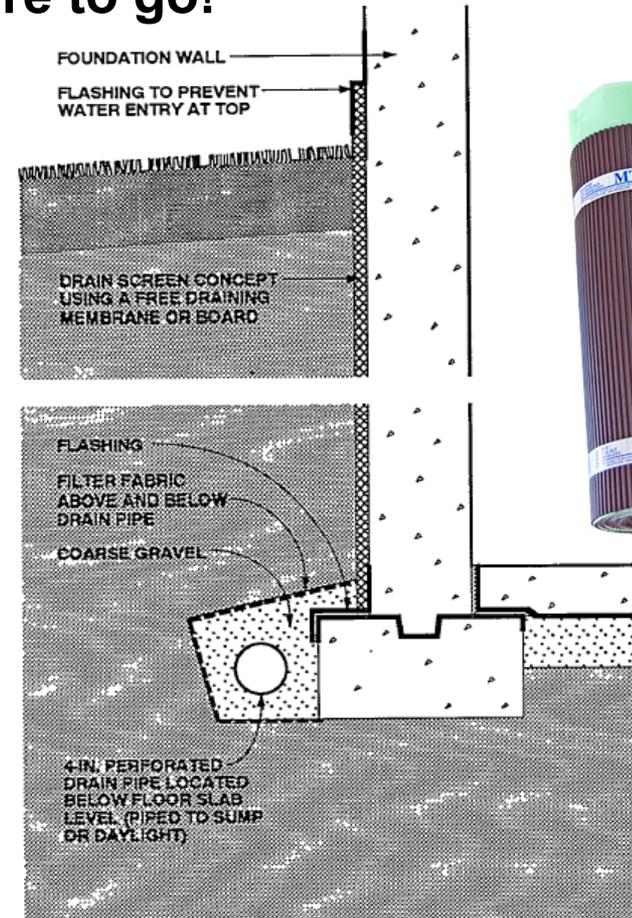


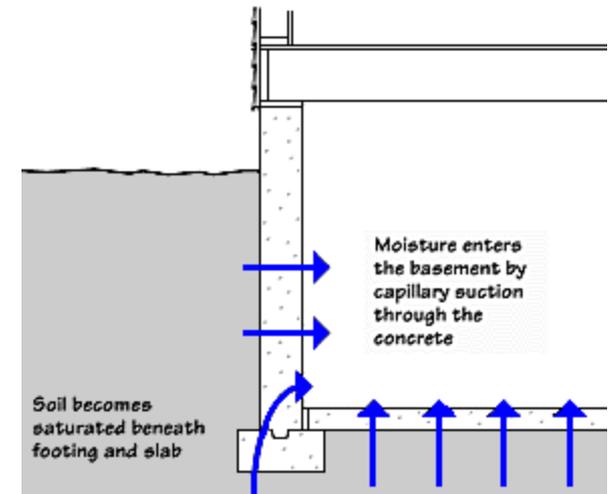
Figure 2-3: Drain Screen Concept Using a Free-Draining Board or Membrane

**Add a drainage plane**



# Capillary suction

- Capillary suction draws water from saturated soil into the foundation and standing water through small cracks in brick, concrete and other materials
- To stop capillary suction we need to:
  - Keep moisture away from foundation
  - Seal pores or add barrier
  - Make pores larger or add separation plane
  - Provide a receptor for moisture



Soil Type	Capillary Rise
Gravel	Inches
Sand	1-8 ft
Silt	12-16 ft
Clay	12-20 ft

# Stopping capillary suction

- Put concrete floor slab over large pore gravel
- Coat masonry block foundation with mortar and fluid applied sealant
- Capillary breaks (barriers) over concrete footing
  - Fluid applied sealant or Polyethylene sheet

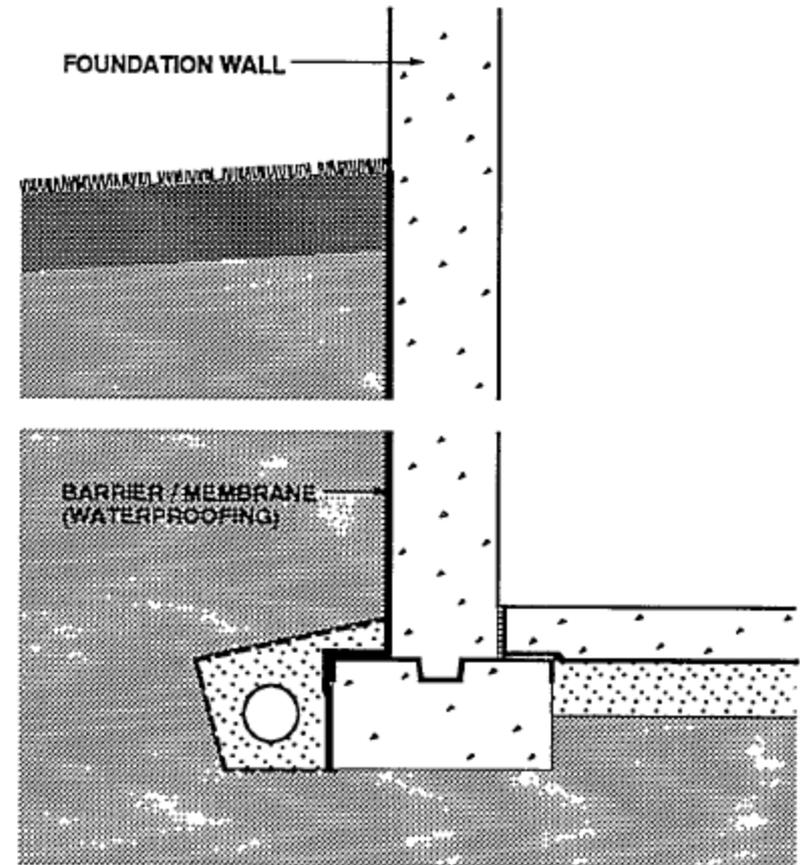
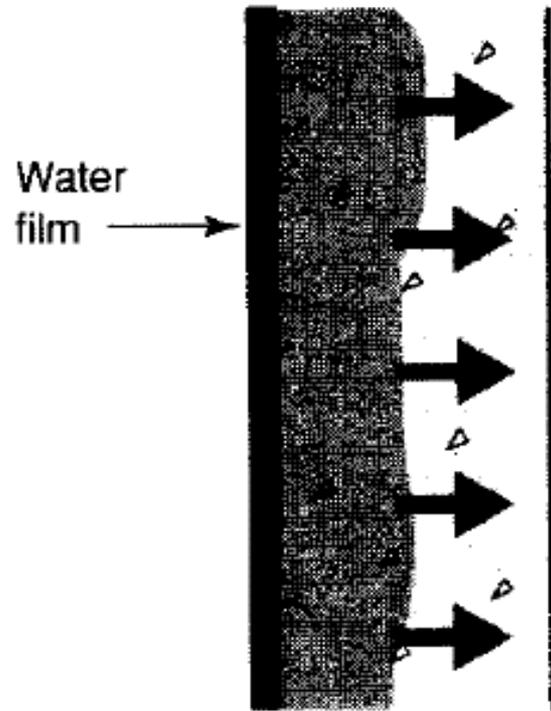


Figure 2-4: Barrier / Membrane Approach

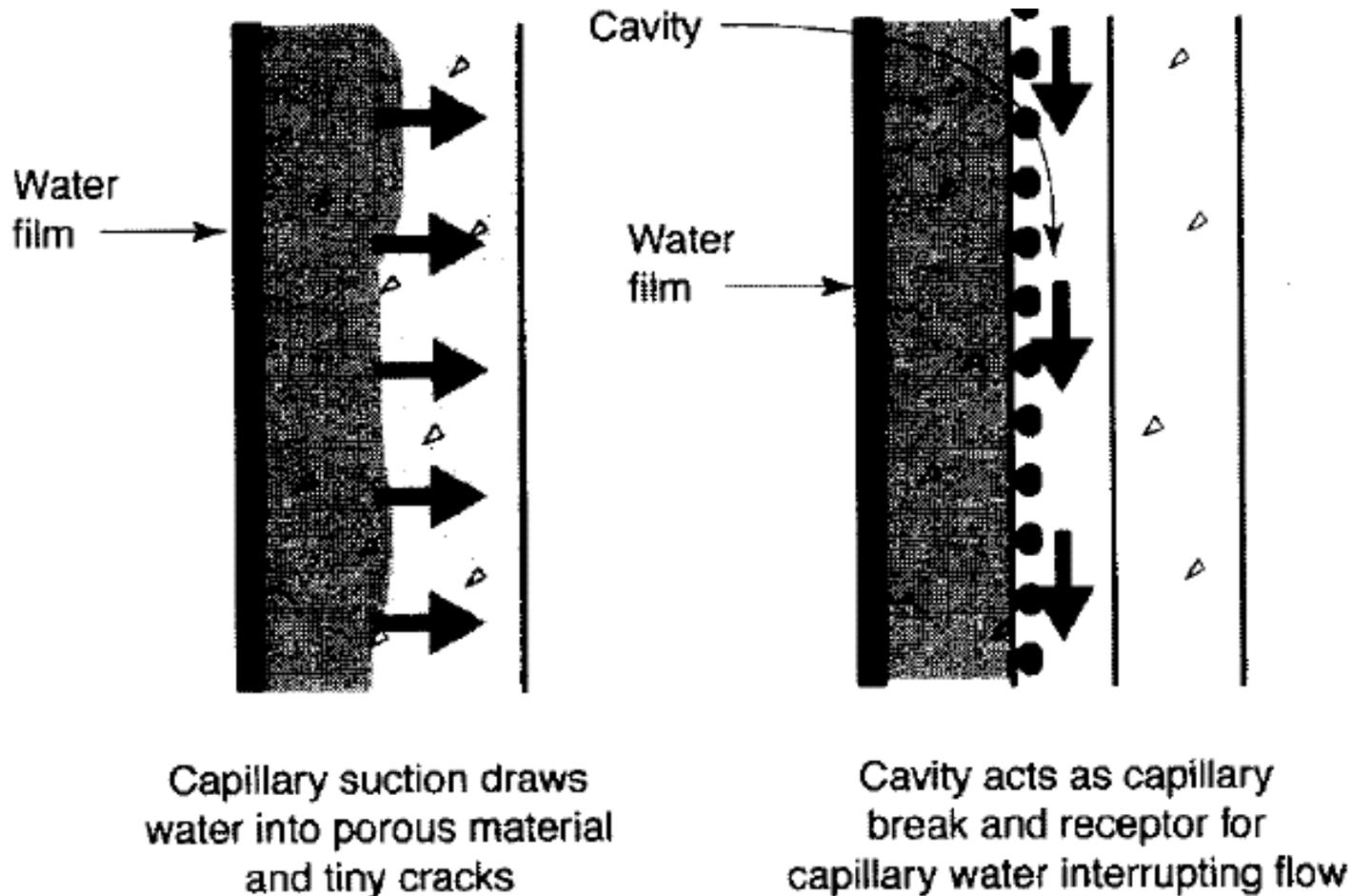
# Capillary suction

---



Capillary suction draws  
water into porous material  
and tiny cracks

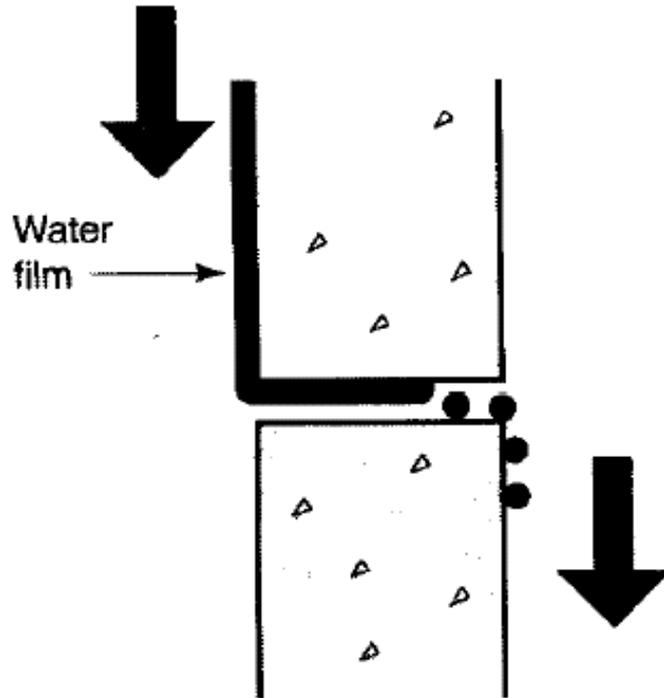
# Solution to capillary suction water movement



**Add an air cavity**

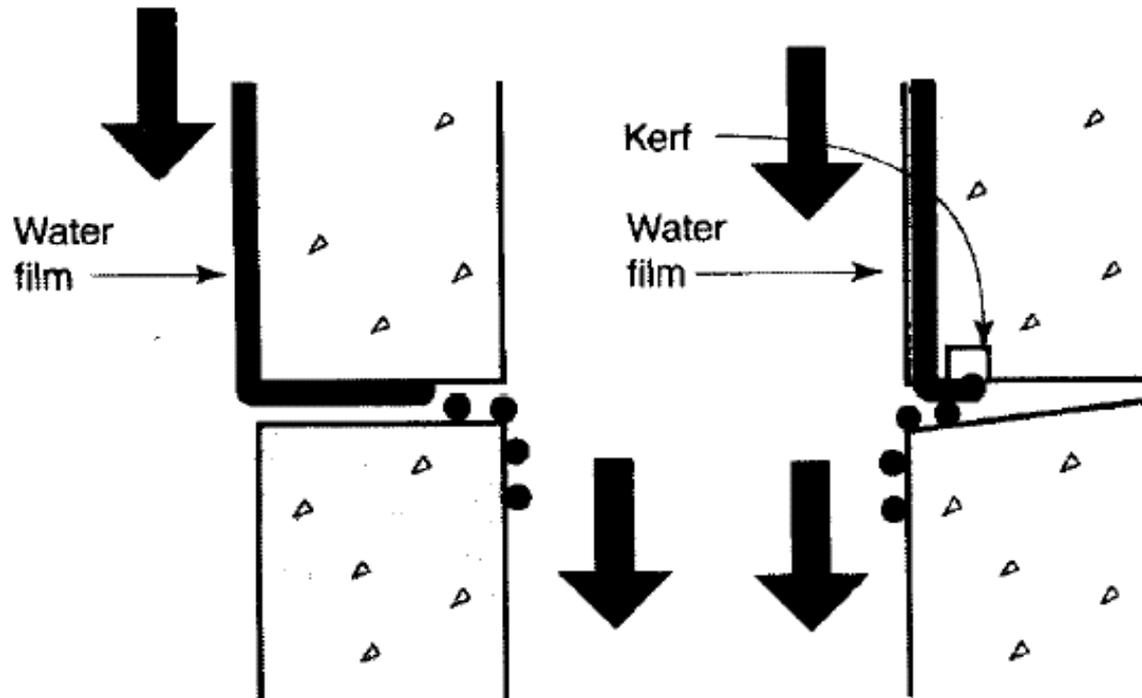
# Surface tension

---



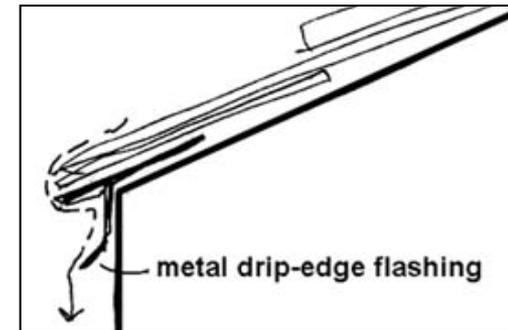
Rainwater can flow around  
a surface as a result of  
surface tension

# Solution to surface tension water movement



Rainwater can flow around a surface as a result of surface tension

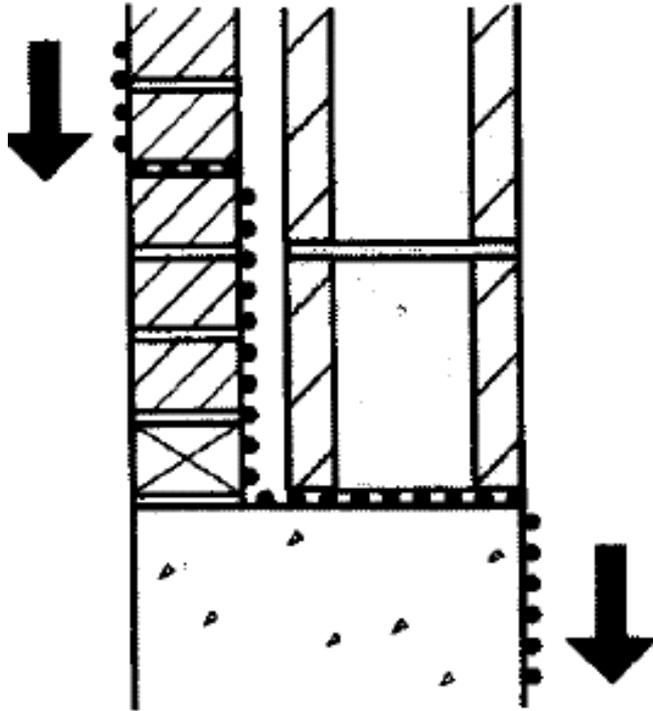
Providing a kerf or drip edge will promote the formation of a water droplet and interrupt flow



**Provide a kerf or drip edge**

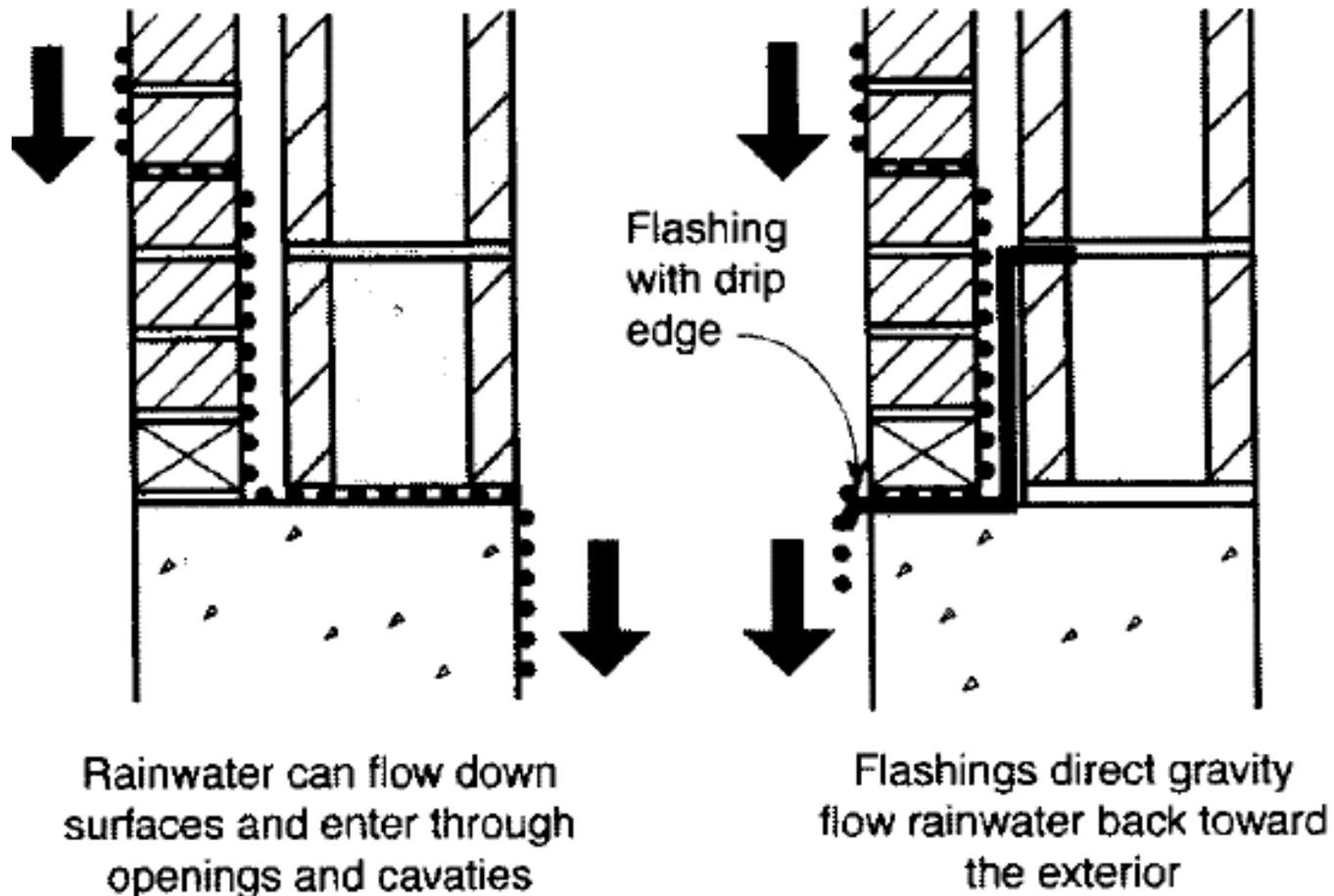
# Gravity

---



Rainwater can flow down surfaces and enter through openings and cavities

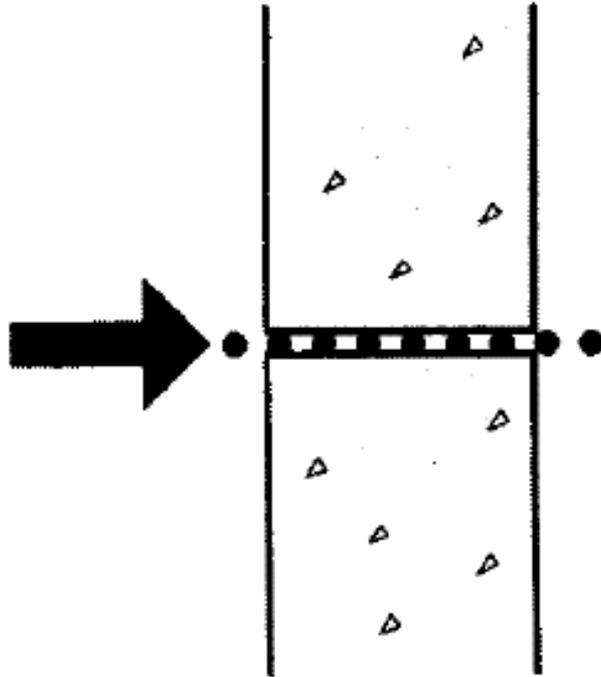
# Solution to gravity-driven water movement



**Flashing, flashing, flashing**

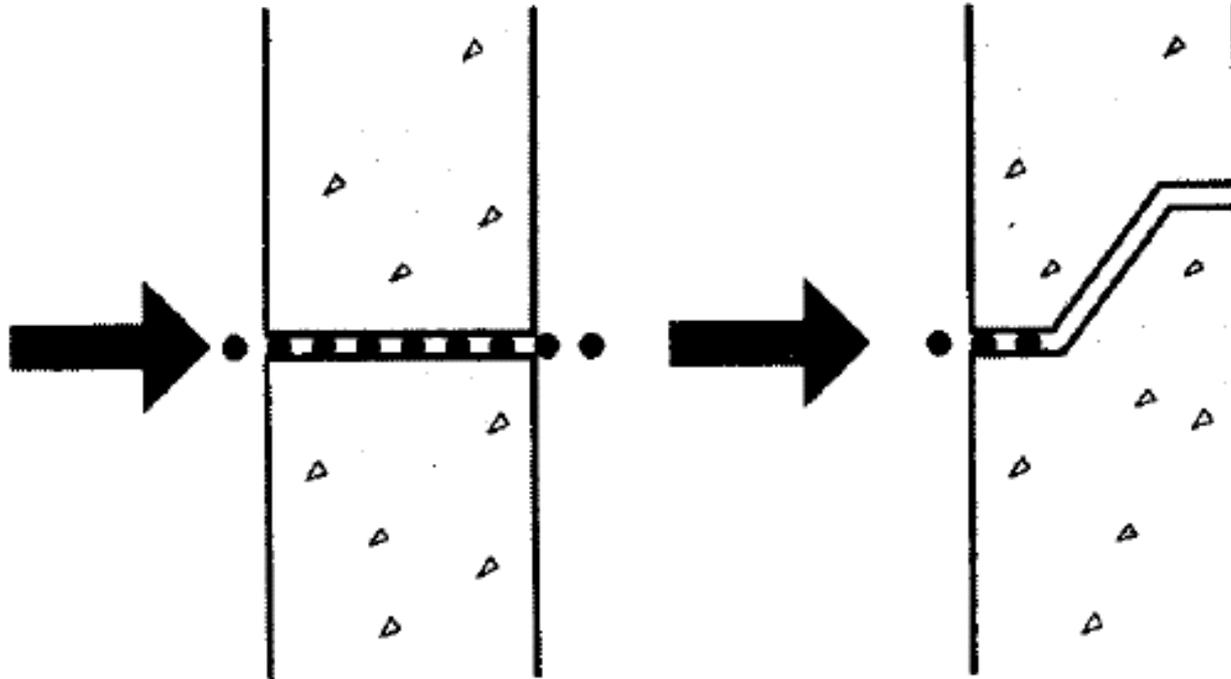
# Rain droplet momentum

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Rain droplets can be carried through a wall by their own momentum

# Solution to droplet momentum problems

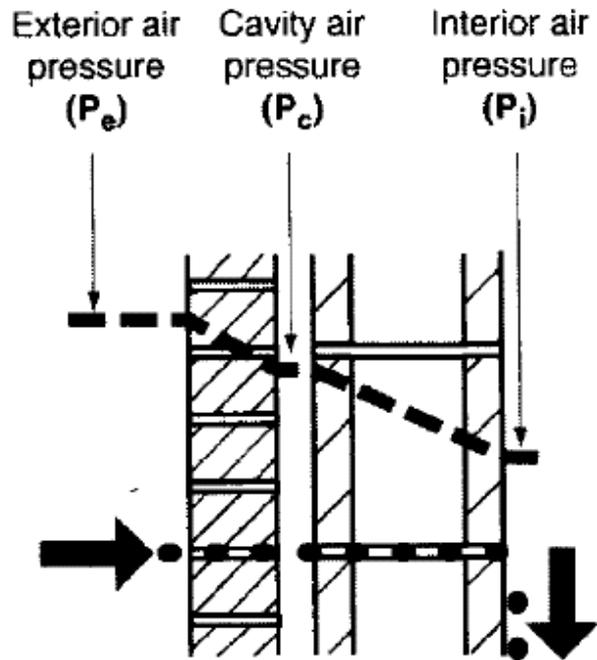


Rain droplets can be carried through a wall by their own momentum

Rain entry by momentum can be prevented by designing wall systems with no straight through openings

**Also reduces gravity transport**

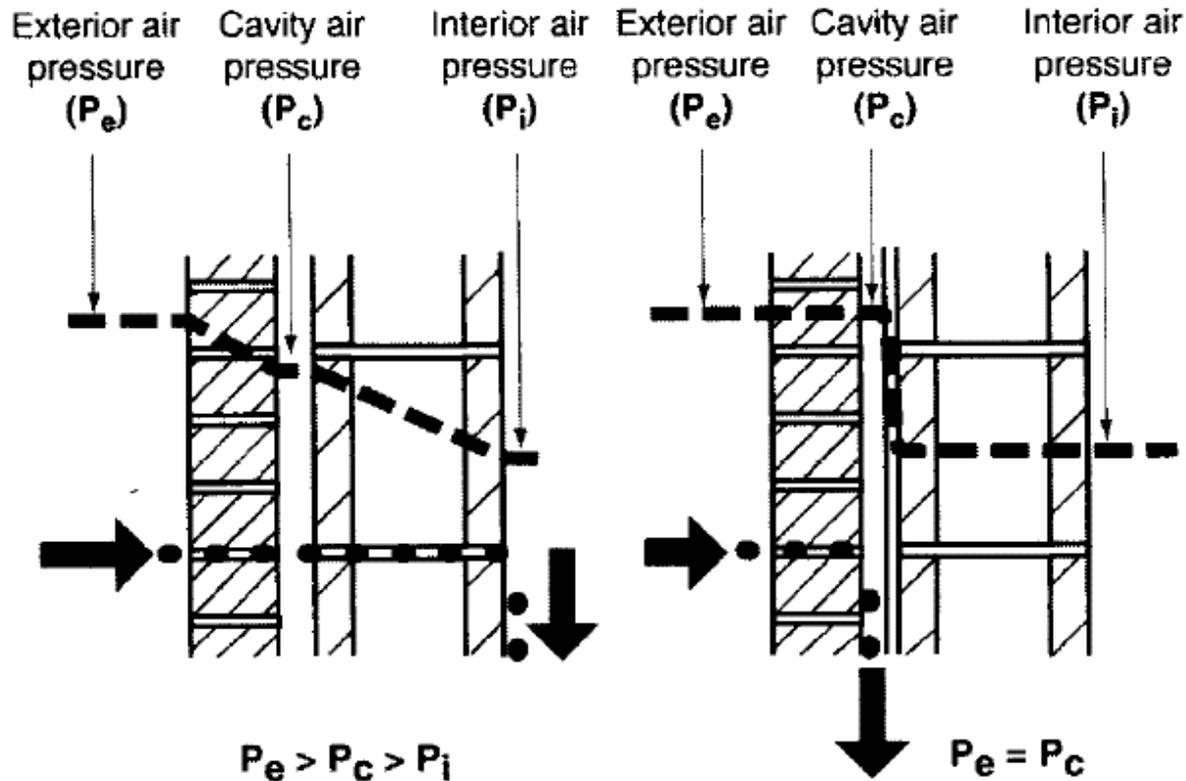
# Pressure difference



$$P_e > P_c > P_i$$

Driven by air pressure differences  
rain droplets are drawn through  
wall openings from the exterior  
to the interior

# Solution to pressure difference



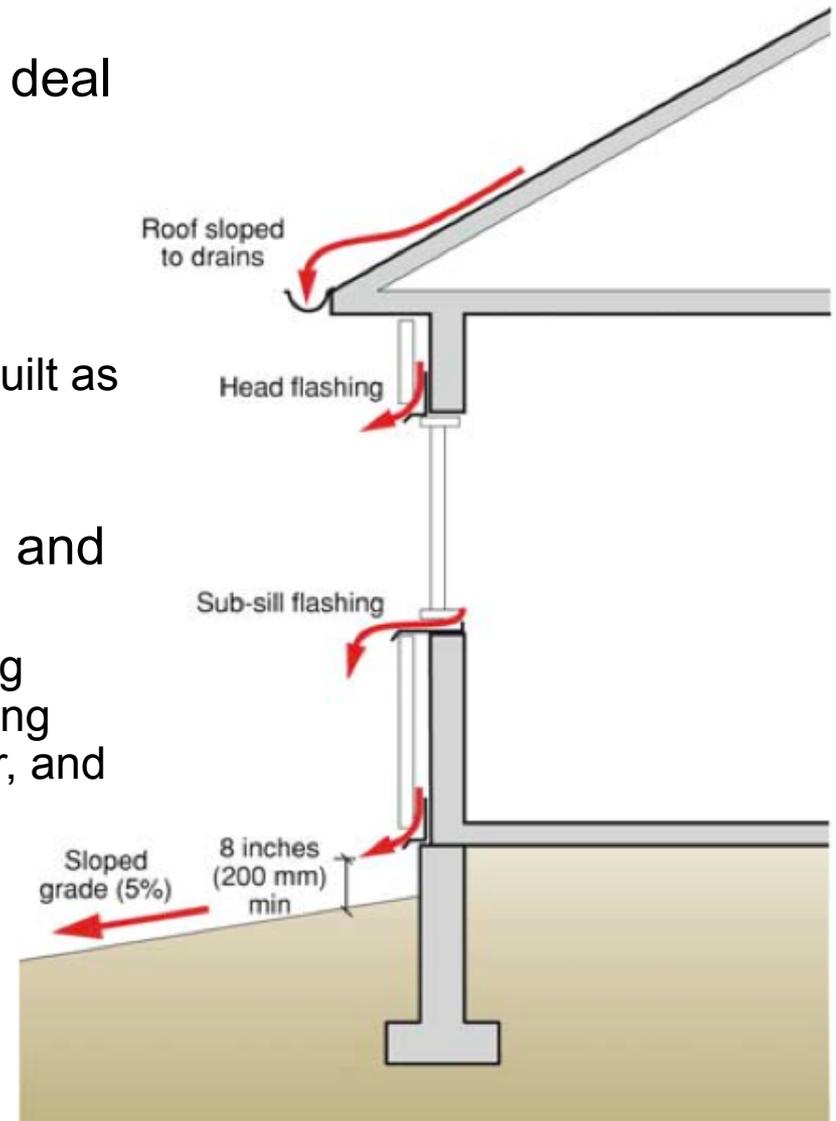
Driven by air pressure differences, rain droplets are drawn through wall openings from the exterior to the interior

By creating pressure equalization between the exterior and cavity air, air pressure is diminished as a driving force for rain entry.

**Pressure equalization: cavity ventilation**

# Flashing: Extremely important architectural detail

- When we have liquid water, we need to deal with it!
  - Solution: **flashing**
- Flashing design is not really science
  - The problem is ensuring that good detail construction documents are created and built as drawn
- ASTM E2112 Standard Practice for the Installation of Exterior Windows, Doors, and Skylights
  - This standard describes the proper flashing design, building wrap installation and sealing required to ensure watertight window, door, and skylight installation
- The architect is typically in charge of construction details
  - Then passed on to the contractor for construction
    - Sometimes no interaction with engineer
    - Many places to miss important flashing details



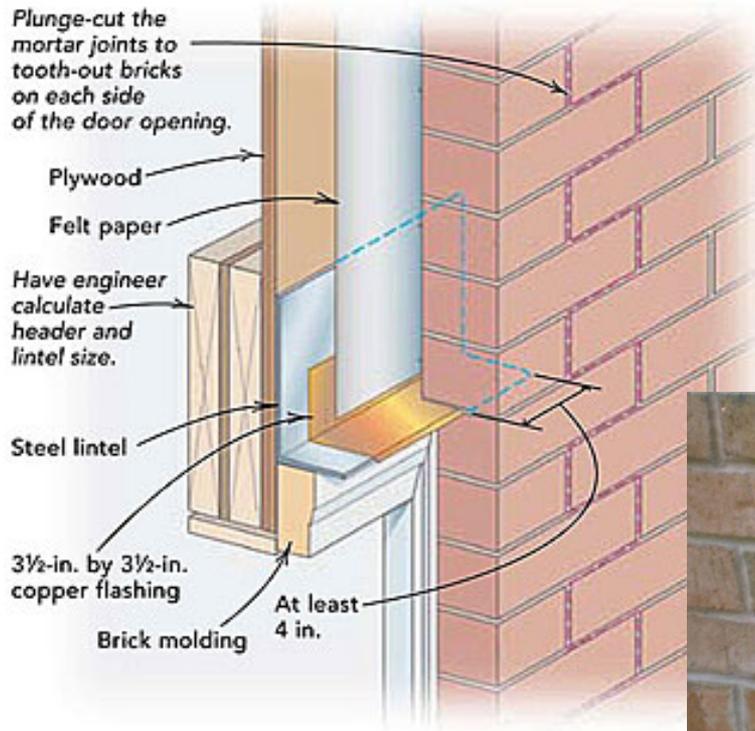
# Water barriers

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- A water barrier is a material which does not transport condensed water
  - It may allow air diffusion or vapor diffusion
  - It may not be completely sealed which allows direct and indirect air infiltration
- It is placed on the outside of a building to keep rainwater off the building wall components
- A water barrier need not be an air barrier or a vapor barrier
  - Shingles and building felt are good water barriers but poor air and vapor barriers



# Flashing: Extremely important architectural detail

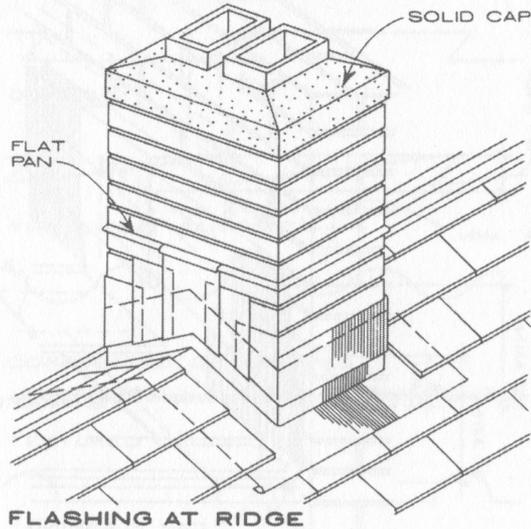


AIA provides good standard graphic details for flashing in residential construction

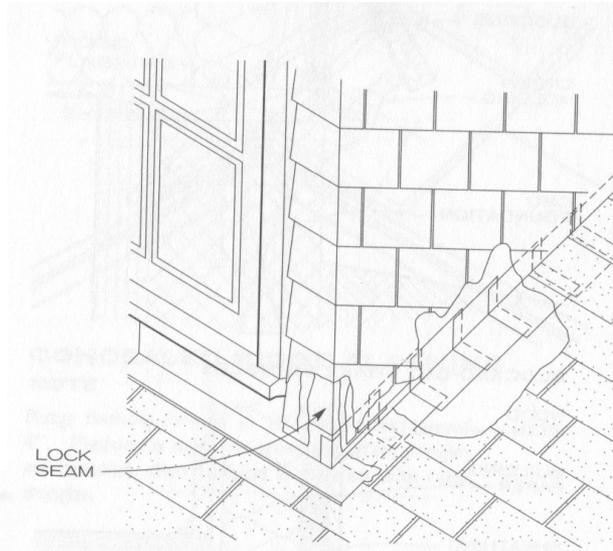
- Make sure your architect follows these!



# Flashing details: roofs

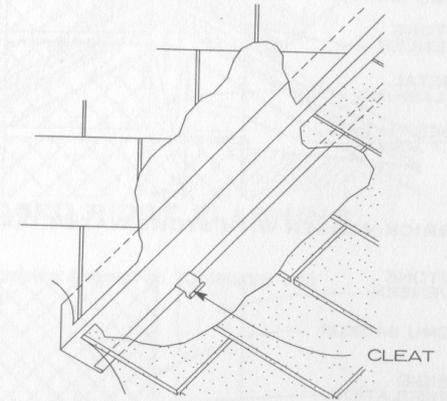


FLASHING AT RIDGE

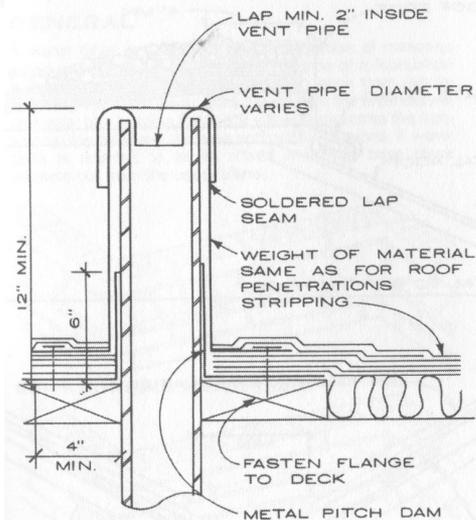


LOCK SEAM

DORMER FLASHING



FLASHING PRIOR TO SHINGLING

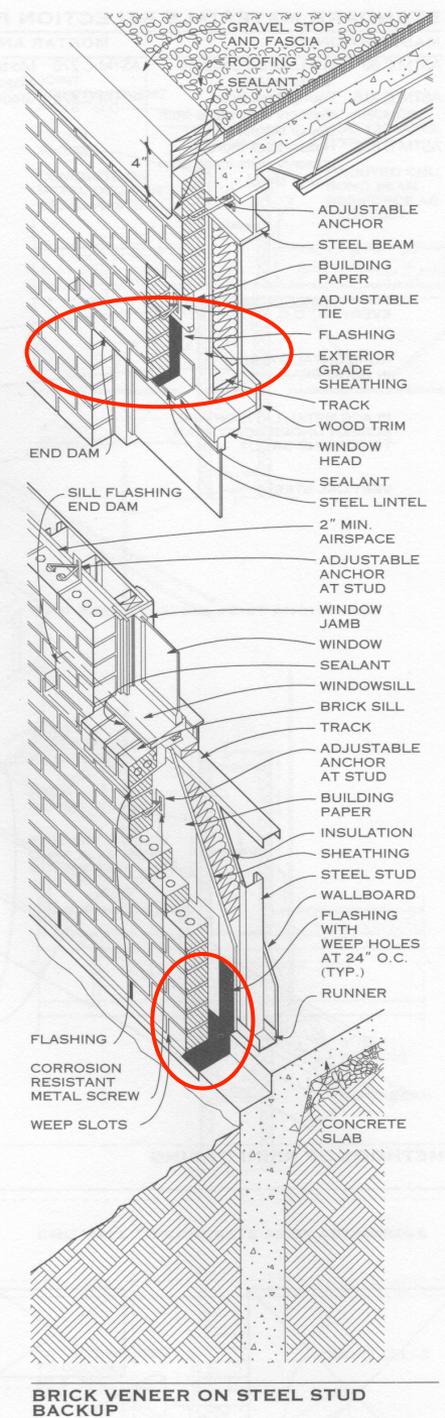
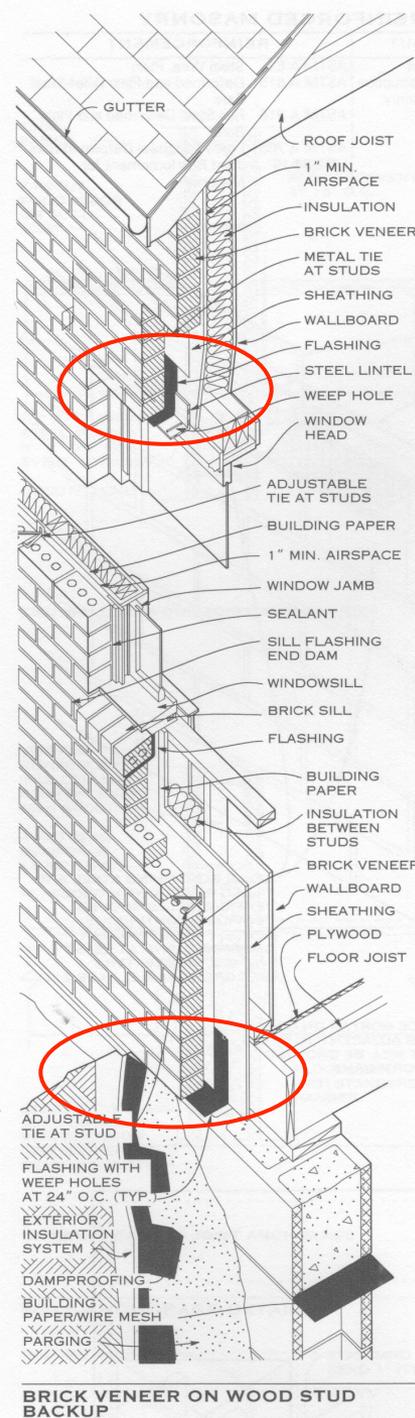
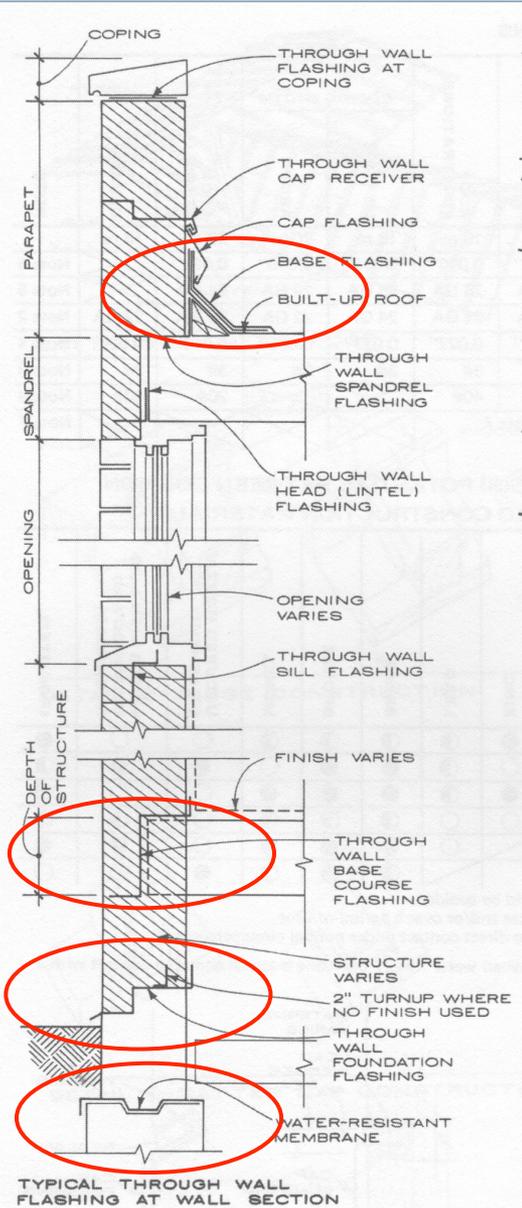


VENT PIPE

DORMER FLASHING

- Install prior to shingles
- Overlap in the correct direction for drainage

# Flashing details: walls



# Flashing details: materials

Some flashing materials are more compatible with your building materials than others

MINIMUM THICKNESS (GAUGES OR WEIGHT) FOR COMMON FLASHING CONDITIONS

CONDITIONS MATERIALS	BASE COURSE	WALL OPENINGS HEAD AND SILL	THROUGH WALL AND SPANDREL	CAP AND BASE FLASHING	VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SURFACES	ROOF EDGE RIDGES AND HIPS	CRICKETS VALLEY OR GUTTER	CHIMNEY PAN	LEDGE FLASHING	ROOF PENETRATIONS	COPING WIDTH		EDGE STRIPS	CLEATS	NOTE
											UP TO 12"	ABOVE 12"			
Copper	10 oz	10 oz	10 oz	16 oz	16 oz	16 oz	16 oz	16 oz	16 oz	16 oz	16 oz	20 oz	20 oz	16 oz	
Aluminum	0.019"	0.019"	0.019"	0.019"	0.019"	0.019"	0.019"	0.019"	0.019"	0.040"	0.032"	0.040"	0.024"		Note 6
Stainless steel	30 GA	30 GA	30 GA	26 GA	30 GA	26 GA	26 GA	30 GA	26 GA	26 GA	26 GA	26 GA	24 GA	24 GA	Note 5
Galvanized steel	26 GA	26 GA	26 GA	26 GA	26 GA	24 GA	24 GA	26 GA	24 GA	24 GA	24 GA	22 GA	26 GA	22 GA	Note 2
Zinc alloy	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.027"	0.032"	0.040"	0.027"	Note 4
Lead	3#	2 1/2 #	2 1/2 #	2 1/2 #	3#	3#	3#	3#	3#	3#	3#	3#	3#	3#	Note 3
Painted terne	40#	40#	40#	20#	40#	20#	40#	20#	40#	40#			20#	40#	Note 8
elastomeric sheet; fabric-coated metal	See Note 7								See Note 7						Note 7

GENERAL NOTES

- All sizes and weights of material given in chart are minimum. Actual conditions may require greater strength.
- All galvanized steel must be painted.
- With lead flashing use 16 oz copper cleats. If any part is exposed, use 3# lead cleats.
- Coat zinc with asphaltum paint when in contact with redwood or cedar. High acid content (in these woods only) develops stains.
- Type 302 stainless steel is an all purpose flashing type.
- Use only aluminum manufactured for the purpose of flashing.
- See manufacturer's literature for use and types of flashing.
- In general, cleats will be of the same material as flashing, but heavier weight or thicker gauge.
- In selecting metal flashing, precaution must be taken not to place flashing in direct contact with dissimilar metals that cause electrolysis.
- Spaces marked  in the table are uses not recommended for that material.

GALVANIC CORROSION (ELECTROLYSIS) POTENTIAL BETWEEN COMMON FLASHING MATERIALS AND SELECTED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

FLASHING MATERIALS	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS											
	COPPER	ALUMINUM	STAINLESS STEEL	GALVANIZED STEEL	ZINC	LEAD	BRASS	BRONZE	MONEL	UNCURED MORTAR OR CEMENT	WOODS WITH ACID (REDWOOD AND RED CEDAR)	IRON/STEEL
Copper		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
Aluminum			○	○	○	○	●	●	○	●	●	○
Stainless steel				○	○	○	●	●	○	○	○	○
Galvanized steel					○	○	●	●	○	○	○	○
Zinc alloy						○	●	●	○	○	○	○
Lead							●	●	○	●	○	○

- Galvanic action will occur, hence direct contact should be avoided.
- Galvanic action may occur under certain circumstances and/or over a period of time.
- Galvanic action is insignificant, metals may come into direct contact under normal circumstances.

GENERAL NOTE: Galvanic corrosion is apt to occur when water runoff from one material comes in contact with a potentially reactive material.

# Flashing and joints on roofs

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- Flashing needed to maintain seals
  - Building edges and parapets
  - Expansion joints
  - Over top of cavity walls
  - Around drains
  - Around vents
- Usually metals or plastics over which membrane is fastened
- Proper flashing is **absolutely essential** to avoid roof leaks

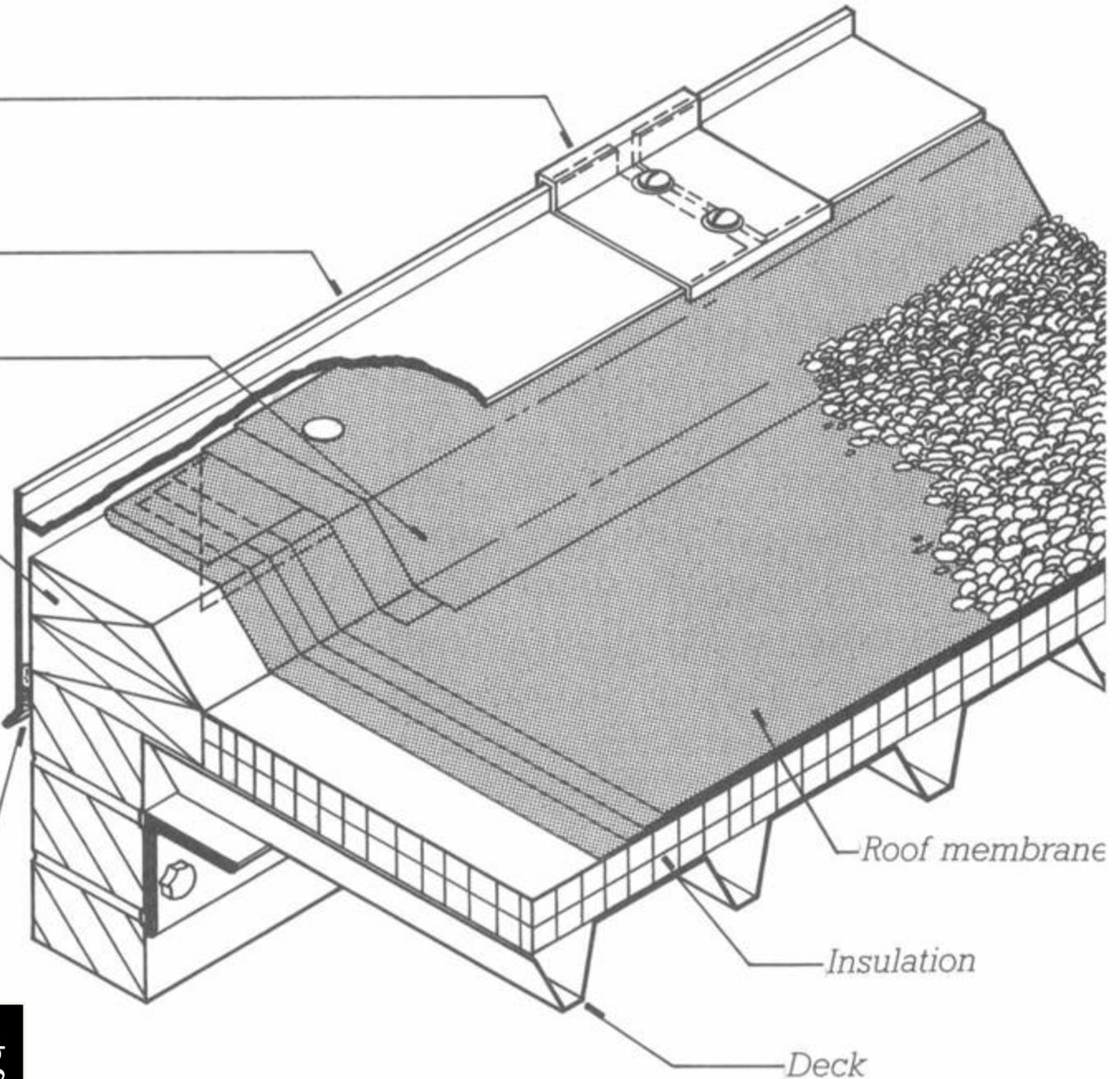
Cover plate at  
joints in the roof  
edge

Metal roof edge  
in 10' (3 m)  
maximum lengths

Base flashing

Wood curb

Sealant



## Edge Flashing

*Flexible,  
waterproof  
expansion joint  
cover*

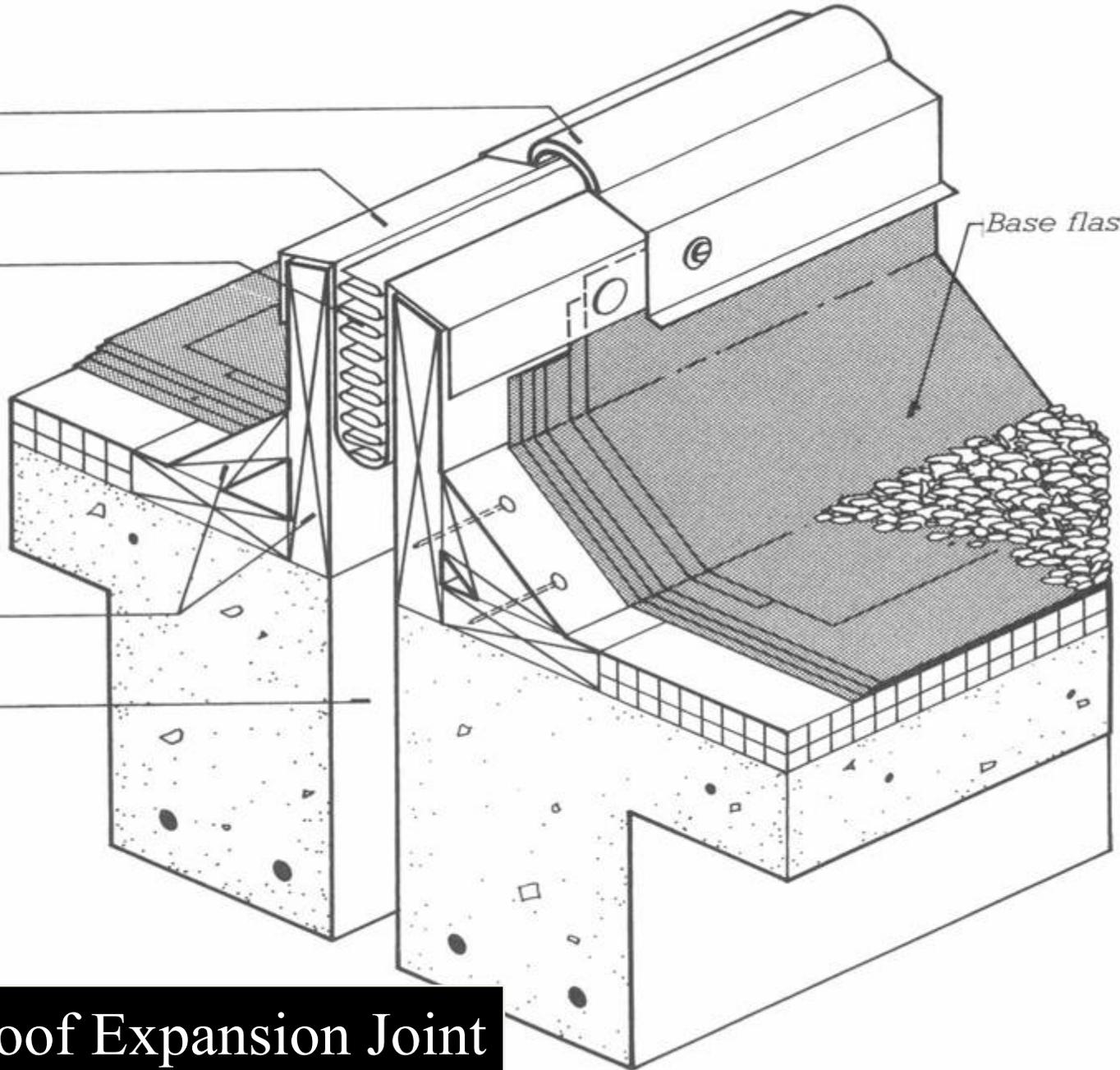
*Vapor retarder*

*Compressible  
insulation*

*Base flashing*

*Wood curb and  
cant*

*Division in  
building structure*

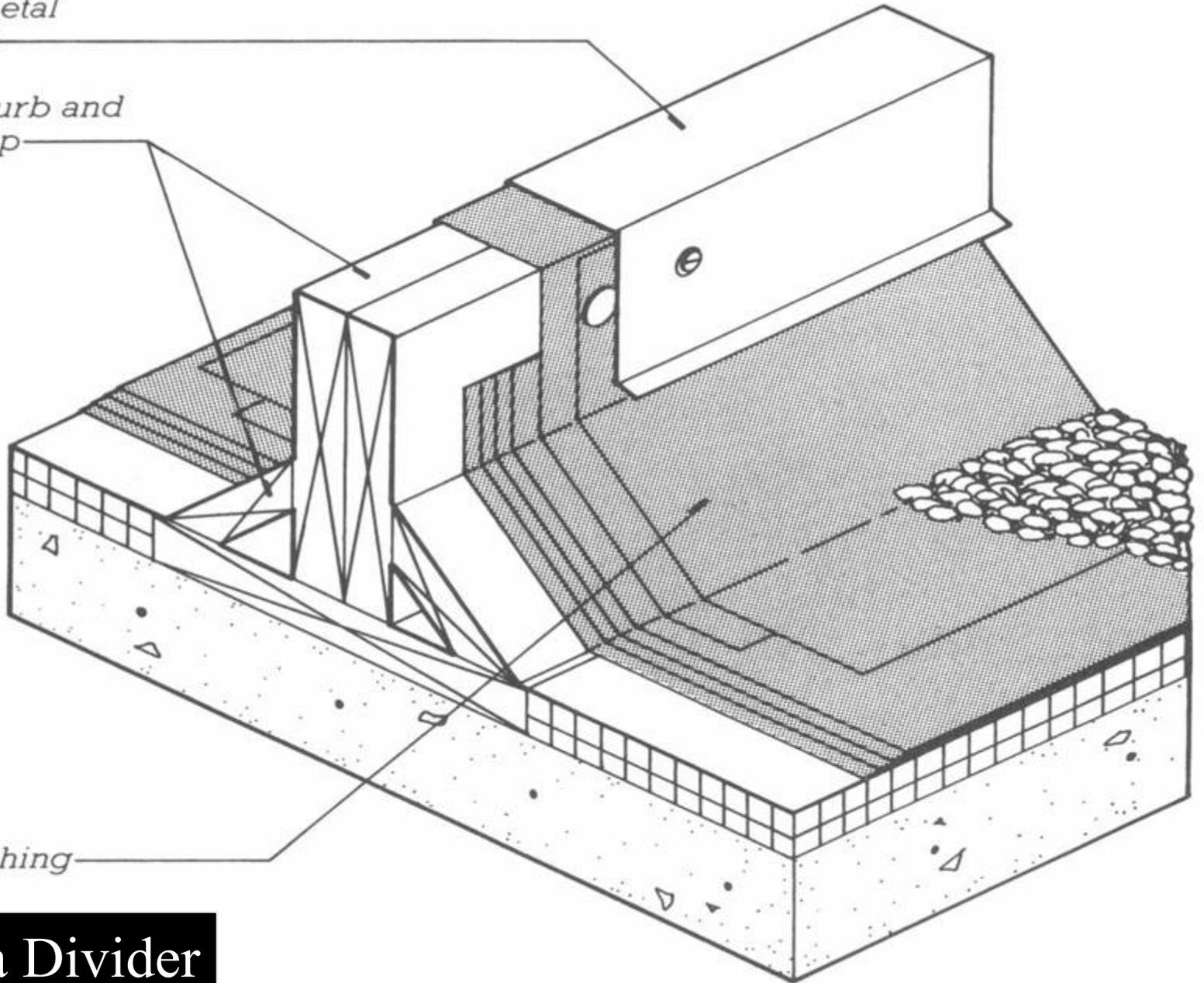


## Building/Roof Expansion Joint

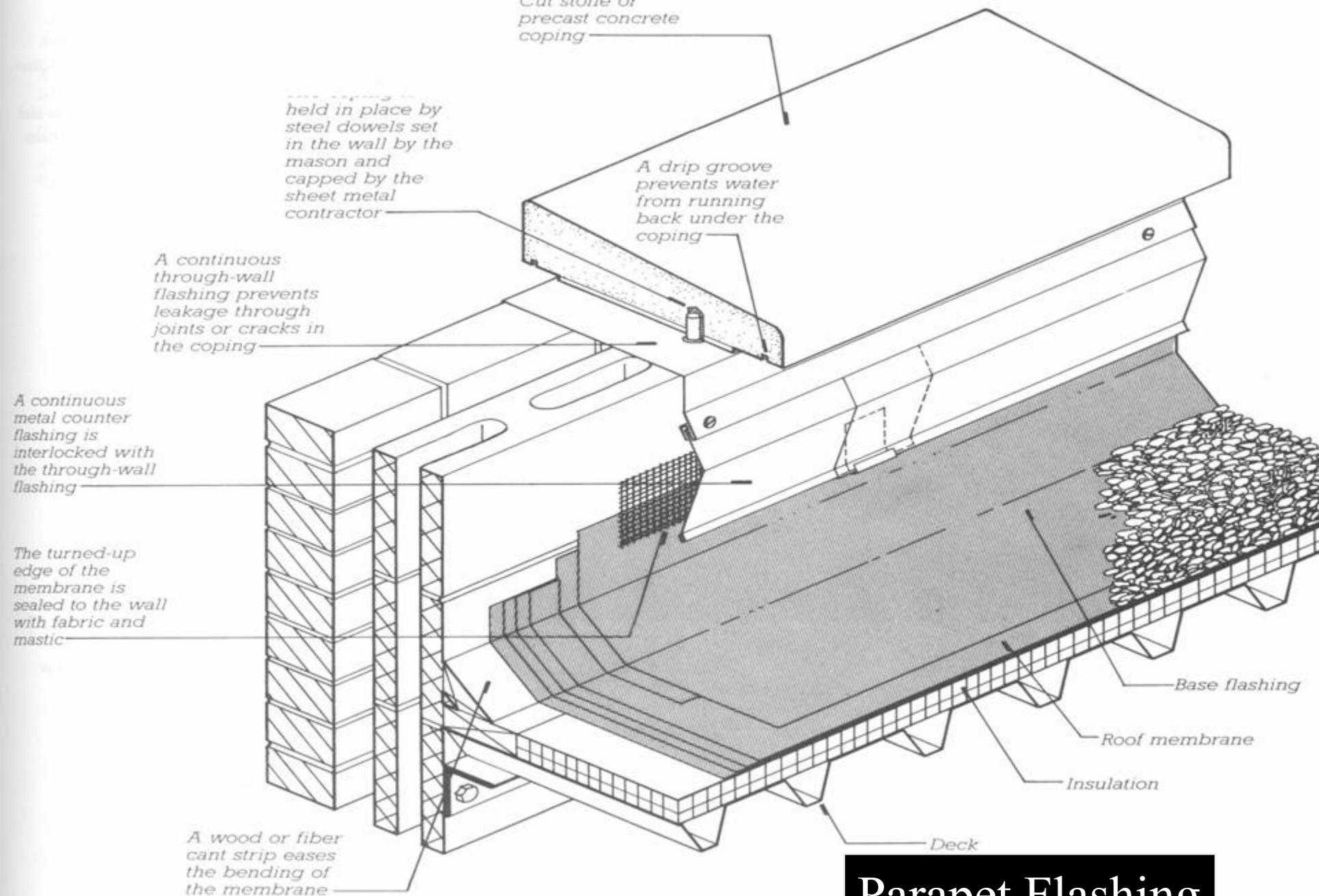
*Sheet metal flashing*

*Wood curb and cant strip*

*Base flashing*



# Area Divider



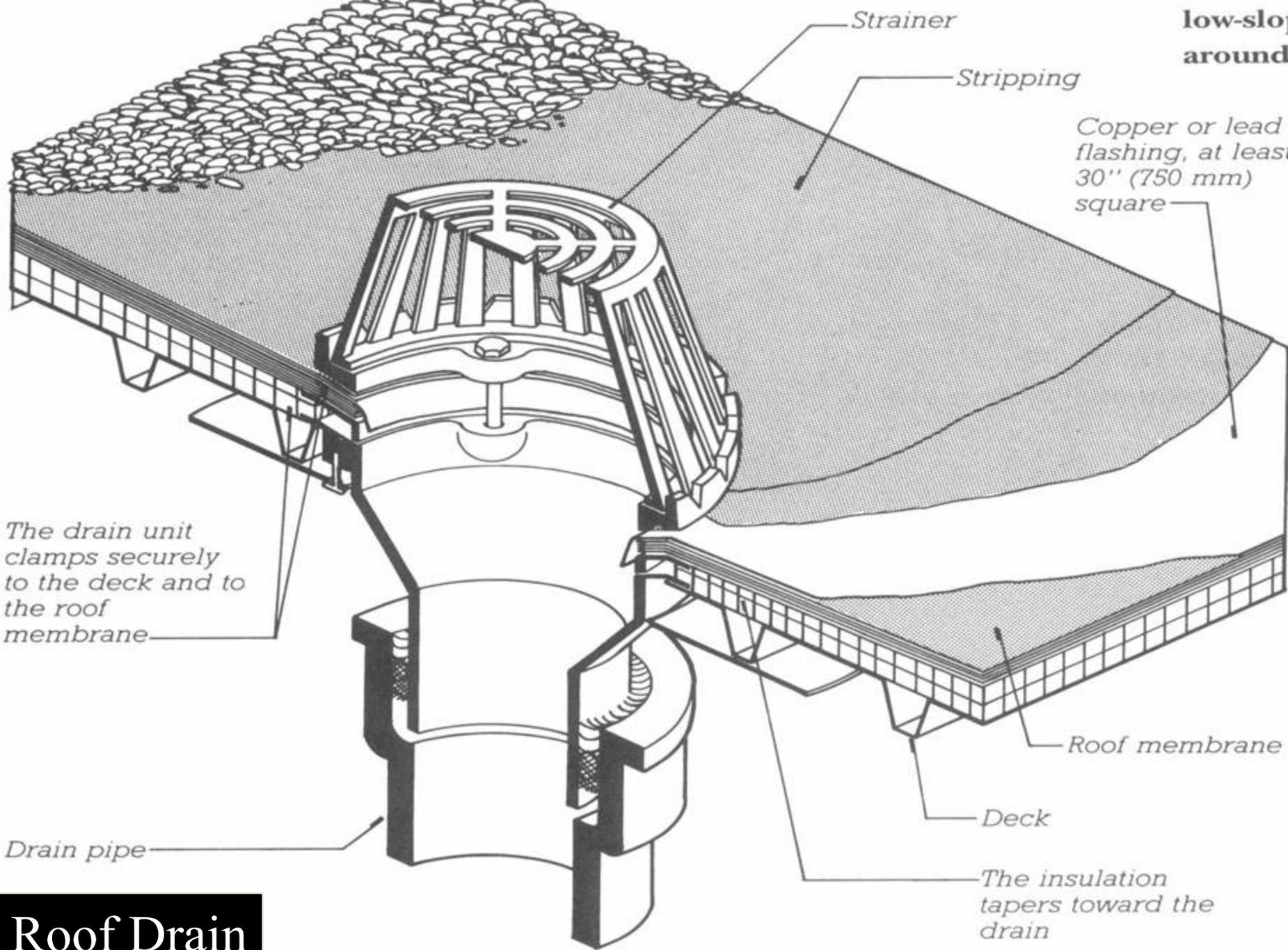
**FIGURE 16.30**  
A conventional parapet design.

# Parapet Flashing

# Roof drainage

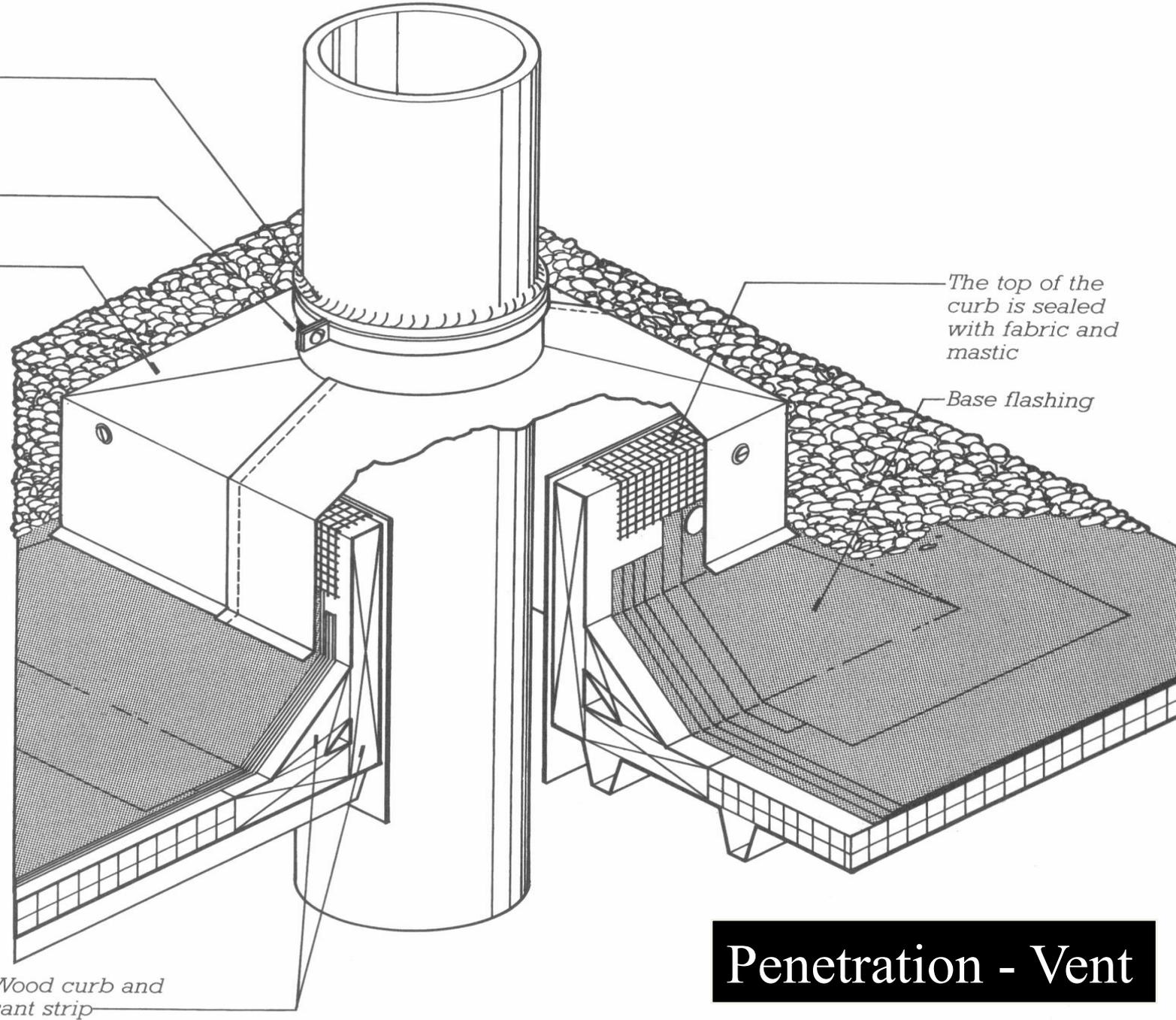
---

- Drains need to be at low points of roofs to avoid water ponding
  - Drains near columns are at high points since there is no deflection
- Smaller and closer spaced drains preferred to larger but fewer



# Roof Drain

Sealant  
A metal draw  
band clamps the  
flashing to the  
pipe  
Sheet metal  
flashing



# Penetration - Vent

# **DEALING WITH WATER**

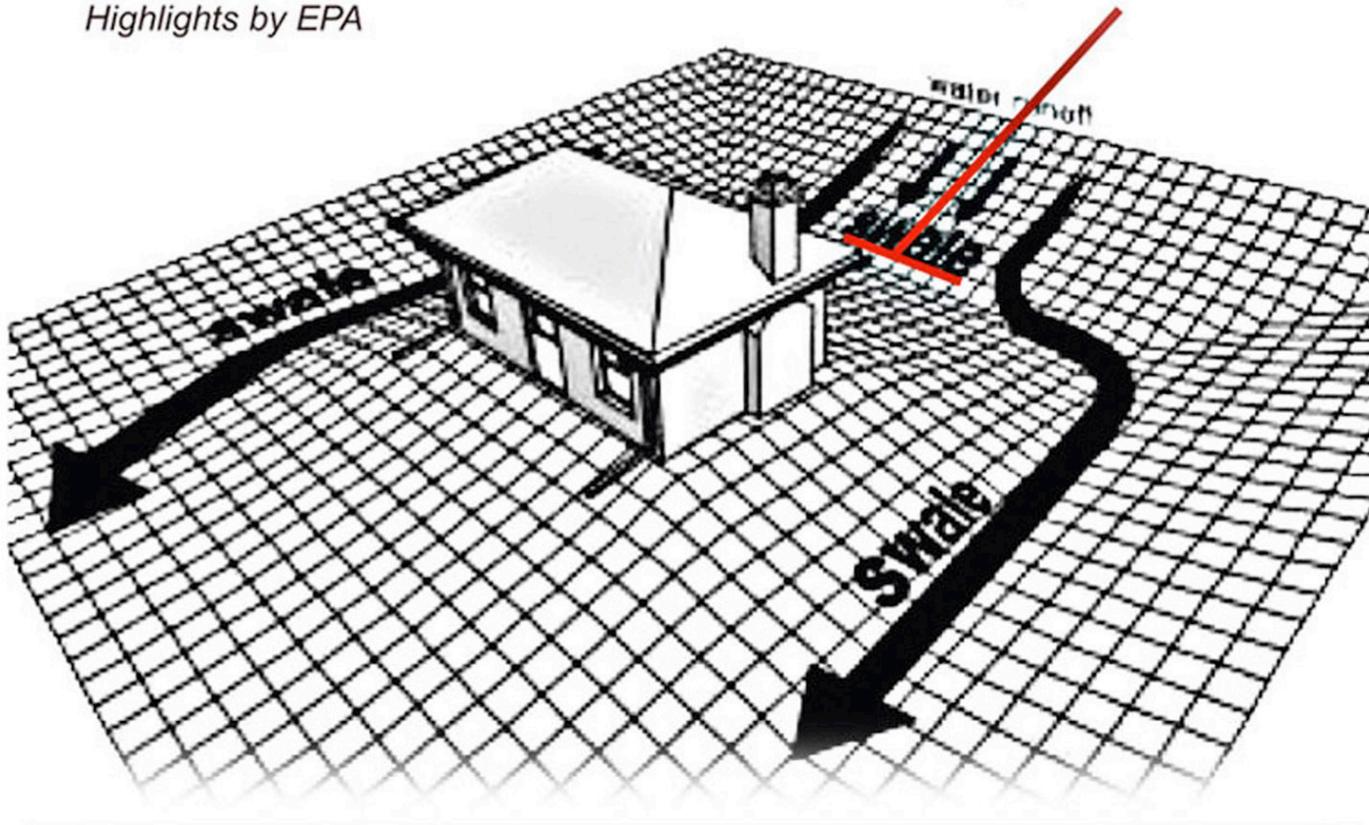
Realistically w/ drawings

# Site drainage

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.1  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

*Highlights by EPA*

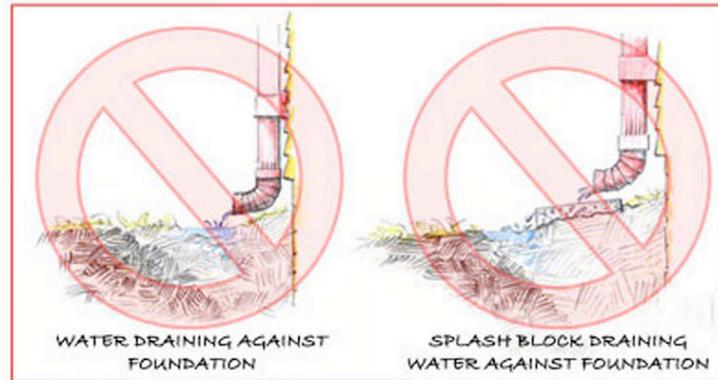
*Where setbacks limit space to less than 10 feet, provide swales or drains designed to carry water from foundation*



BUILDING SITE DRAINAGE

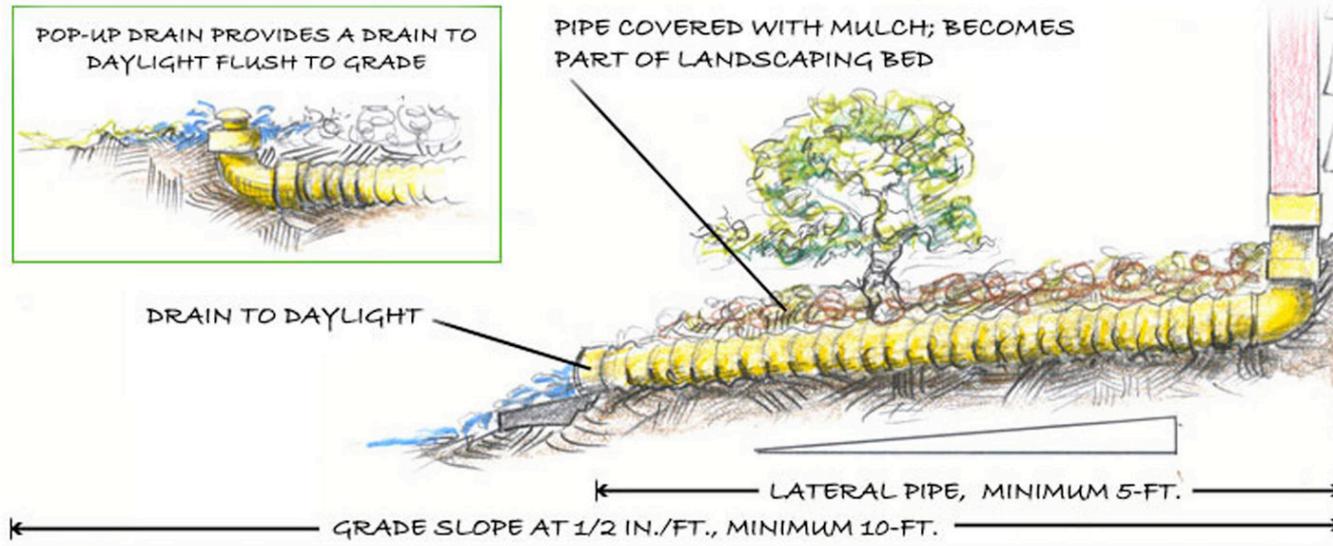
# Site drainage

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.1  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)



PIPE COVERED WITH MULCH; BECOMES PART OF LANDSCAPING BED

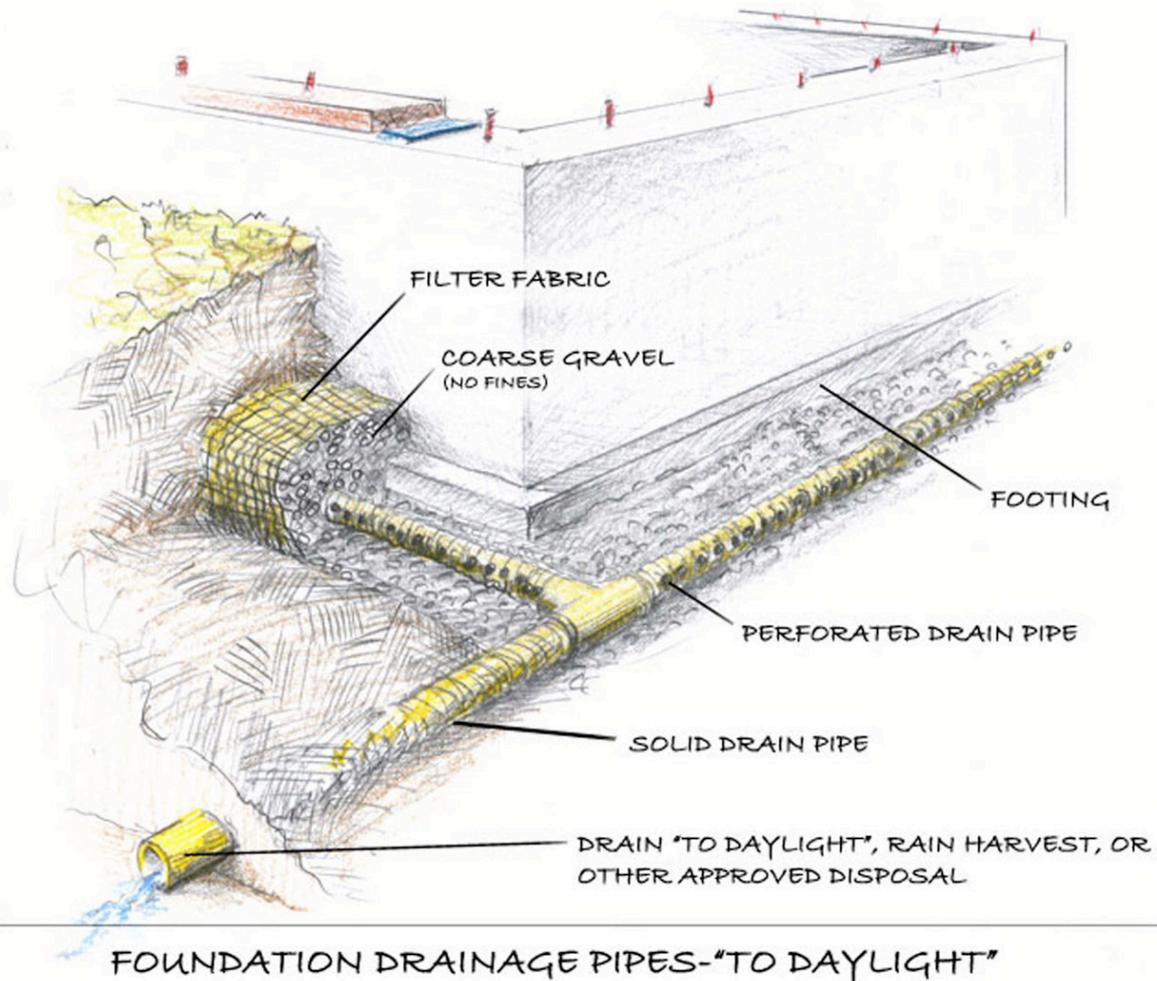
DRAIN TO DAYLIGHT



INSTALLATION OF ABOVE-GRADE DRAINS FROM GUTTERING

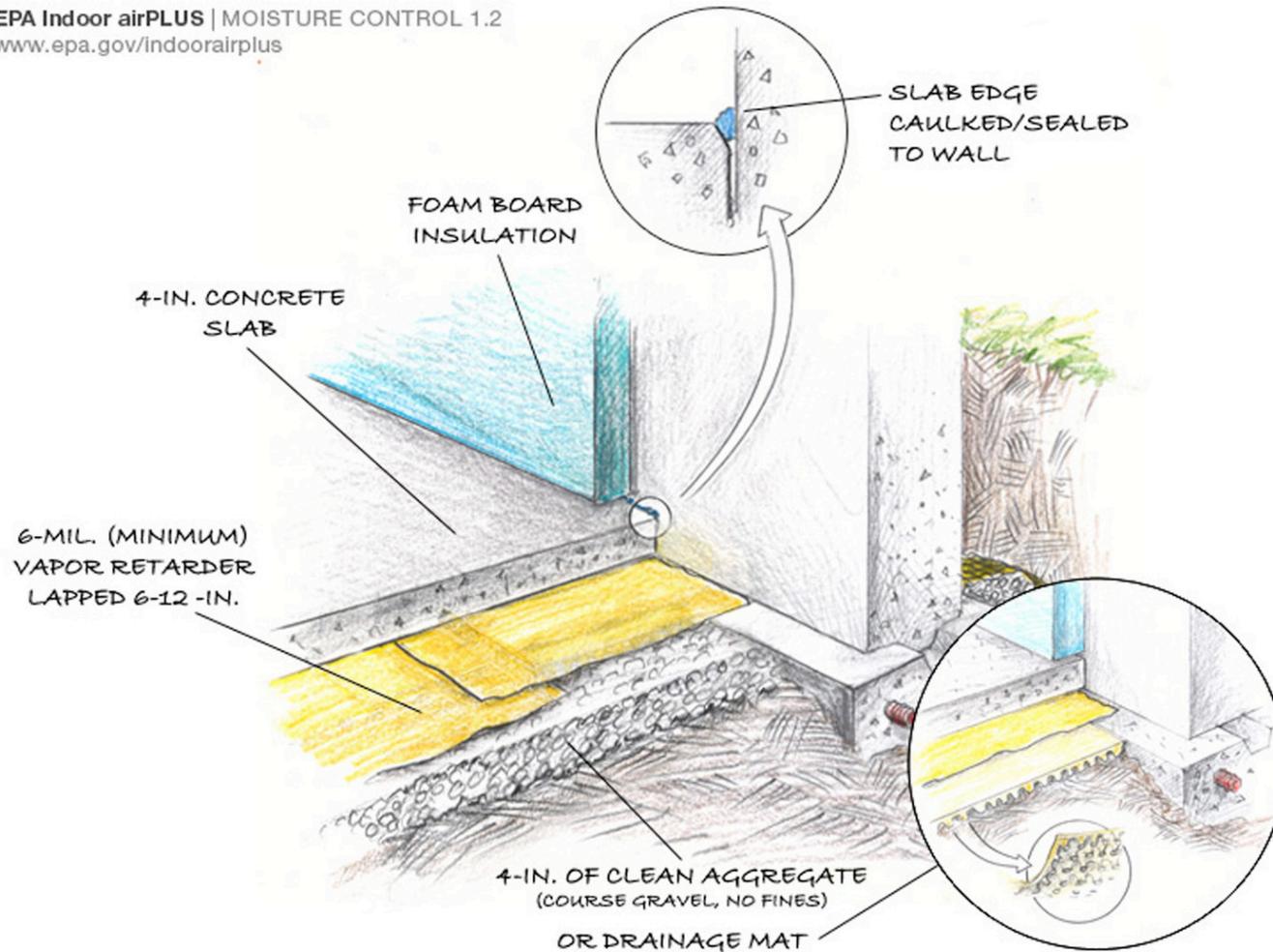
# Good foundation design

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.1  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)



# Basement slab with capillary break

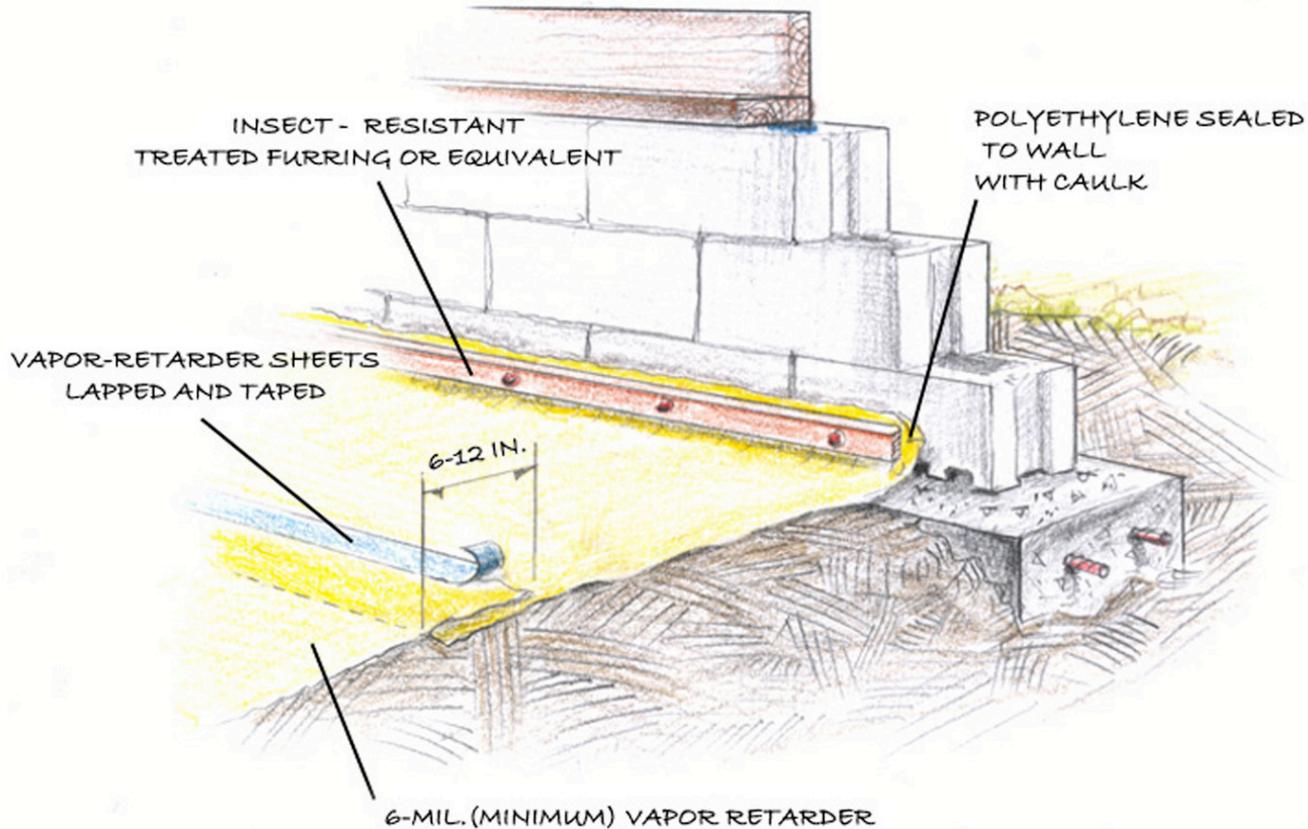
EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.2  
www.epa.gov/indoorairplus



BASEMENT SLAB W/ CAPILLARY BREAK - GRAVEL AND GEOTEXTILE MAT (INSET)

# Crawl space and vapor retarders

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.2  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)



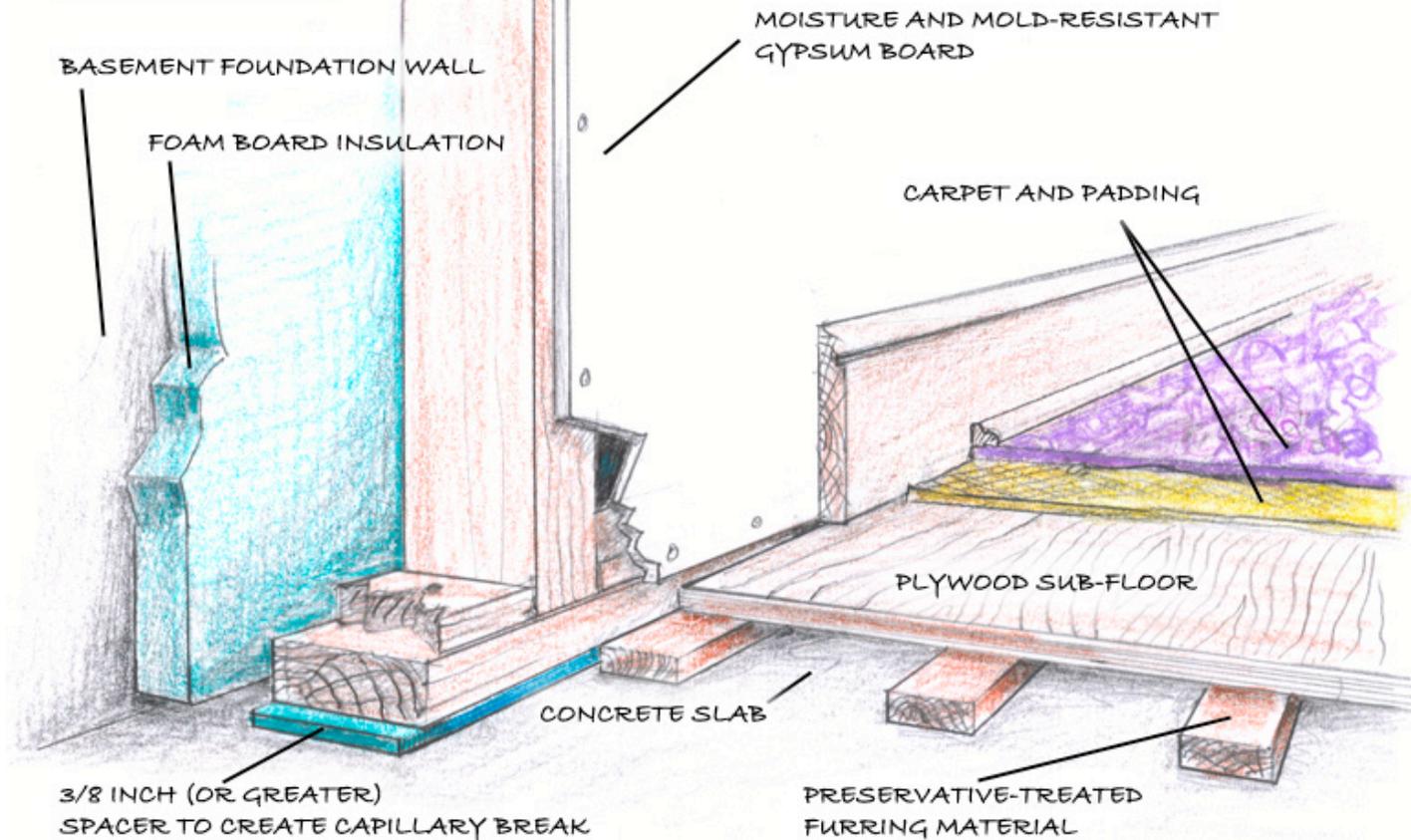
CRAWL SPACE - VAPOR RETARDER OVER SOIL

# Moisture resistance basement floors

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.2

[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

**BEST PRACTICE TECHNIQUE**



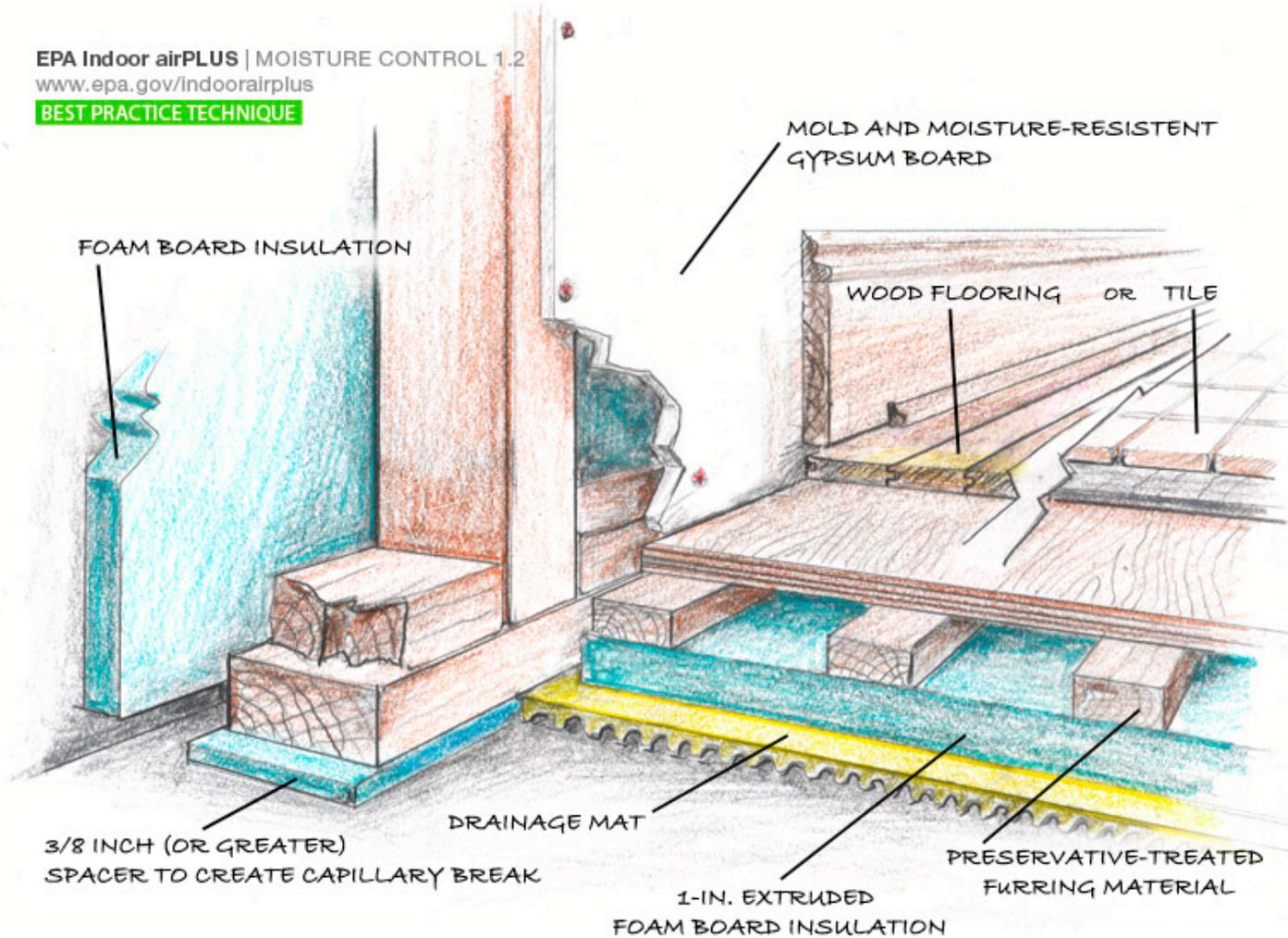
MOISTURE - RESISTANT BASEMENT FLOORING SYSTEM (1/2)

# Moisture resistance basement floors

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.2

[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

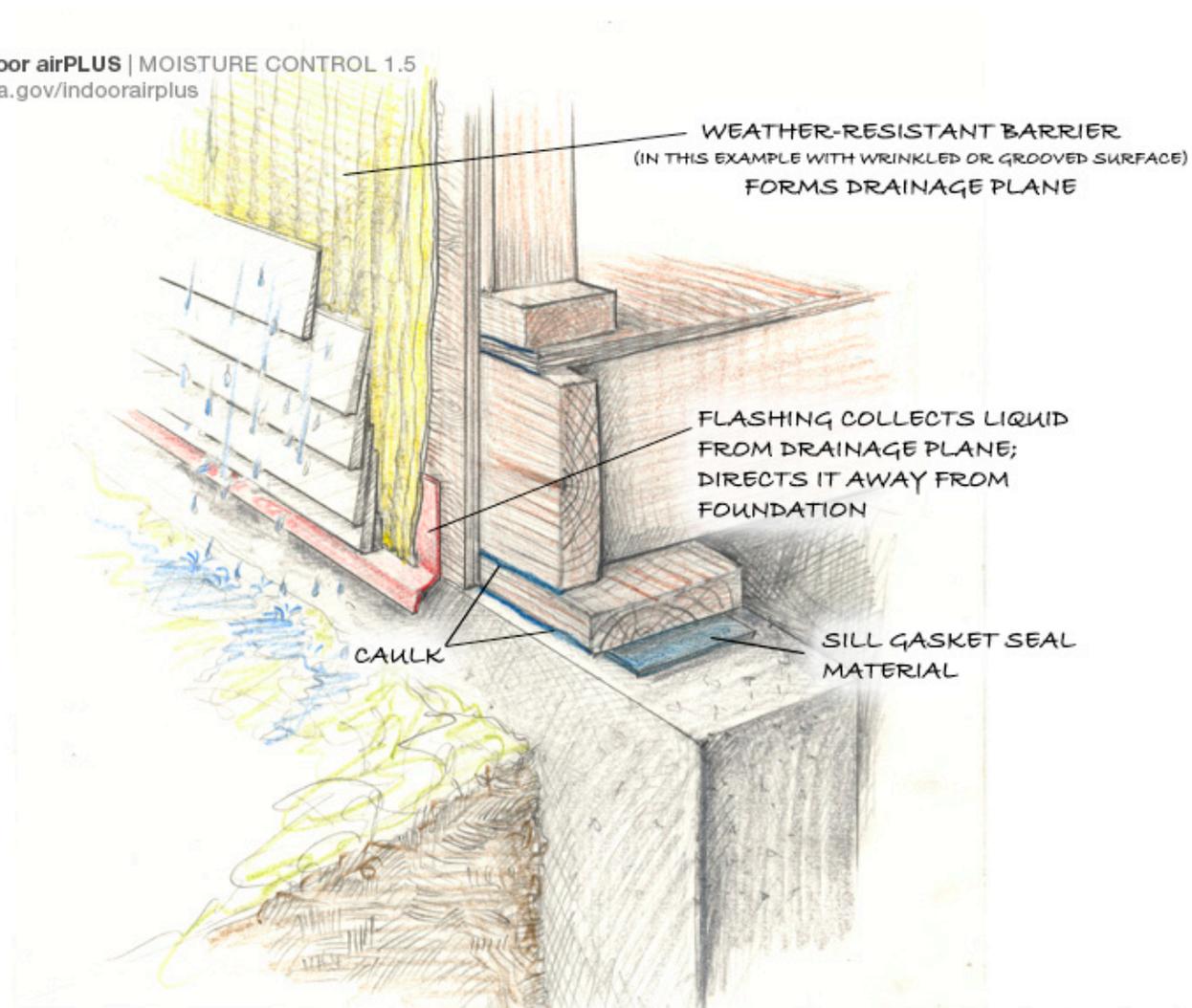
**BEST PRACTICE TECHNIQUE**



MOISTURE RESISTANT BASEMENT FLOORING SYSTEM (2/2)

# Drainage planes and drip edges: Siding

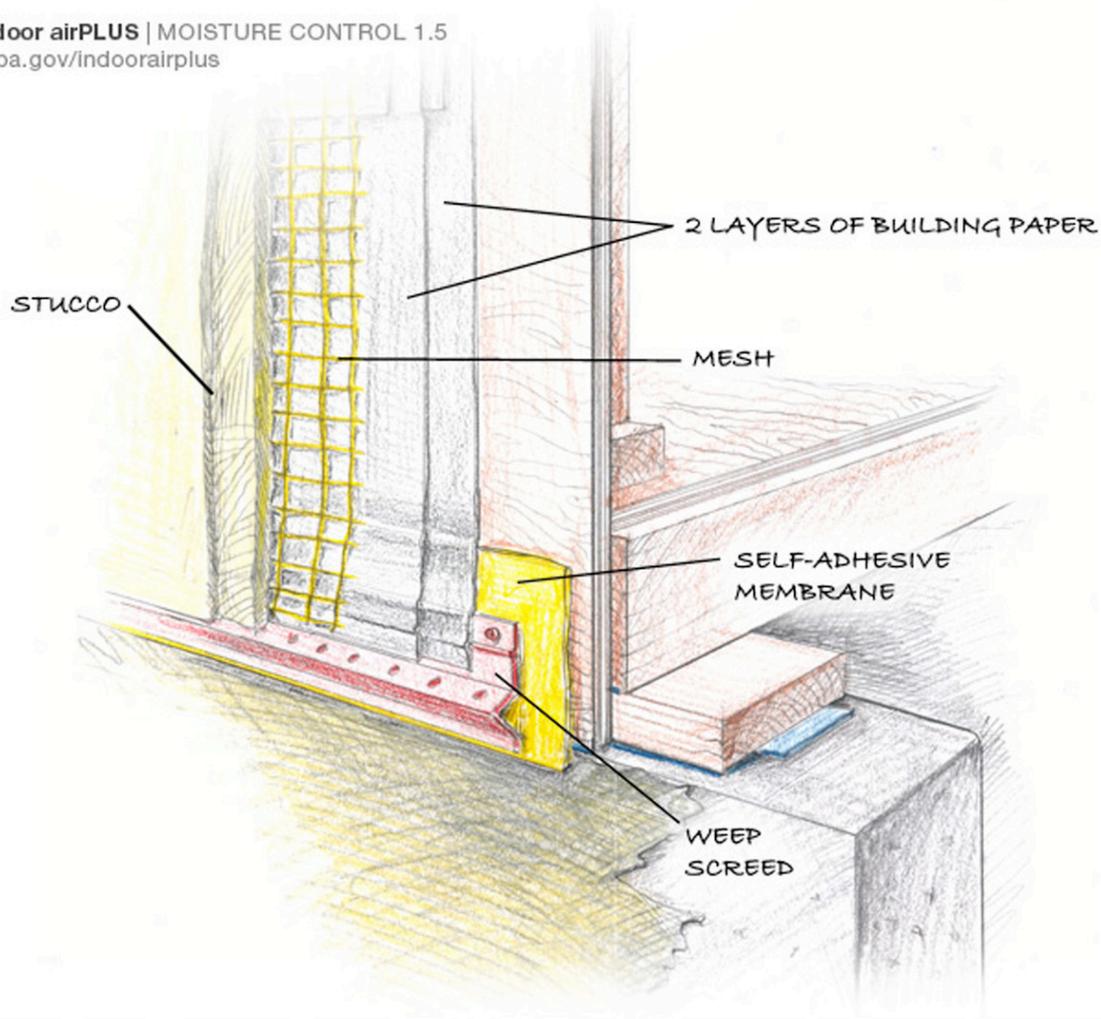
EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.5  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)



DRAINAGE PLANE AND DRIP-EDGE FLASHING WITH WOOD HORIZONTAL SIDING

# Drainage planes and drip edges: Stucco

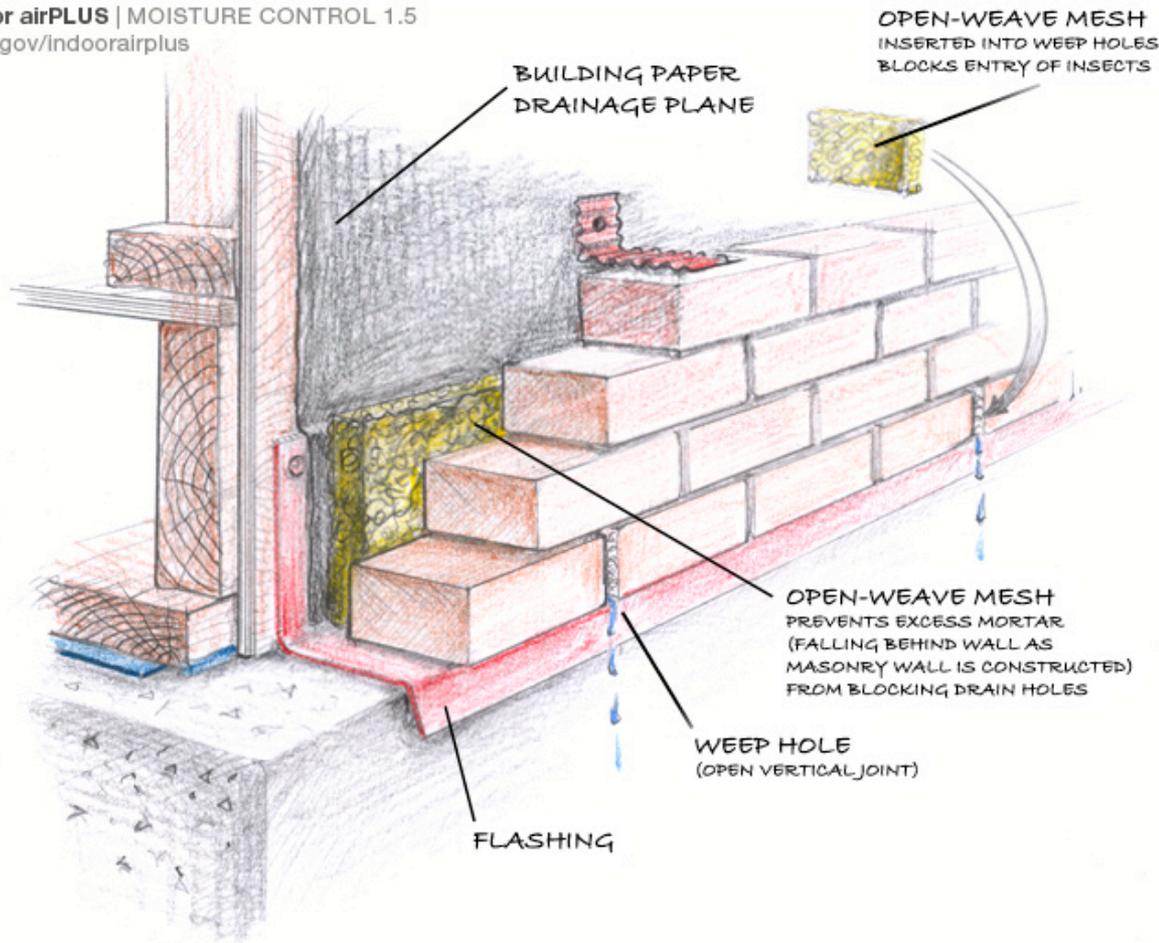
EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.5  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)



TWO LAYERS OF BUILDING PAPER FORM DRAINAGE PLANE BENEATH STUCCO

# Drainage planes and drip edges: Masonry

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.5  
www.epa.gov/indoorairplus



MASONRY WALL WITH DRAINAGE PLANE, FLASHING, AND WEEP HOLES

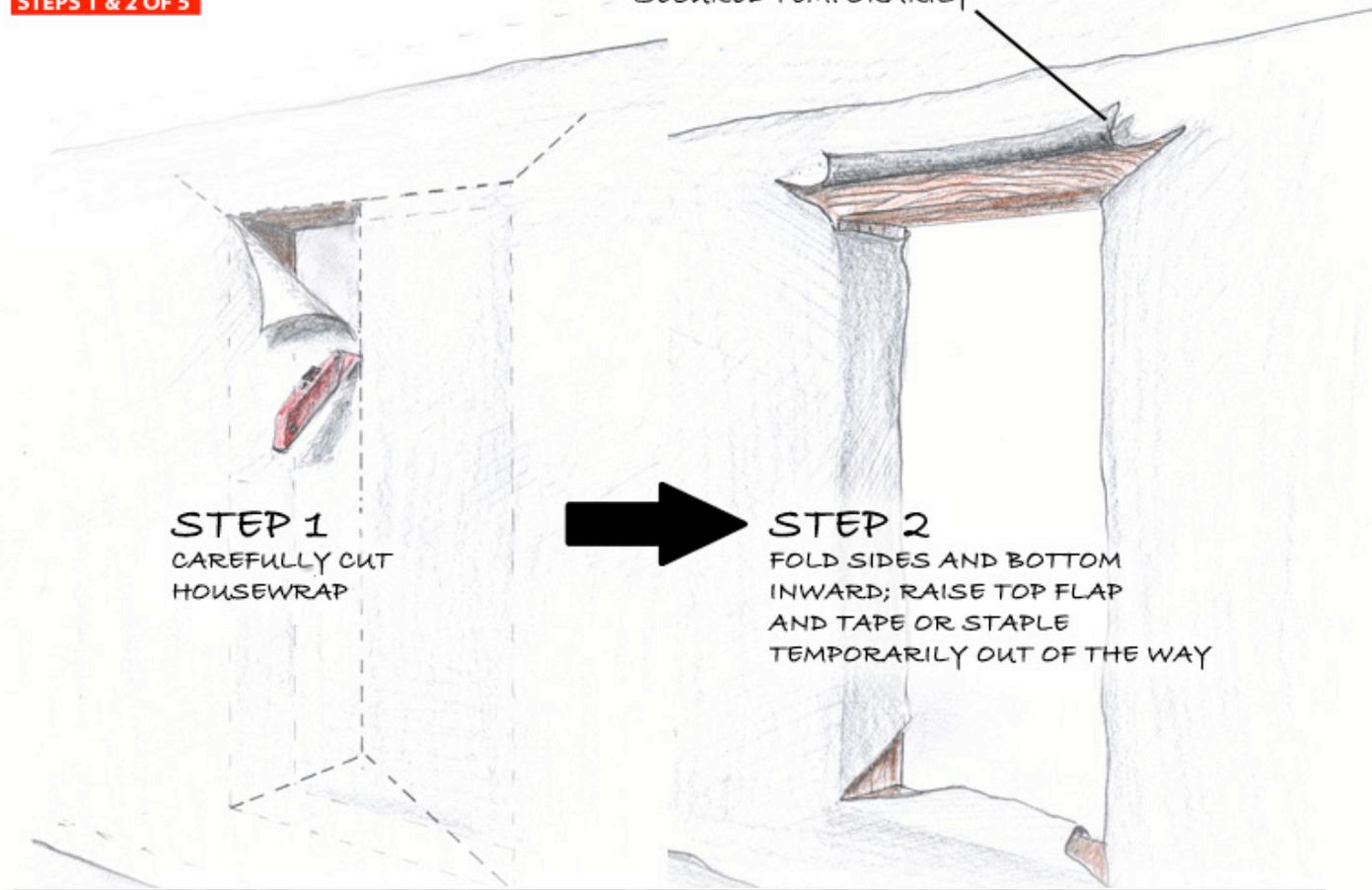
# Window flashing: Housewrap

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.6

[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

**STEPS 1 & 2 OF 5**

\*FLAP\* OF HOUSEWRAP FOLDED UP AND SECURED TEMPORARILY



**STEP 1**  
CAREFULLY CUT  
HOUSEWRAP

**STEP 2**  
FOLD SIDES AND BOTTOM  
INWARD; RAISE TOP FLAP  
AND TAPE OR STAPLE  
TEMPORARILY OUT OF THE WAY

WINDOW FLASHING - HOUSEWRAP DRAINAGE PLANE - **5 STEPS**  
STEPS 1 AND 2 - CUTTING AND FOLDING HOUSEWRAP

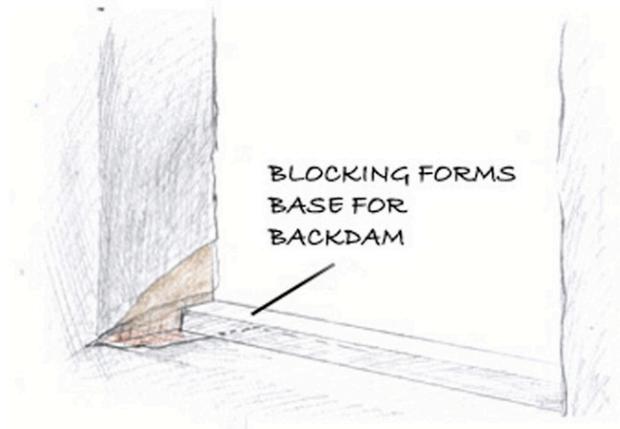
# Window flashing: Housewrap + slope

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.6

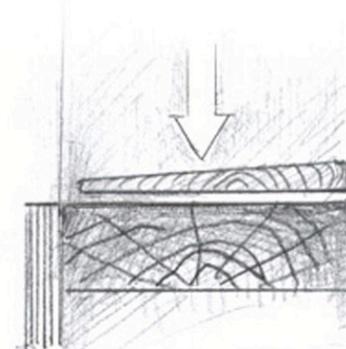
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

**STEP 3 OF 5**

CREATE BACK-DAM OR SLOPE TO DIRECT ANY WATER THAT DRAINS TO THE SILL AREA OUTWARD AND ONTO THE DRAINAGE PLANE (HOUSEWRAP)



OR



**SIDE VIEW**  
BEVELED SIDING  
ATTACHED TO ROUGH  
SILL FRAMING

STEP 3 - CREATE BACK DAM OR SLOPE

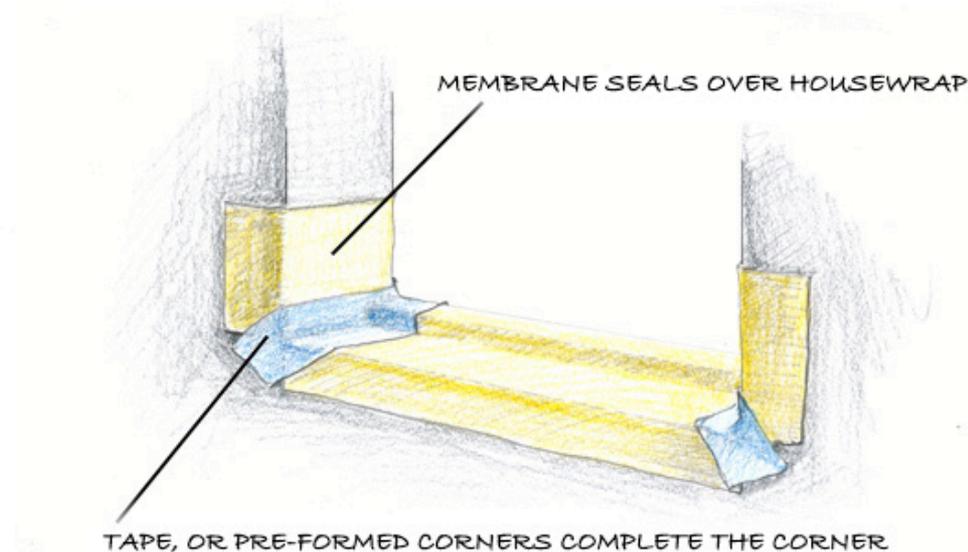
# Window flashing: Housewrap + pan flashing

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.6

[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

**STEP 4 OF 5** OPTION 1

SELF-ADHESIVE MEMBRANE APPLIED TO SILL AREA, CREATING "PAN FLASHING"  
WHICH LAPS OVER AND ADHERES TO DRAINAGE PLANE



**STEP 4 - INSTALL PAN FLASHING- (OPTION 1 OF 2)**  
SELF-ADHESIVE MEMBRANE "PAN"

# Window flashing: Housewrap + flashing

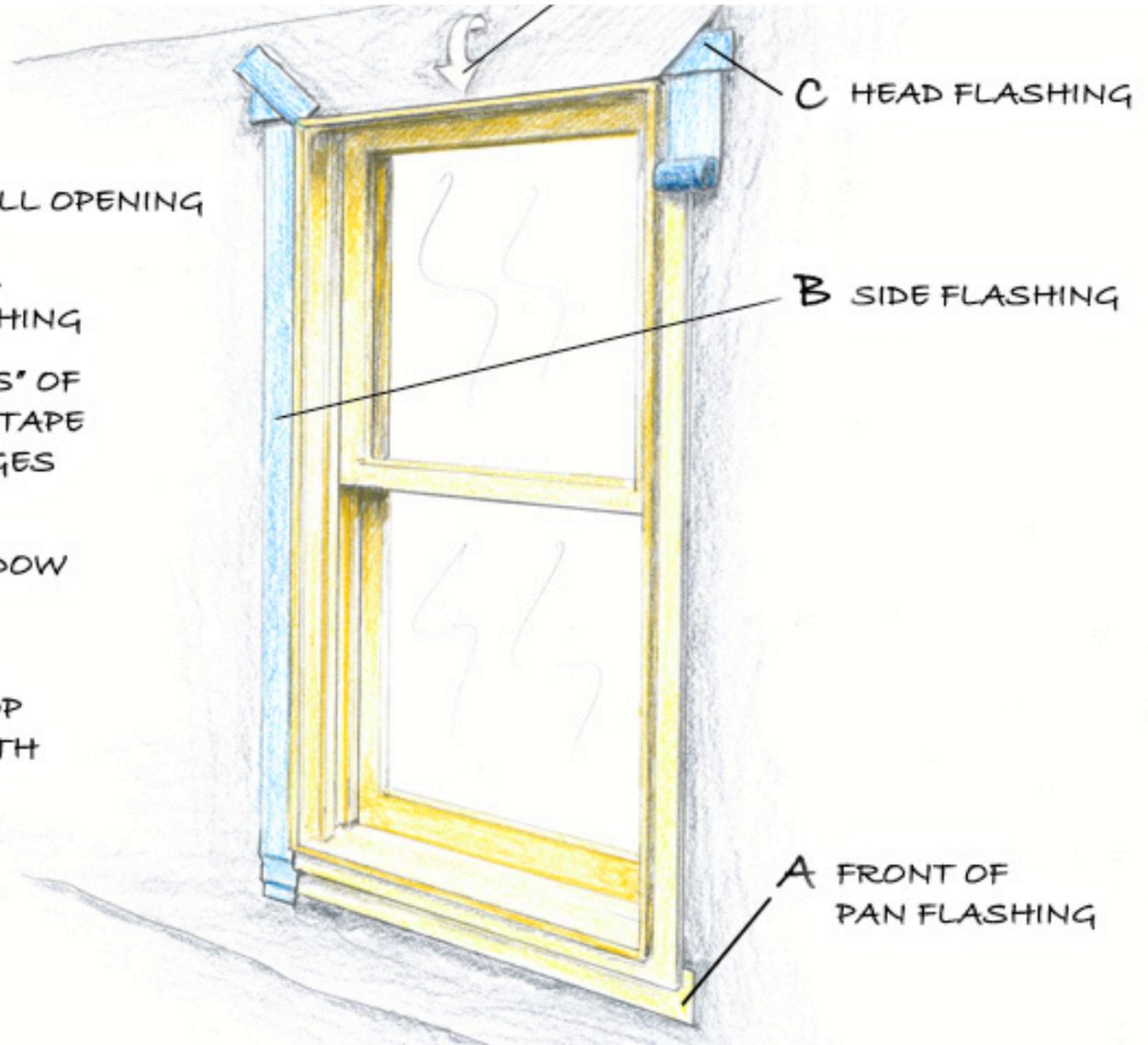
WINDOW PLACED IN WALL OPENING

A: WINDOW INSTALLED,  
RESTING ON PAN FLASHING

B: VERTICAL "SIDE-LEGS"  
OF MEMBRANE FLASHING TAPE  
SEAL OVER SIDE FLANGES  
OF WINDOW UNIT

C: TAPE AT TOP OF WINDOW  
COVERS SIDE-LEGS

D: HOUSEWRAP "FLAP"  
LOWERED TO COVER TOP  
TAPE AND SECURED WITH  
TAPE AT CORNERS

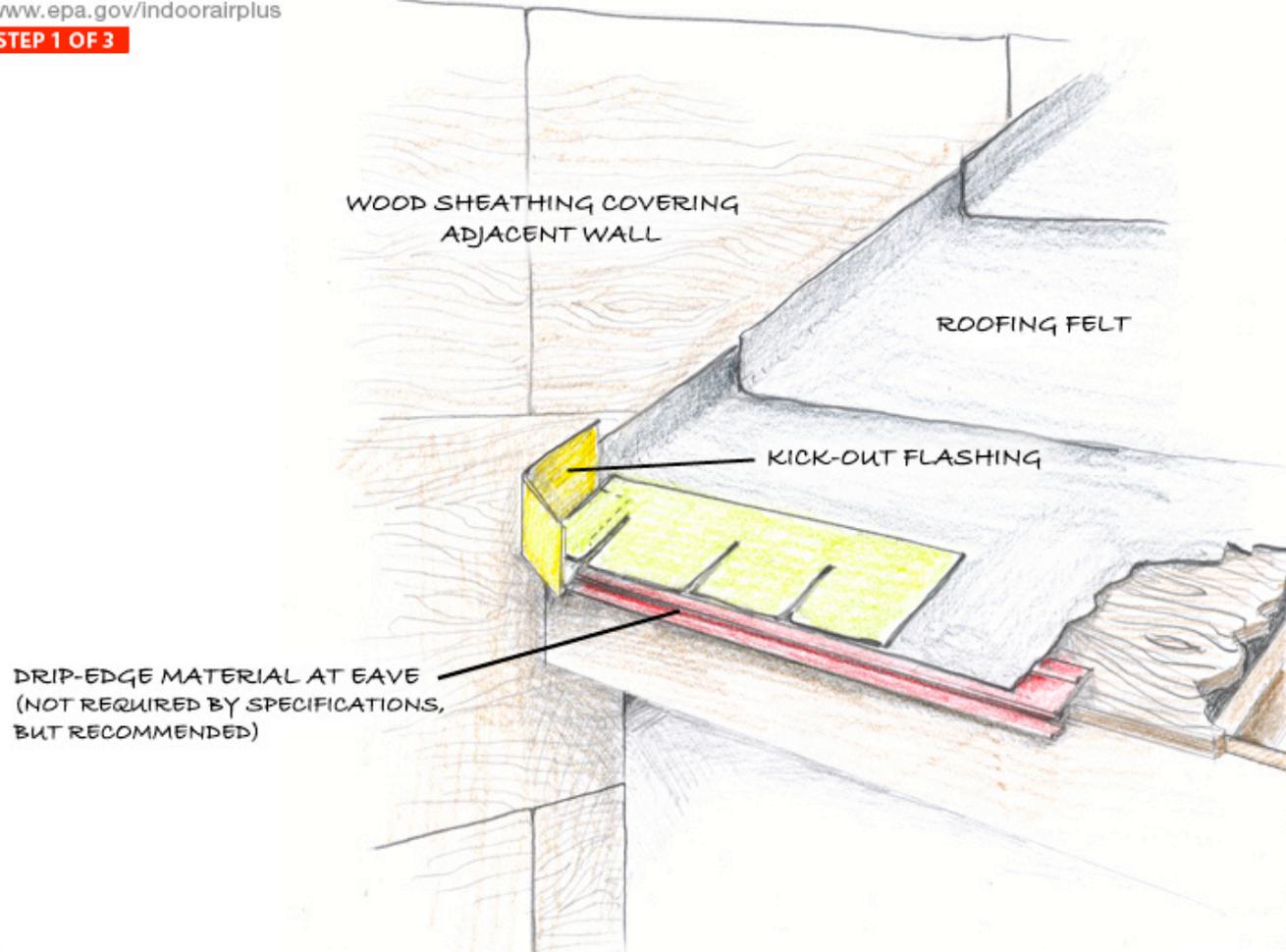


# Roof flashing

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.8

[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

**STEP 1 OF 3**



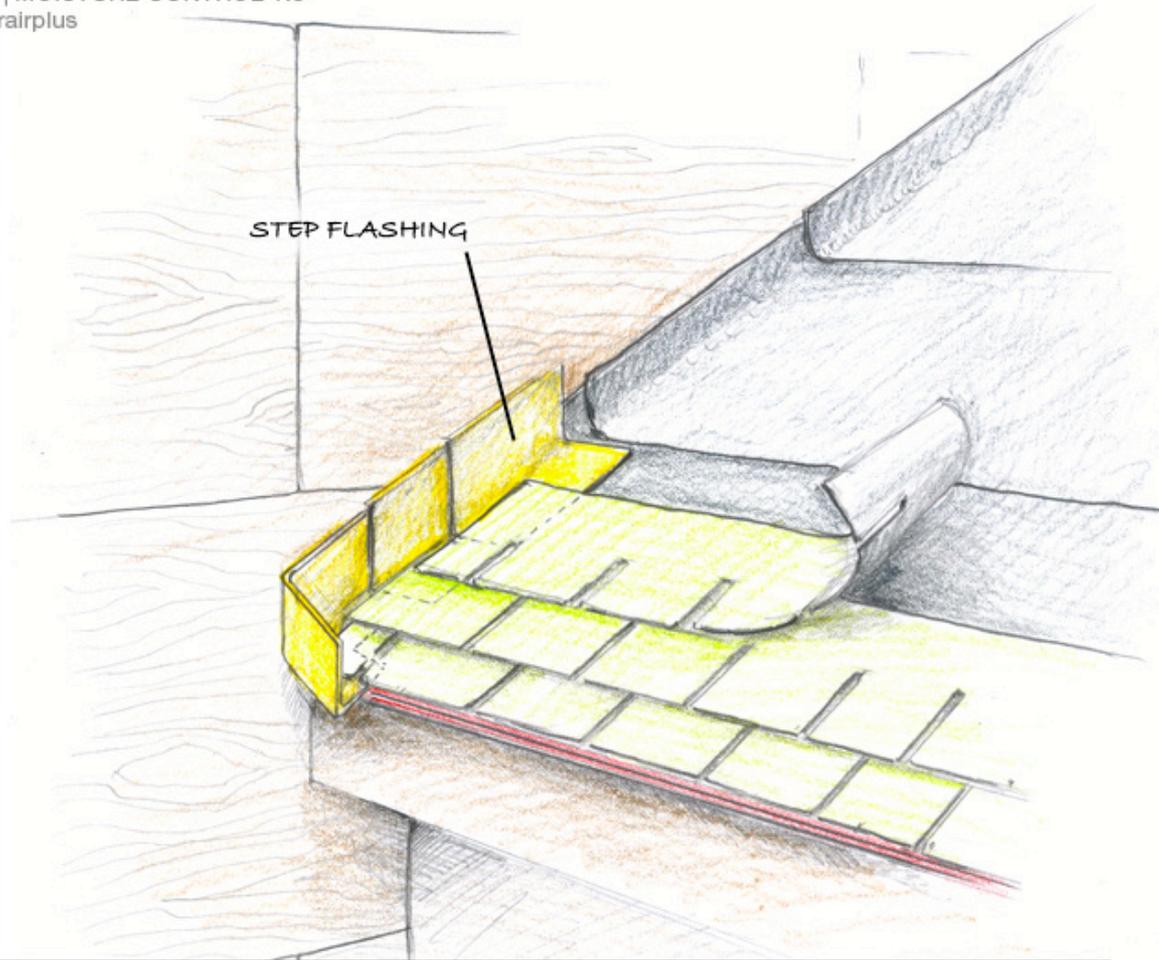
KICK-OUT FLASHING - BEGINNING RUN OF STEP FLASHING

# Roof flashing

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.8

[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

STEP 2 OF 3

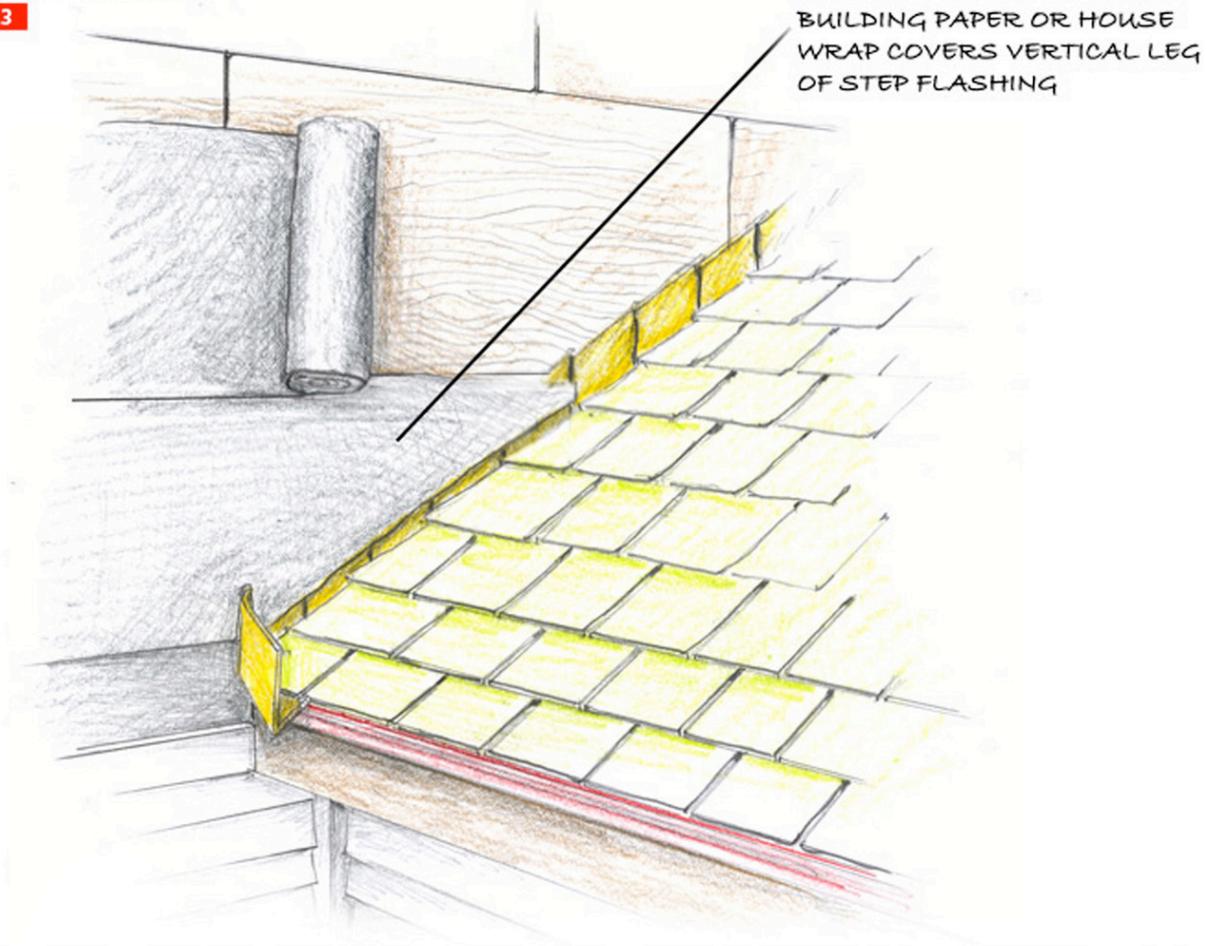


SUCCESSIVE SECTIONS OF STEP FLASHING INTEGRATED  
WITH COURSES OF SHINGLES

# Roof flashing

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.8  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

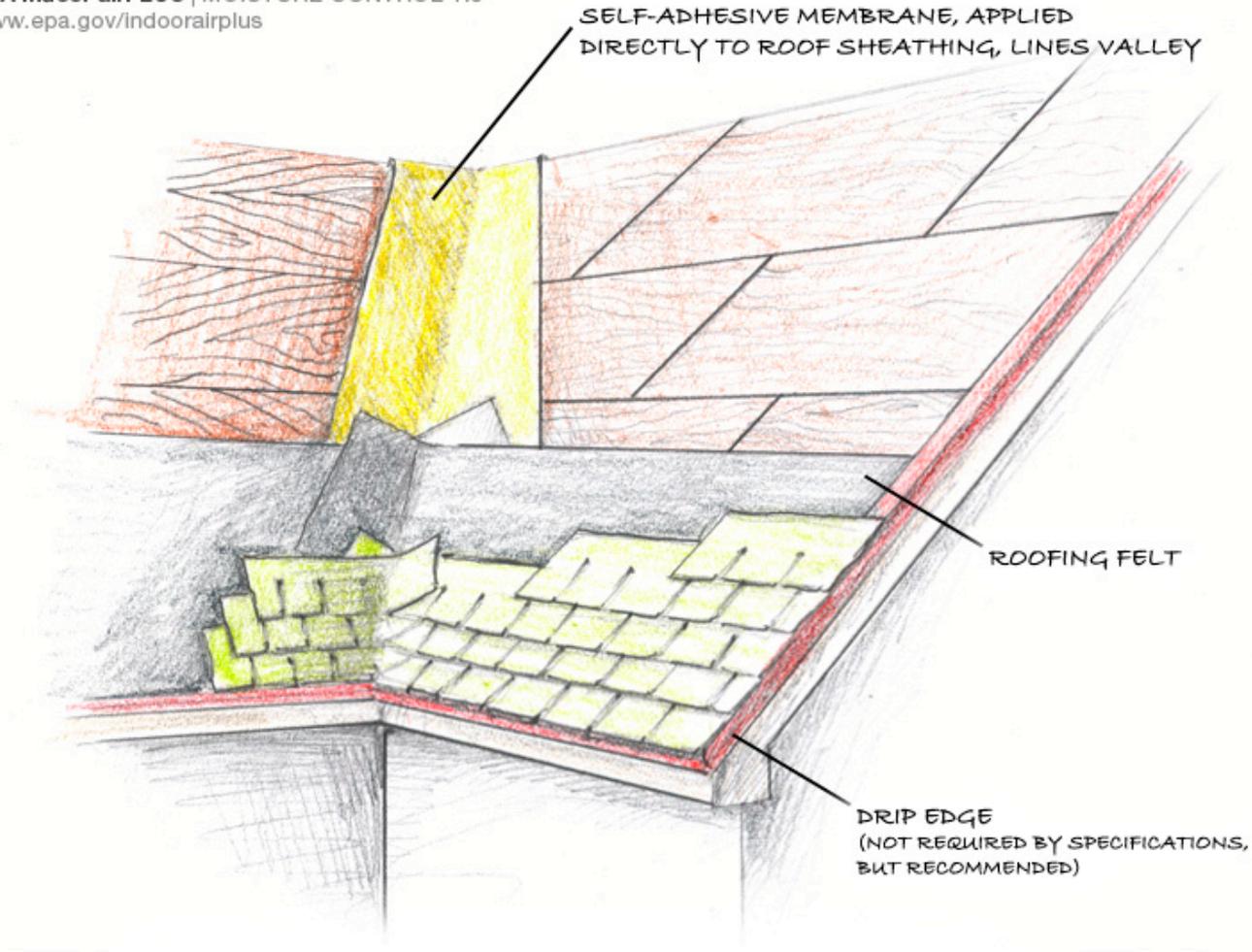
**STEP 3 OF 3**



DRAINAGE PLANE MATERIAL COVERS STEP FLASHING

# Membrane protection of roof valleys

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MEMBRANE PROTECTION OF ROOF VALLEY

# Membrane protection of roof valleys

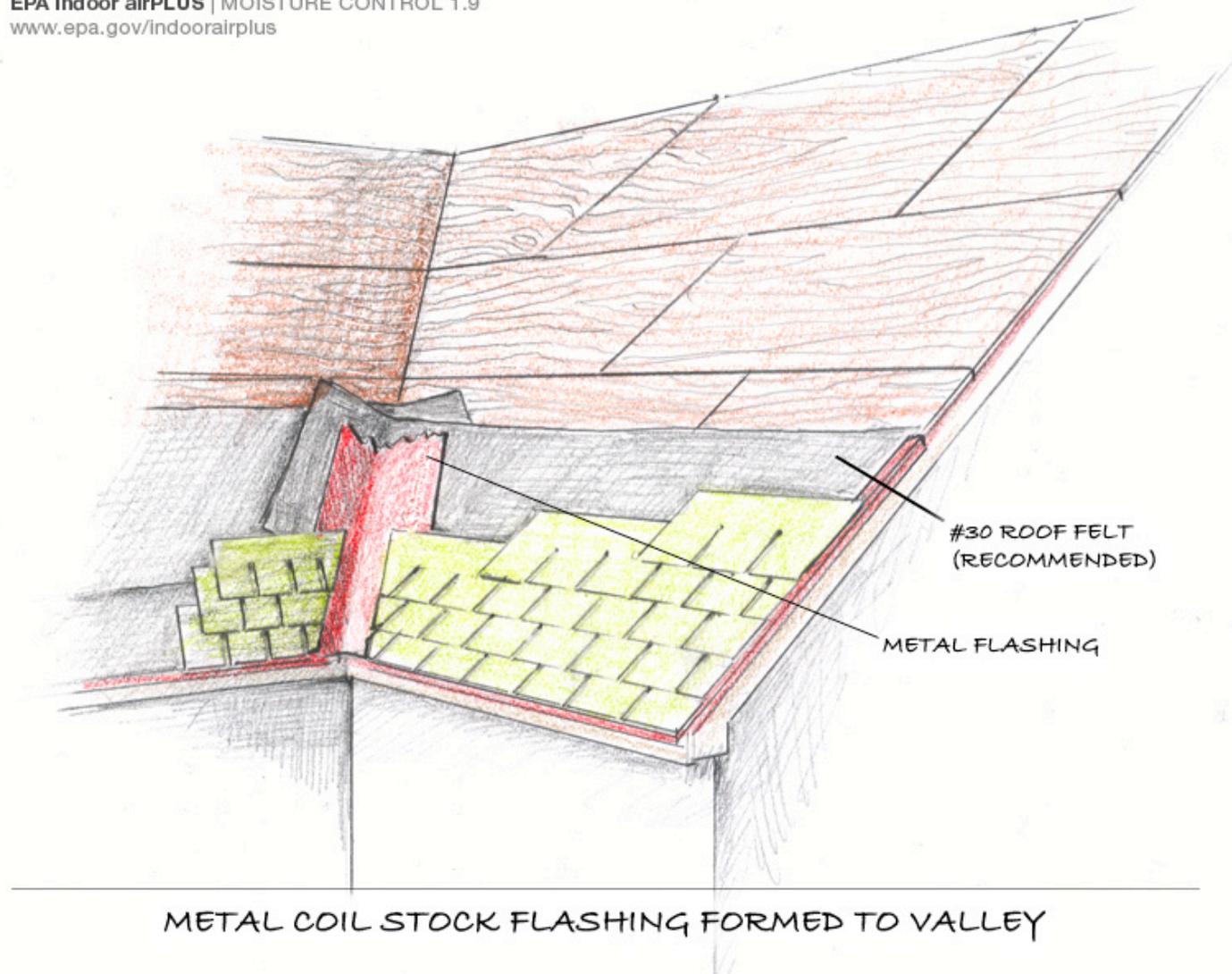
EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.9  
[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)



"PEEL AND STICK" MEMBRANE APPLIED TO ROOF VALLEY

# Metal flashing and roof valleys

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.9  
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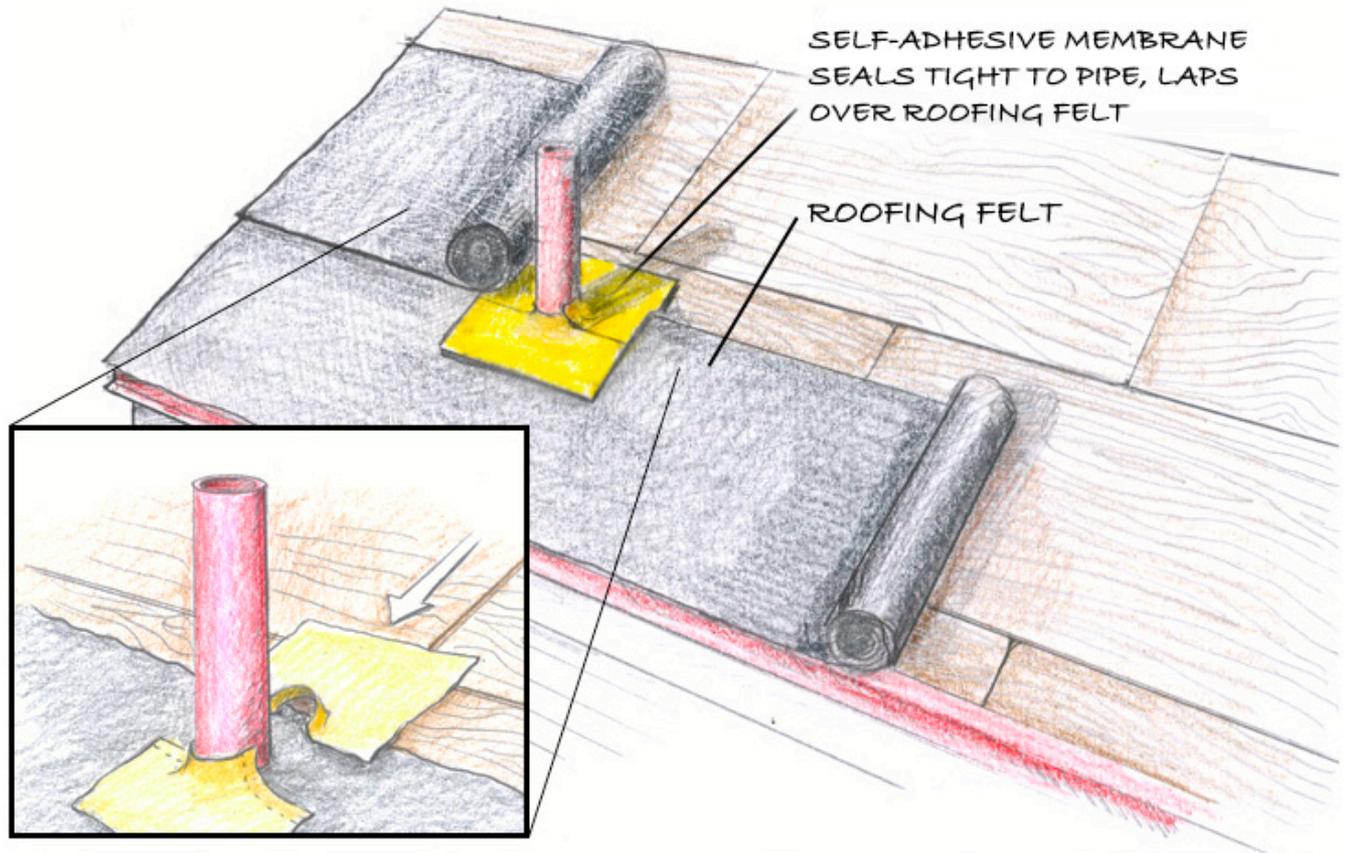


# Membranes and roof vents

EPA Indoor airPLUS | MOISTURE CONTROL 1.9

[www.epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus)

**STEP 1 OF 4**



STEP 1 - PLUMBING VENT STACK - "PEEL AND STICK" MEMBRANE

# Don't install wet materials!



MEASURING MOISTURE IN VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS

# **AIR CAVITIES FOR MOISTURE MANAGEMENT**

# Air cavities

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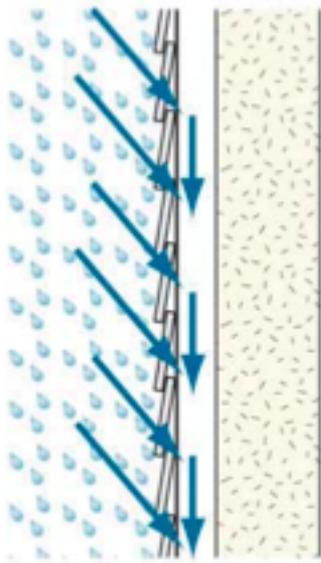
- Air cavities can provide beneficial breaks to:
  - Stop capillary suction
  - Allow flashings to direct gravity flow to exterior
  - Allow for pressure equalization to force rain back to exterior
- Intentional “**drain-screen**” walls and “**rain screen**” walls

# Drain-screen walls

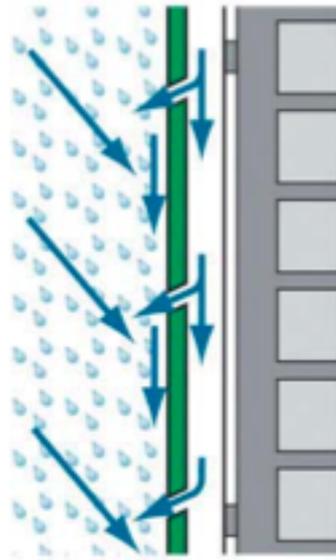
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- A **drain-screen** wall allows some water to penetrate the outer layer of a wall assembly
  - But uses the air cavity to break most water transport
  - Uses that air space for drainage
    - Air space should be at least 5 mm wide, although 10 mm is a better minimum to allow for normal construction tolerances
- The screen-drained wall then uses properly designed and installed flashing to redirect water from the drainage plane back outside the cavity
- Examples include cavity walls, brick and stone veneer, vinyl siding, and drained EIFS (synthetic stucco)
  - We've already seen these

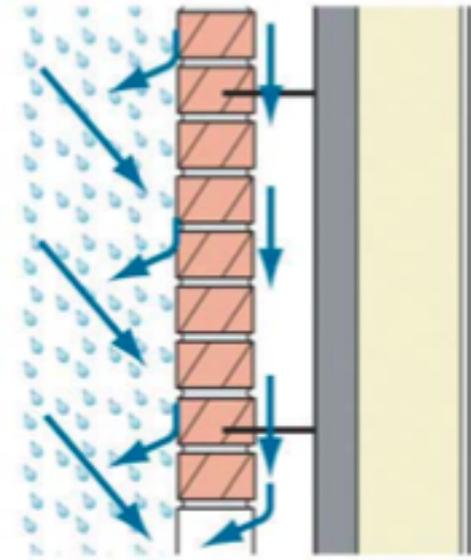
# Drain-screen walls



Lap Siding



Panel Cladding Systems



Masonry Veneer

Each requires: (1) screen or cladding; (2) drainage gap; (3) drainage plane; (4) flashing at the base to direct water outwards; and (5) drain holes or weep holes to allow water out

# Rain-Screen Wall

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- If we are a little more careful in the design of the air cavity between the outer layer and inner layers we can improve performance
- If the cavity has holes to the outside and the inside layer has an air barrier
  - The cavity will actually be pressurized to a pressure similar to outside
  - This will keep water from being driven into the cavity with by the pressure difference
  - We call this wall design a **rain screen** wall

# Rain screen wall: Prevent momentum driven rain

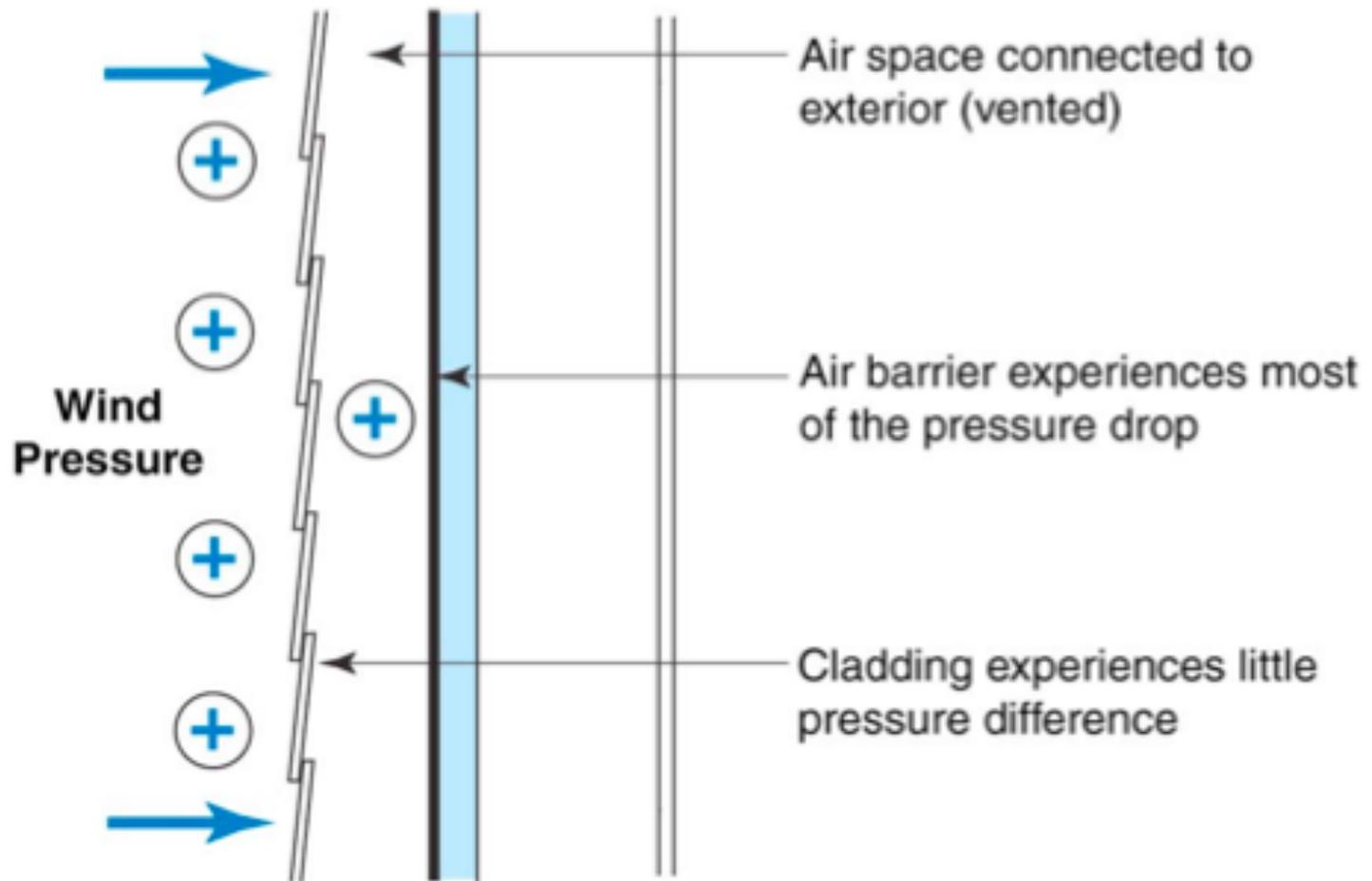
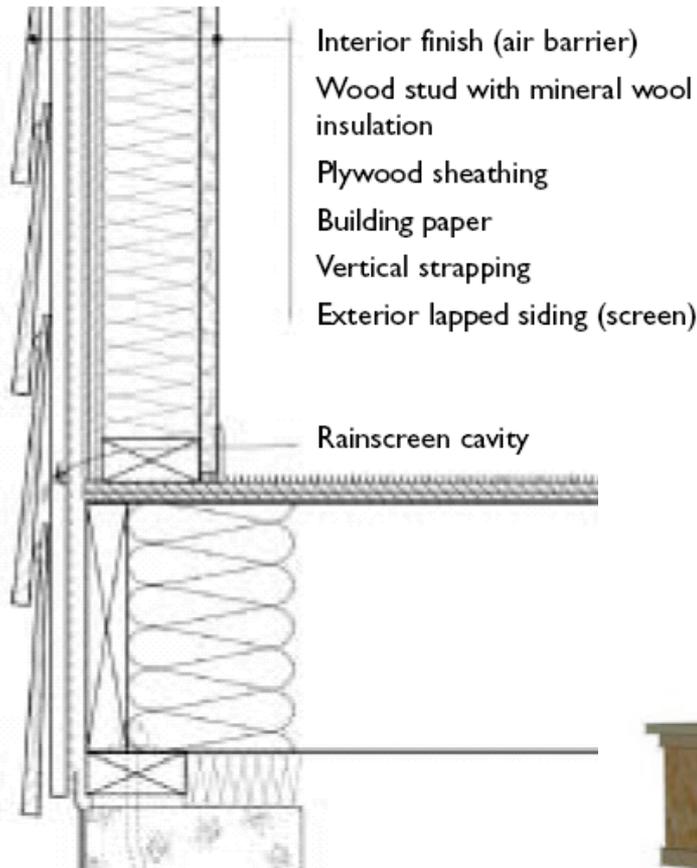
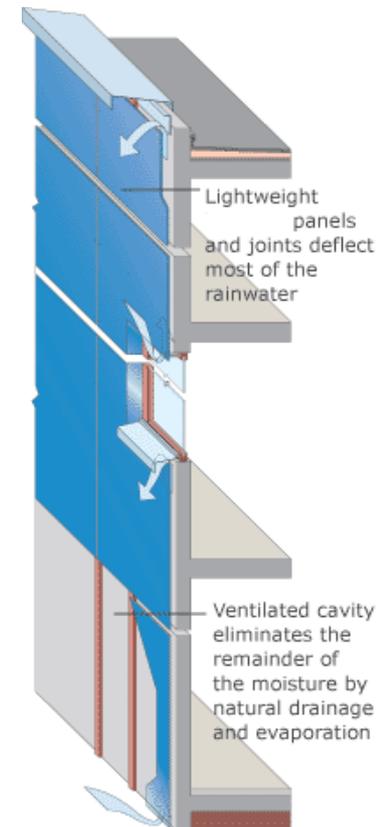
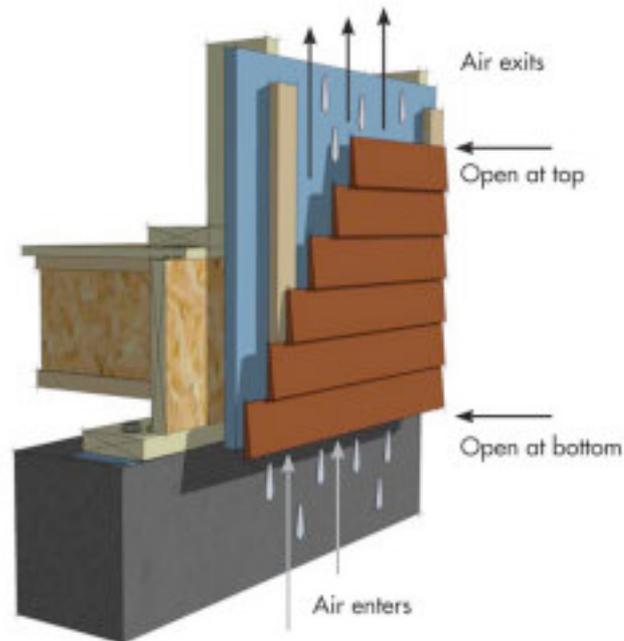


Figure 7: Pressure Moderated Air Space

# Open rain screen



- A wall with siding will have natural air gaps
- Siding gaps act as a vent opening for drainage and drying
- Must have an air barrier somewhere on interior wall



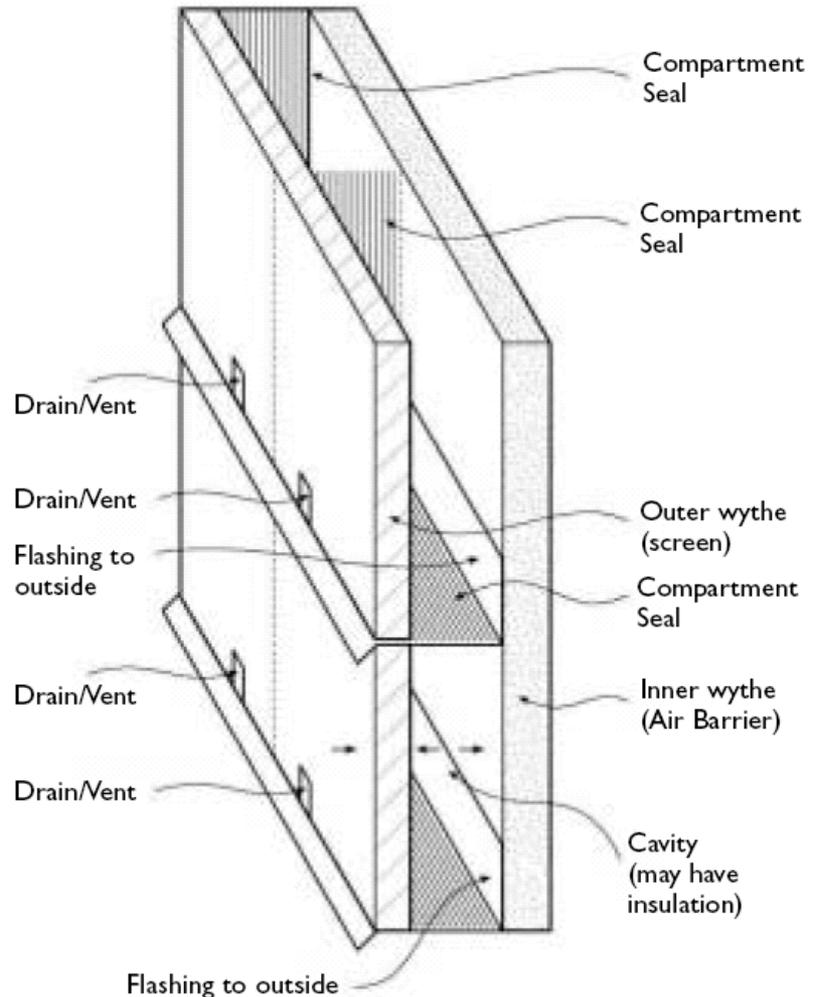
# Pressure equalized rain screen (PER)

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- Another type of rain screen is **pressure equalized**
- Used more for taller buildings
- Allows compartmentalization of façade into chambers
  - Makes the pressure in the air cavity track outside air pressure
  - Stops the rain from even entering the cavity (if driven by pressure difference)
- PER screens are useful in high rain areas but are usually too expensive for general wall design

# Basic PER design

- **Flashing**
  - Directs dripping water to the exterior drains
- **Drain/Vents**
  - Act as openings for pressure equalization
  - Allow rain that enters cavity to drain out
- **Compartmental Seals**
  - Breaks the interior cavity into smaller sections



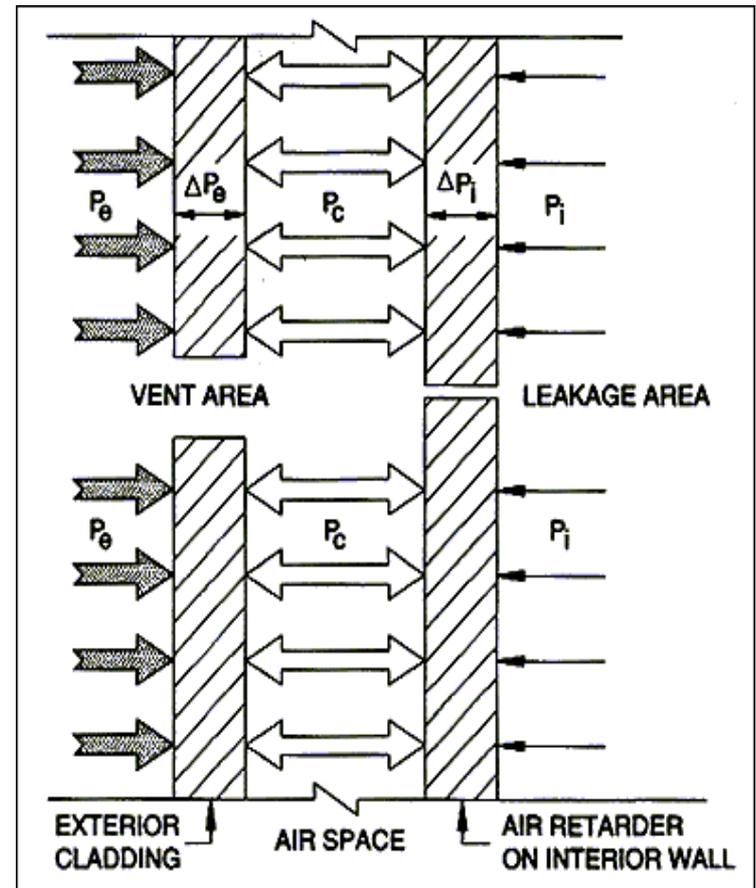
# Pressure Equalized Rain Screen (PER)

- Large opening in exterior cladding increases cavity pressure equal to that of exterior so rain doesn't enter

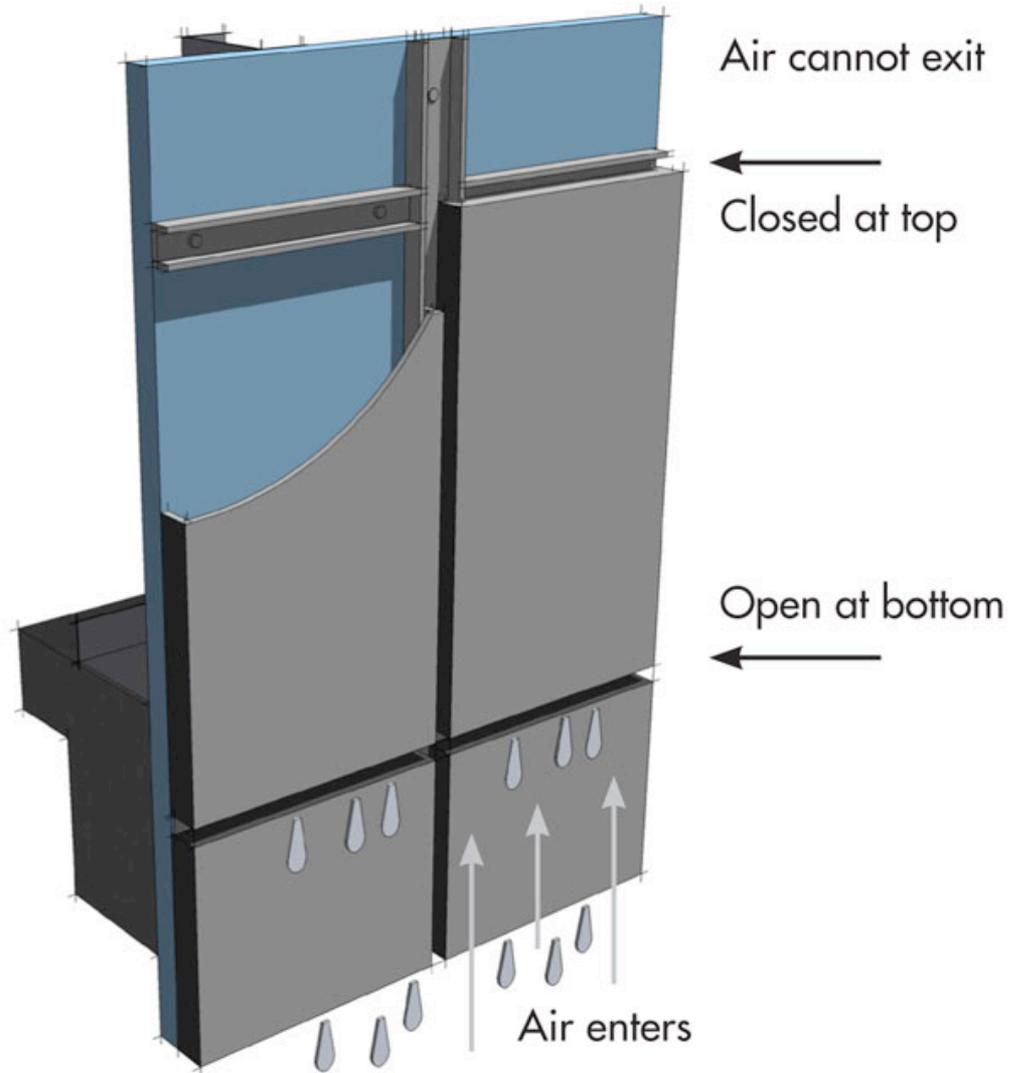
$$P_c \approx P_e, \Delta P_e \rightarrow 0$$

- Interior wall must have an air barrier to ensure that high cavity pressure is maintained

$$P_c > P_i, \Delta P_i > 0$$



# PER detail



# What happens when you don't address these?

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- Michaels Engineering report on construction defects and resultant water damage in a Wisconsin condominium
  - Confidential
  - Names have been changed/erased to protect the innocent (and I suppose the guilty as well)
  - Just show in class (can't provide as a handout)

# Moisture management rules

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- Remember:
  - For a moisture problem to occur
    - There must a source
    - There must be a route
    - There must be a driving force
    - The materials involved must be susceptible
  - Eliminate any one will avoid a problem, in theory
  - In practice, difficult to:
    - Remove all moisture sources
    - Build walls with no imperfections
    - Remove all driving forces for moisture movement
    - So, if you can address two of these
      - You will reduce the likelihood of having a problem

# Susceptibility and vulnerability

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- As we've seen, different materials and assemblies vary in their susceptibility to moisture-related damage
- Standards, codes, and industry criteria help assess susceptibility of materials
- Susceptible materials are susceptible only in a vulnerable environment
  - Responsibility of designers and builders to ensure that a material or assembly are used in appropriate manners
  - Location is a primary determinant of exposure
    - The location of the relevant portion of material on the wall
      - The wall on the building
        - The building on the site
          - And of the geographical region of the site

# Moisture management

---

- “This is a durable, high-performance wall assembly”
  - Means nothing without context of climate and purpose
  - Is the enclosure expected to separate an operating room from the Antarctic winter?
    - Or a warehouse from the Saharan desert?
  - Using a material that is not supposedly susceptible to moisture damage in locations with high wetting potential often leads to a problem
    - Good quality face brick in window sills

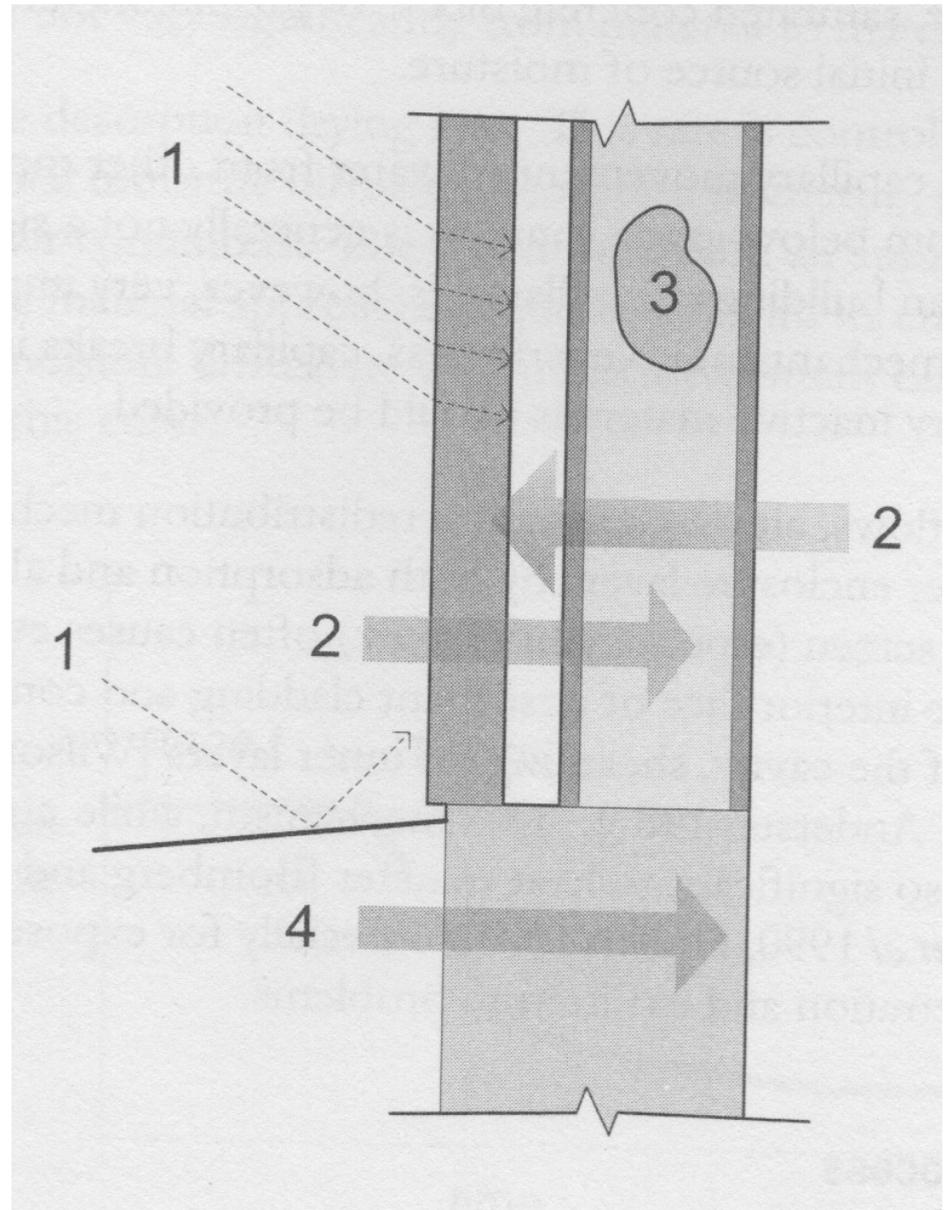
# Moisture control

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- If a balance between wetting and drying is maintained
  - Moisture will not accumulate over time
    - Moisture problems would then be unlikely
- Need to be cognizant of:
  - Moisture sources
  - Moisture removal mechanisms
  - Moisture storage

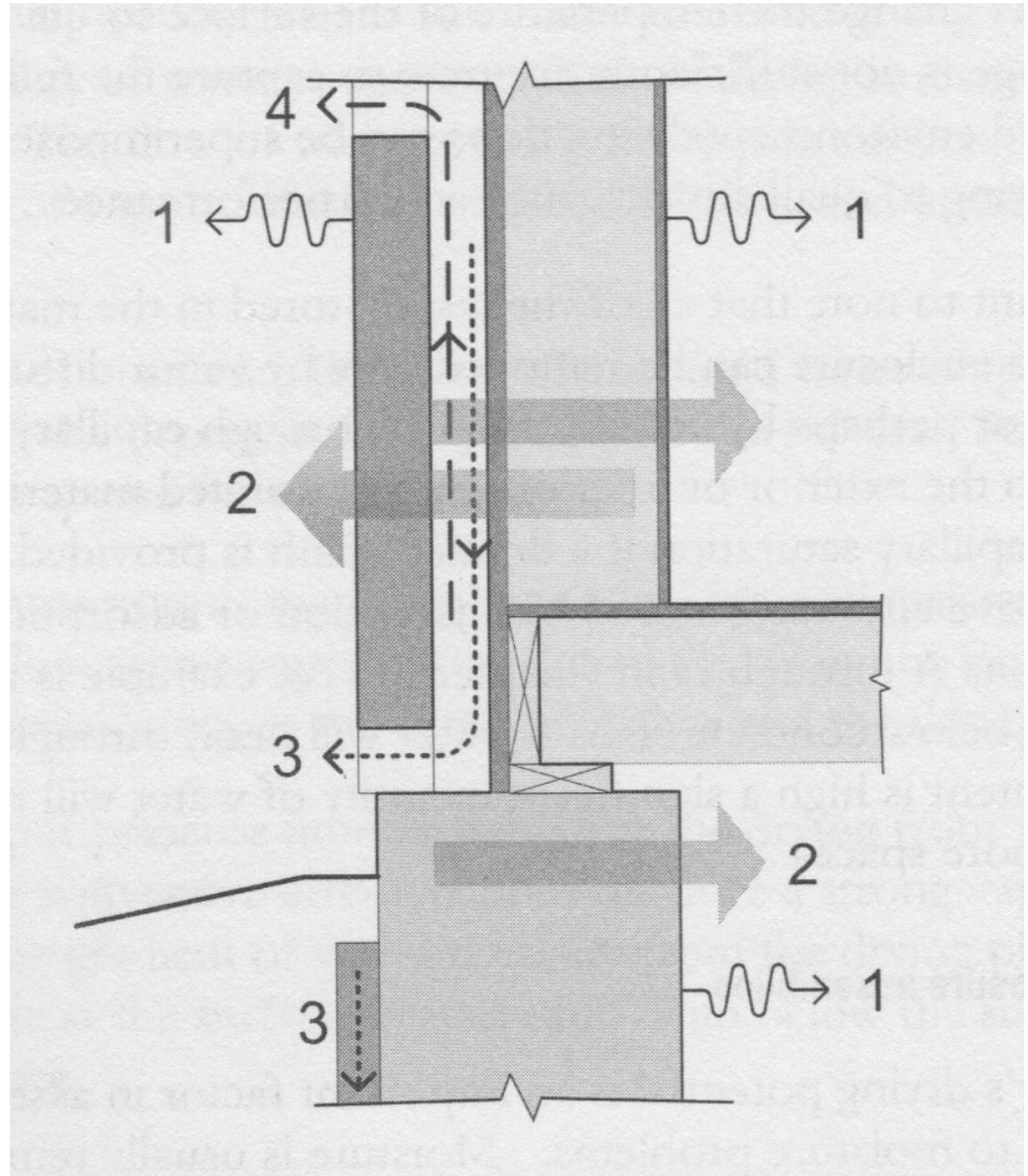
# Wetting process (sources)

1. Precipitation
  - Driving rain
2. Water vapor transport
  - Diffusion
  - Air leakage
3. Built-in and stored moisture
  - During construction
4. Ground water



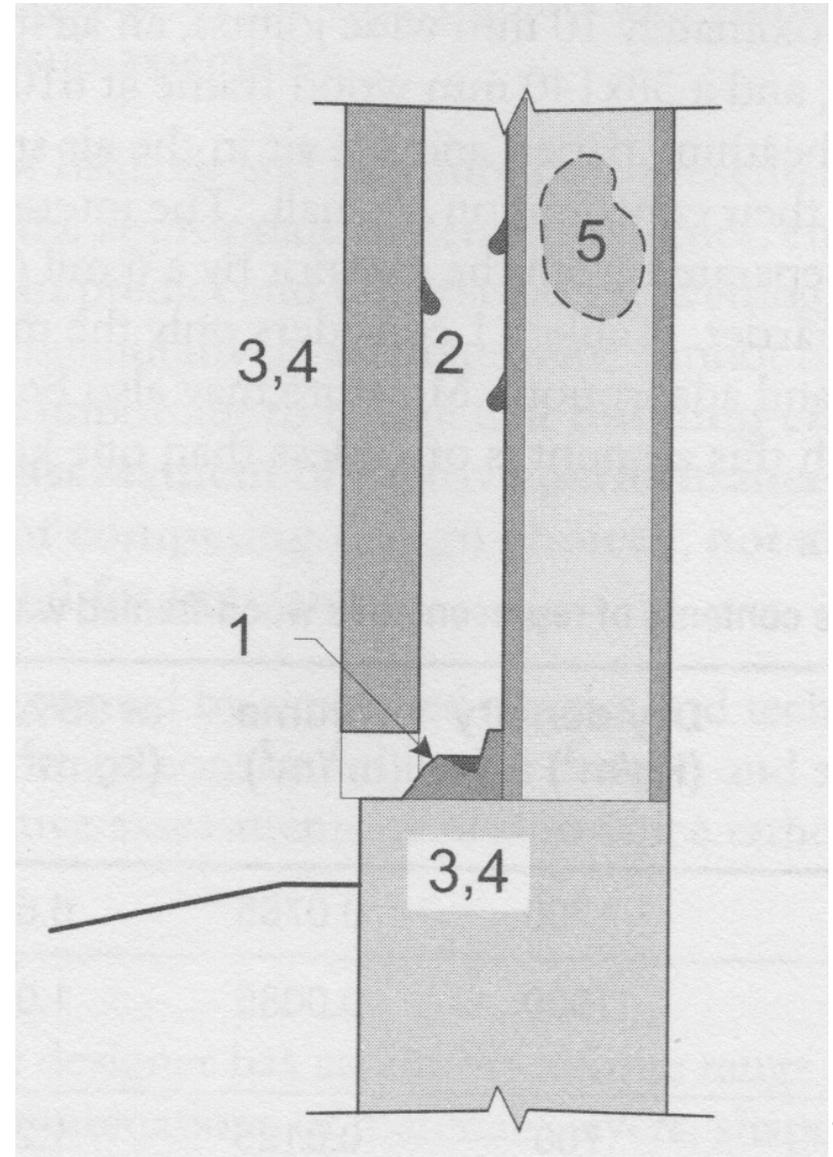
# Drying mechanisms

1. Evaporation
2. Vapor transport
  - Diffusion
  - Air leakage
  - Outward or inward
3. Drainage
  - Driven by gravity
4. Ventilation drying



# Moisture storage

1. Trapped in small depressions
  - Poorly drained portions of assemblies
2. Adhered by surface tension to materials
  - Droplets
  - Or even frost or ice
3. Adsorbed in or on hygroscopic building materials
  - Brick, wood, fibrous insulation, paper
4. Retained by capillarity (absorbed) in porous material
5. Stored in the air as vapor



# Condensation control

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- Two types that must be considered
  - Interior surface condensation
  - Interstitial (within enclosure) condensation
    - Just as important in hot-humid climates as in cold climates
- Like we've discussed, condensation on building surfaces is undesirable
  - On interior surfaces:
    - Moisture will damage moisture-sensitive finishes (wallpaper, paint, wood, gypsum wallboard)
    - Provides moisture for mold growth

# Condensation control

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- Surface condensation is often the result of dynamic/short-term variations in temperature or absolute humidity
  - Cold windy night
  - Cool morning
  - After a shower
  - During cooking
  
  - Need to consider these events

# Condensation control

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- Most modern enclosure walls and roofs are well insulated such that interior surface condensation in winter shouldn't be a problem
  - In winter, interior surface temperature is high enough to not be below indoor air dew point
- Surface condensation becomes a problem when:
  - Thermal resistance of the enclosure is low (i.e., at thermal bridges)
  - Surface film has an unusually high value
  - Interior humidity is very high

# Designing enclosures for moisture control

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- Building enclosure design usually involves the assessment of relative performance, pass-fail assessments, or the ranking of competing design choices
  - Not absolute values
  - Rarely a need for absolute precision
- Results generated by the simplified physics and solution techniques so far should be considered
  - Applied to arrive at reliable relative assessments
    - Rather than precise quantities

# Designing enclosures for moisture control

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- Material choices
  - You have an almost infinite range of choices considering possible combinations of
    - Materials
    - Layers
    - Shape
    - Orientation
  - There are no universally “good” materials

# **VAPOR AND AIR BARRIERS**

Applications

# Vapor permeance/resistance measures

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- $M_v$  = vapor permeance [IP perms]  $\approx$  [57.2 ng/(s·m<sup>2</sup>·Pa)]
  - $M_v < 0.1$  is a vapor barrier
  - $0.1 < M_v < 1$  is a vapor retarder
  - $1 < M_v < 10$  is vapor semi-permeable
  
- $Z = 1/M_v$  = vapor resistance [IP reps, inverse of  $M_v$ ]
  - $Z > 10$  is a vapor barrier
  - $1 < Z < 10$  is a vapor retarder
  - $0.1 < Z < 1$  is a vapor semi-permeable
  
- Vapor resistance is tested using ASTM E96

# Materials: Vapor barriers and vapor retarders

- Vapor barriers are used in certain climates when condensation would be a regular occurrence
  - Hot-humid climates and very cold climates
- Vapor retarders are useful in many more climates
  - Cold and Mixed climates
  - Sealing is not as important with a pure vapor barrier

Type	Perms (IP units) [grains/(hr ft <sup>2</sup> inHg)]	SI units [ng/(s m <sup>2</sup> Pa)]	Example
Class I vapor retarder Vapor barrier Vapor impermeable	0.1 or less	5.7	Foil Polyethylene
Class II vapor retarder Vapor semi-impermeable	0.1-1	5.7-57	Brick XPS
Class III vapor retarder Vapor semi-permeable	1-10	57-570	Poly-iso EPS
Vapor permeable NOT a vapor retarder	10+	570+	Gypsum board

# Vapor barriers: Good or bad?

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- While vapor barriers/retarders can reduce vapor diffusion regardless of where they are placed
  - They must be placed carefully in order to ensure that the potential for condensation is minimized
- In hot and humid climates
  - Vapor barriers go toward the outside of the enclosure
- In very cold climates
  - Vapor barriers go toward the inside of the enclosure
- In mixed or cold environments
  - *Vapor retarders* should be used (not barriers), or you may have problems in the opposite seasons
- Largely depends on climate and order of material installation

# Interior vapor barriers

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- Insulation with Kraft Paper
  - Kraft paper is a barrier at low humidity and a retarder at high humidity
  - Kraft paper also holds some moisture so light condensation is not a problem
  - Not an air barrier as commonly installed (stapled)



- Polyethylene sheet (discouraged)
  - This is a vapor barrier installed after insulation
  - Polyethylene holds no moisture so condensation results in standing water
  - Not an air barrier as commonly installed



# Below-grade enclosures and polyethylene sheets

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Photograph 2: Interior Frame Wall With Plastic Vapor Barrier

- Plastic vapor barrier prevents inward drying
- Common outcome are odor, mold, decay and corrosion problems

# Paints as vapor barriers/retarders

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- Latex paints and primers are available in permeable, semi-permeable, or nearly impermeable forms
  - Typical latex paint has  $5 < M < 10$  perm
  - Benjamin Moore Vapor Retardant Primer has  $M \approx 0.43$  perm
  - These are especially useful when membrane vapor barriers cannot be installed
- Be careful to ensure that your paint is not acting as a vapor barrier or retarder unless you **want it to** act as a barrier or retarder

# Liquid applied air barriers

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- Air and vapor barriers can be installed as spray on liquid barriers
- These systems can be installed quickly and avoid the need for taping and sealing



# Refer to Building Science Corp's website for more info

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- “Enclosures that work”
  - <http://www.buildingscience.com/doctypes/enclosures-that-work>
- “Designs that work”
  - <http://www.buildingscience.com/doctypes/designs-that-work>
- “Understanding vapor barriers”
  - <http://www.buildingscience.com/documents/digests/bsd-106-understanding-vapor-barriers>