

Joseph Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng, ASHRAE Fellow

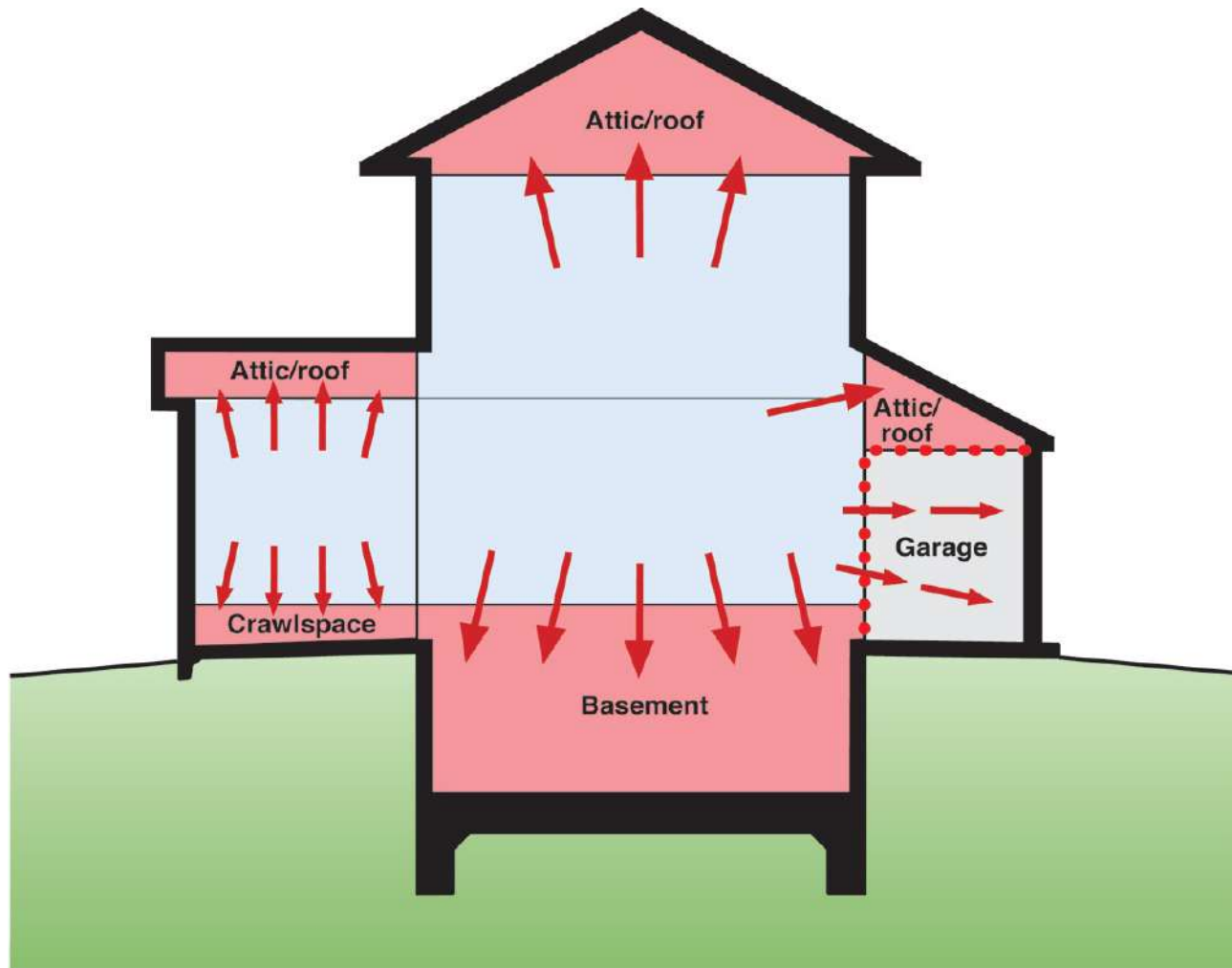
# Building Science

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Adventures In Building Science

[www.buildingscience.com](http://www.buildingscience.com)

# Basements



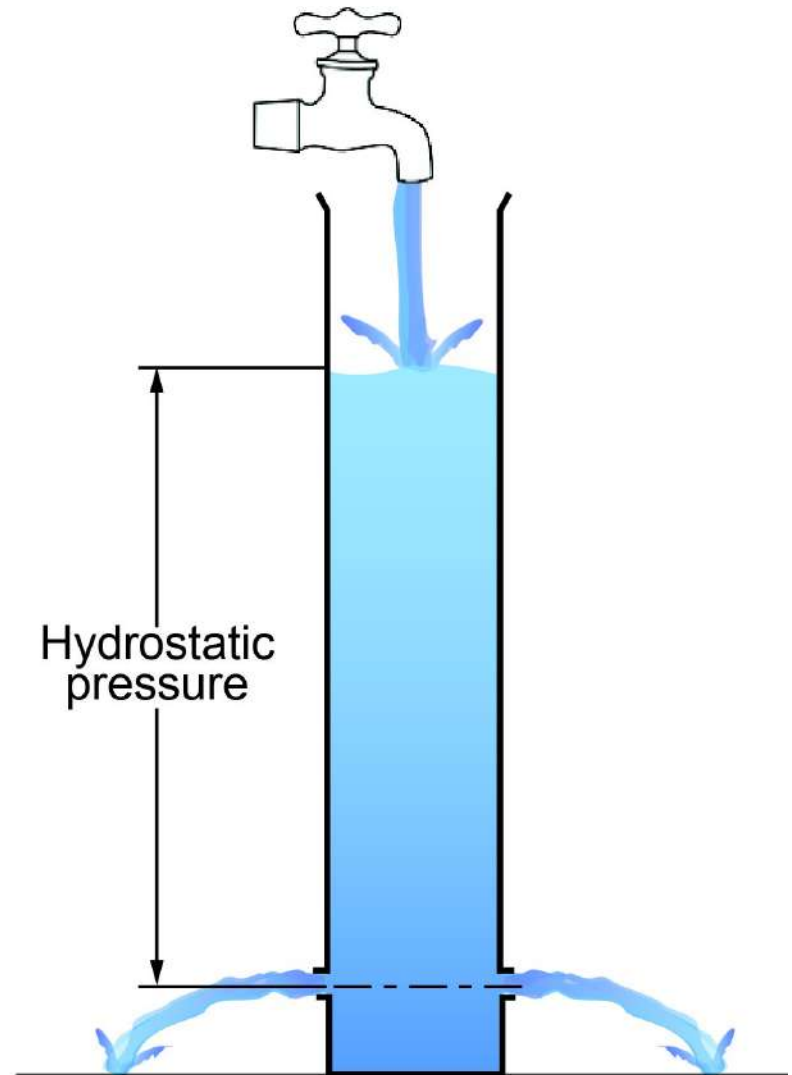
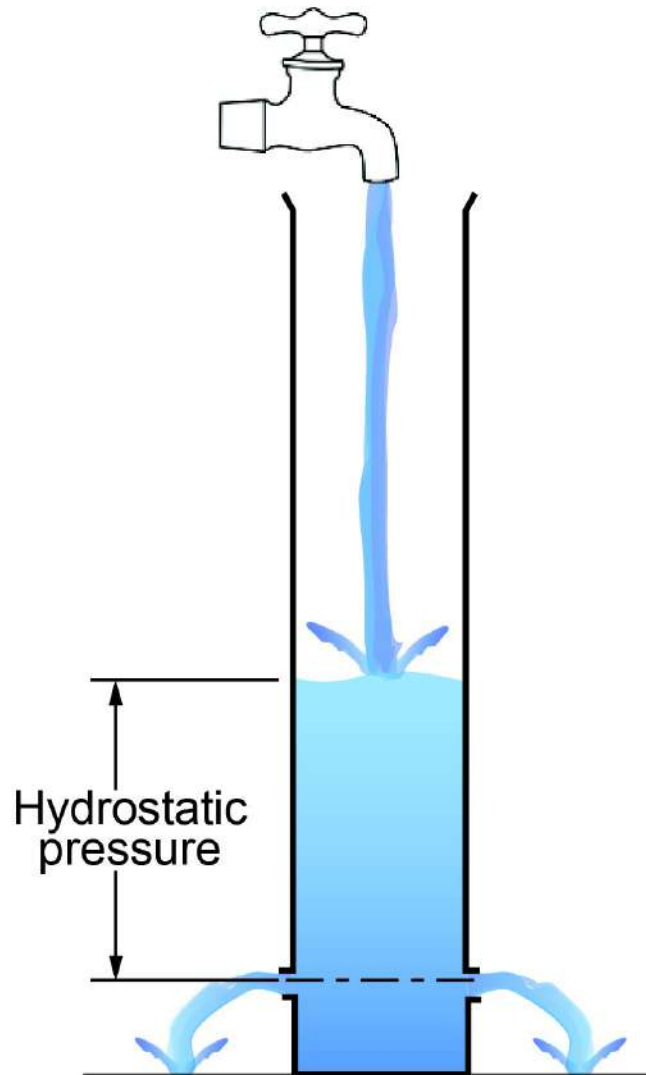
### Expansion of Conditioned Space

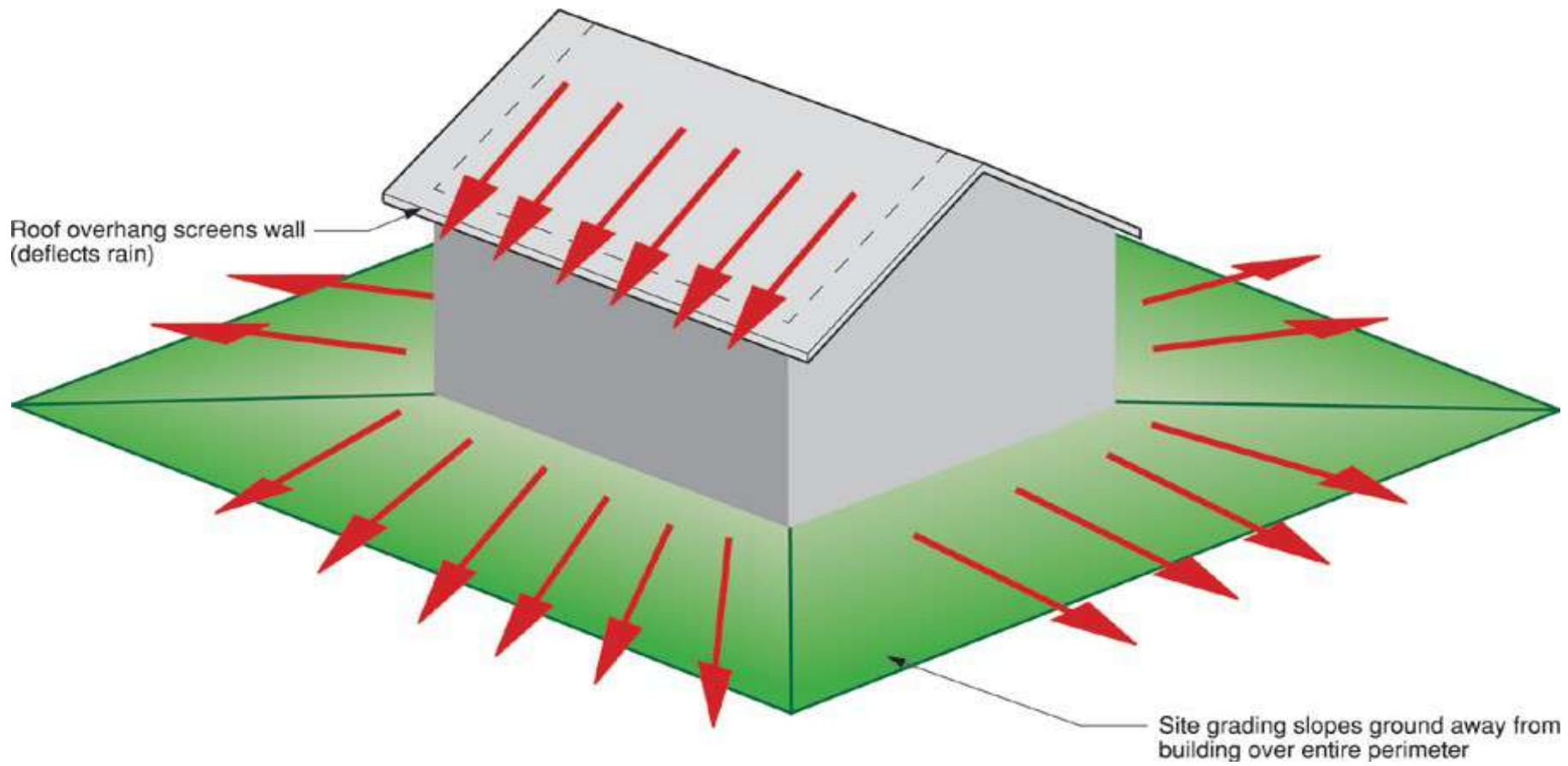
- Conditioned space boundaries moving towards exterior surfaces of building
- Garage isolated from house by air barrier/pressure boundary
- Garage ventilated and conditioned independently of rest of conditioned spaces

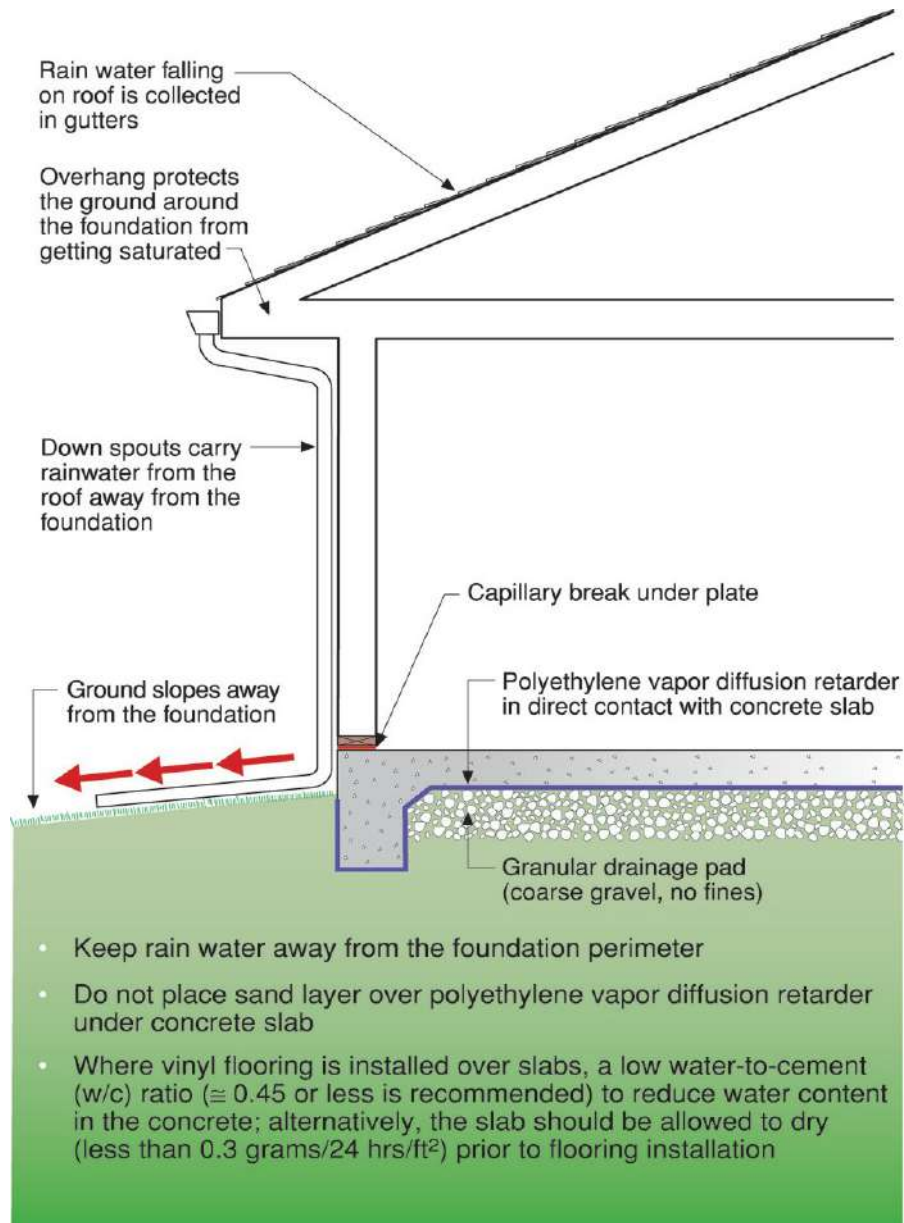
# Mechanisms of Flow

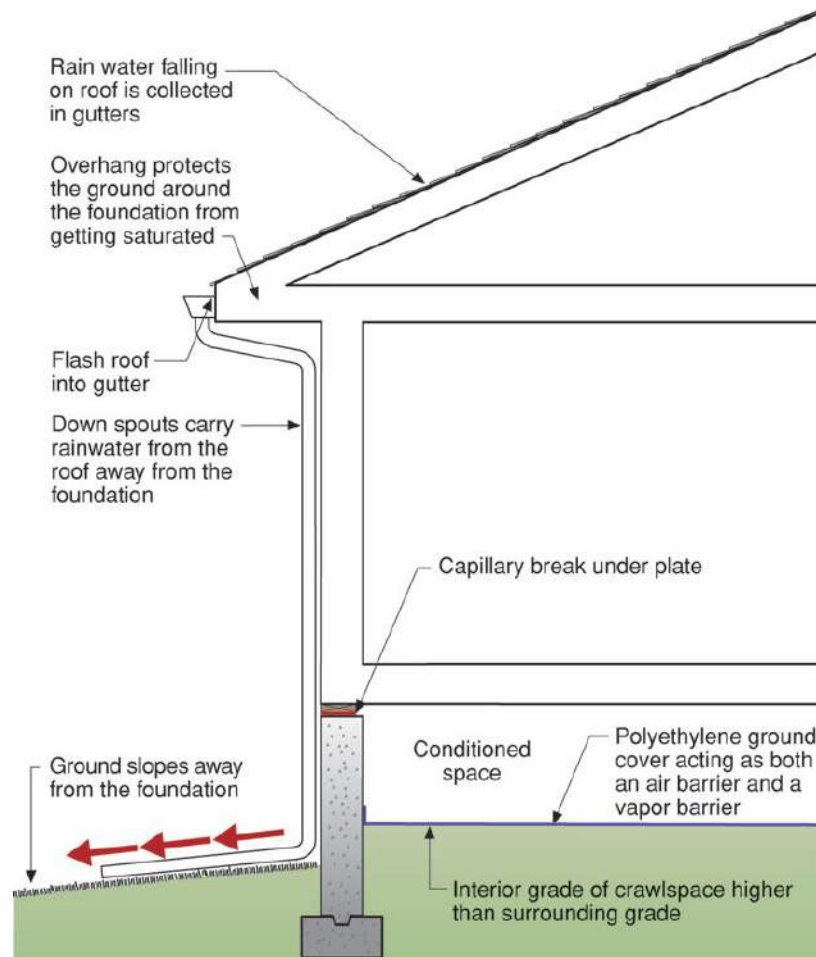
- Liquid    Gravitational    Hydrostatic Pressure  
              Capillary    Suction Pressure  
              Osmosis    Solute Concentration
- Vapor    Diffusion    Vapor Pressure  
              Convective    Air Pressure



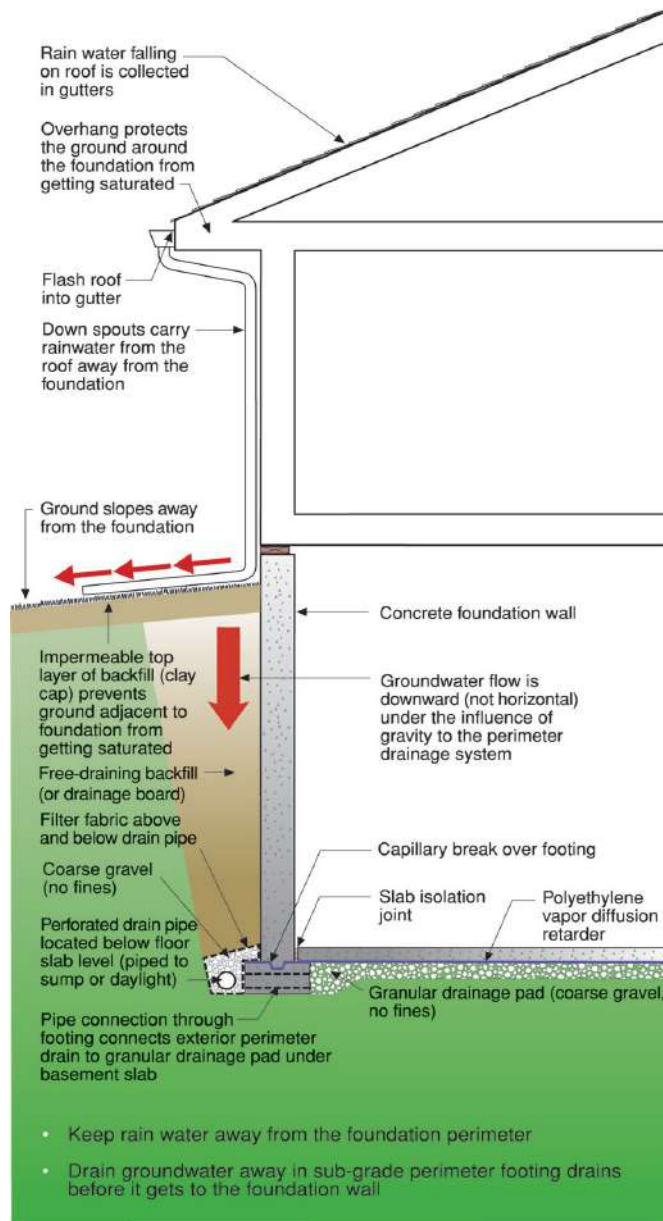






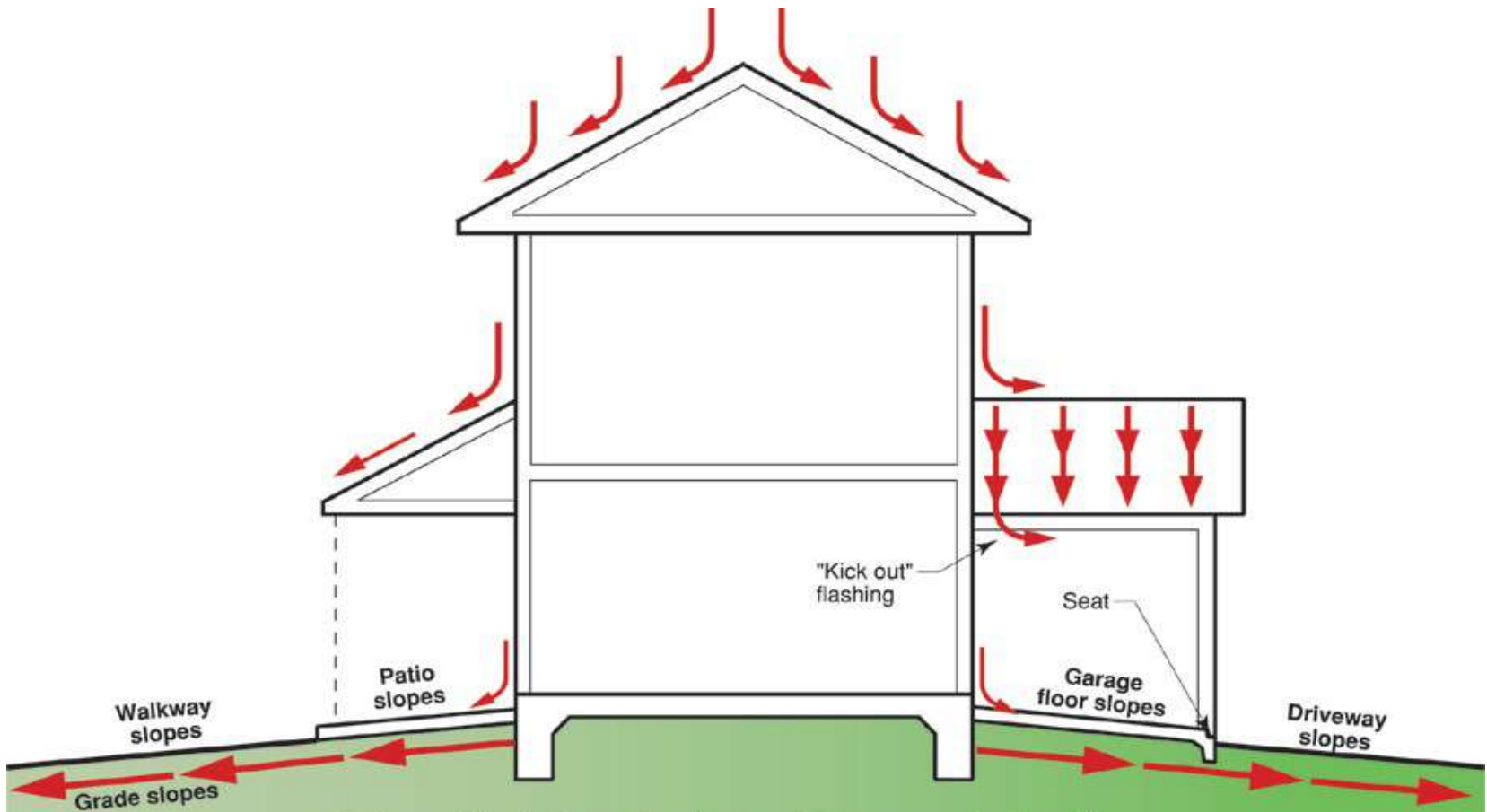


- Keep rain water away from the foundation perimeter
- If the interior crawlspace is lower than the exterior grade, a sub-grade perimeter footing drain is necessary as in a basement foundation
- The crawlspace is conditioned space; it is part of the "interior" of the building and should be heated, cooled and ventilated as part of the building's heating, cooling and ventilating strategy

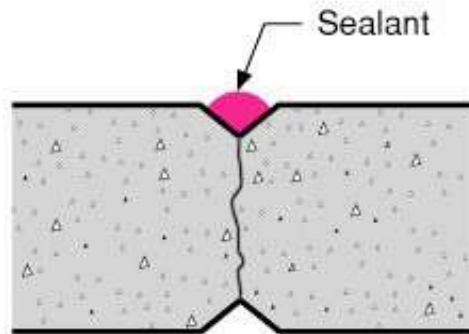
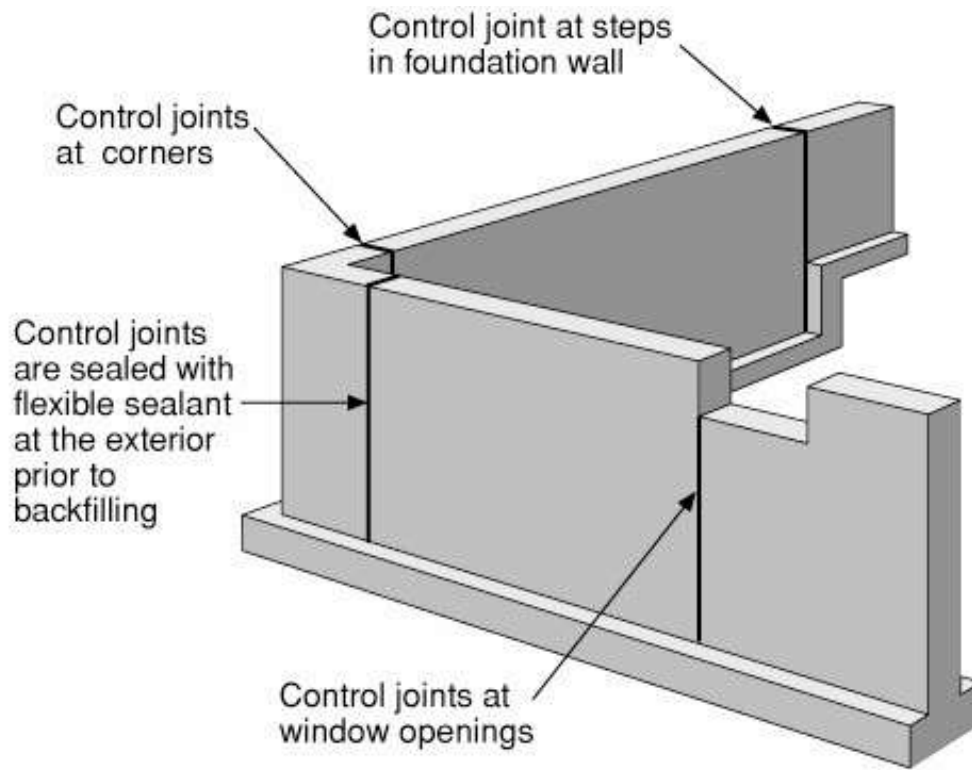




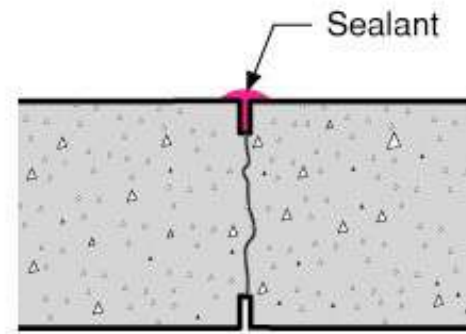




- Patios and decks lower than floors and slope away from building
- Garage floor lower than main floor and slope away from building
- Driveway lower than garage floor and slope away from building
- Grade lower than main floor and slope away from building
- Stoops and walkways lower than main floor and slope away from building
- Kick out flashings or diverters direct water away from walls at roof/wall intersections



Diagonally cut 2 x 2's in forms provide goose neck joint

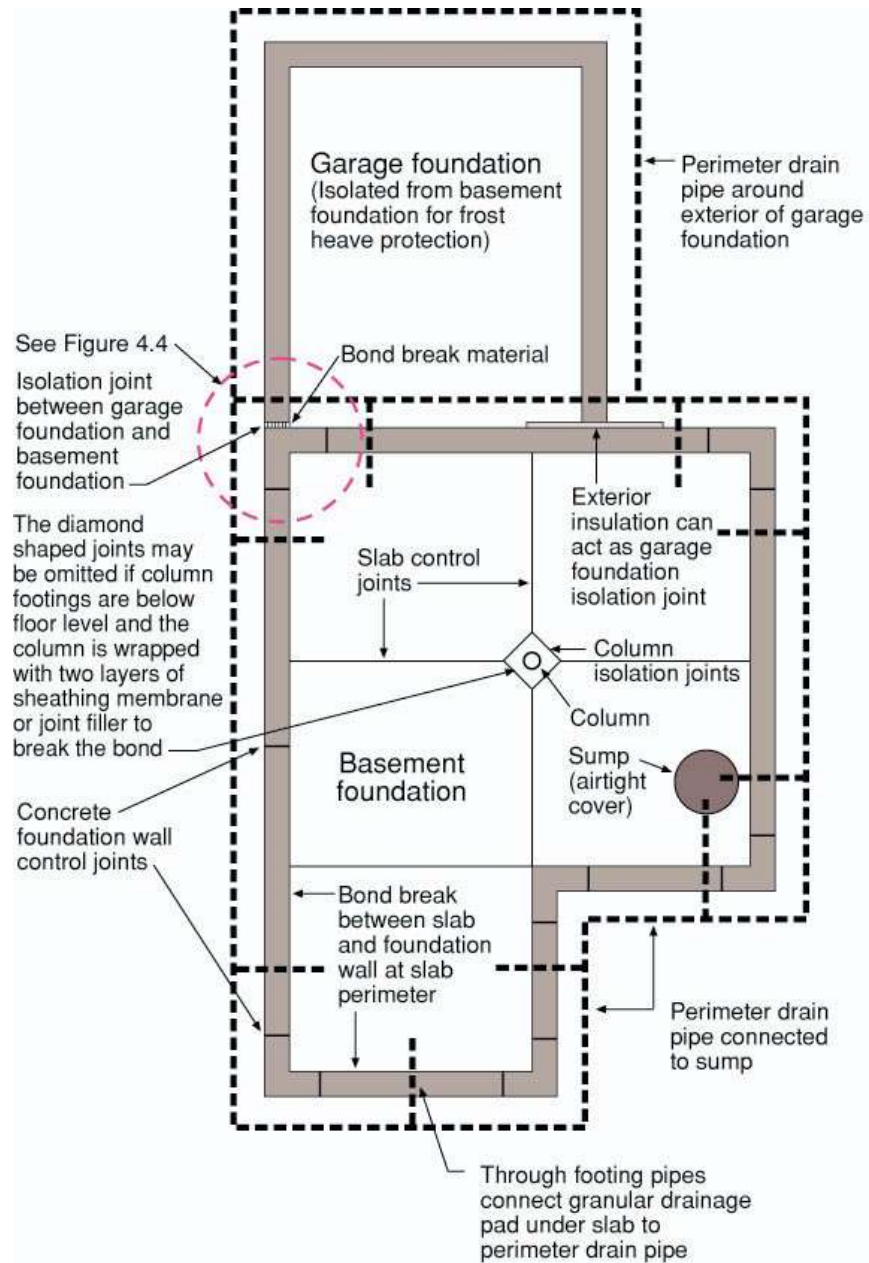


Saw cut joint









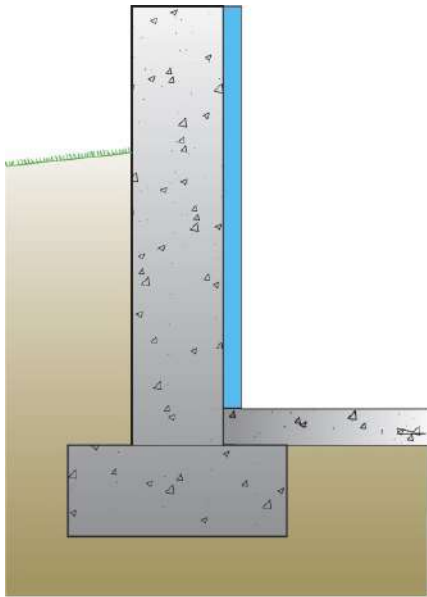




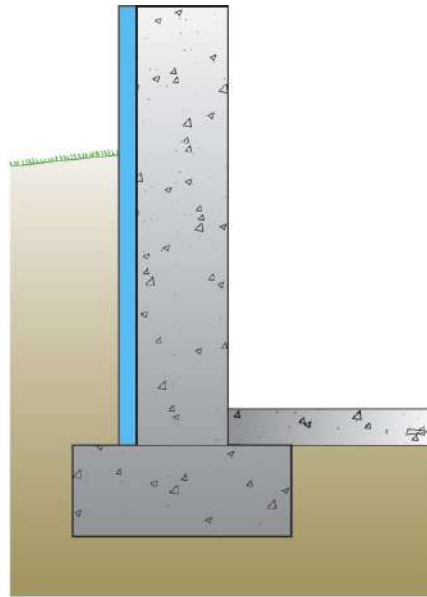




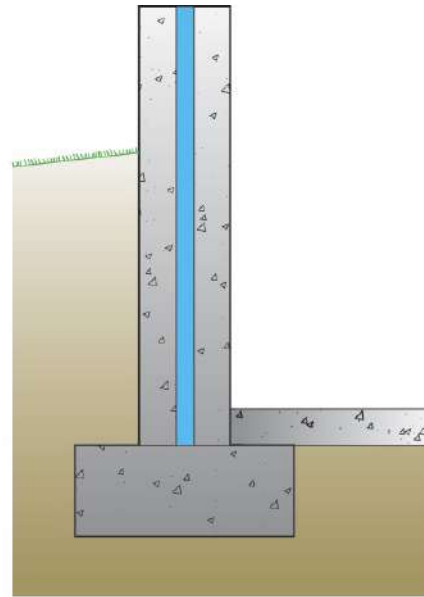




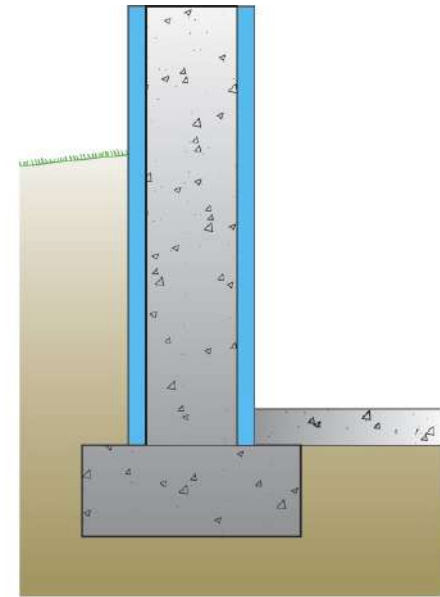
**Internally Insulated  
Basement**



**Externally Insulated  
Basement**



**Basement Insulated in  
the Middle**

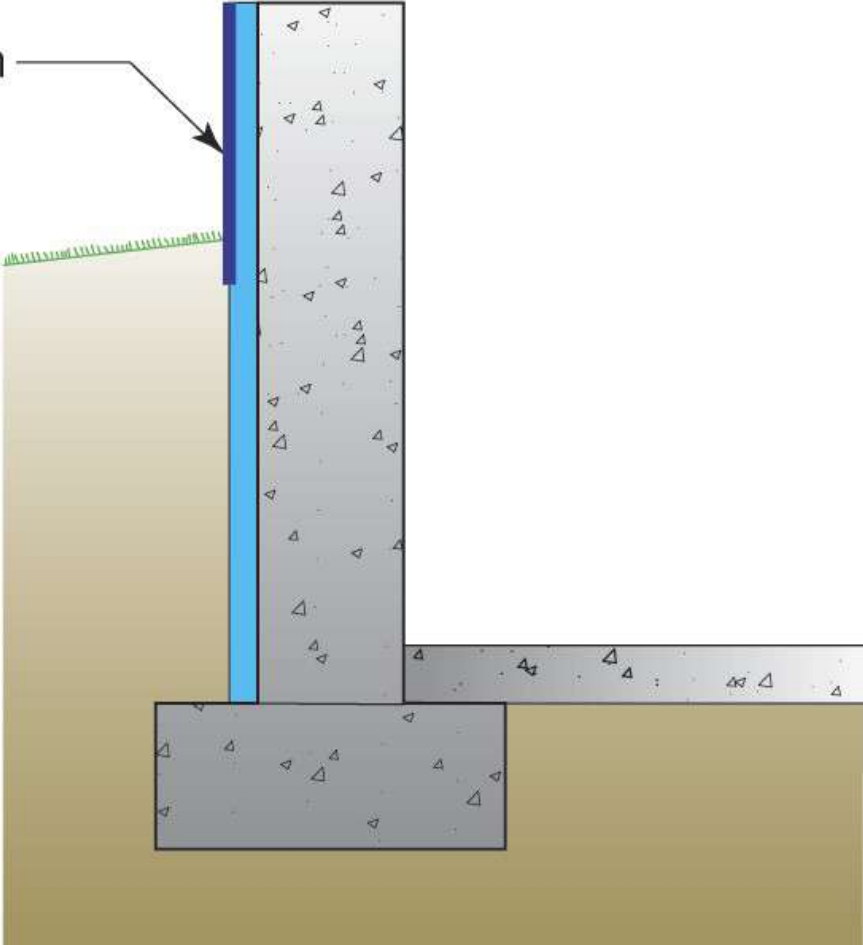


**Basement Insulated Both  
Externally and Internally**

Structure of house on foundation must be shifted outward to compensate for thickness of exterior insulation



Protection layer/system

















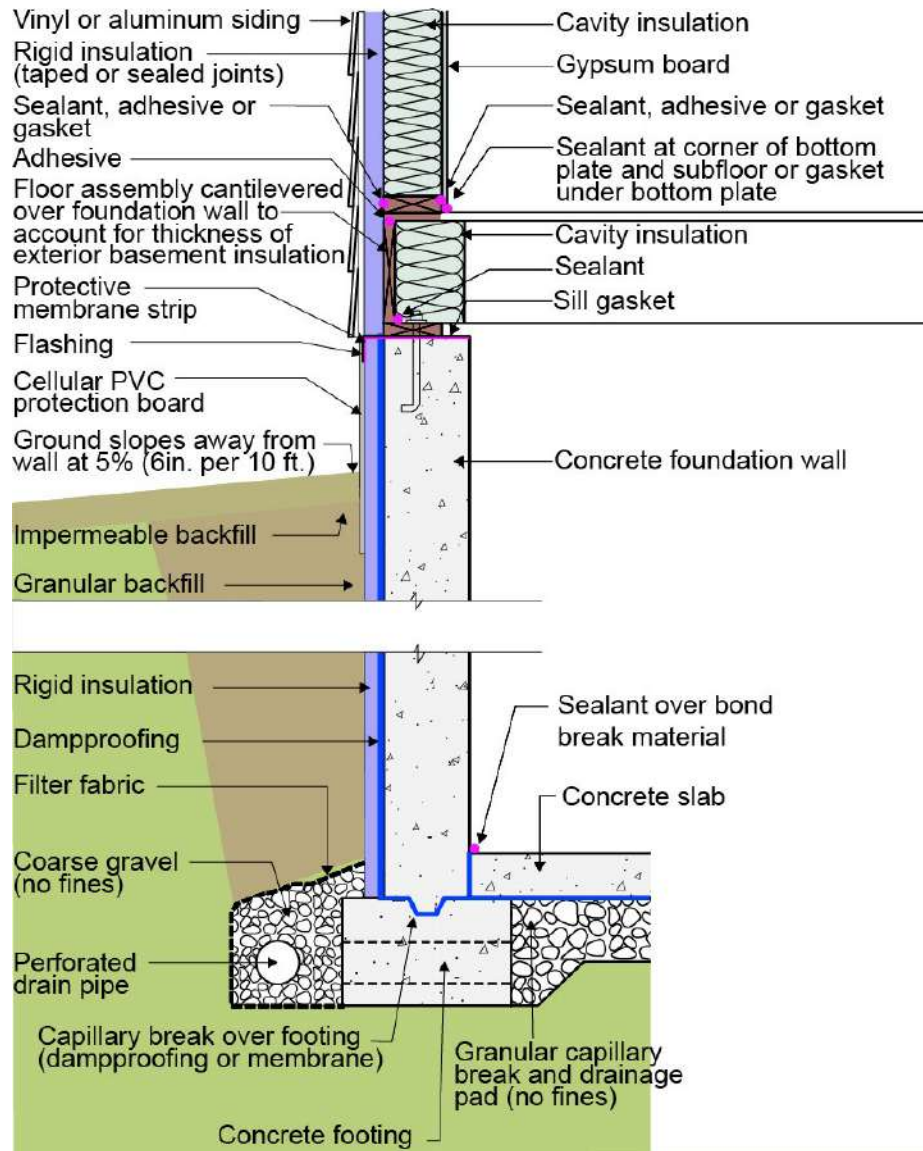


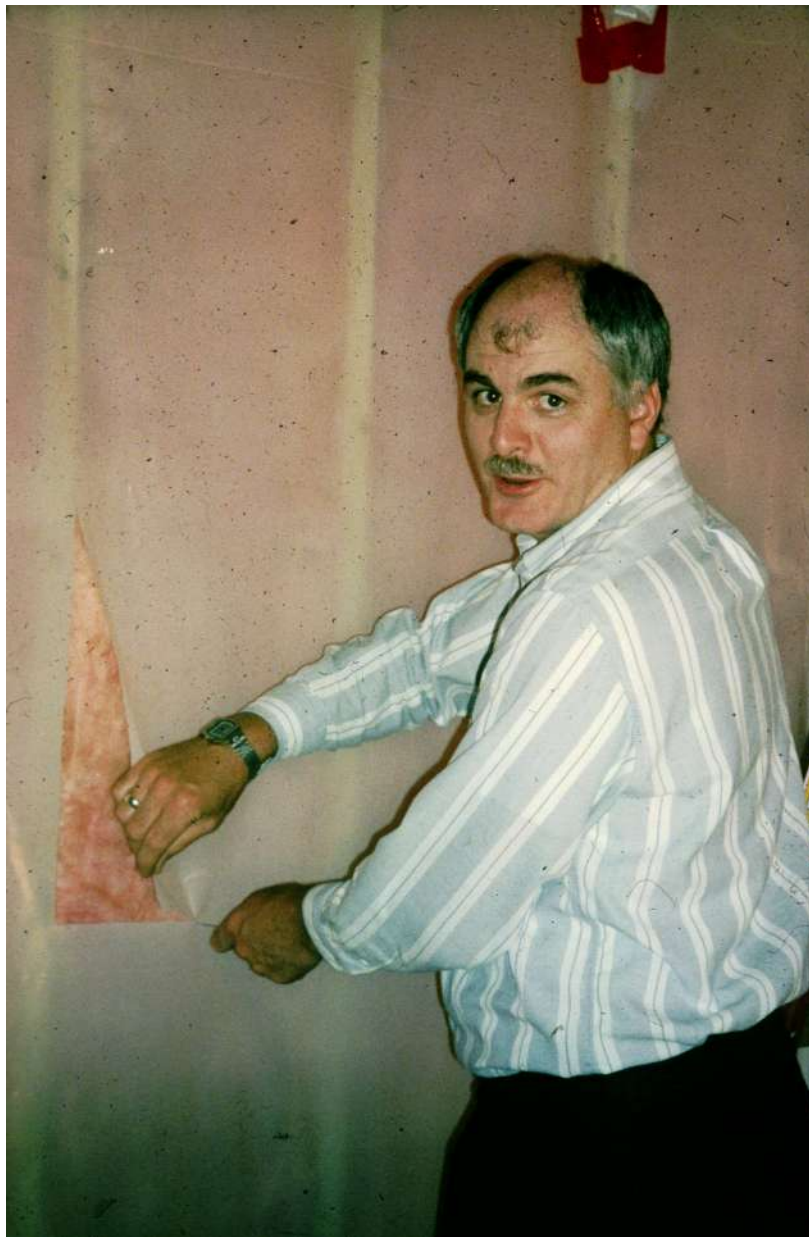


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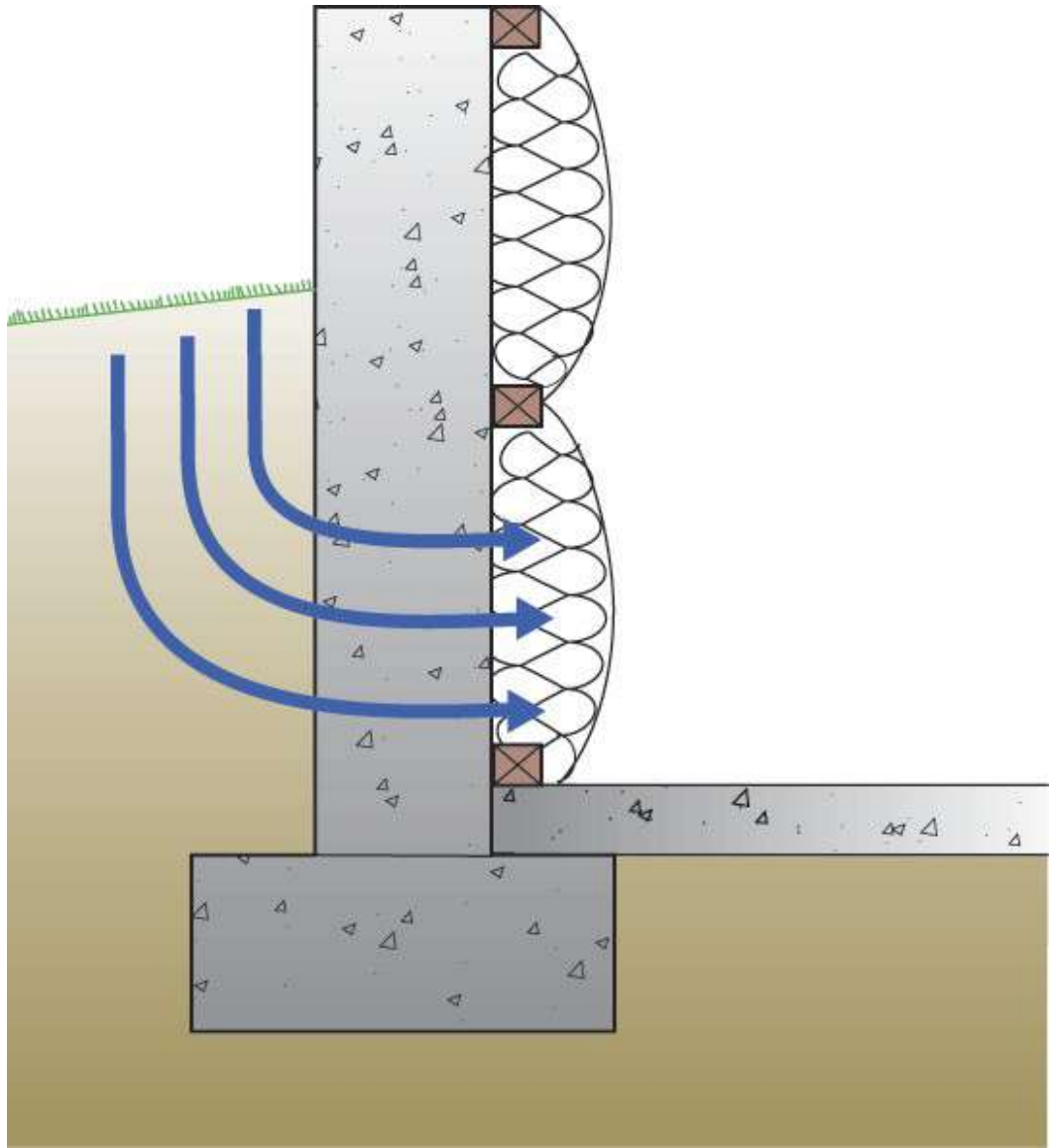


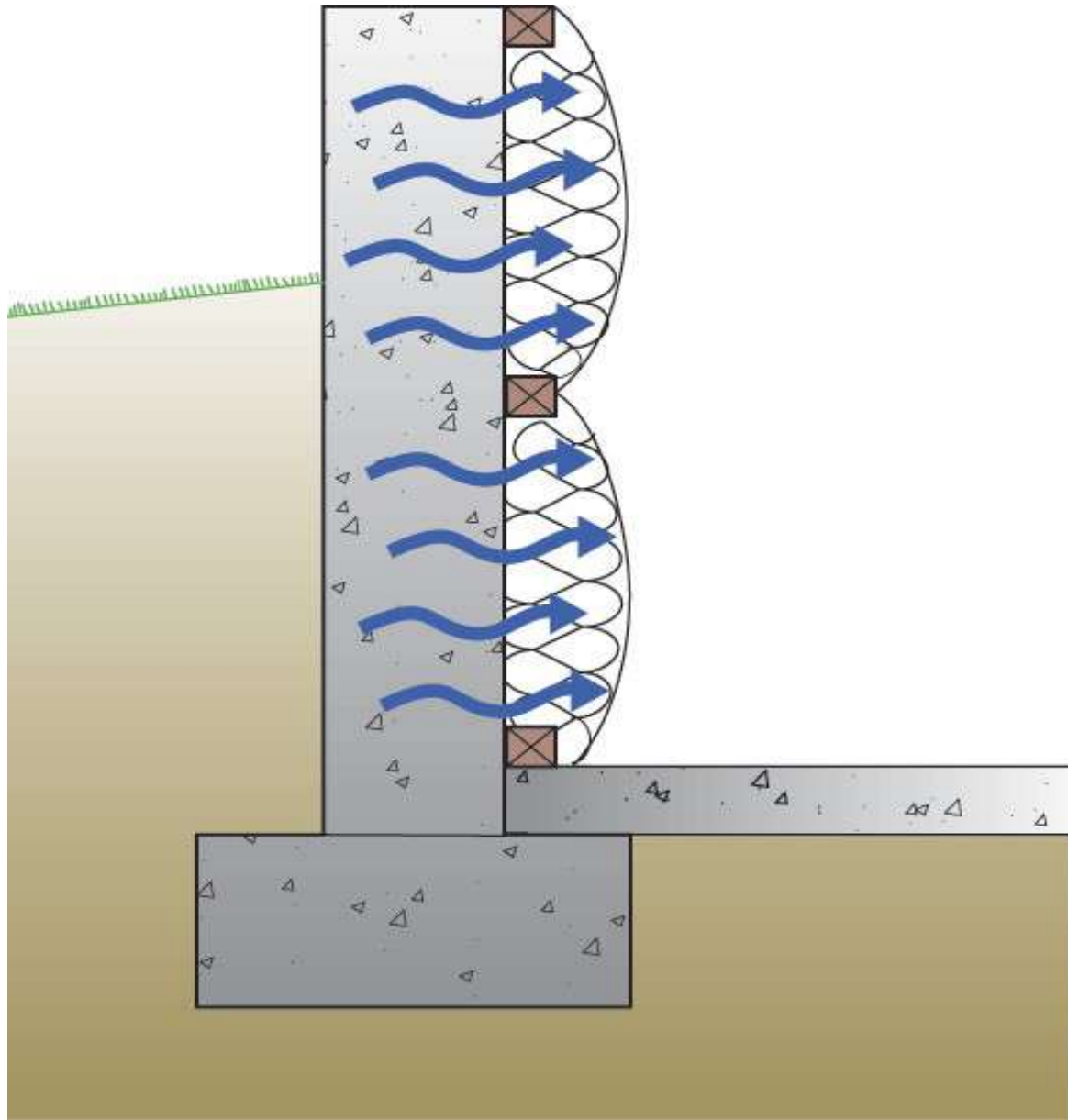


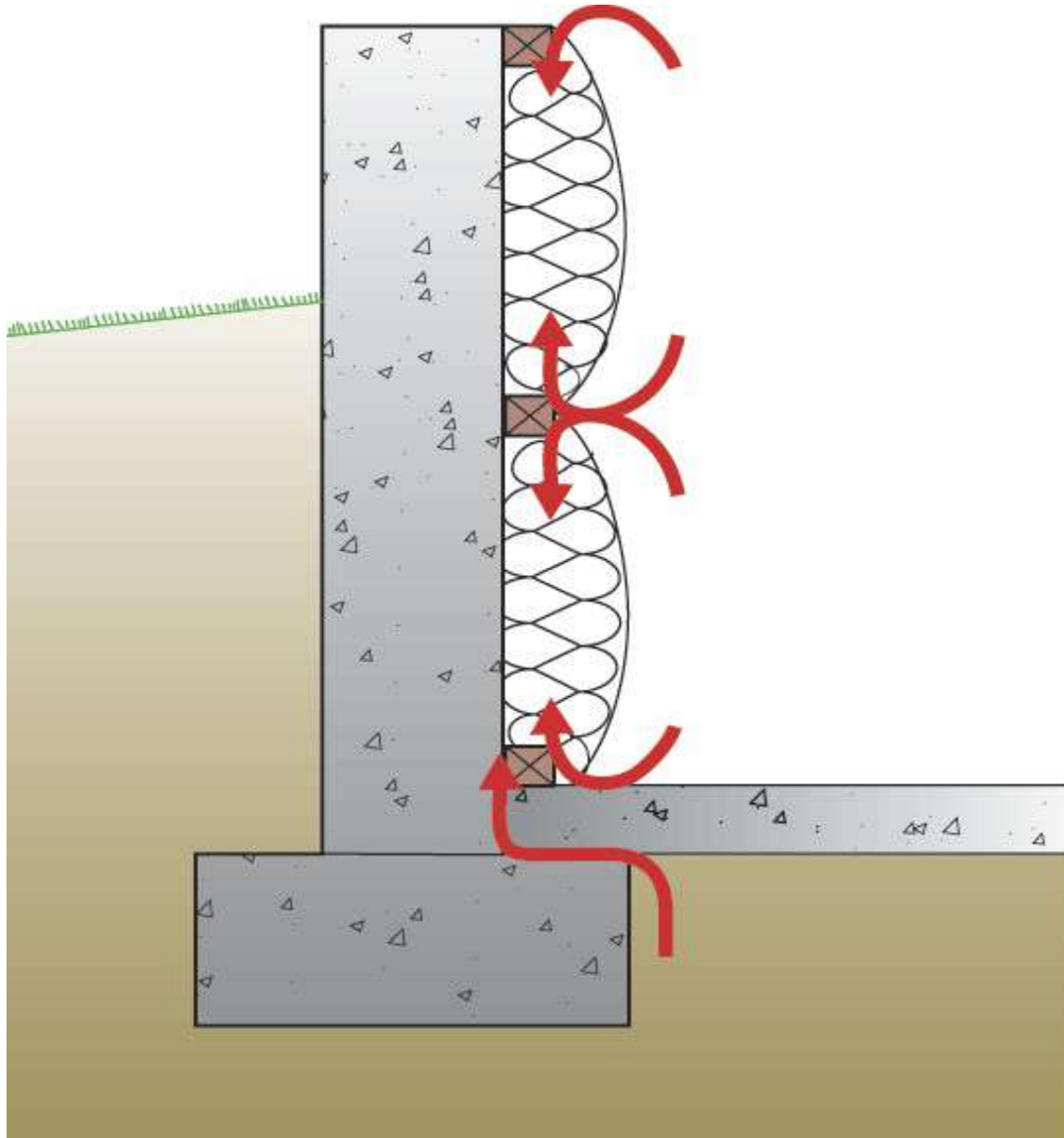




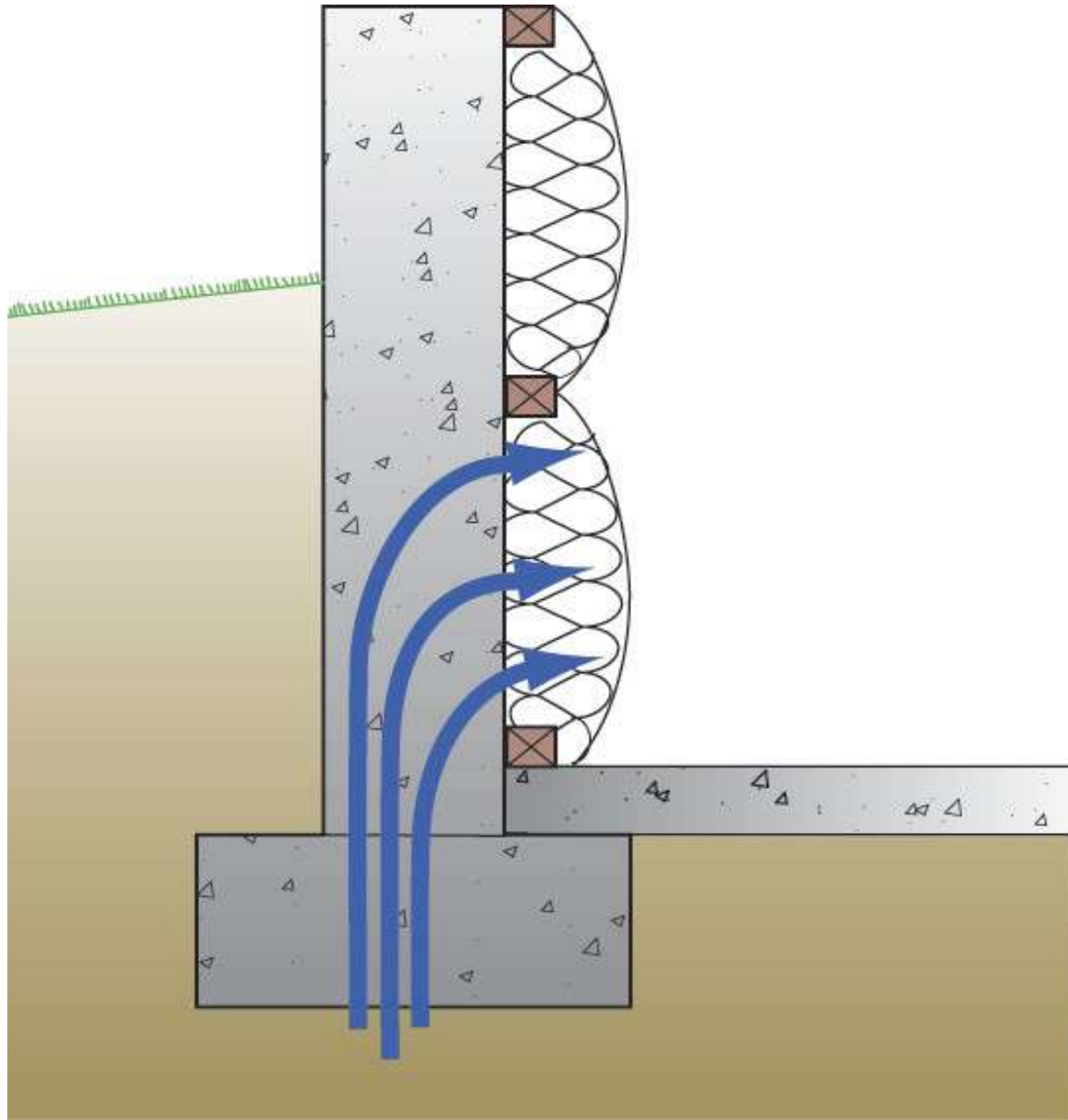


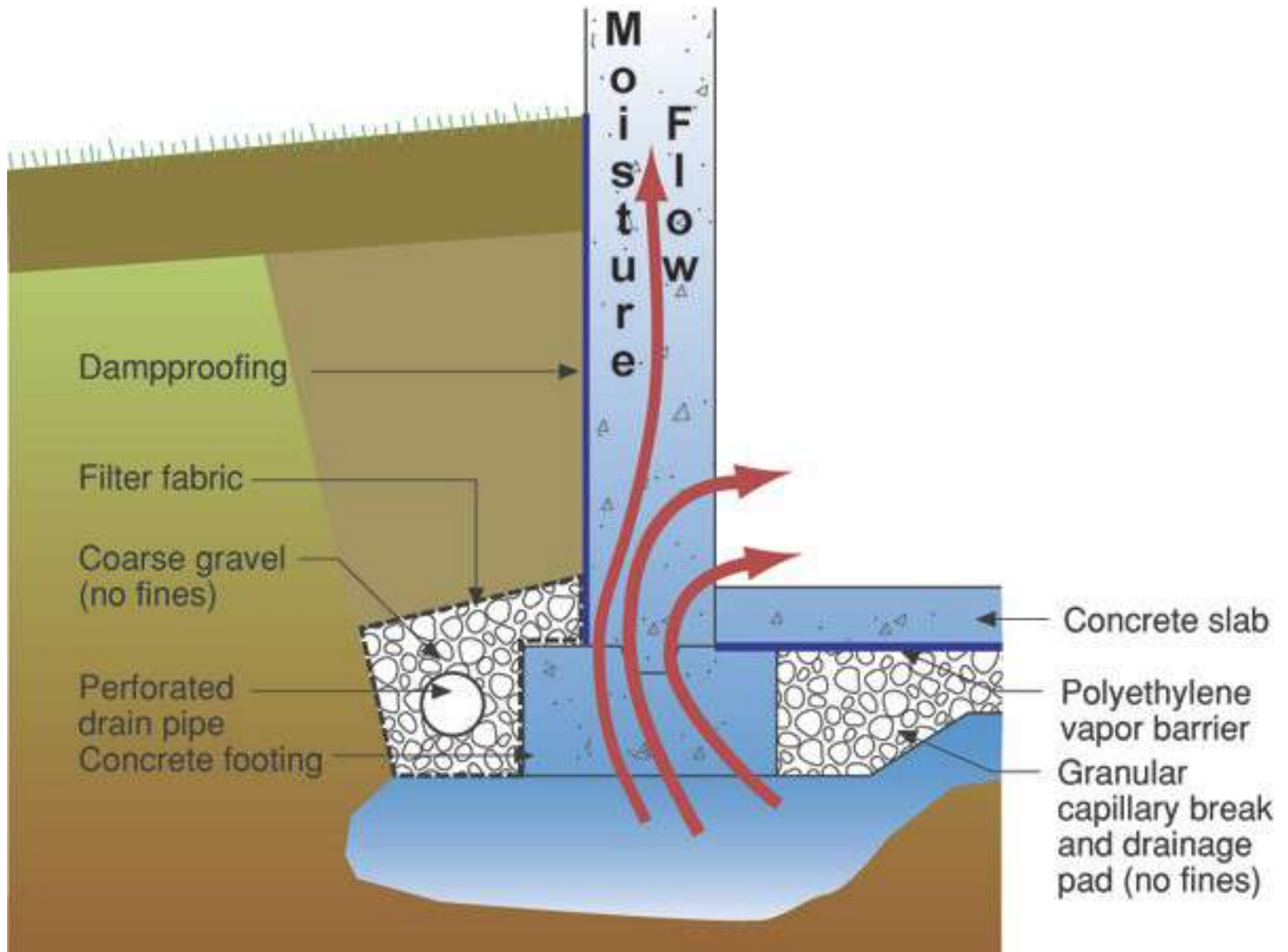


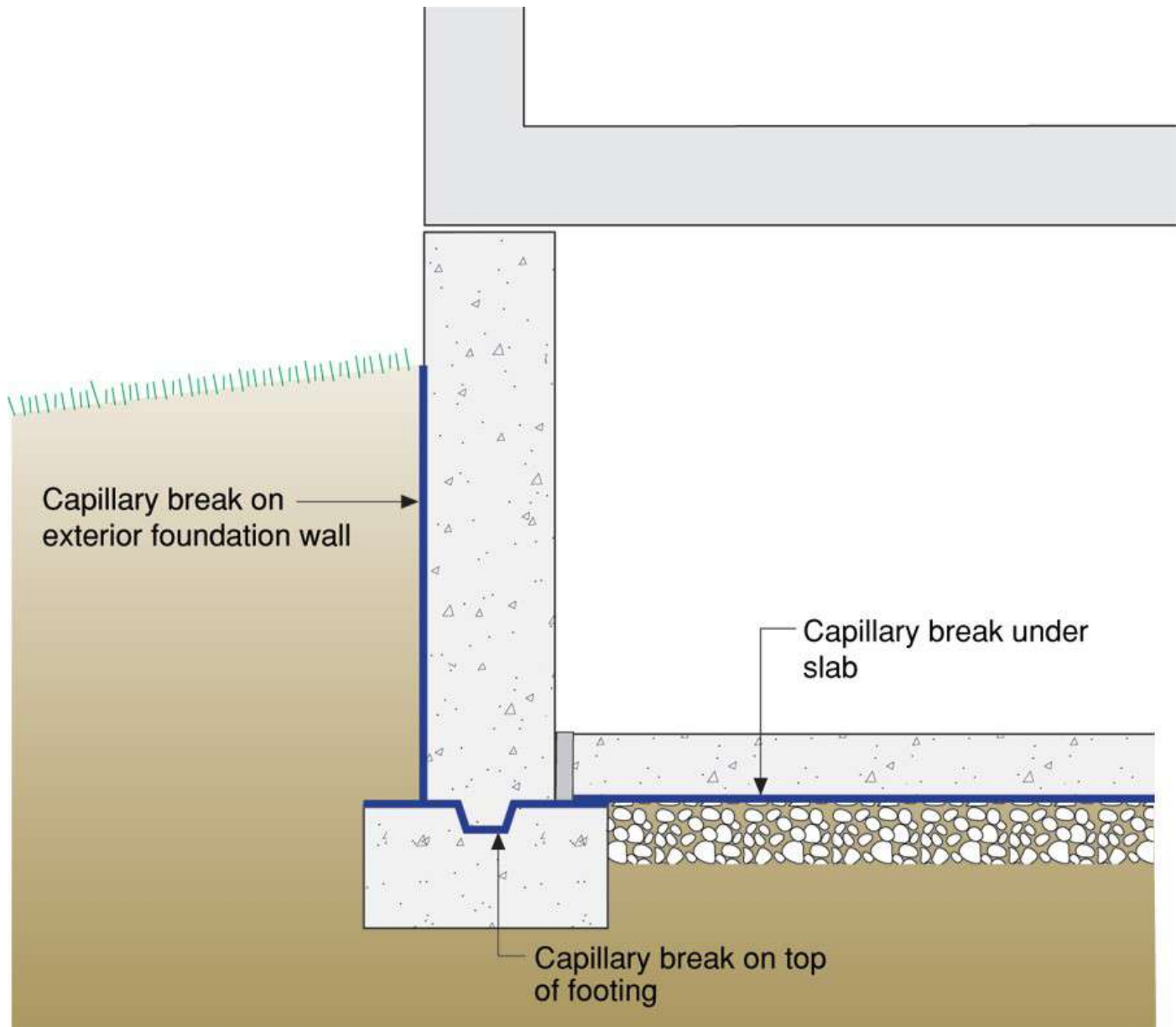




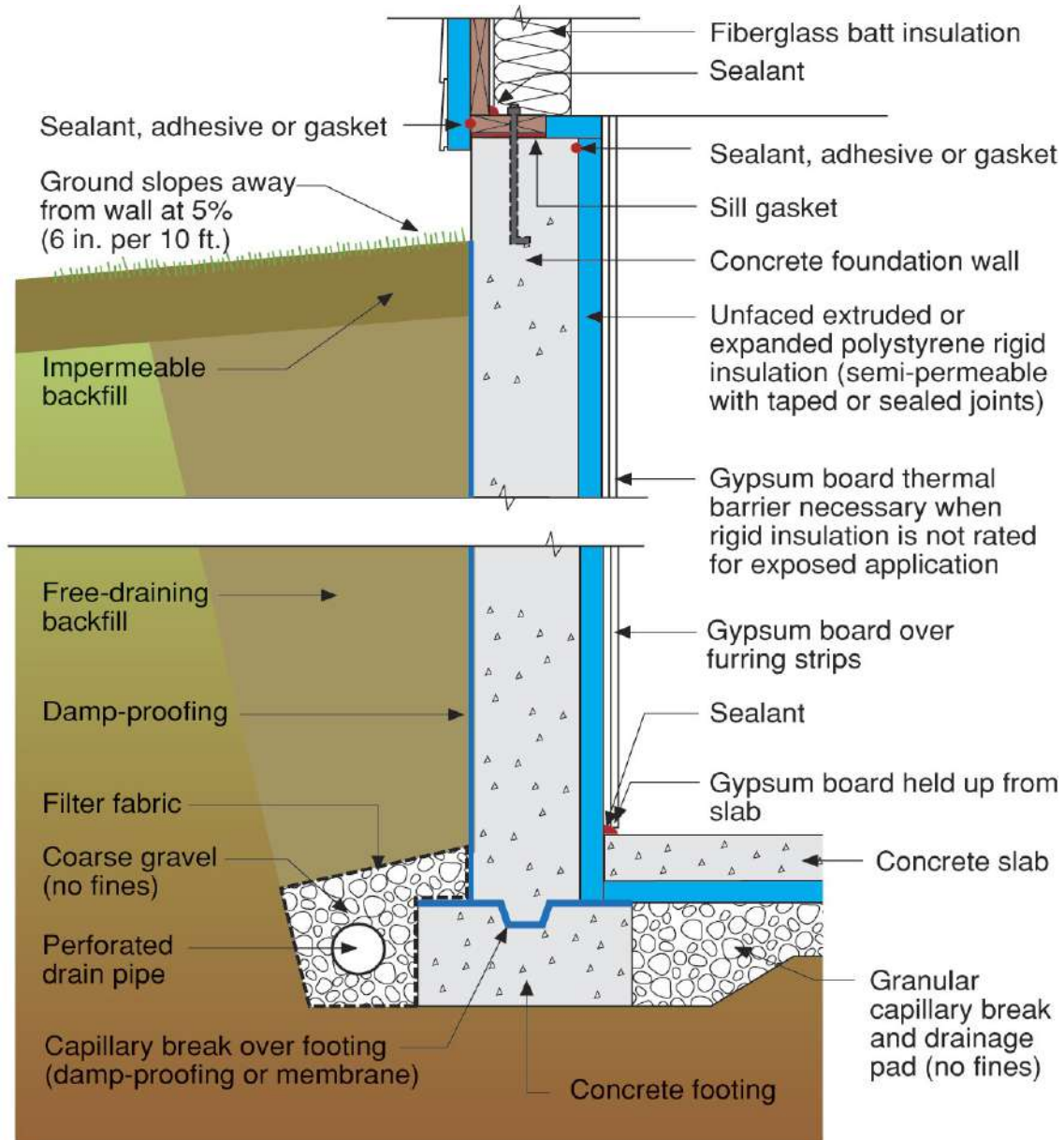




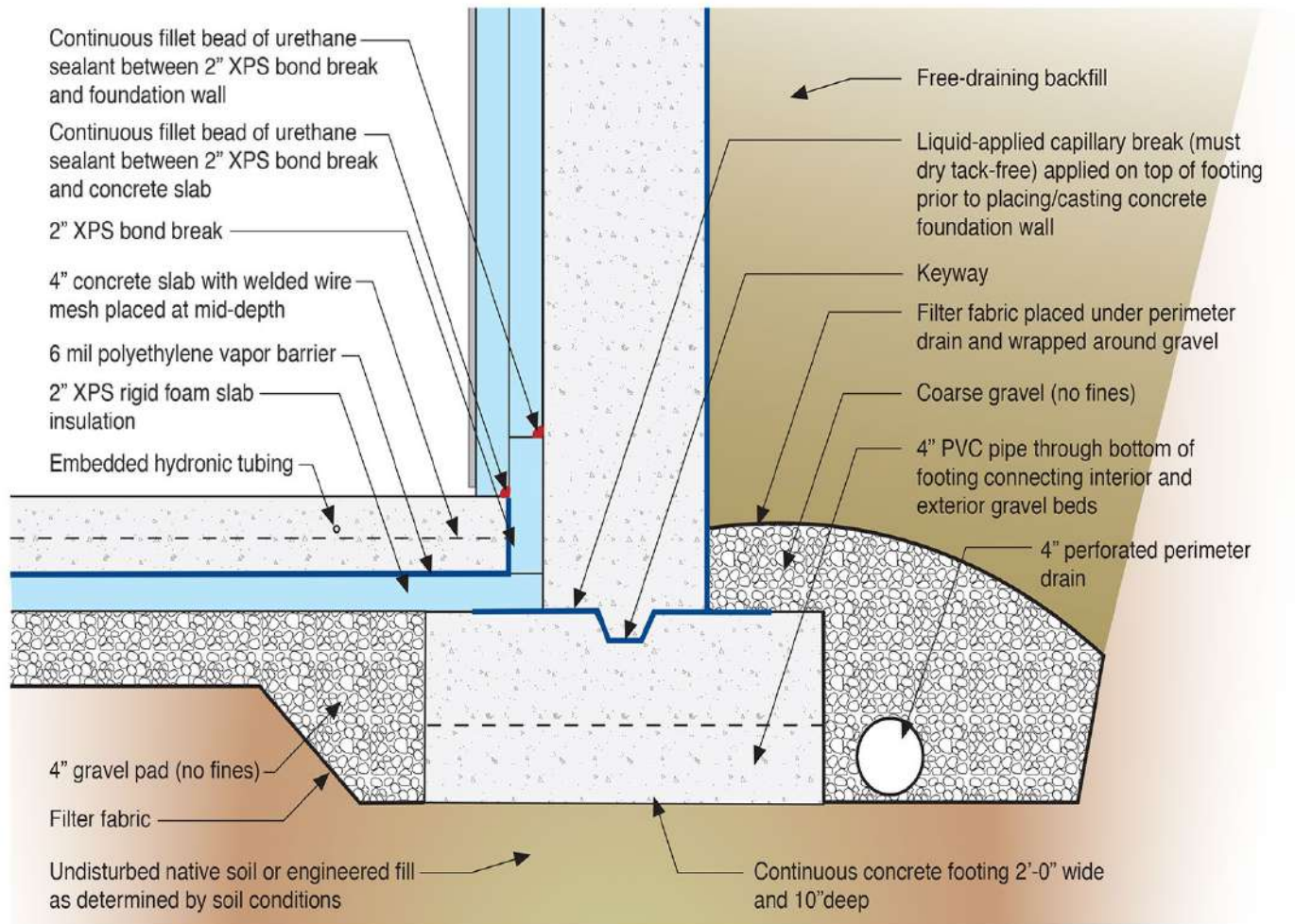






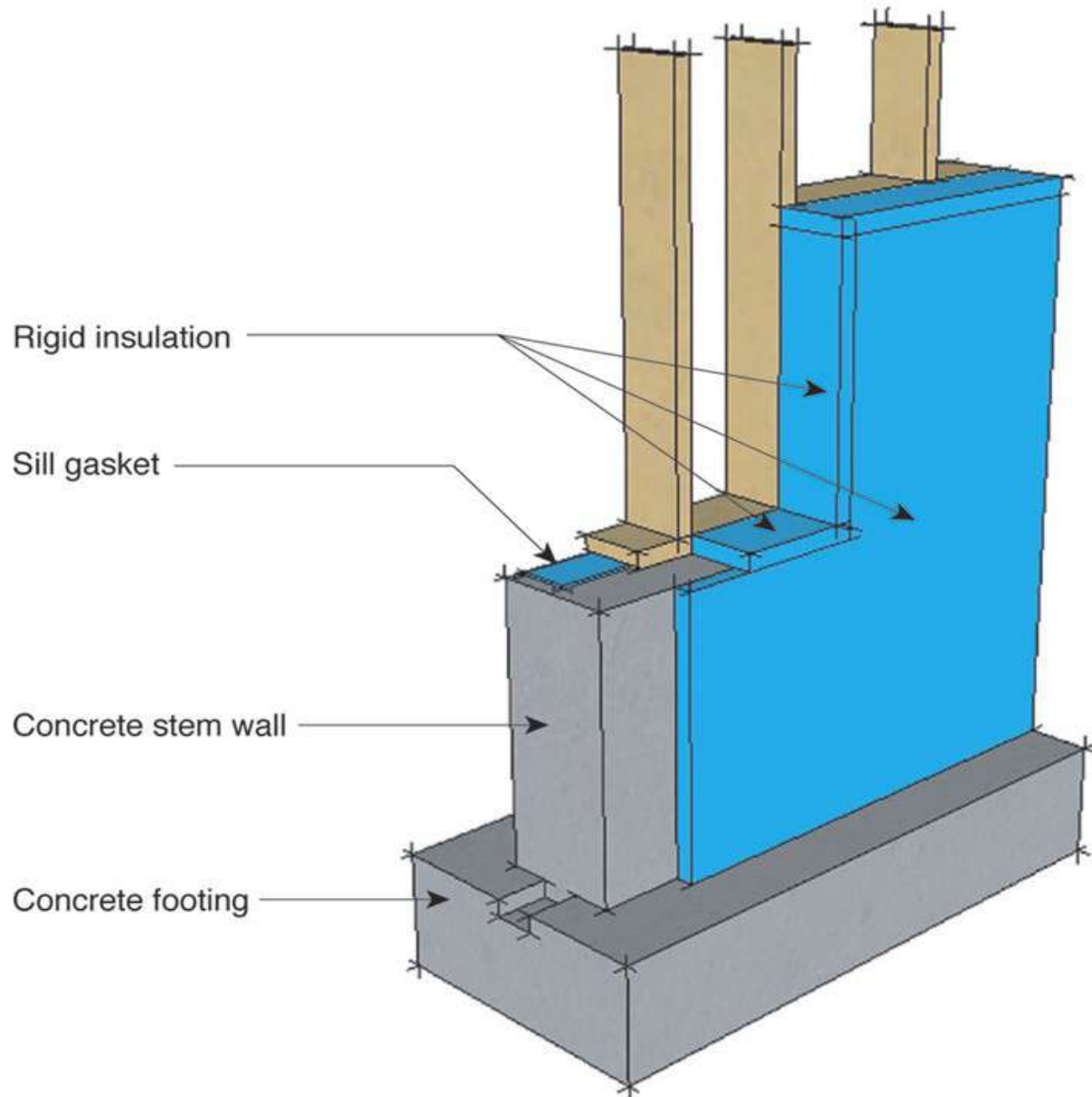


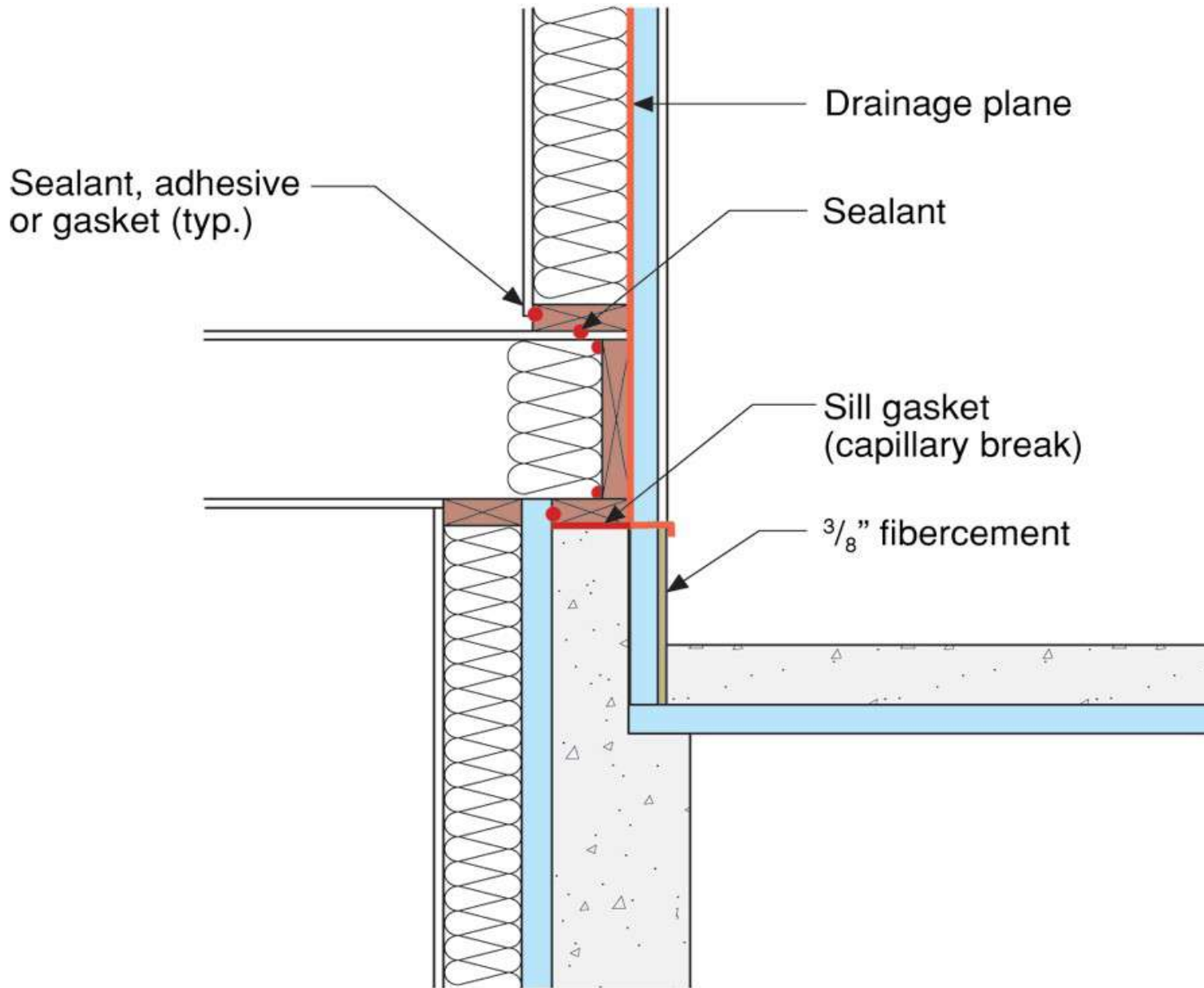




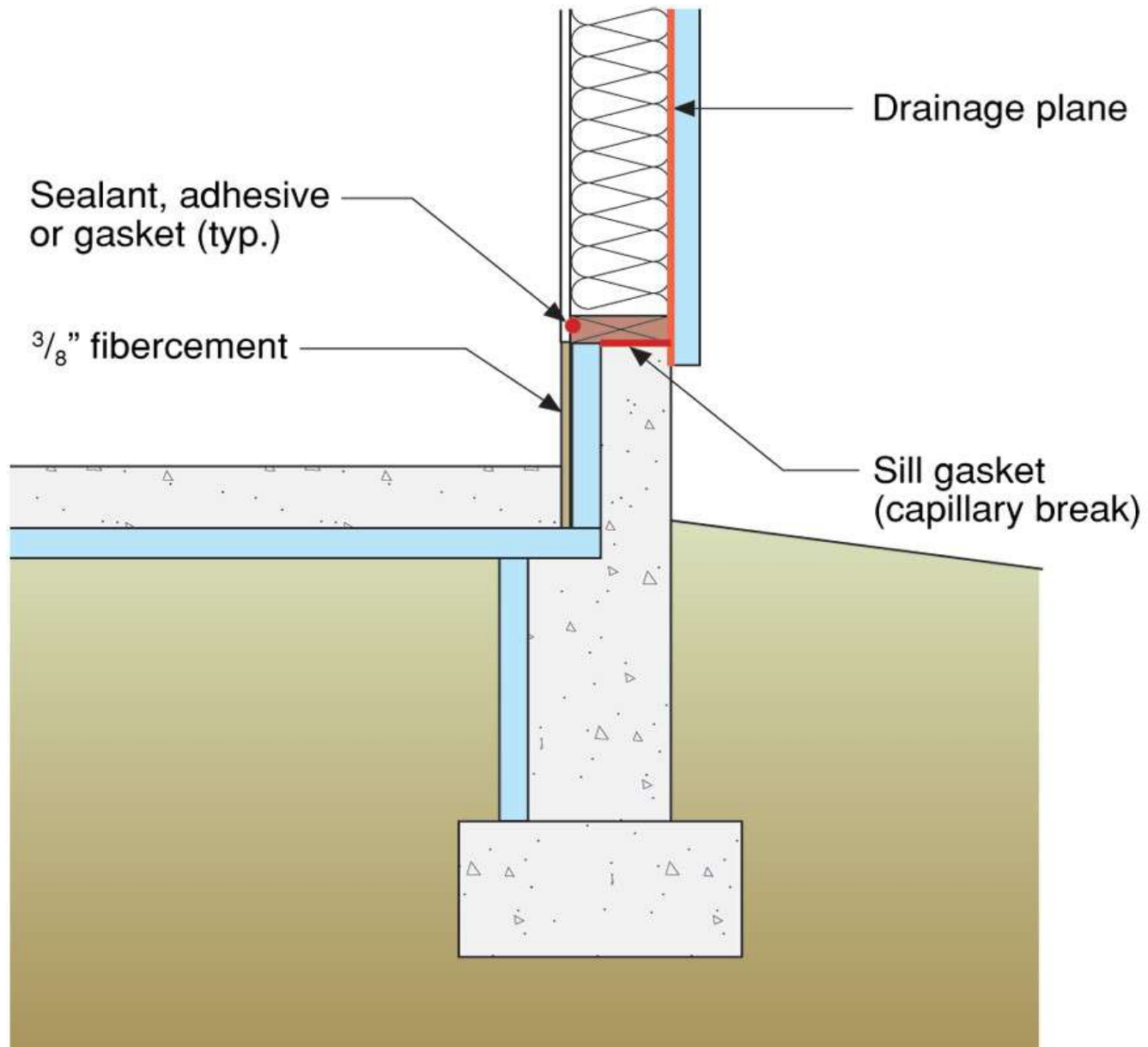


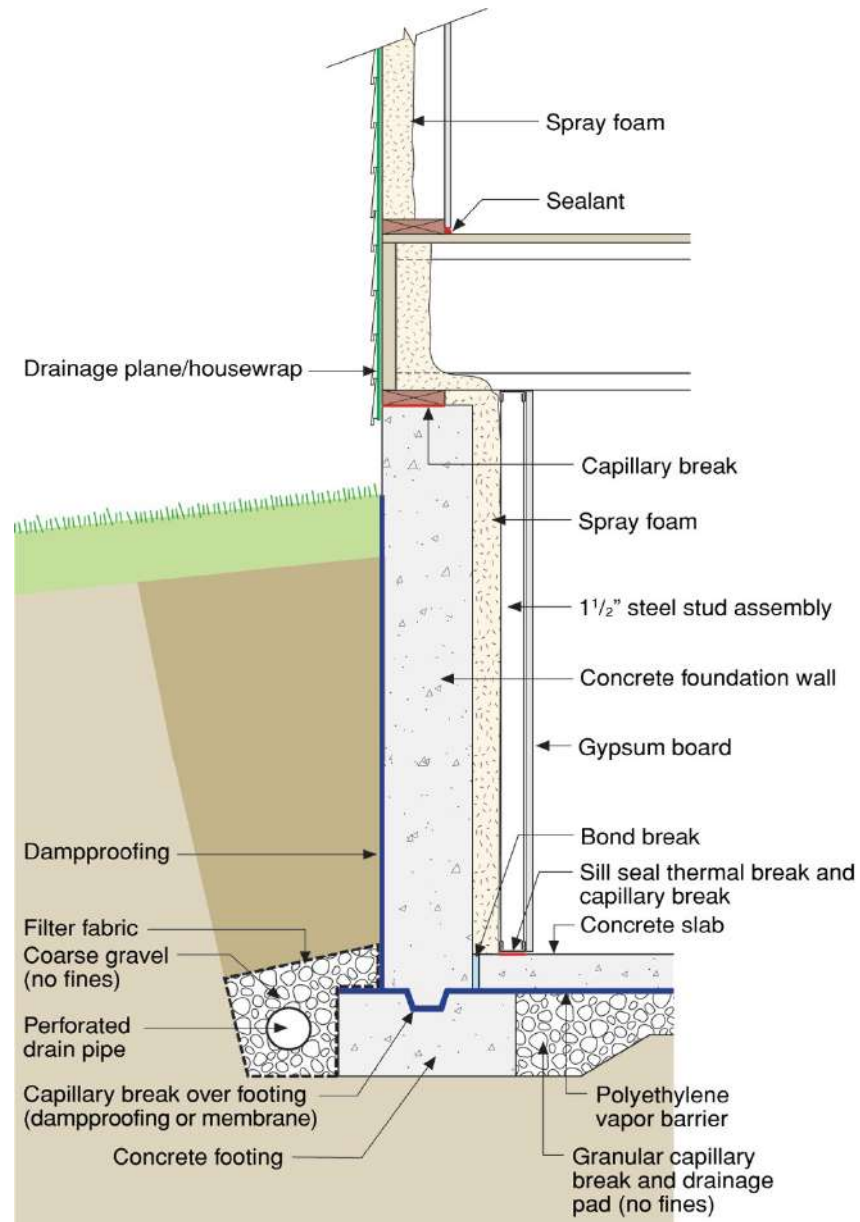




















# Crawl Spaces



Crawl spaces must be completely connected to either the outside or the inside

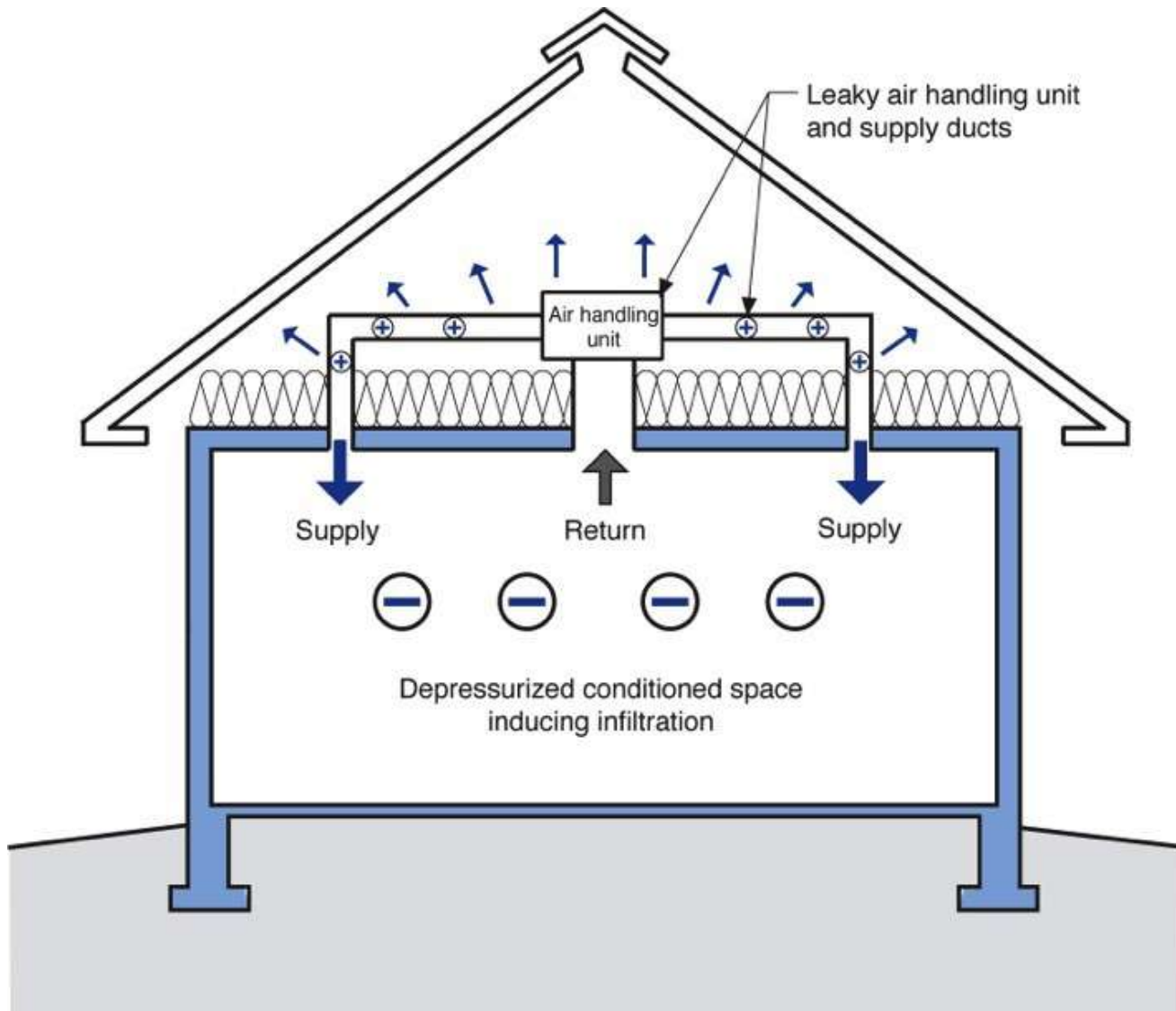
Crawl spaces must be completely connected to either the outside or the inside

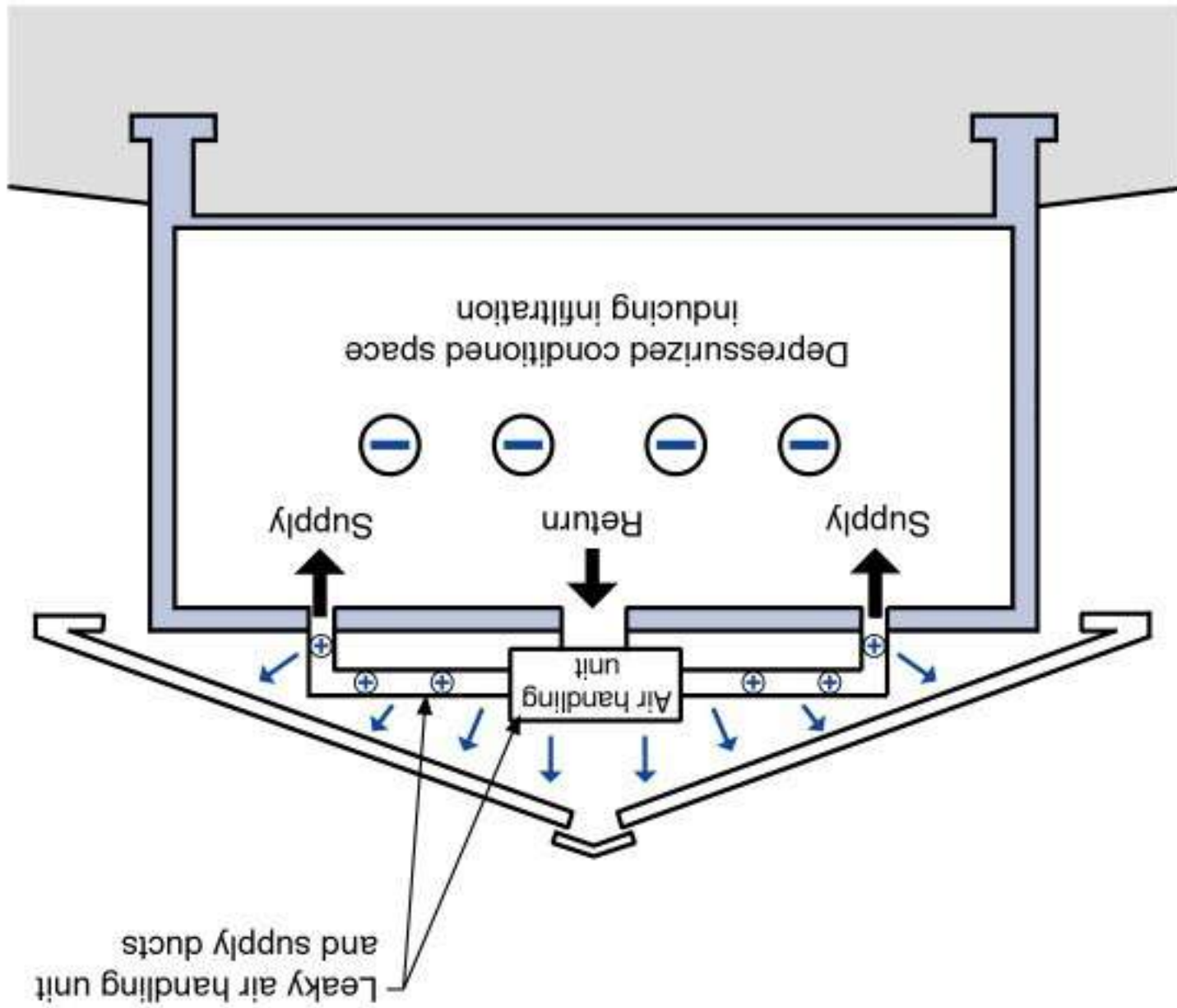
Vented crawl spaces work

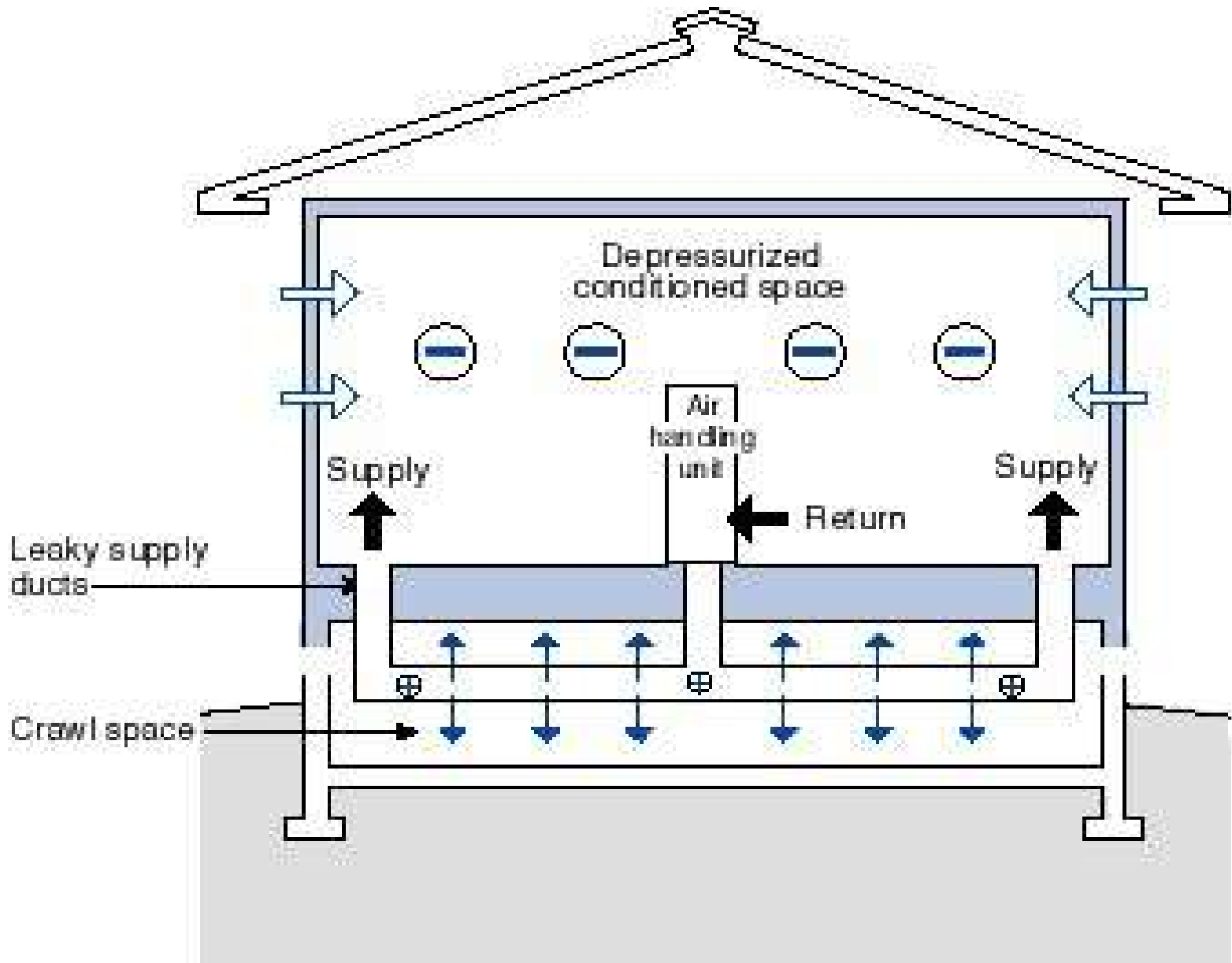
Unvented conditioned crawl spaces work

# Don't Do Stupid Things











# Smart Thing









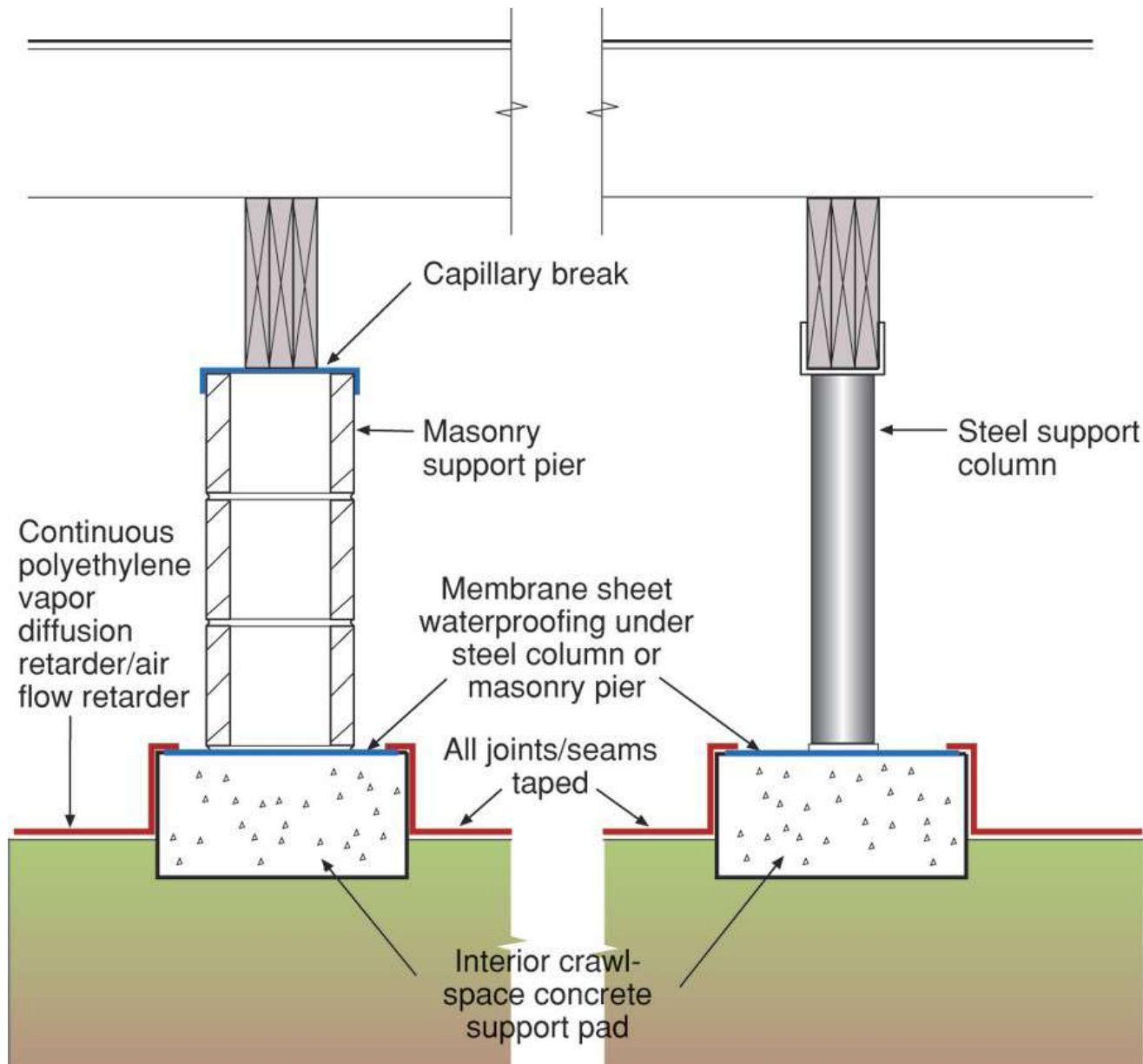












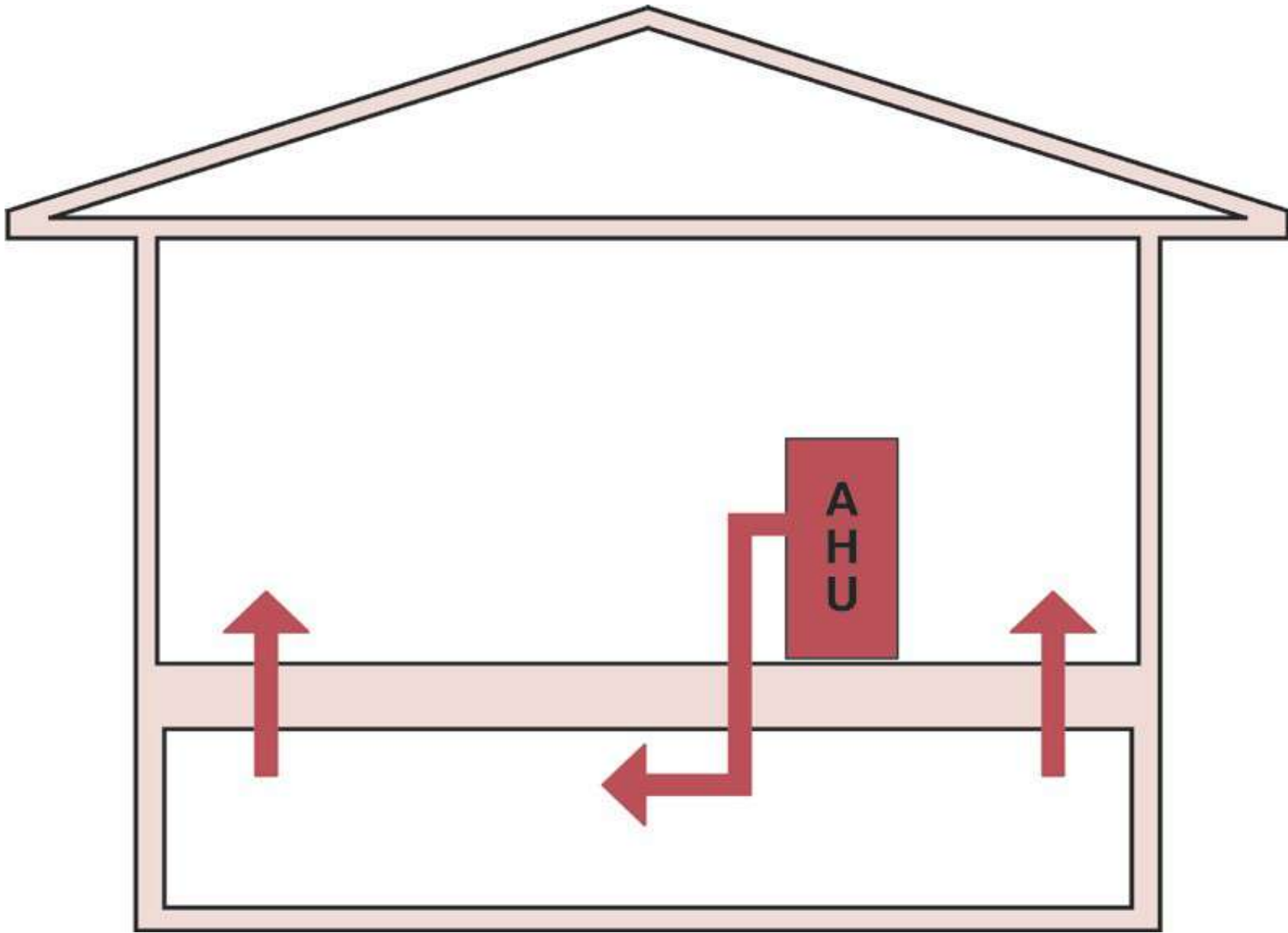
Conditioned Crawlspace Not Unvented  
Crawlspace

Need Supply Air

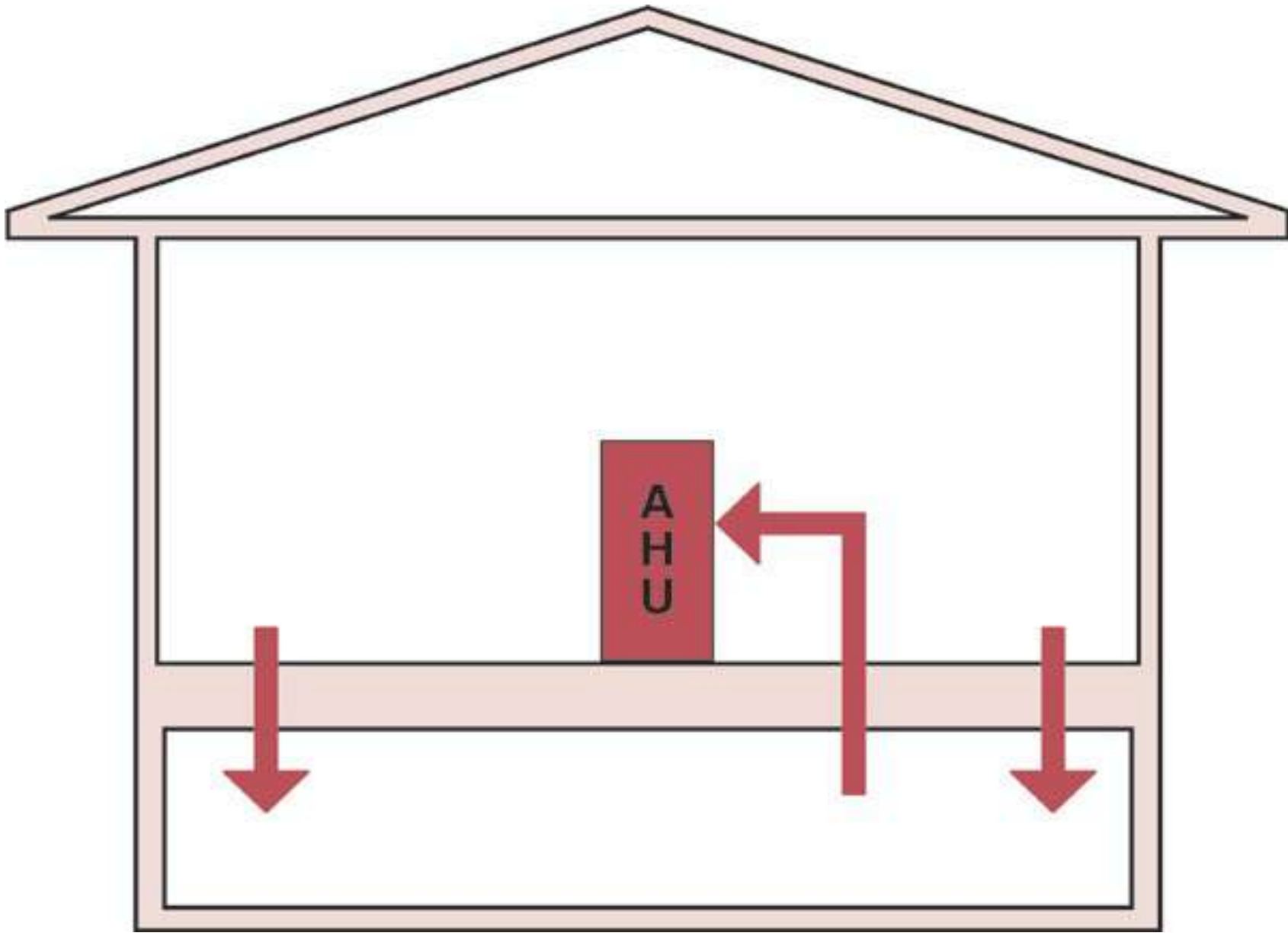
50 cfm/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> of Crawlspace Area

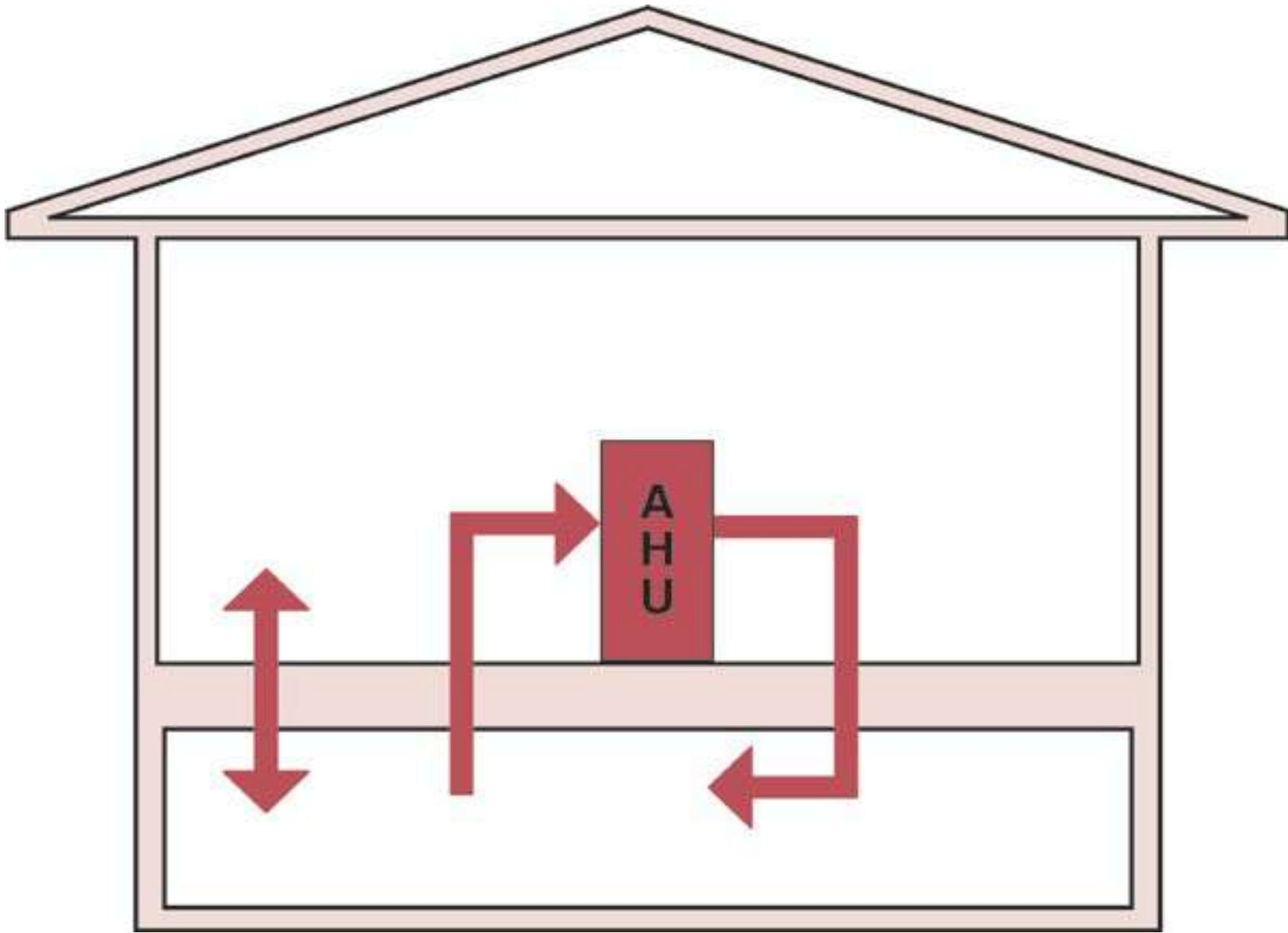
Or

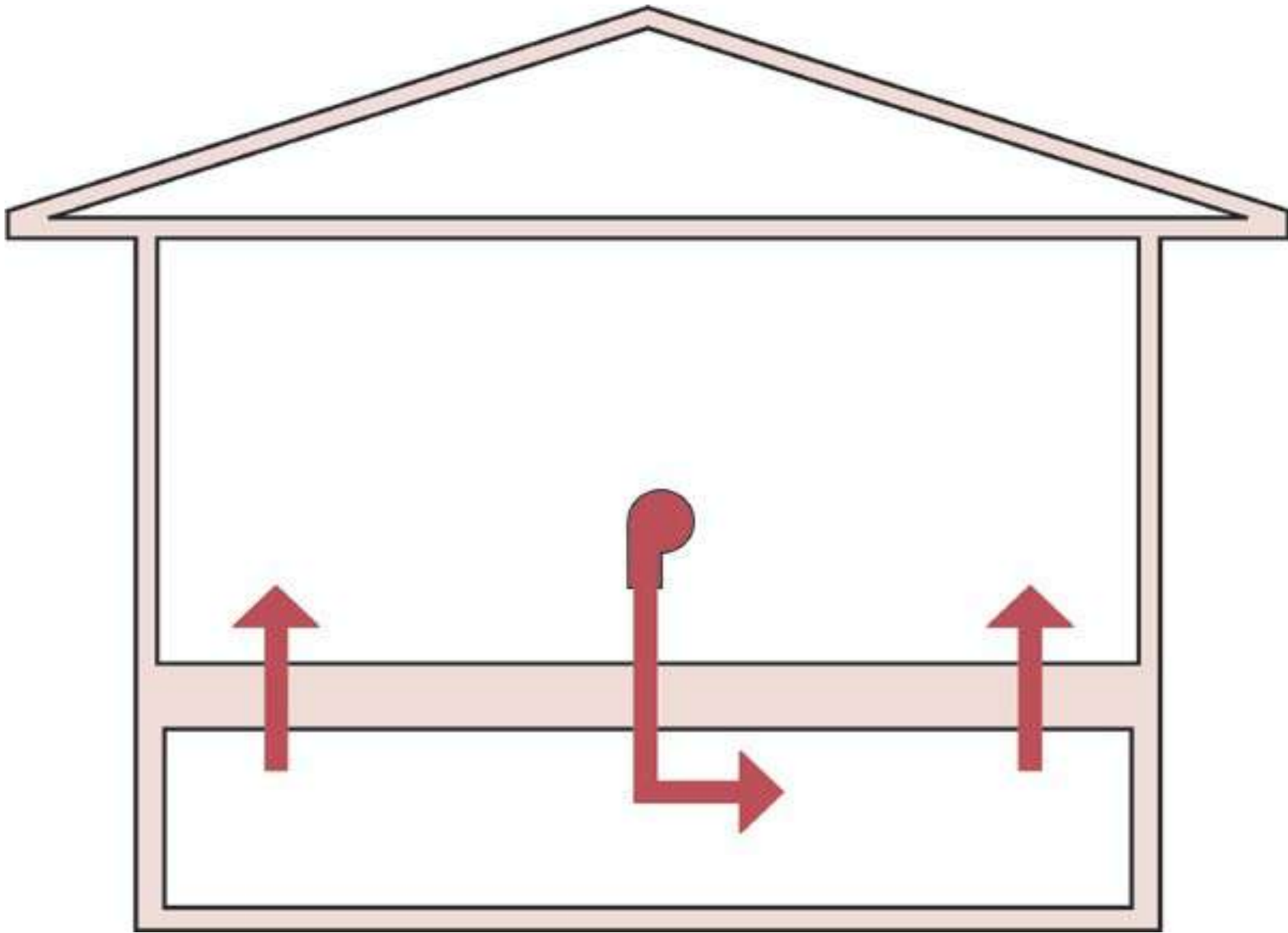
Dehumidification

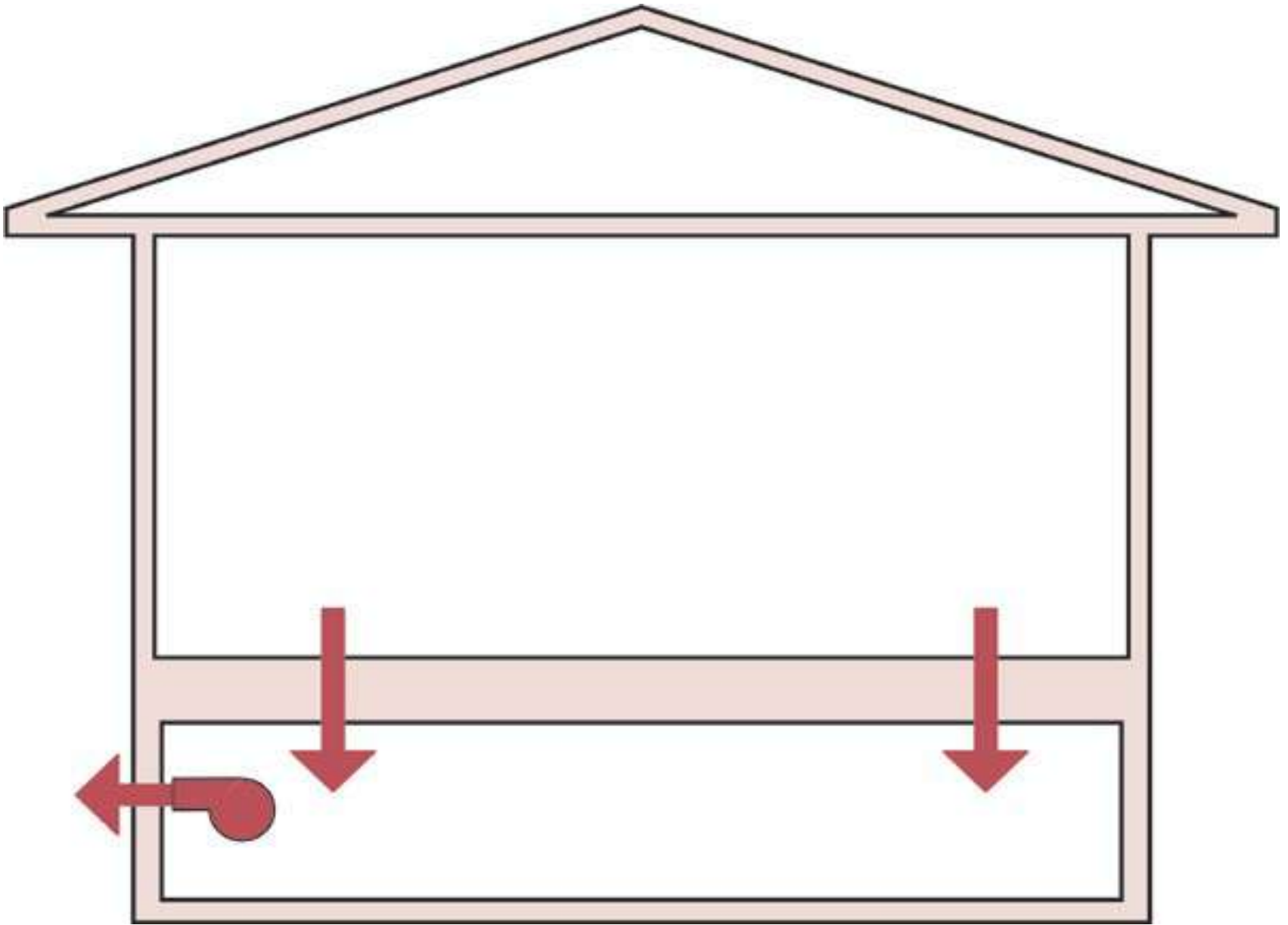




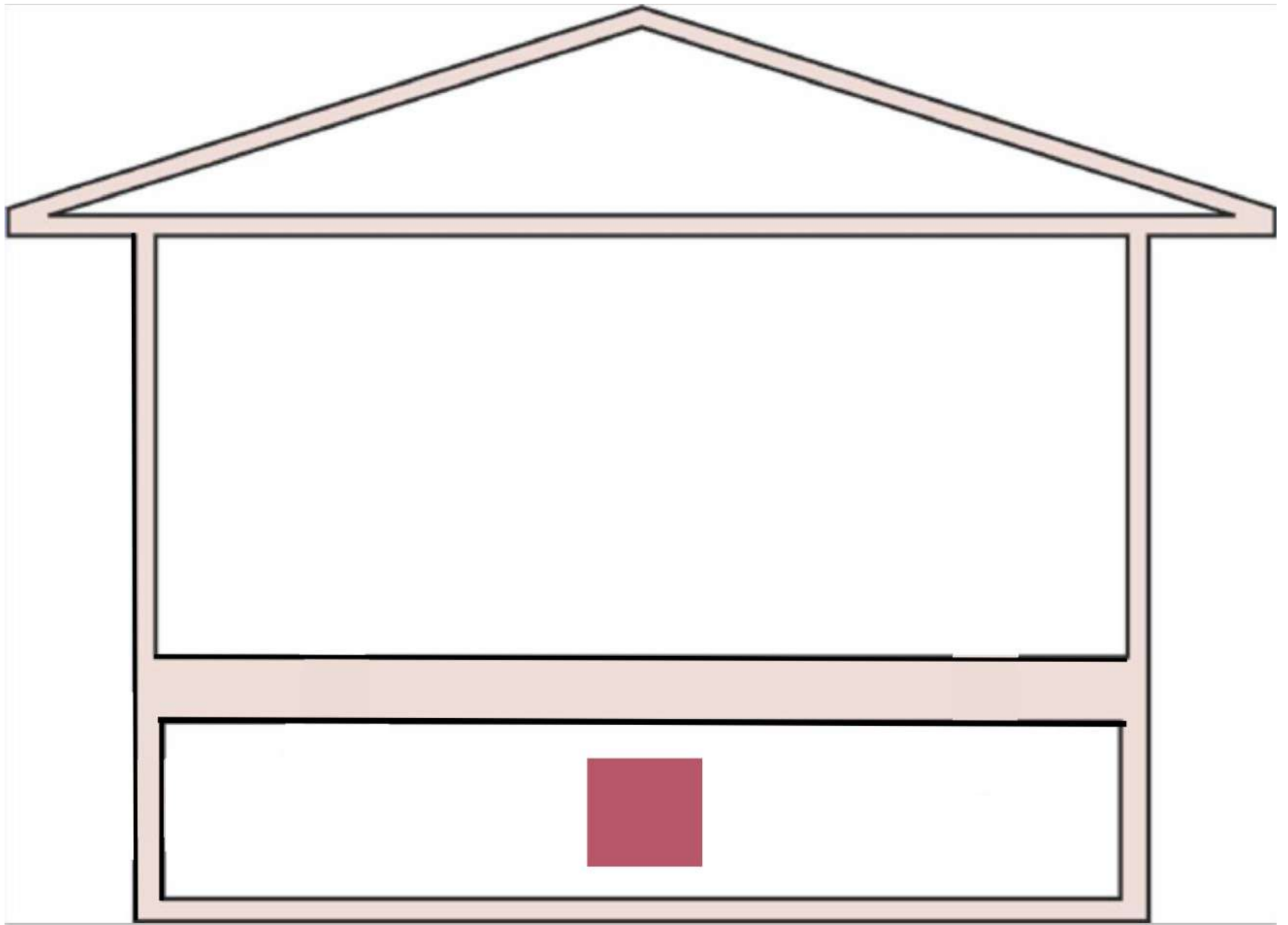


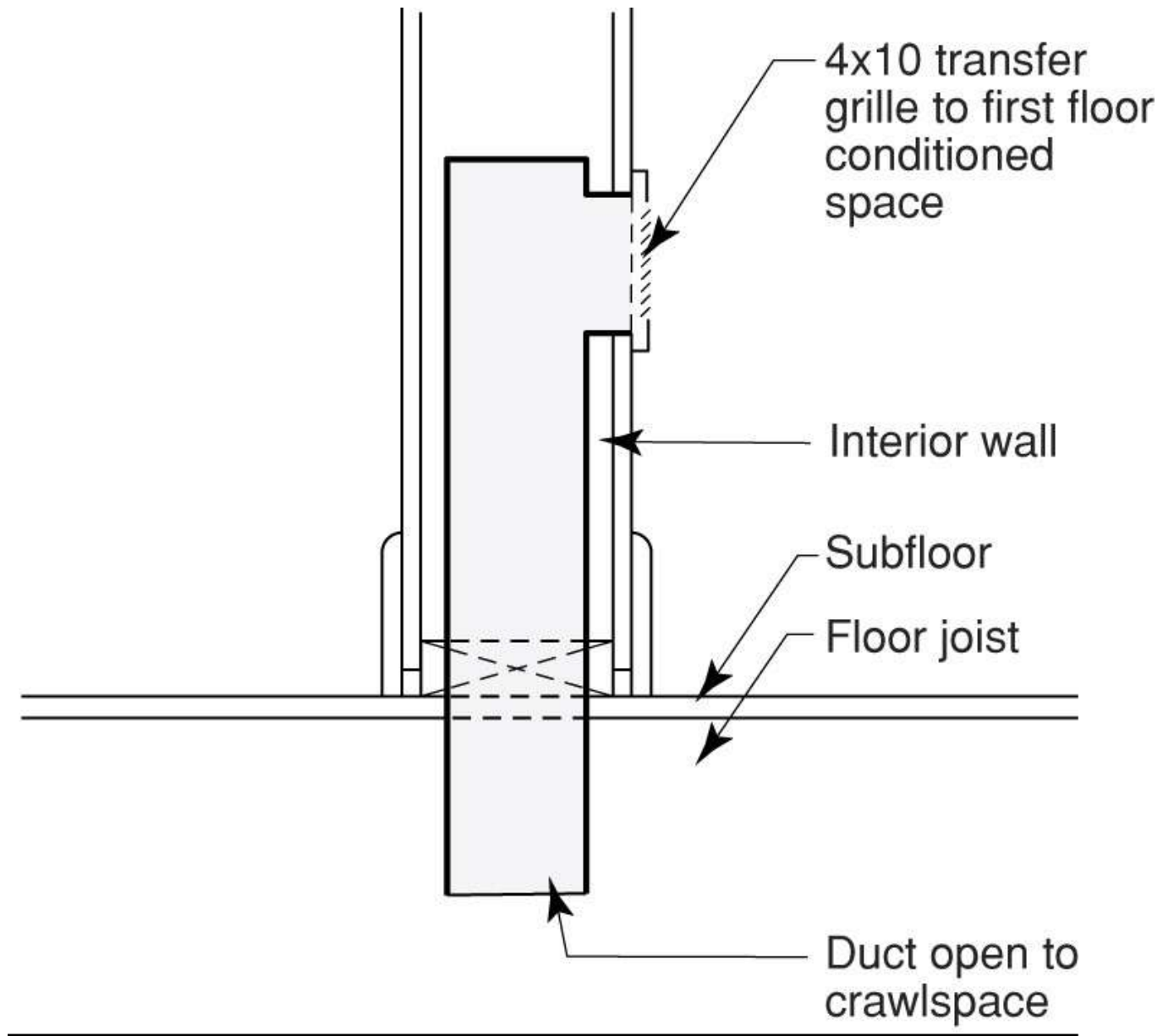




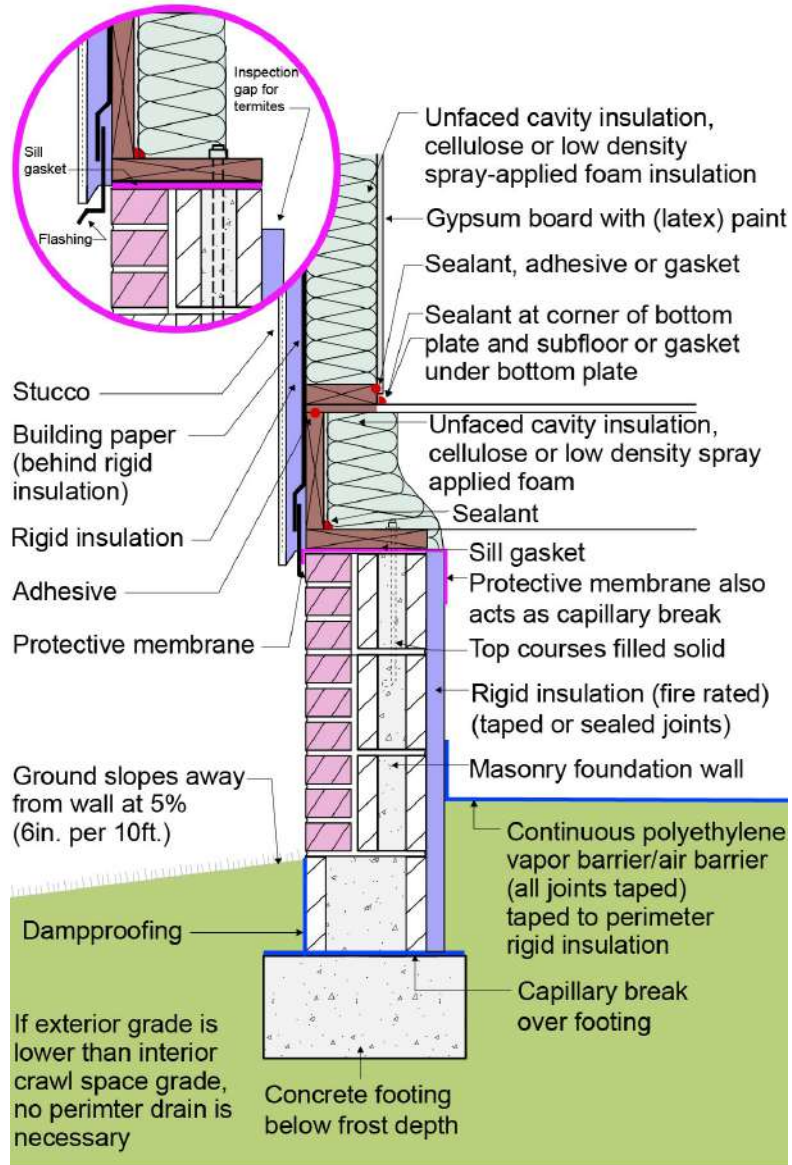






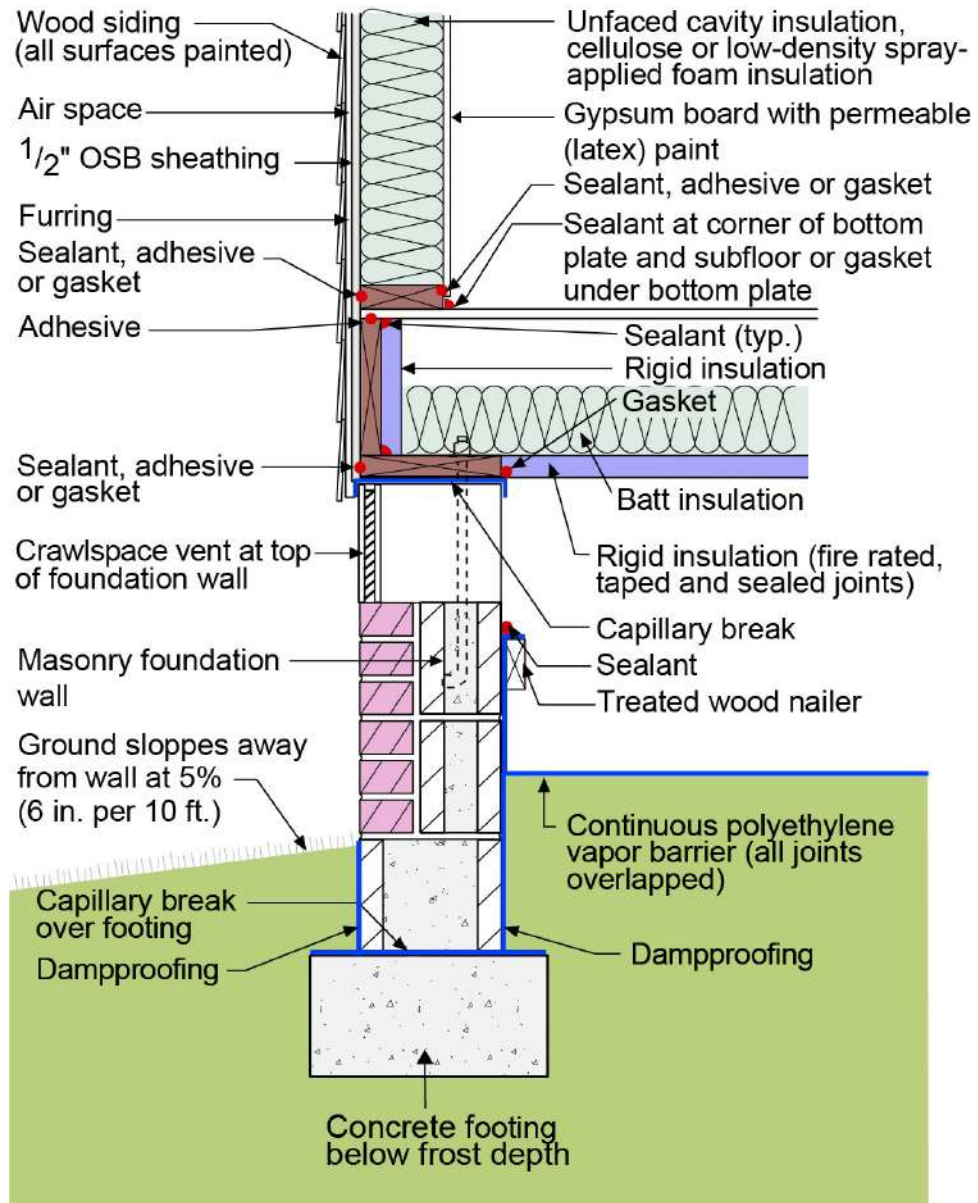


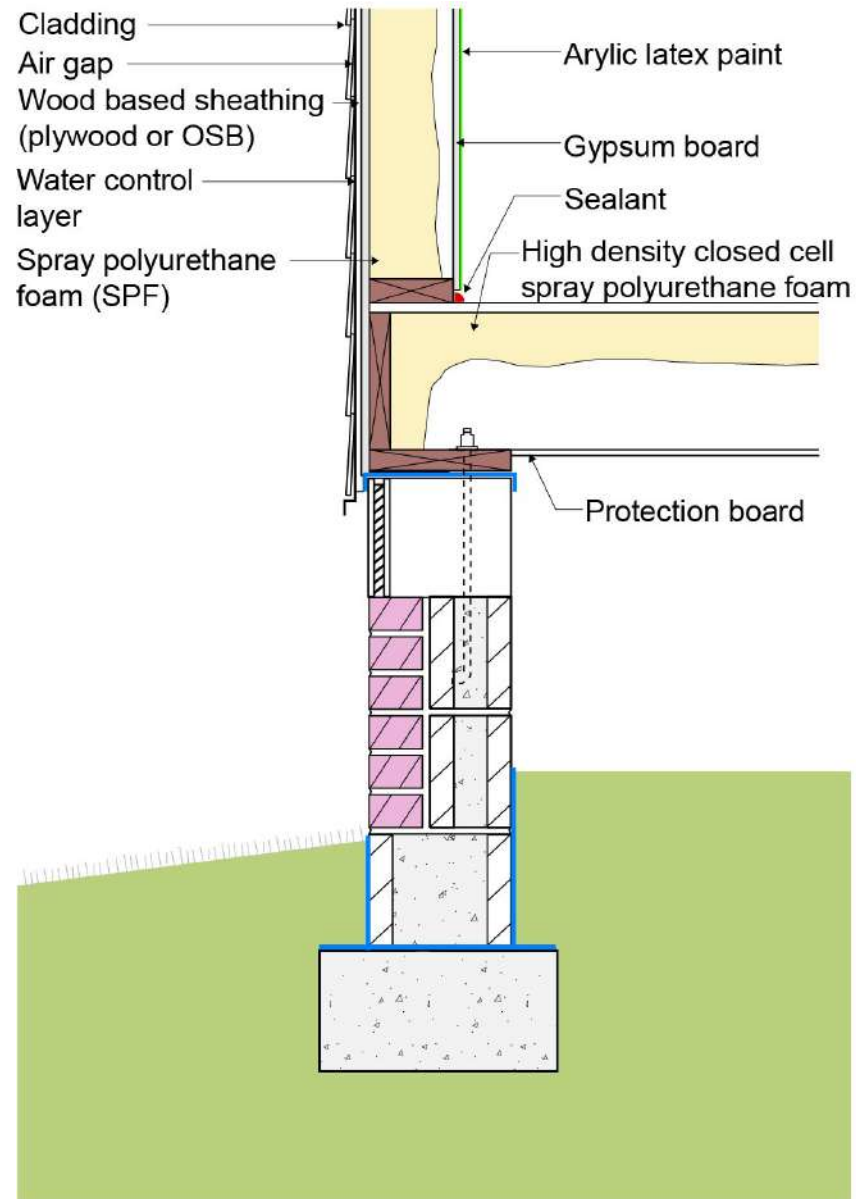
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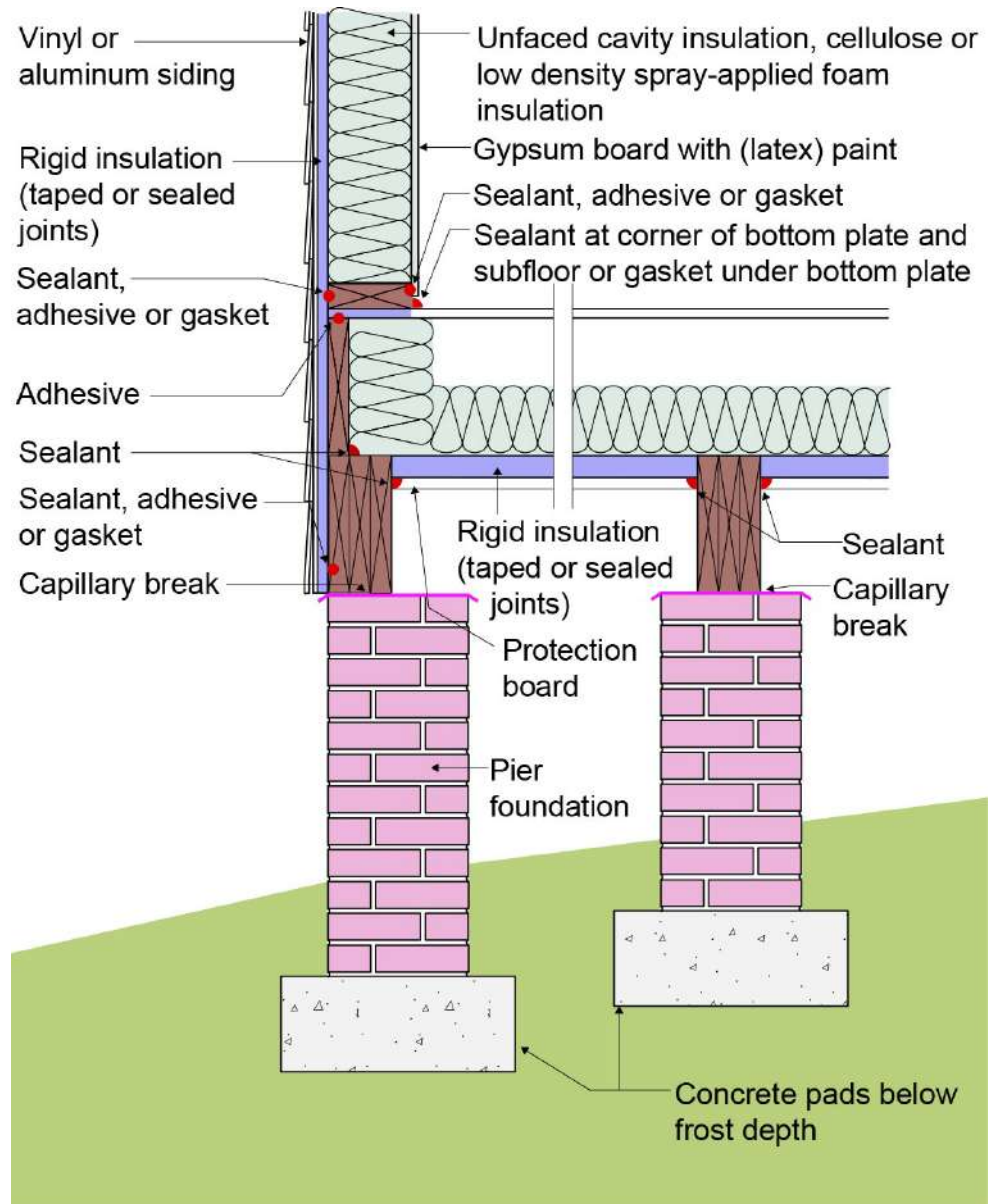


# Smart Thing

















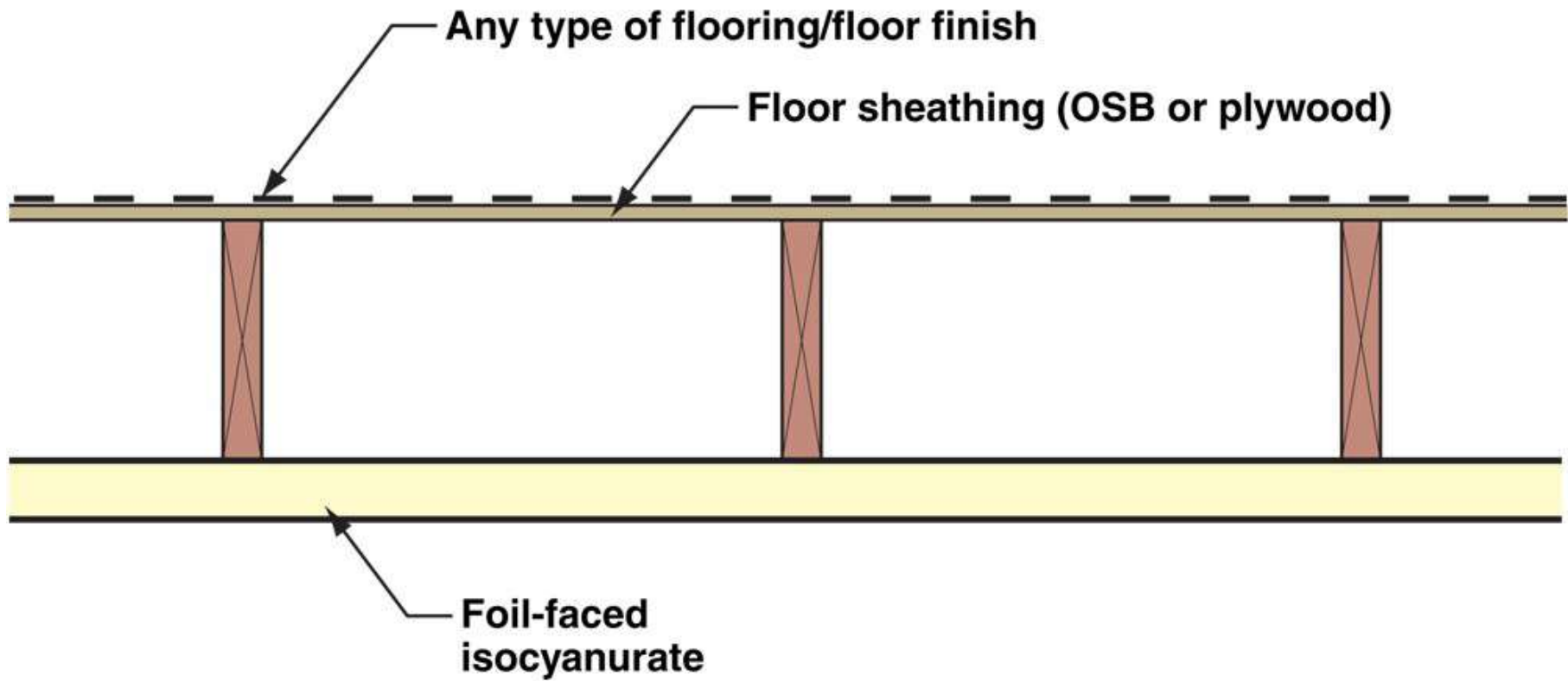


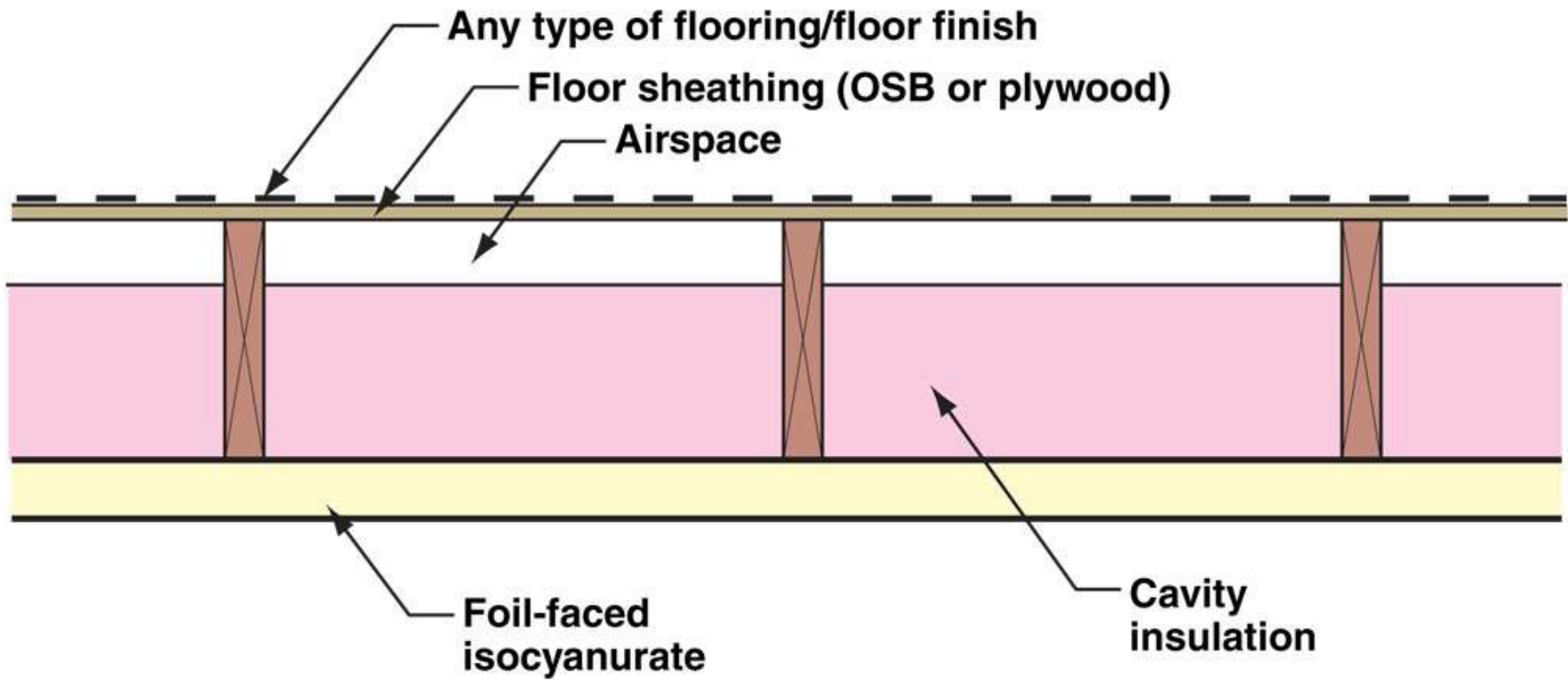


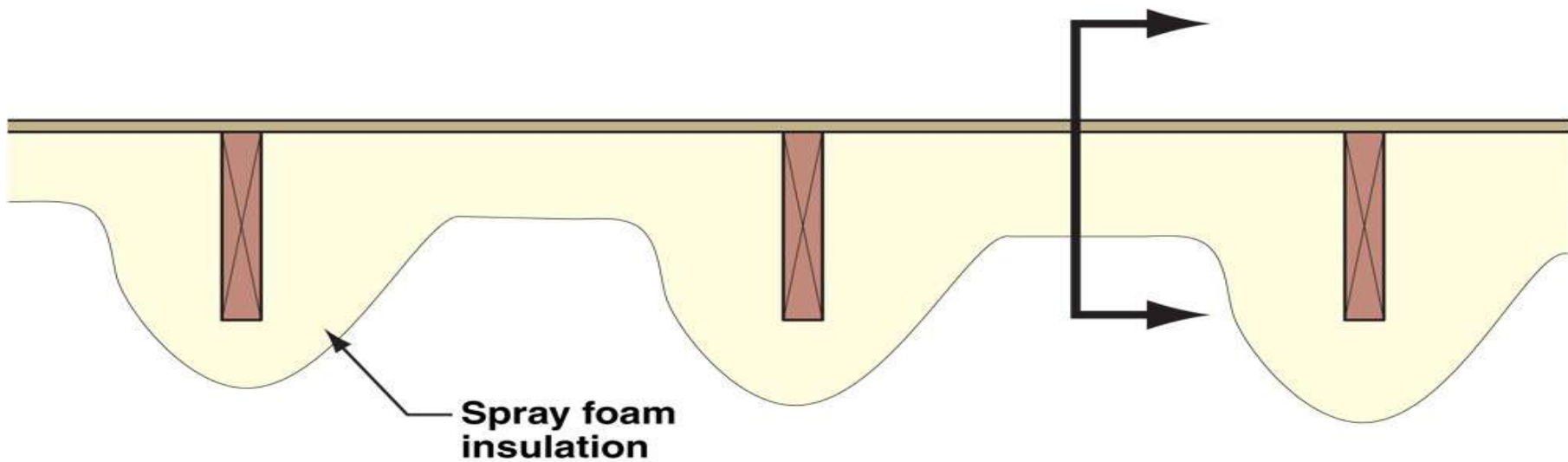




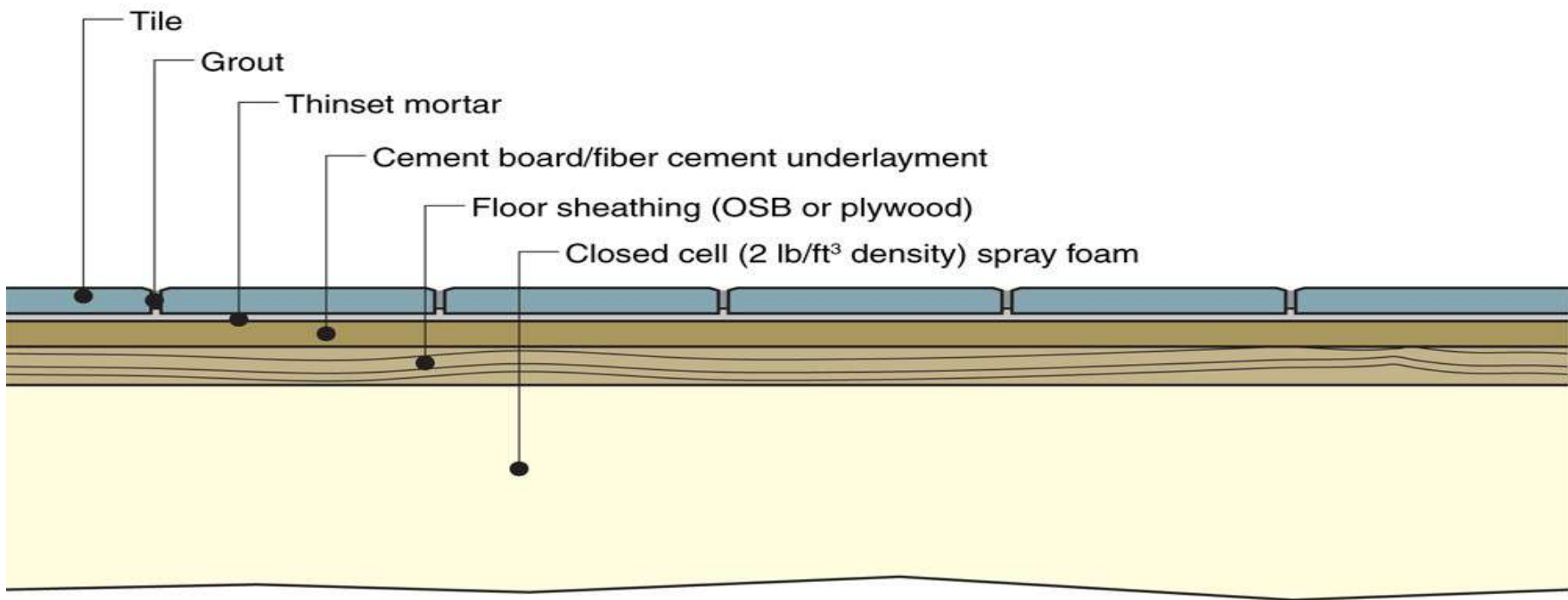


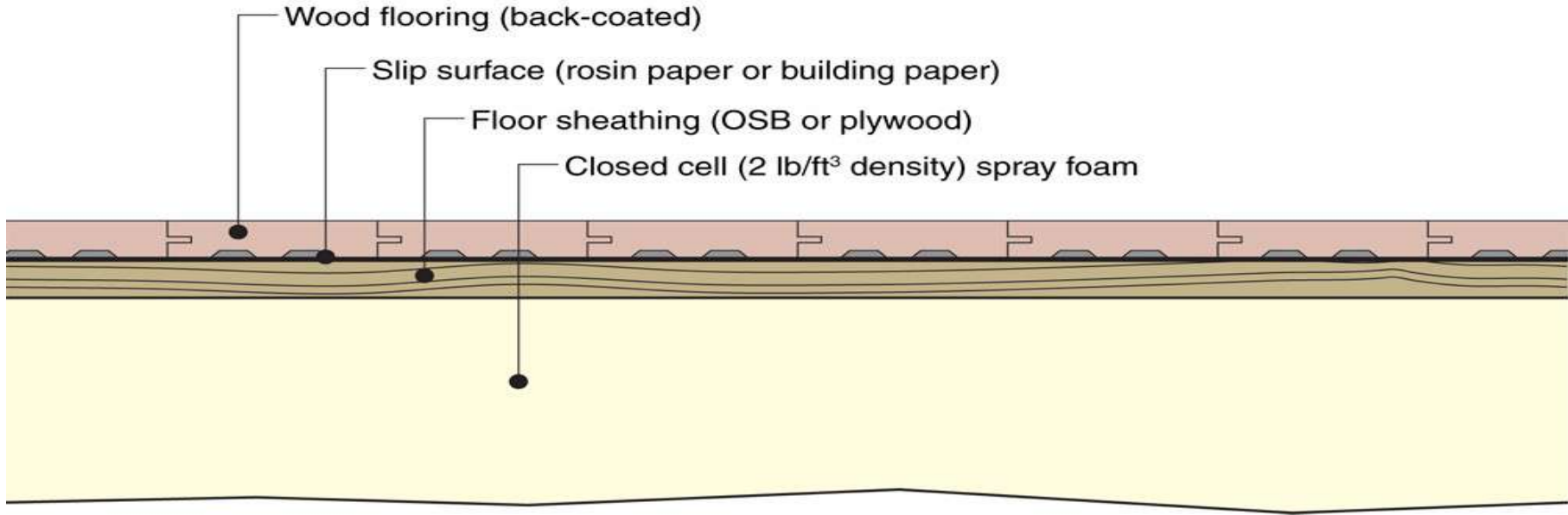


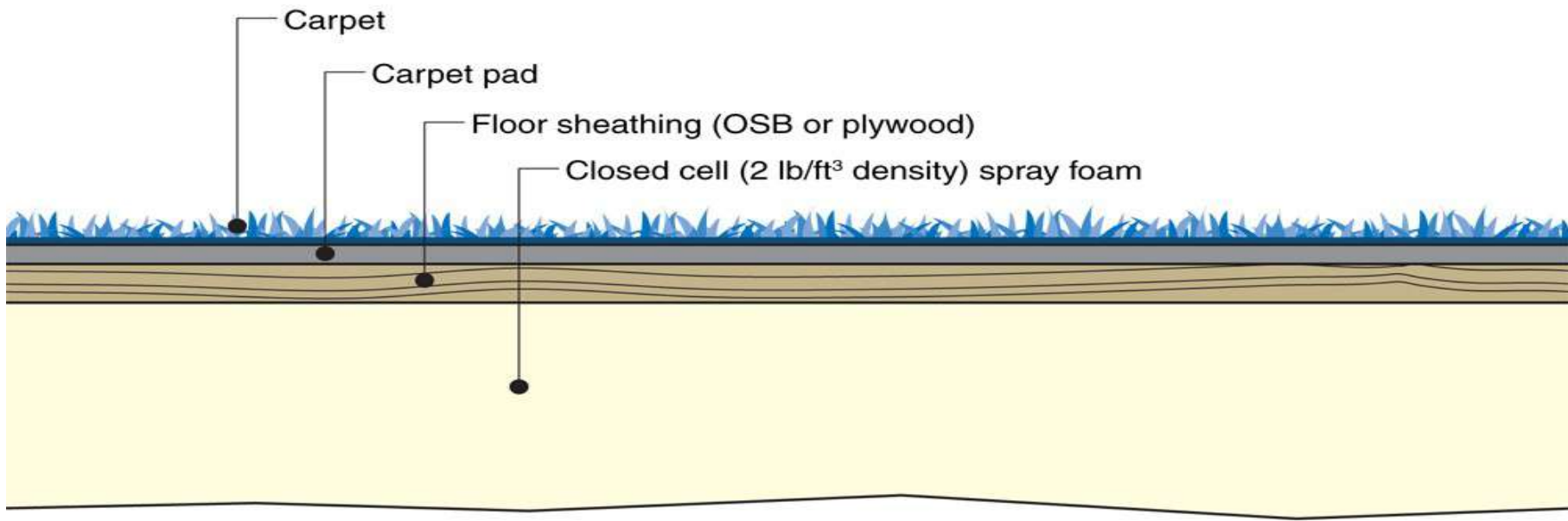


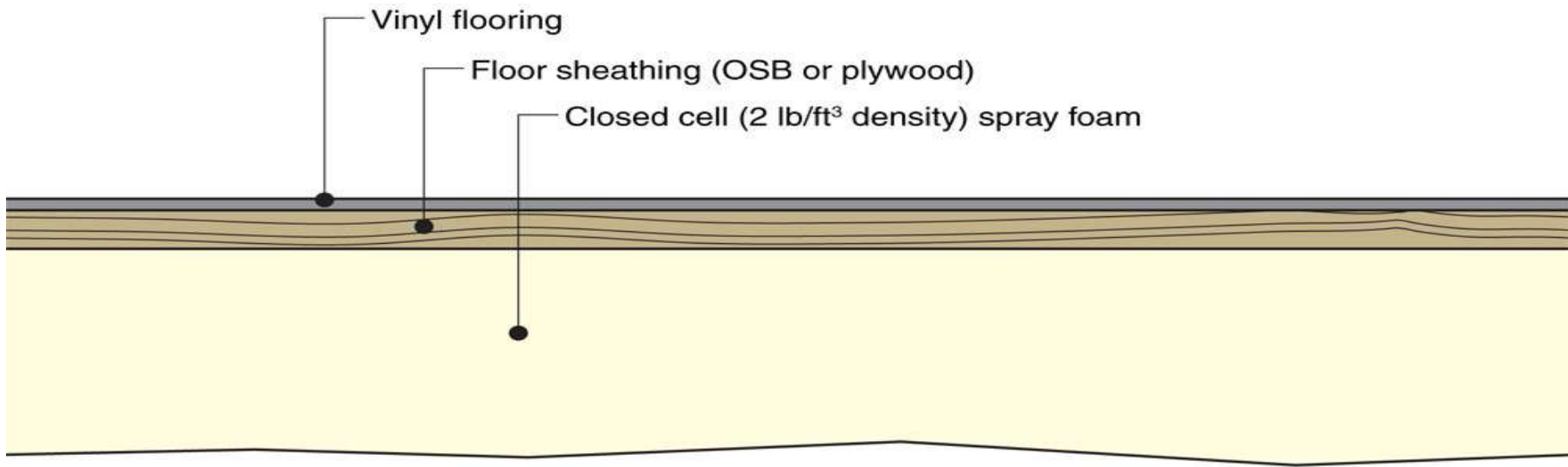




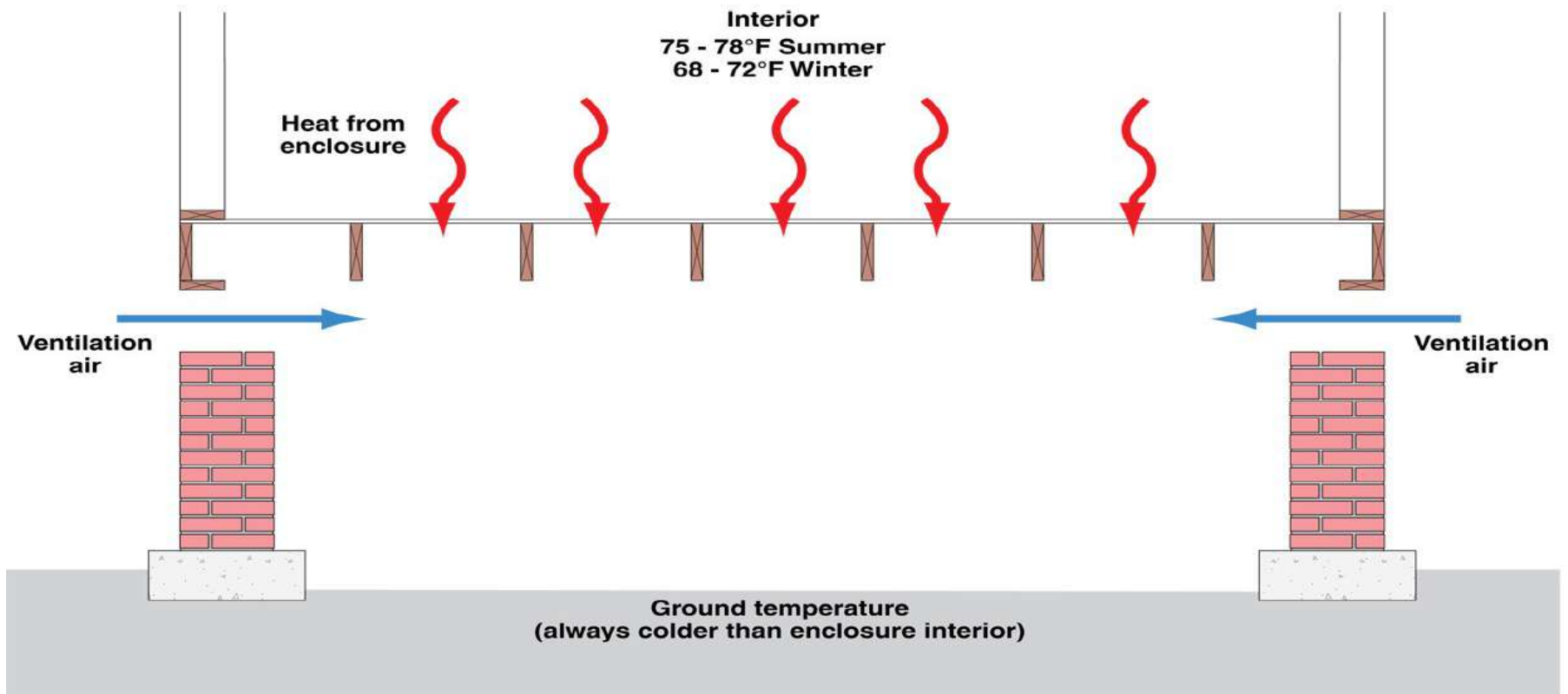


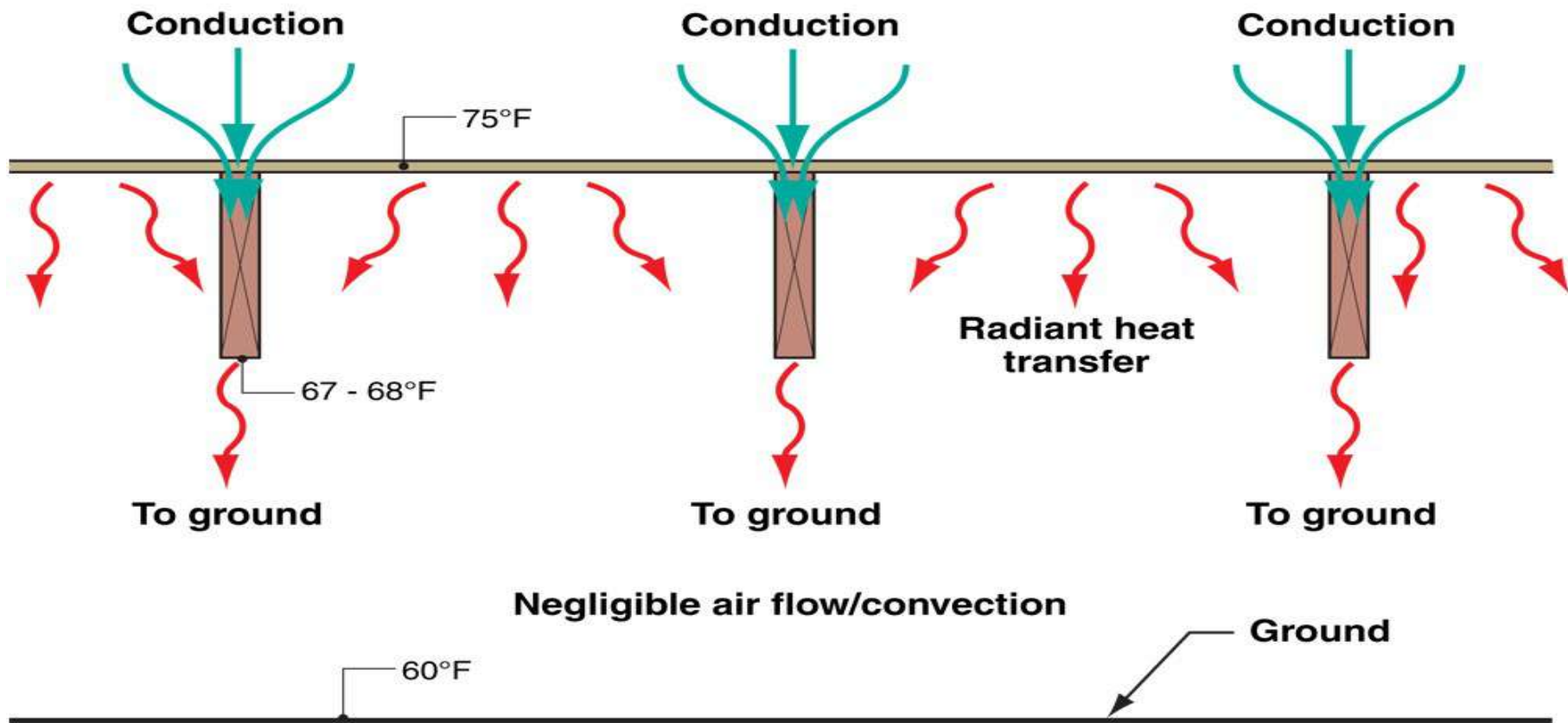


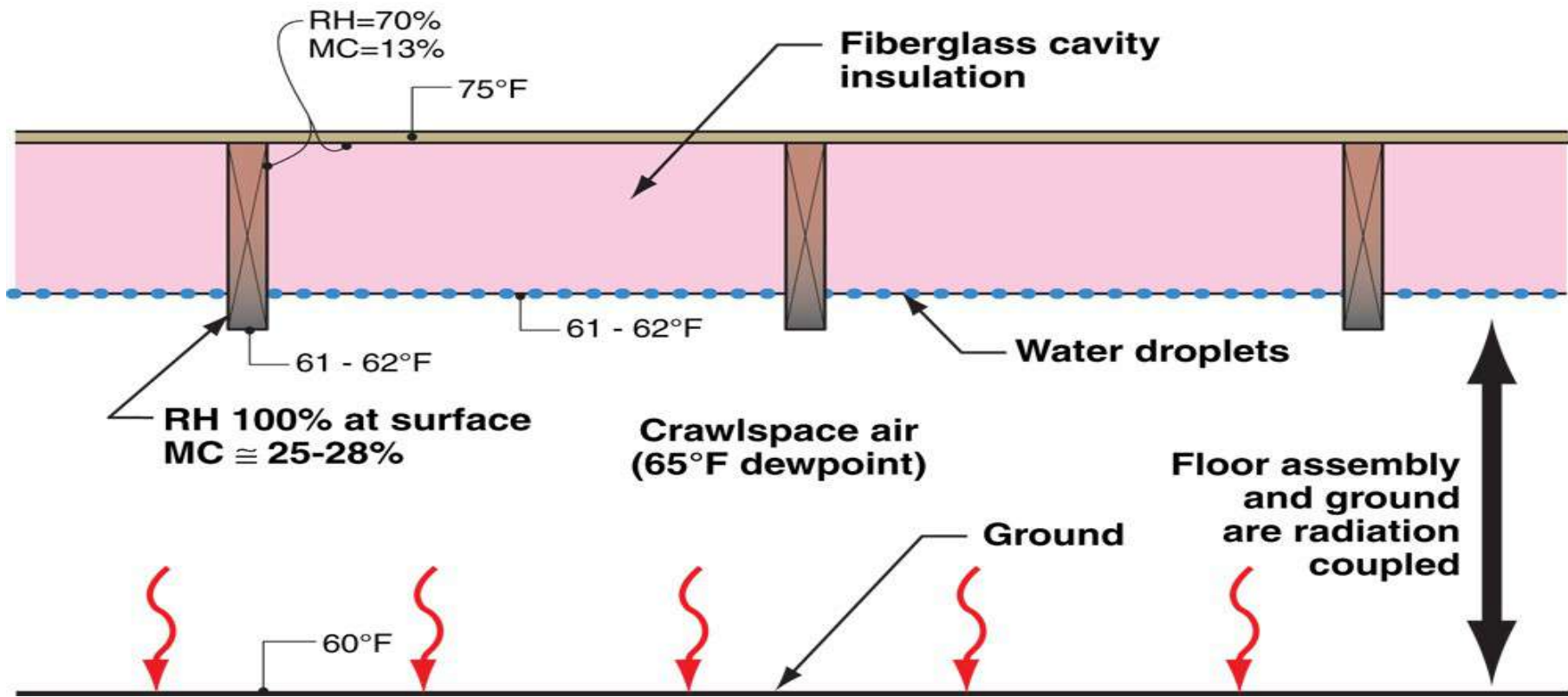


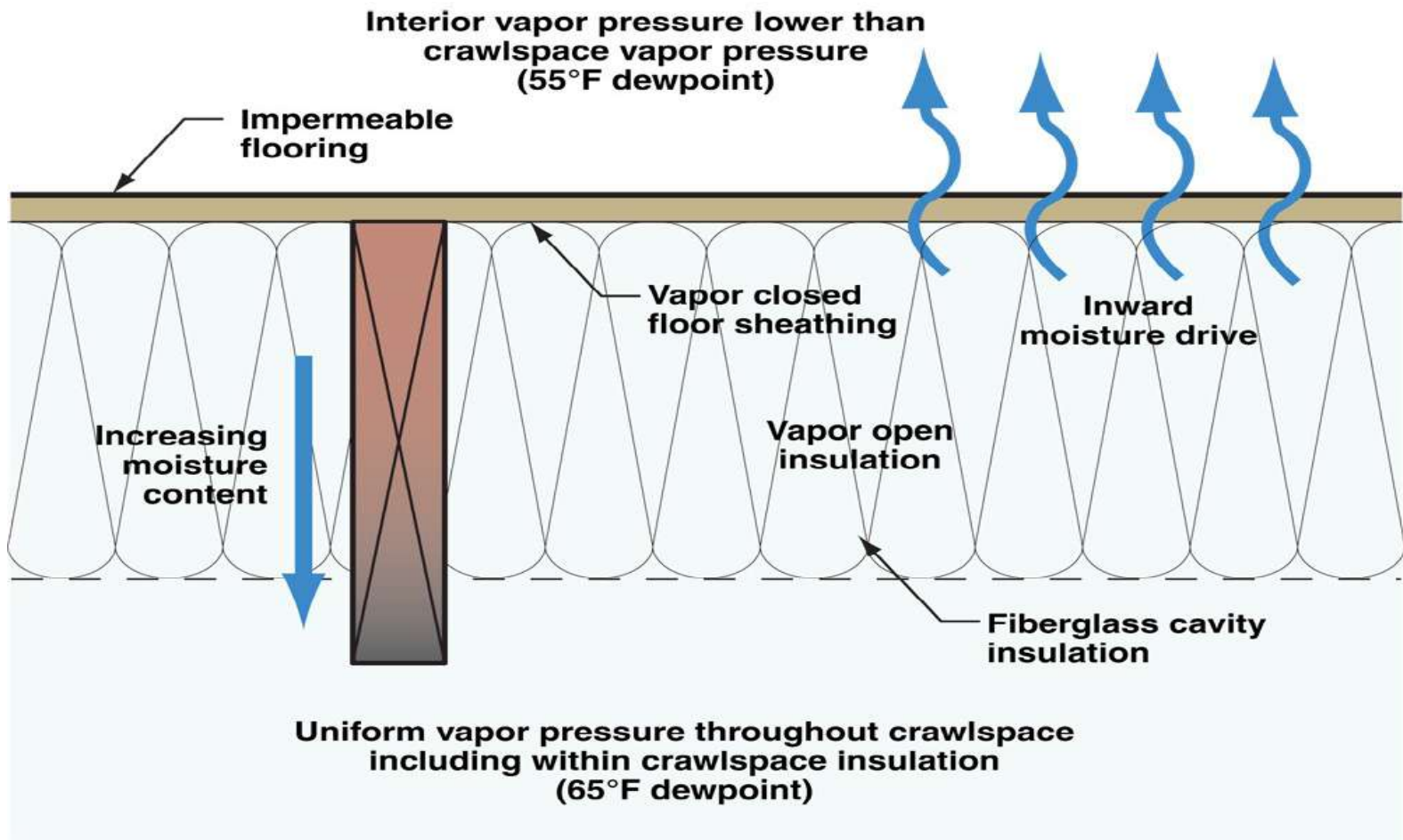












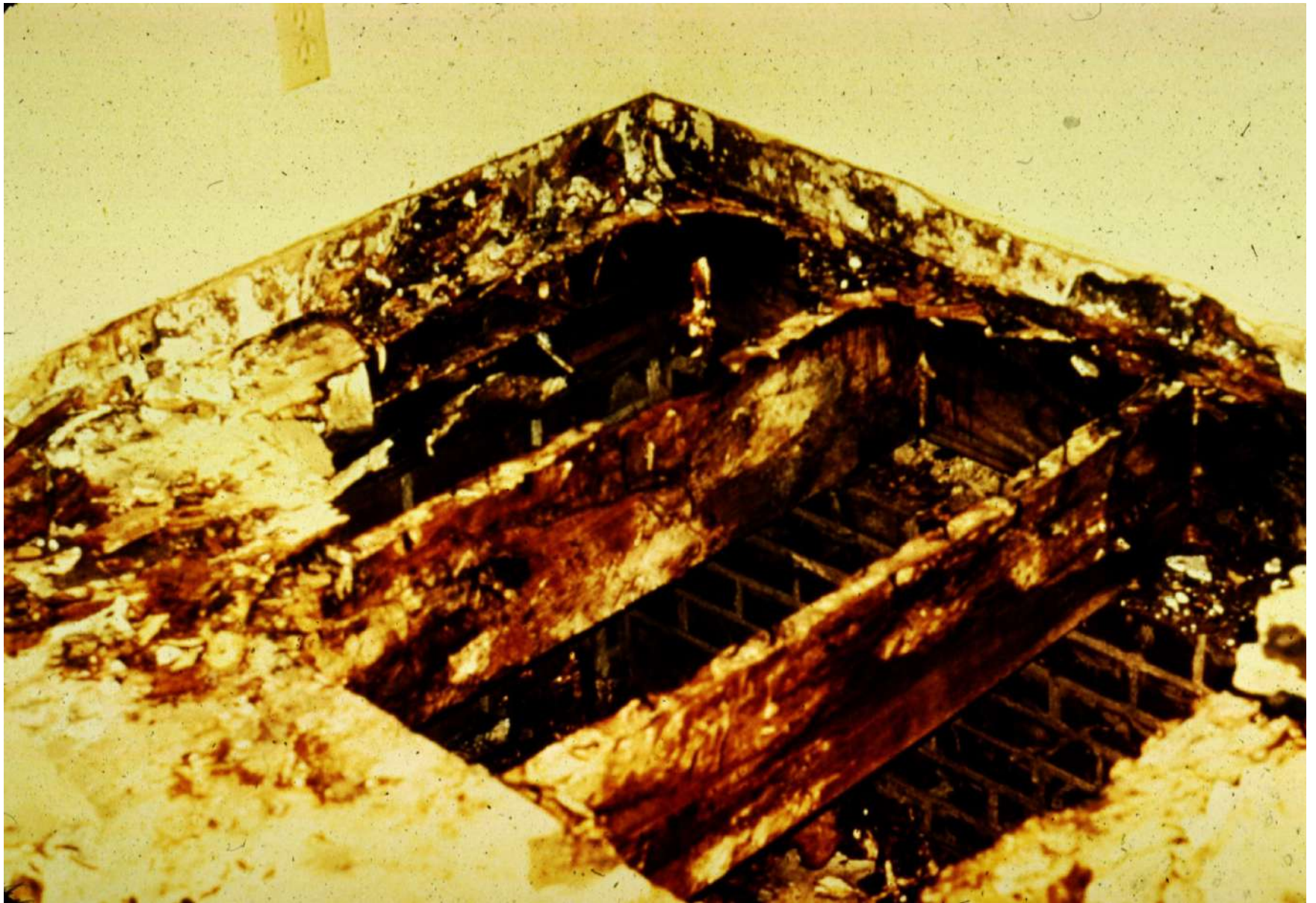


























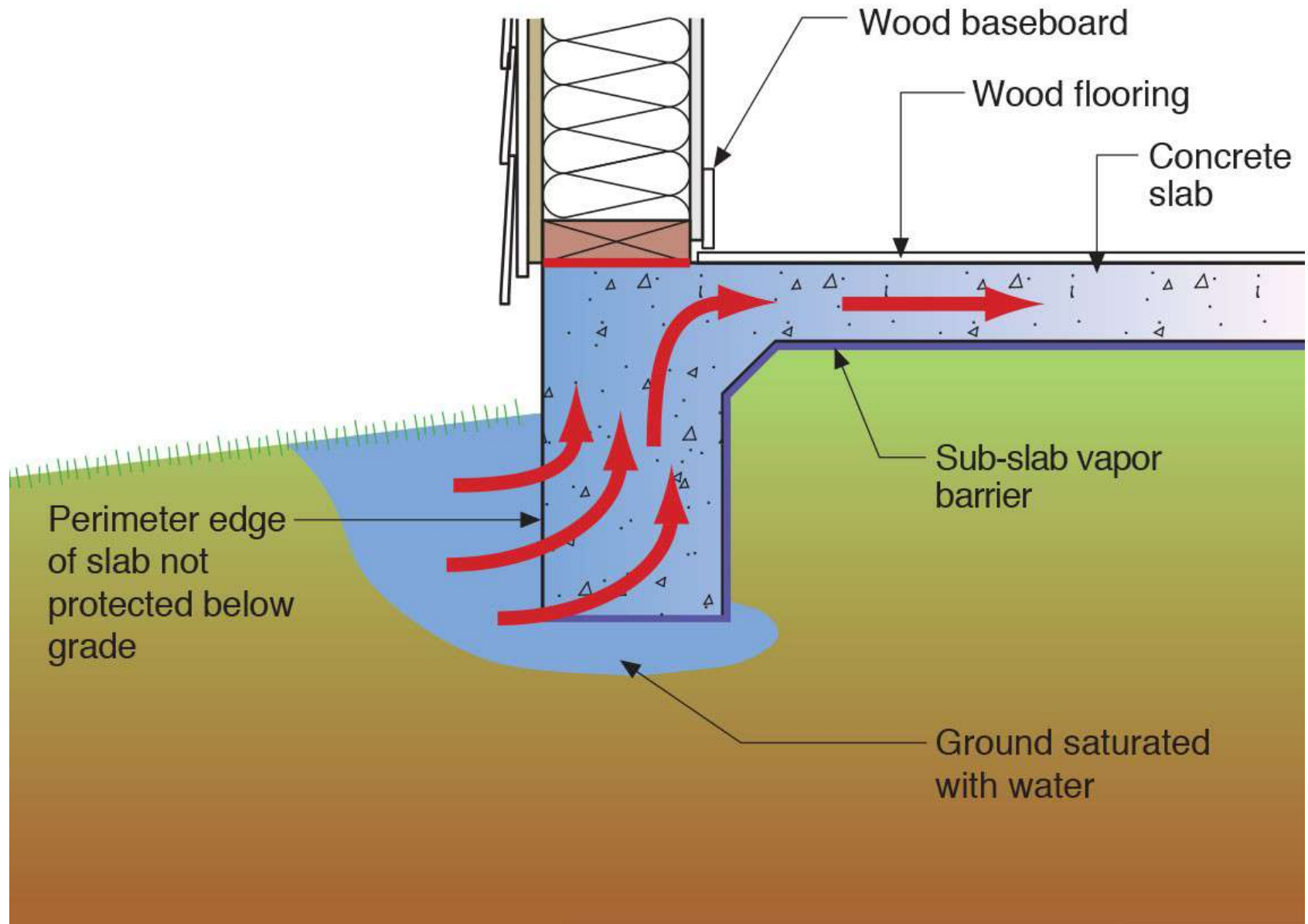






# Slabs

















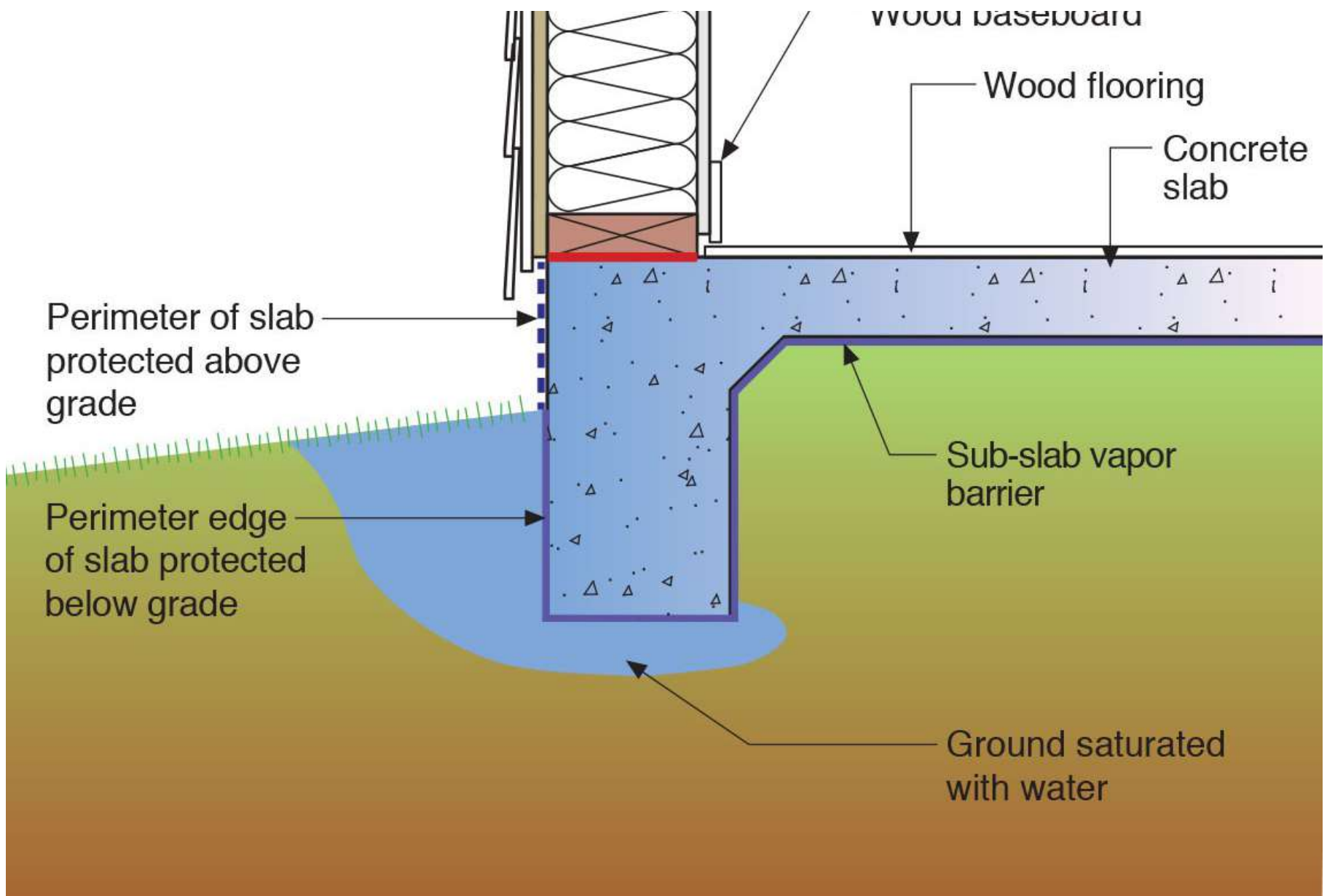


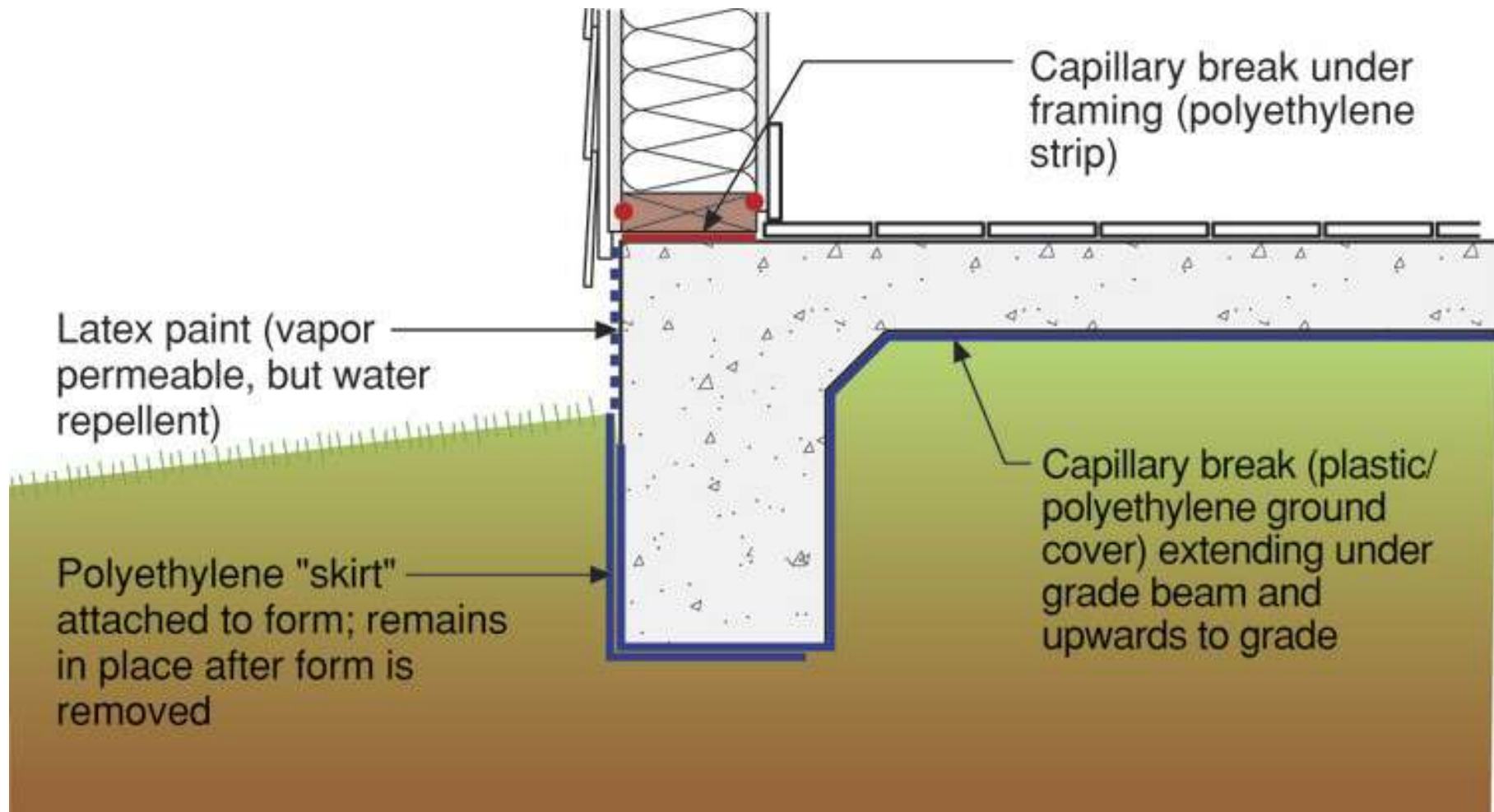
















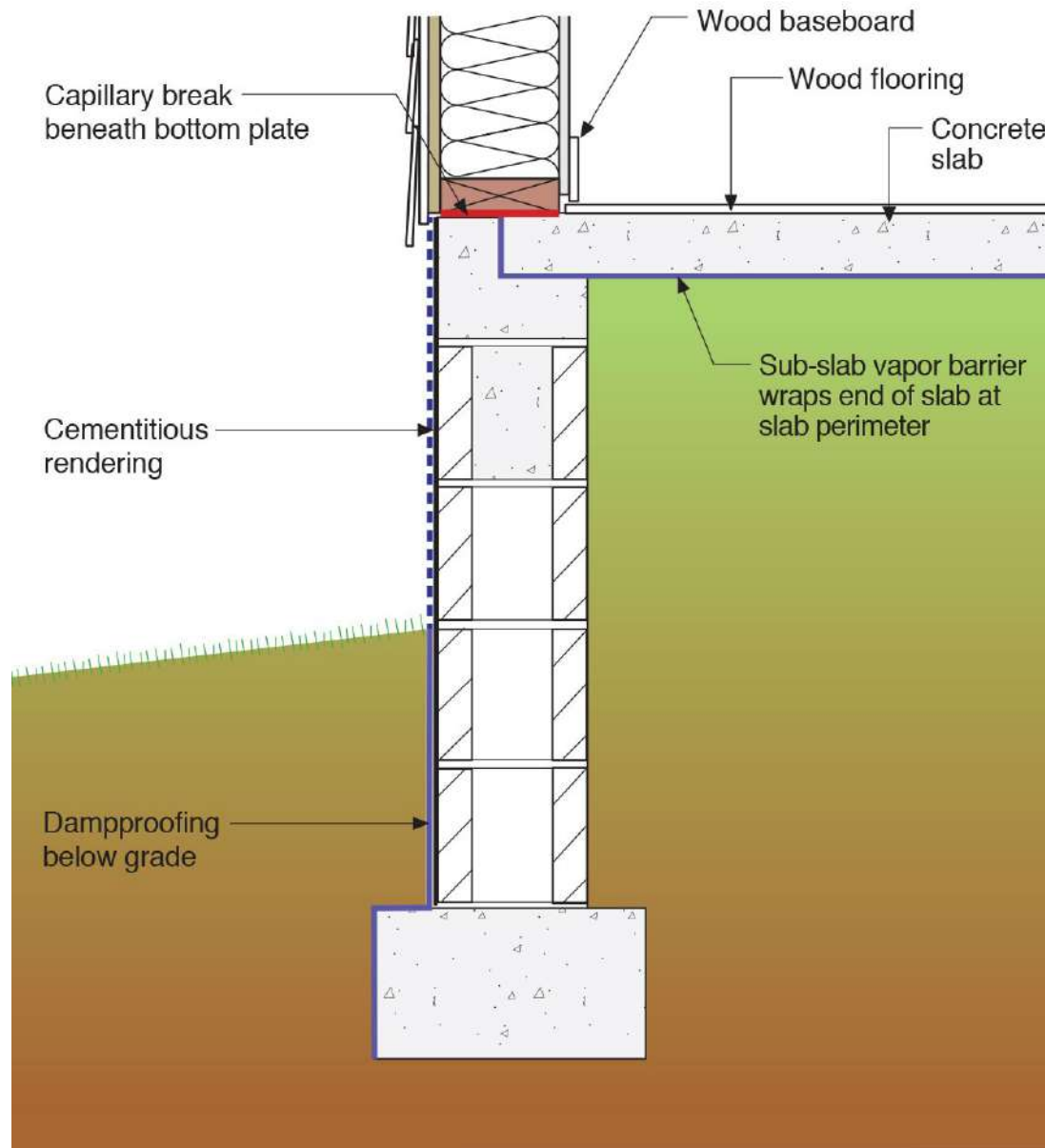














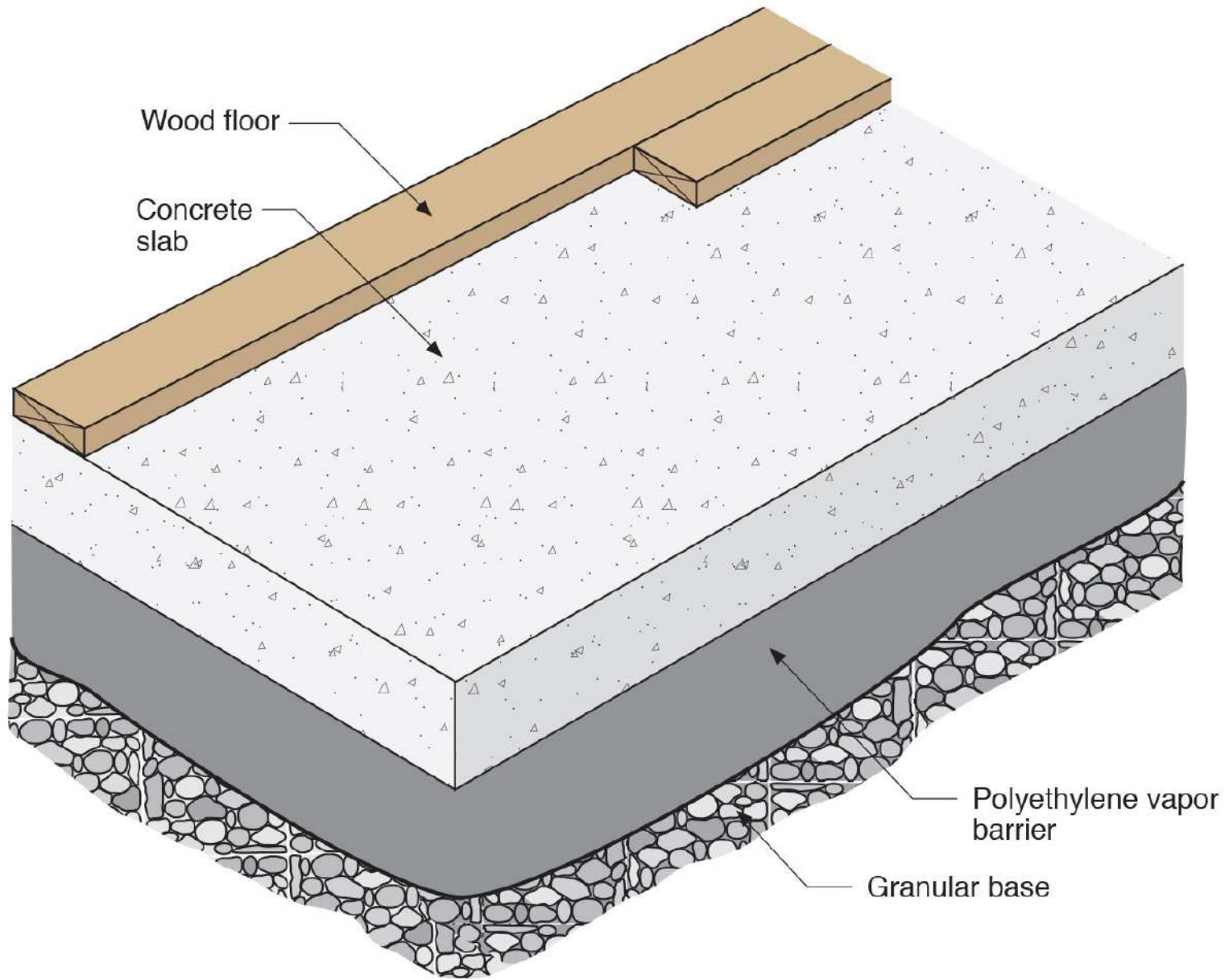


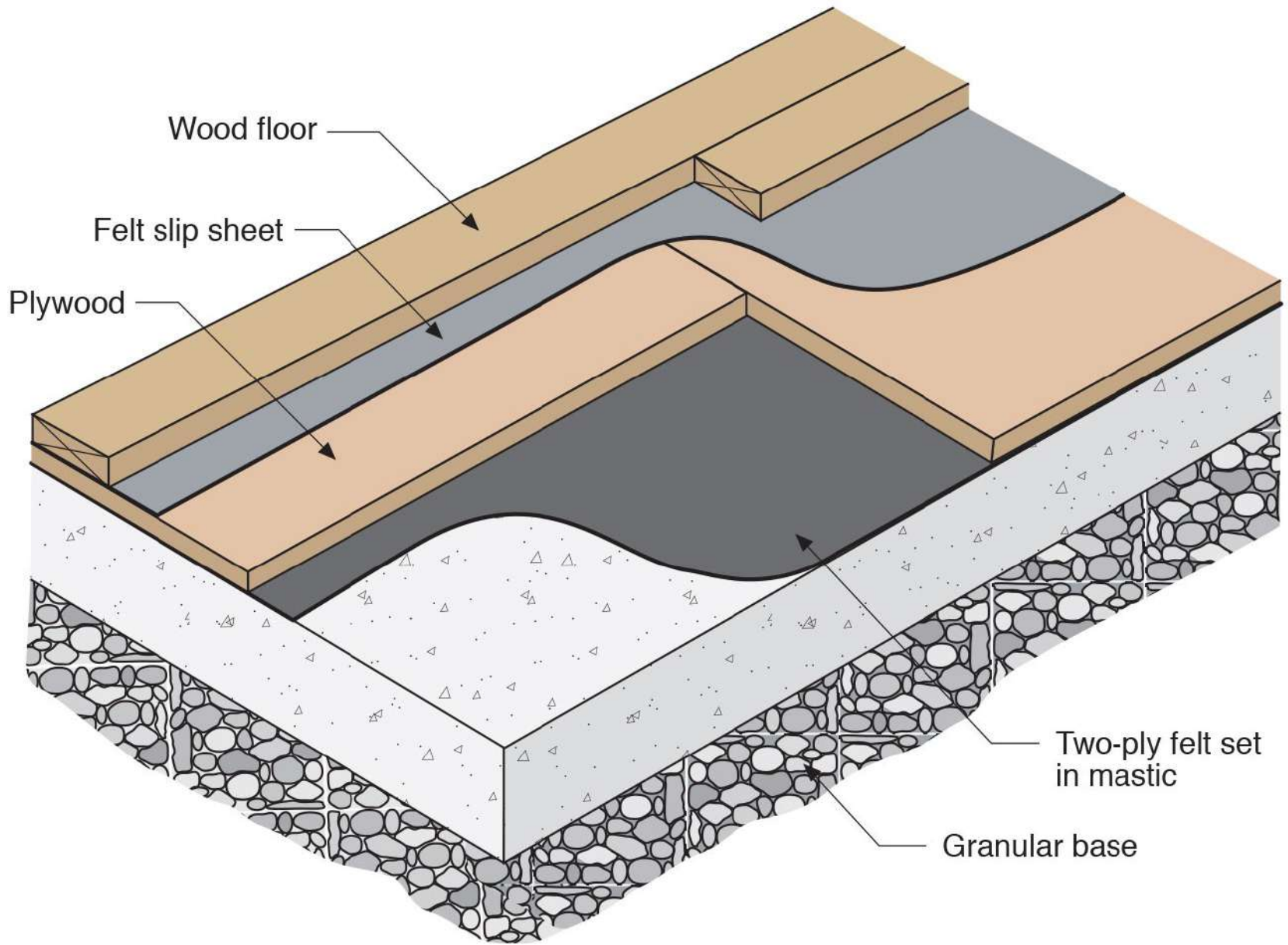






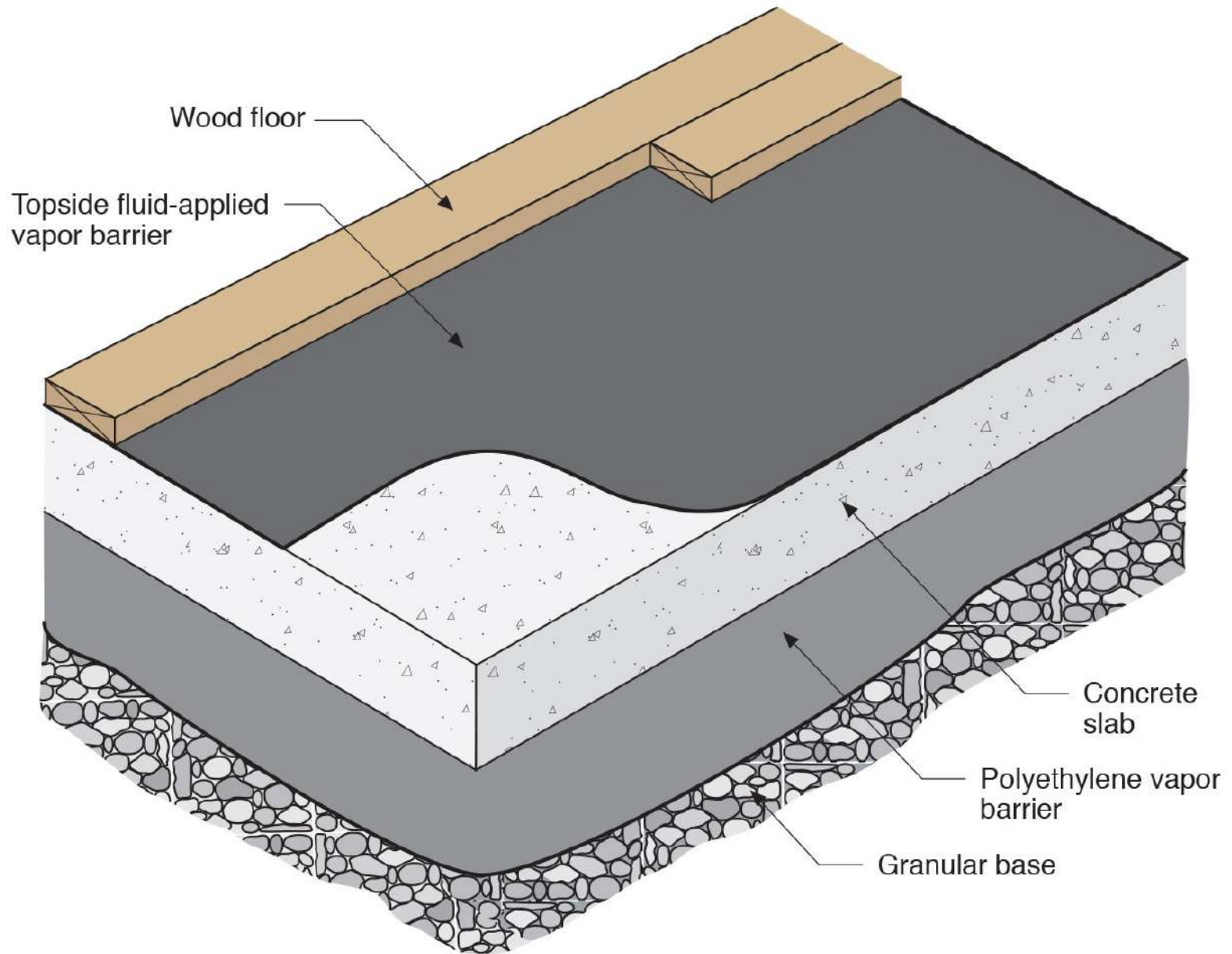








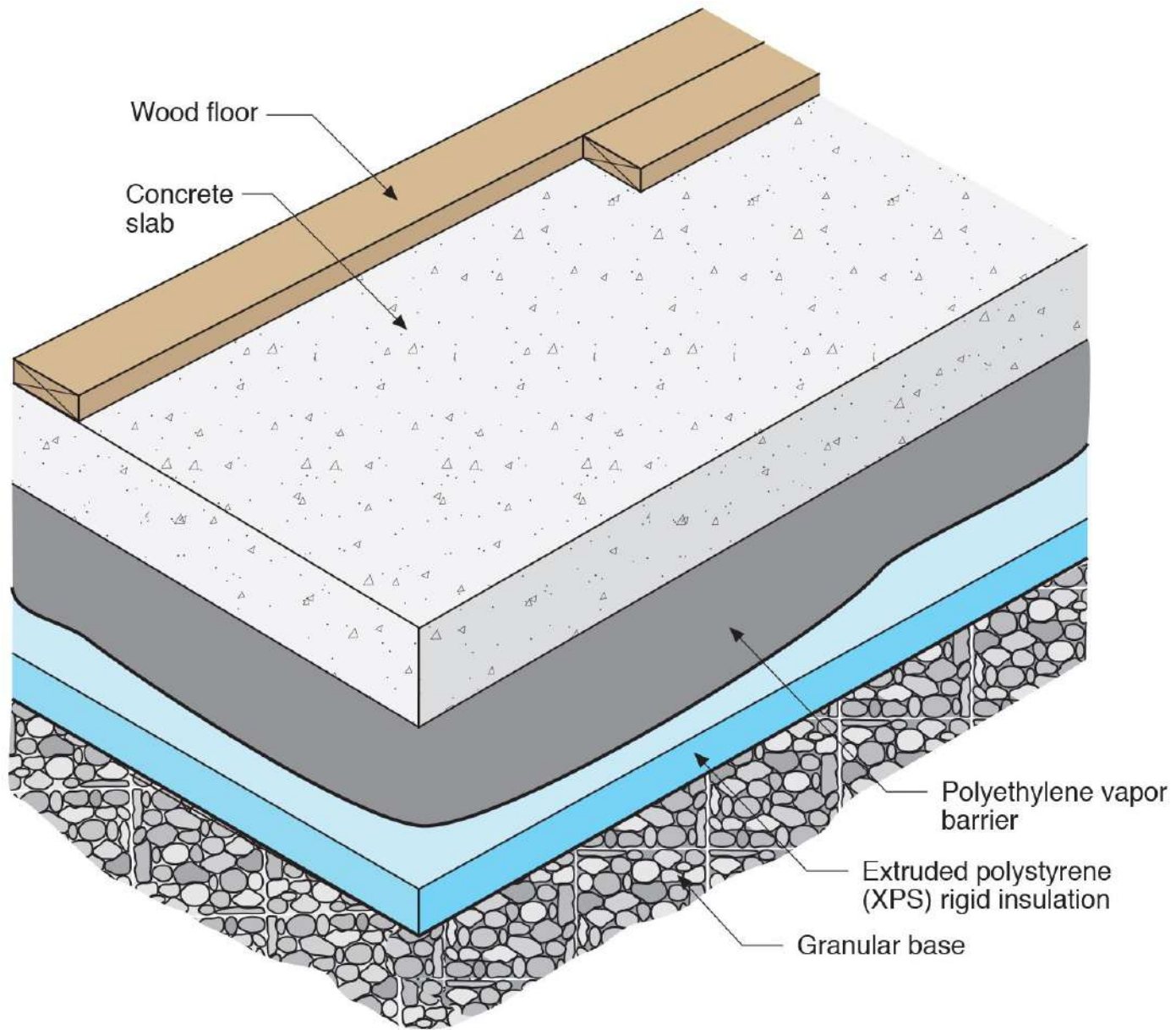




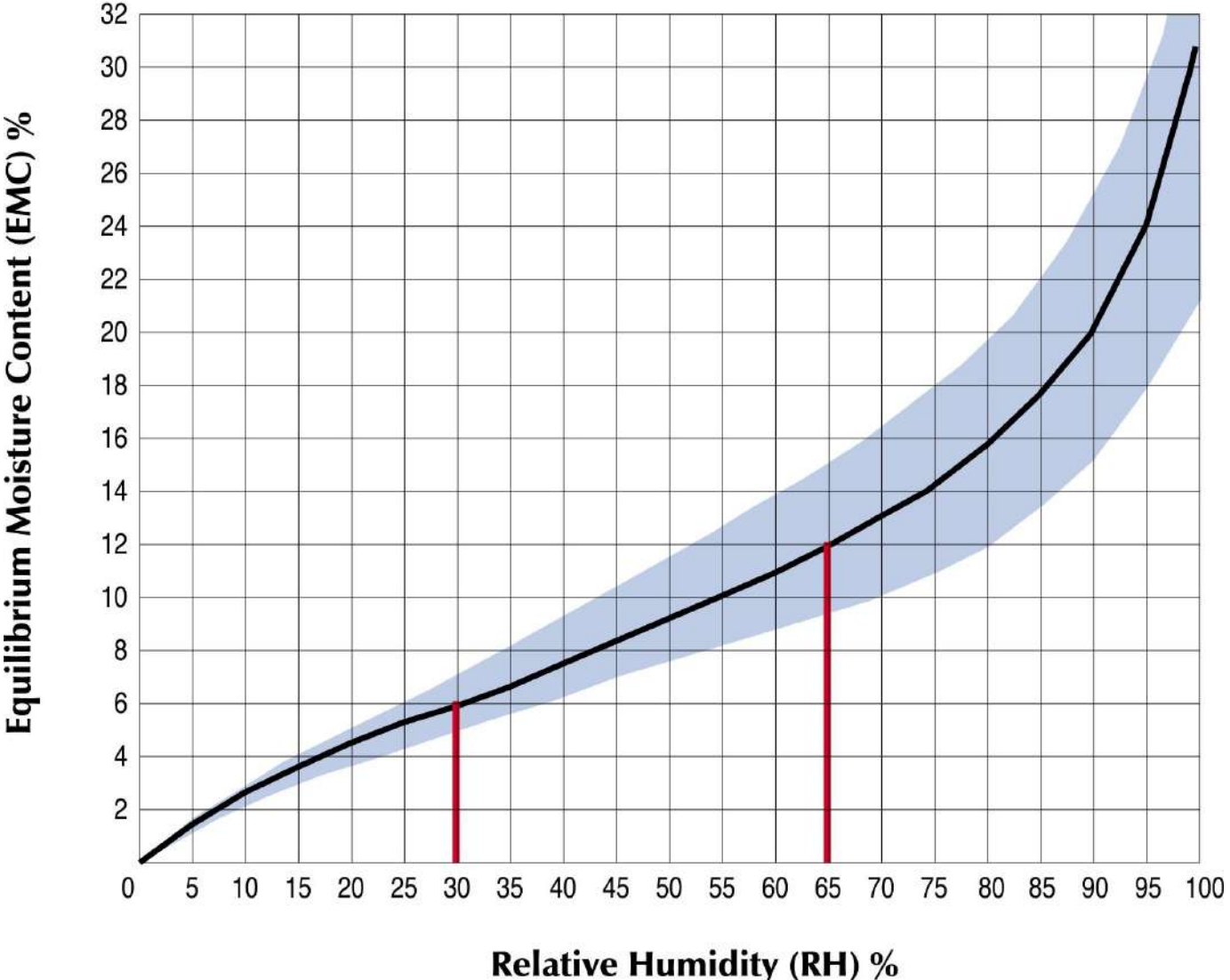


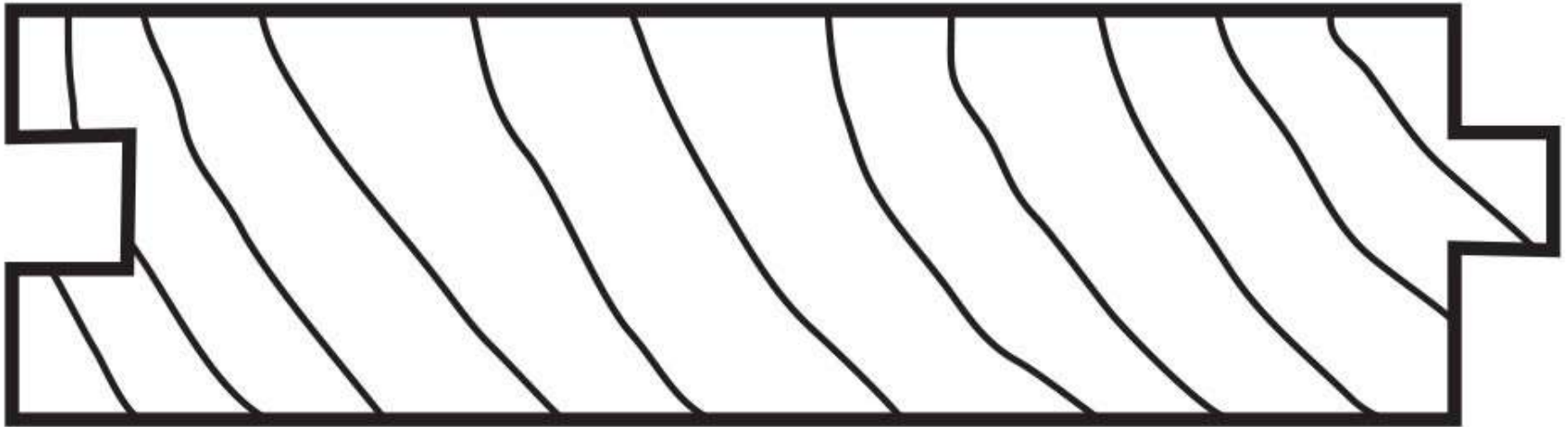






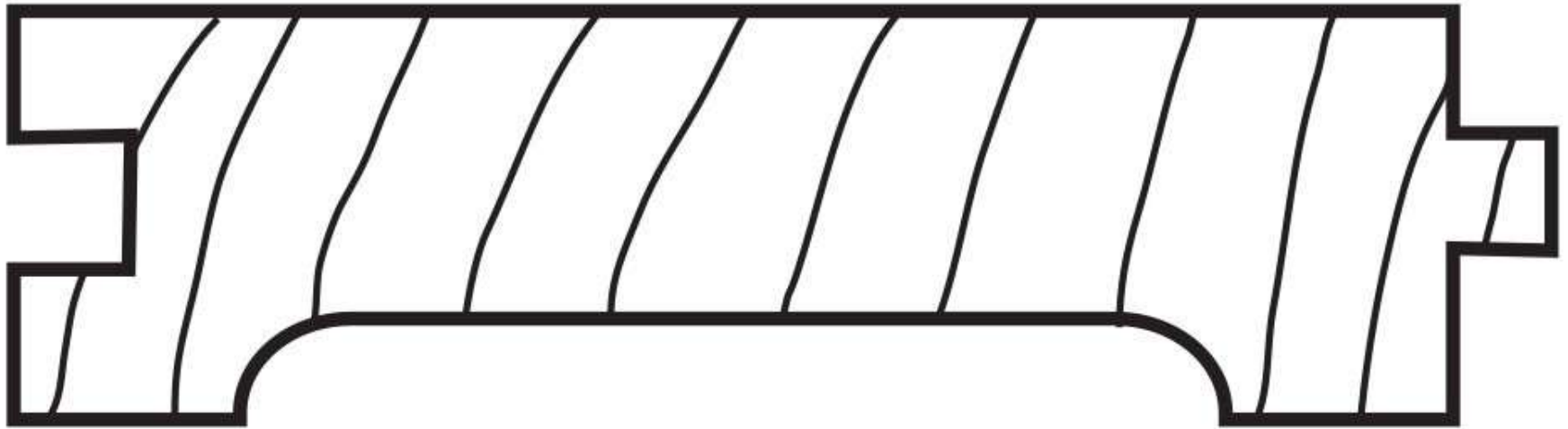
# Moisture Content vs. Relative Humidity



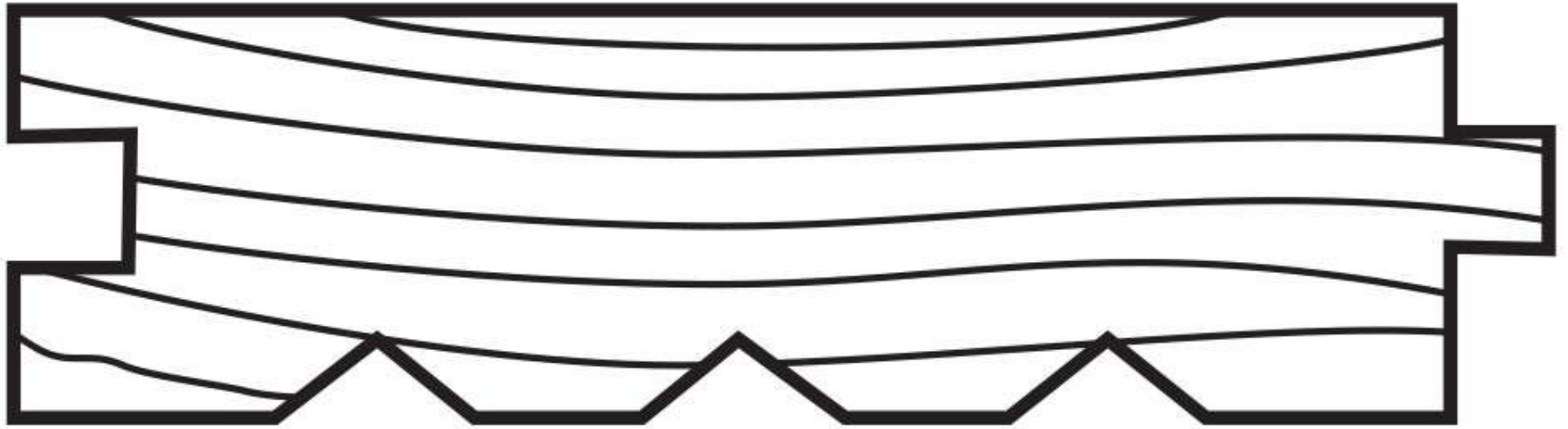


**Plain**

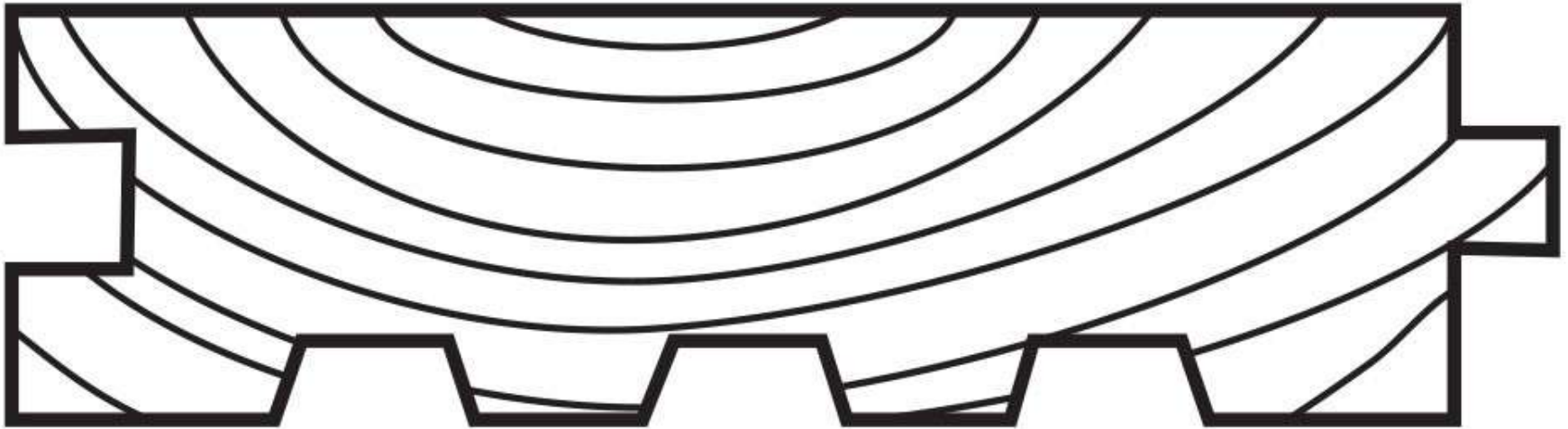




# Hollow Back



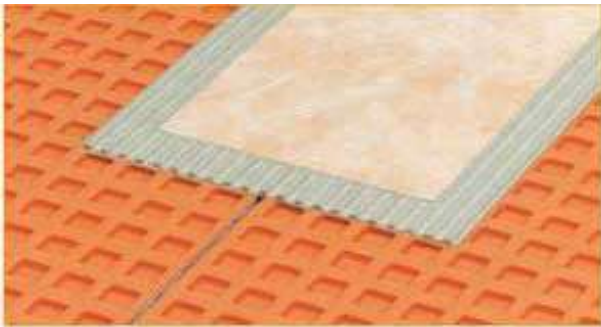
# Scratch Back



# Hollow or Scratch Back



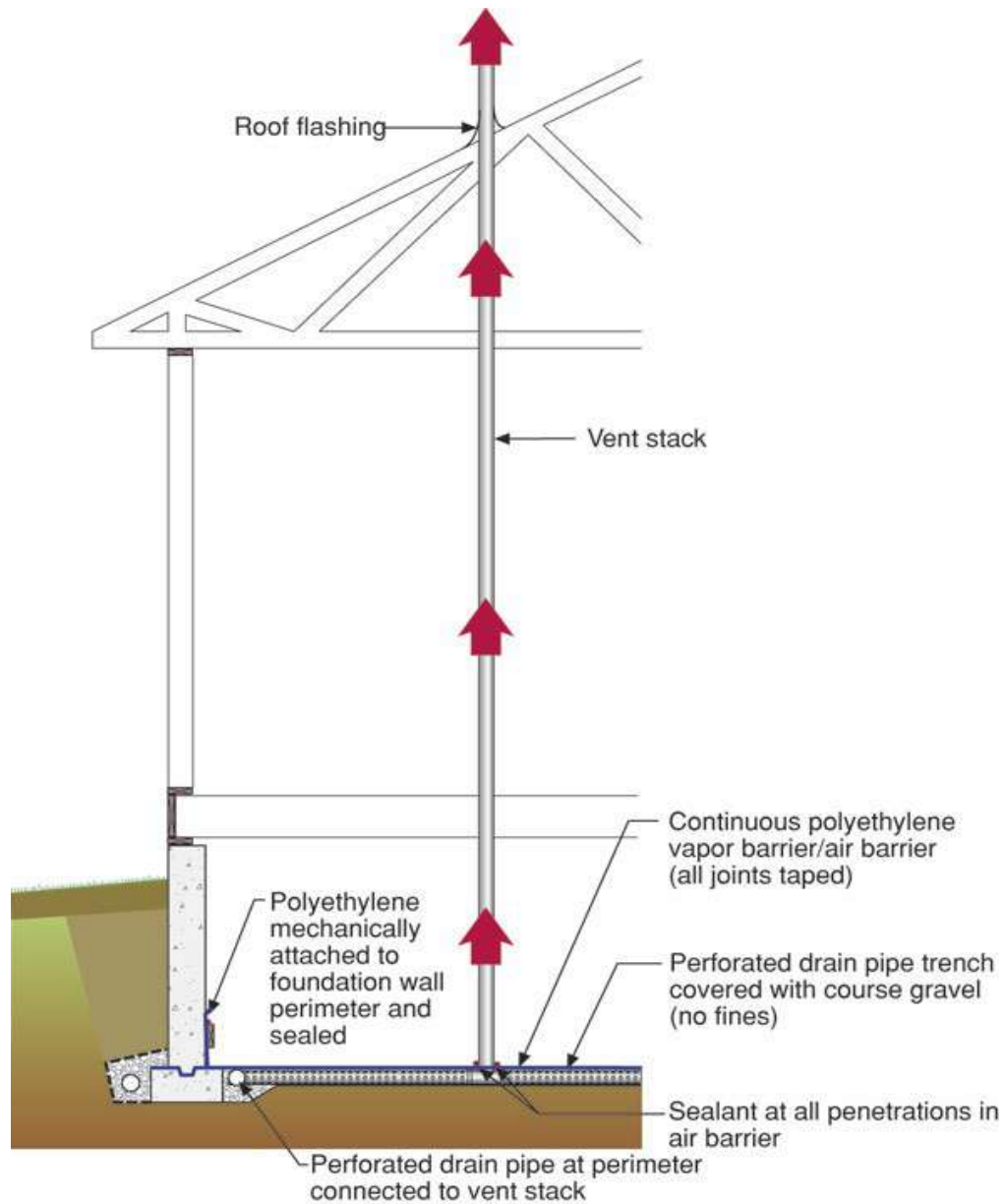


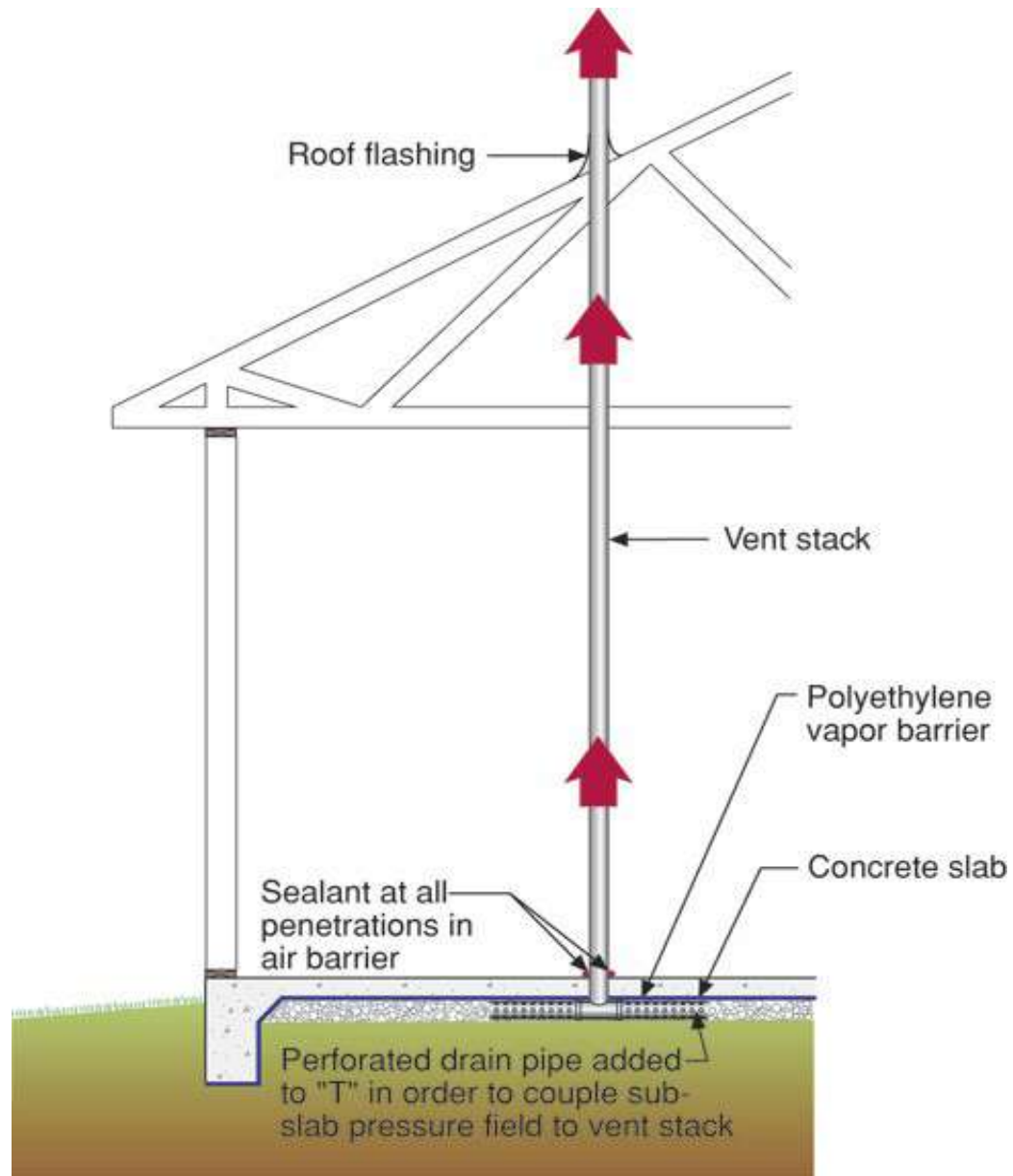


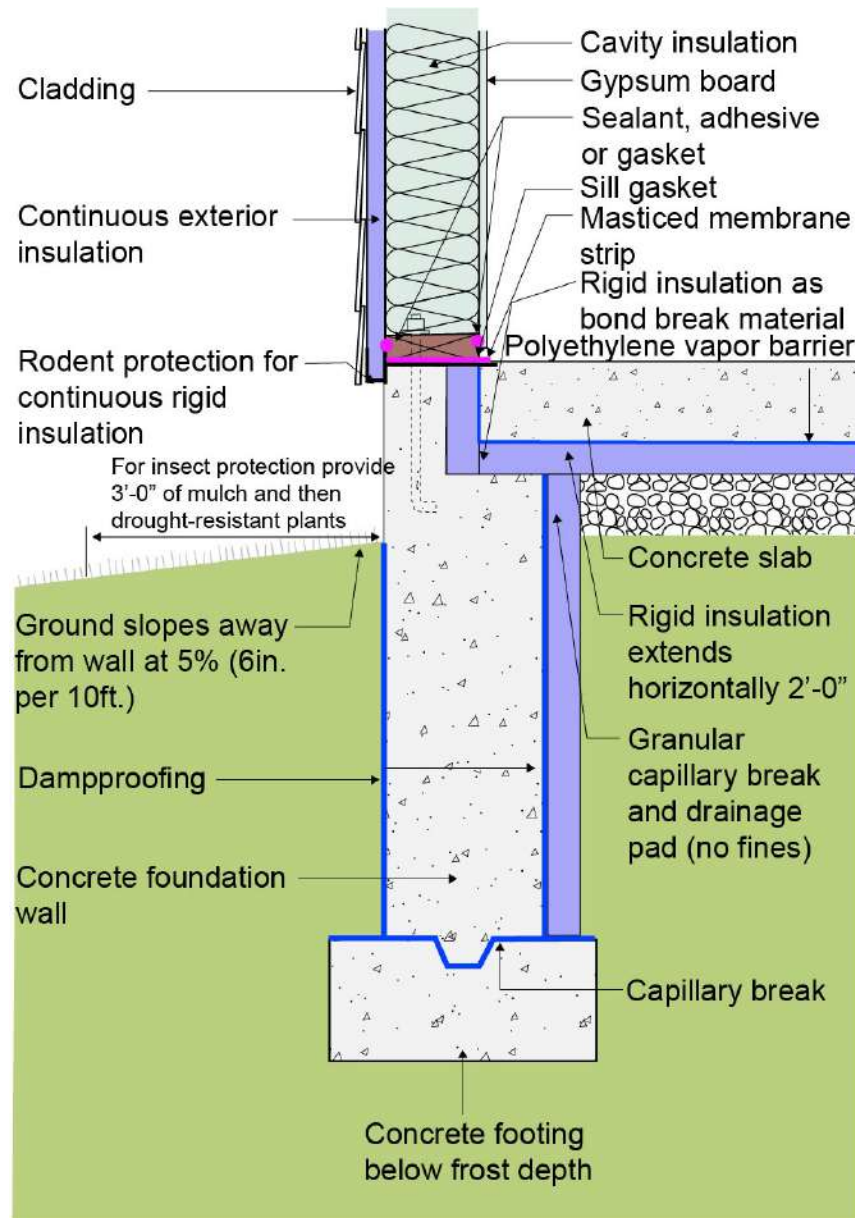






















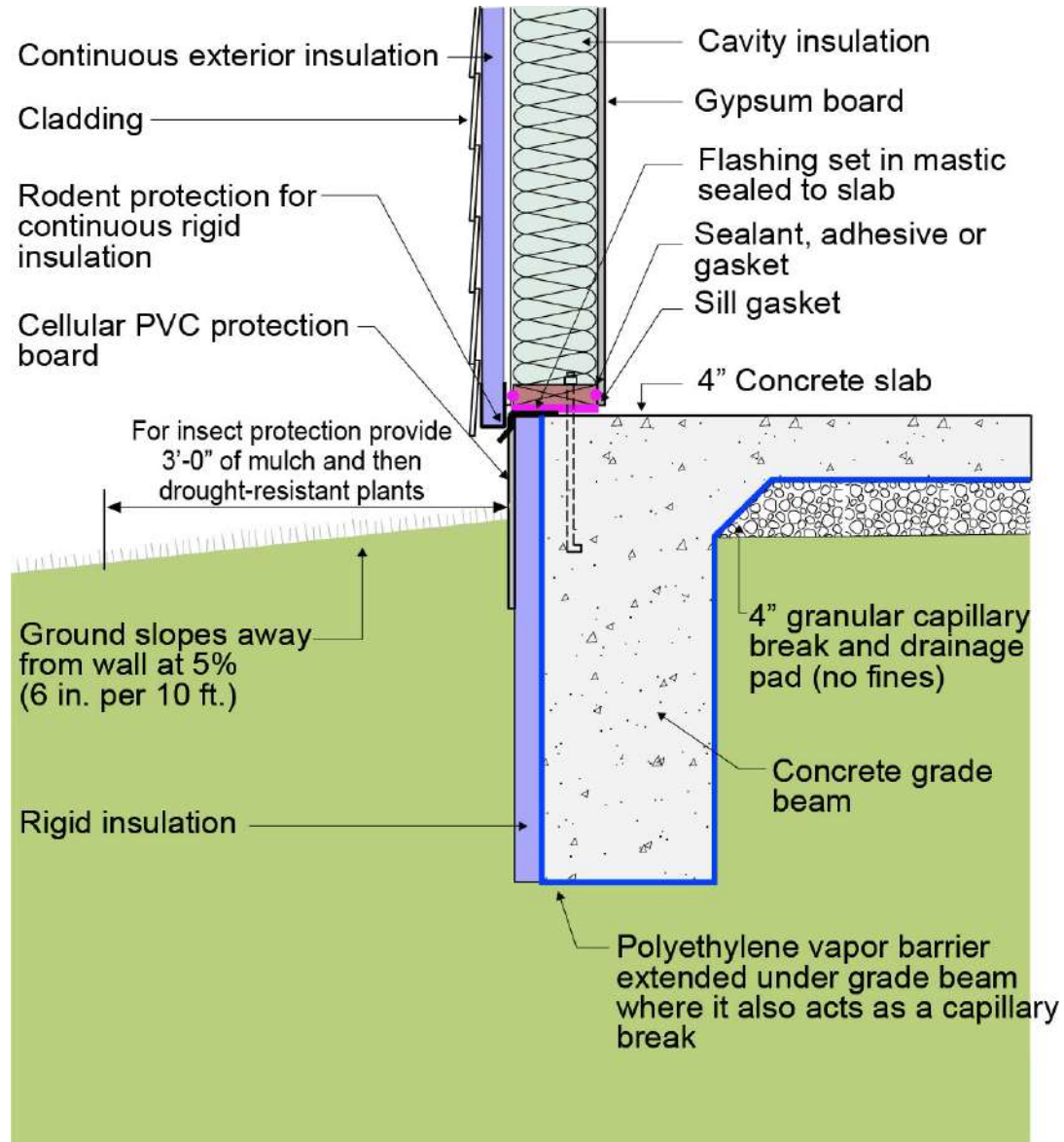




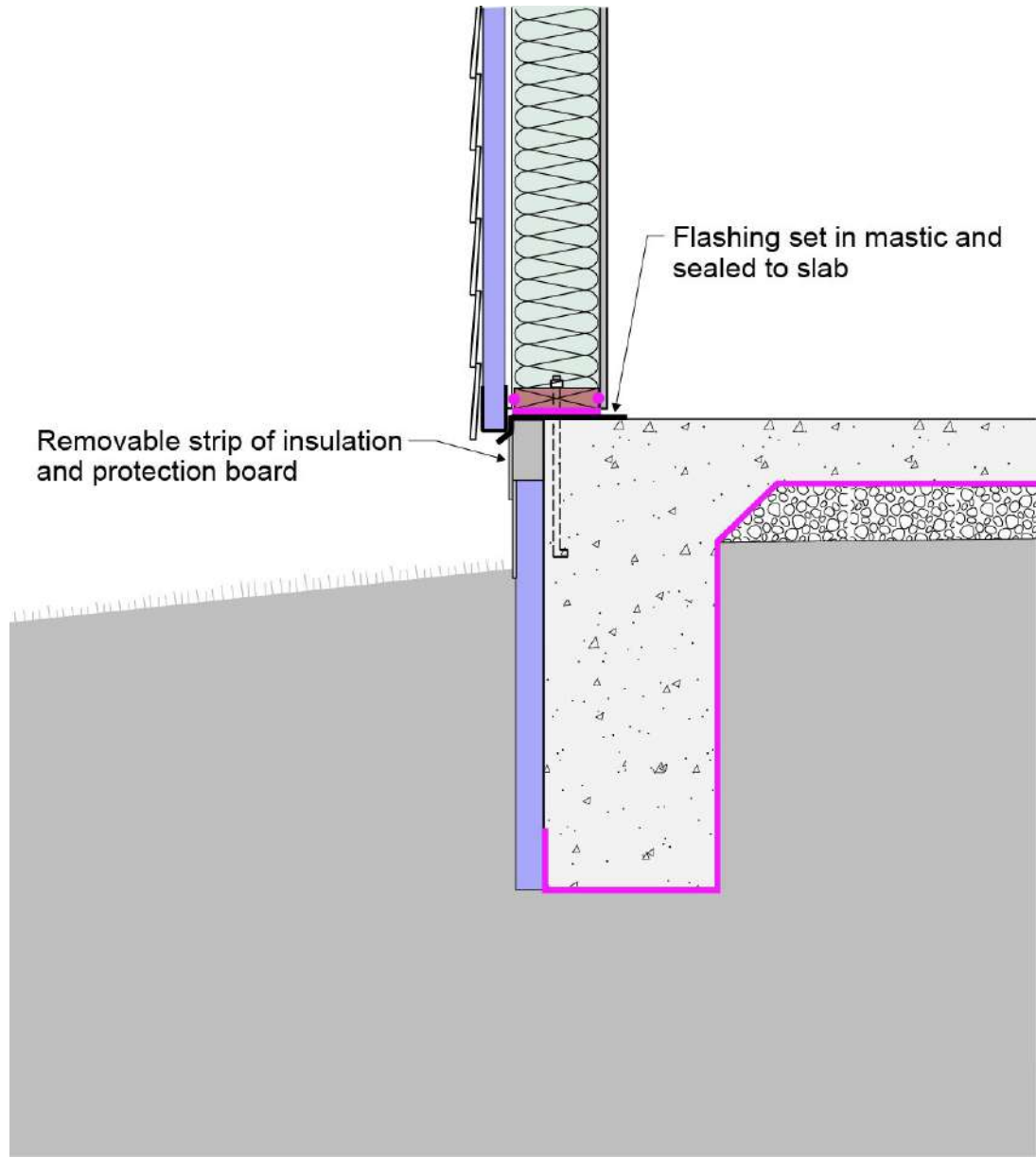


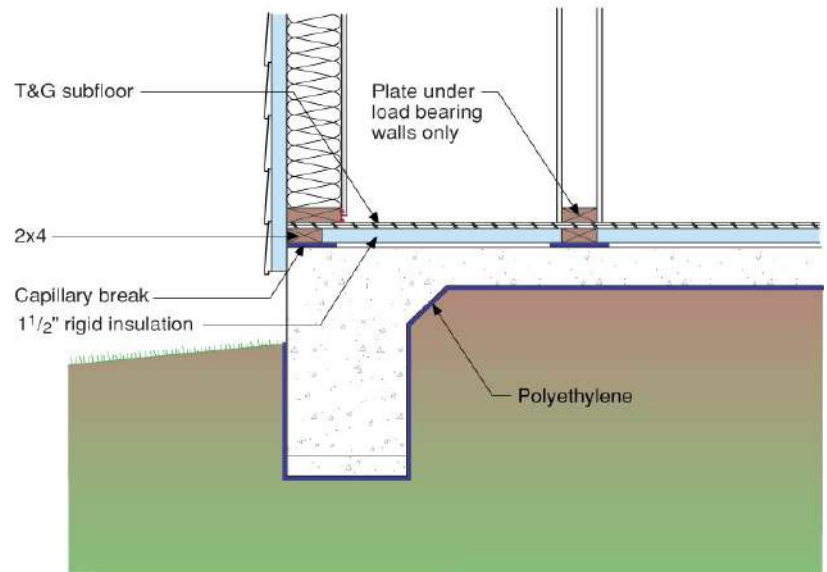
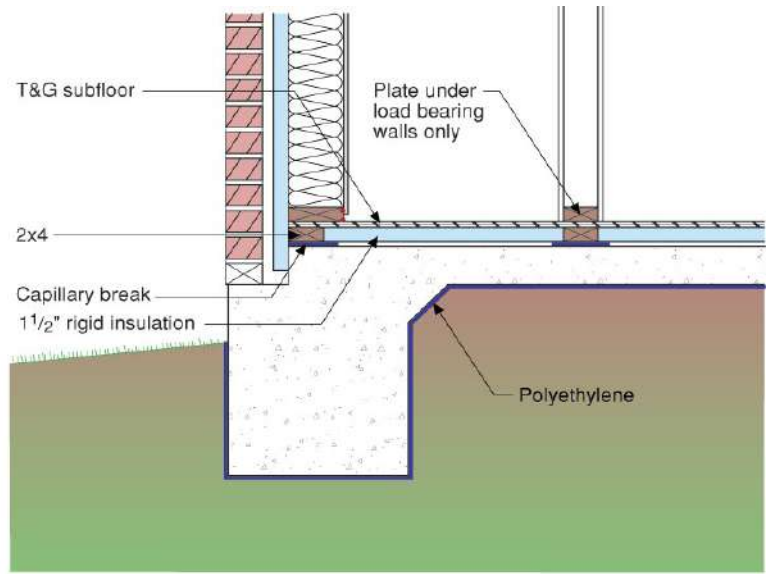


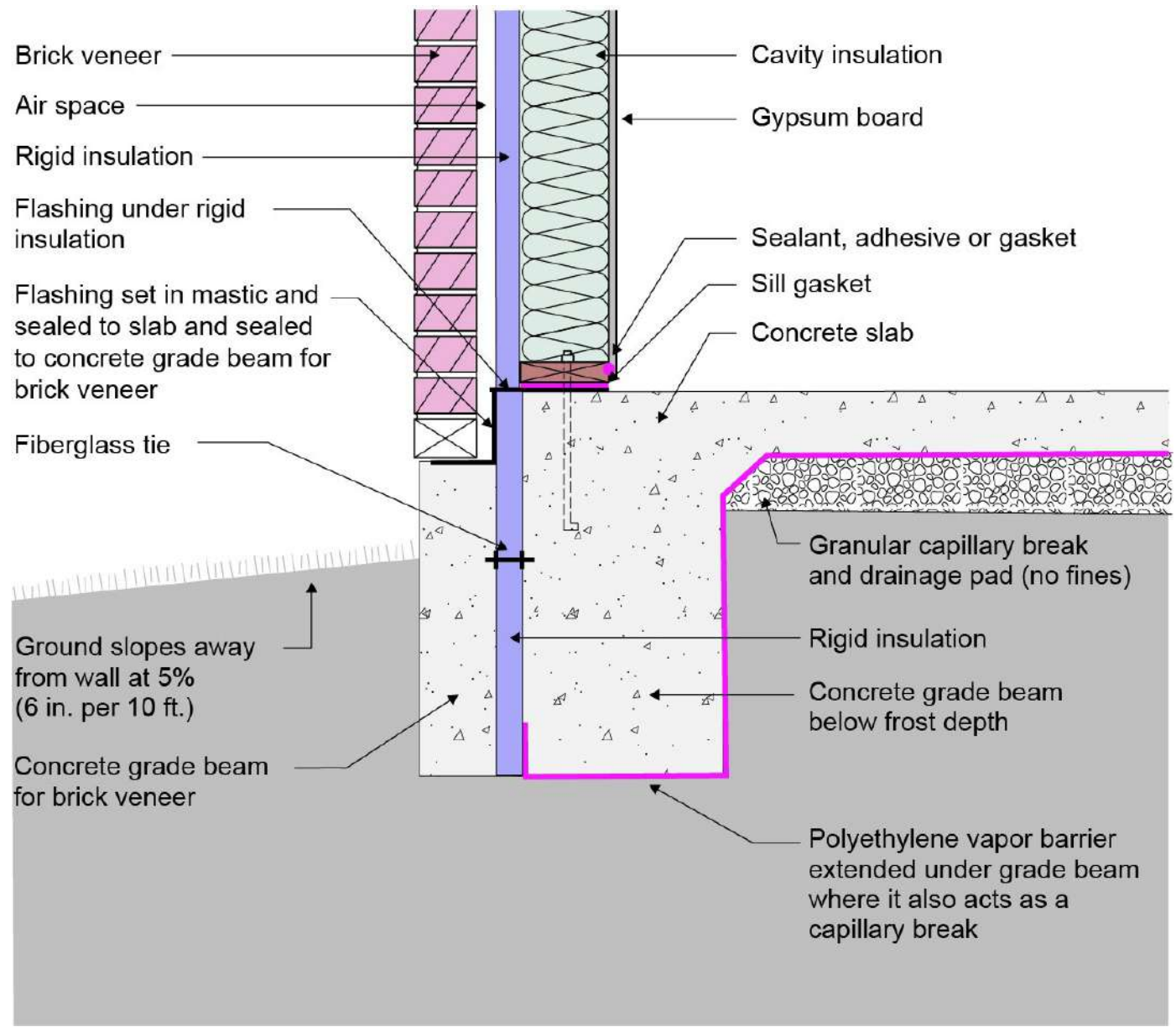




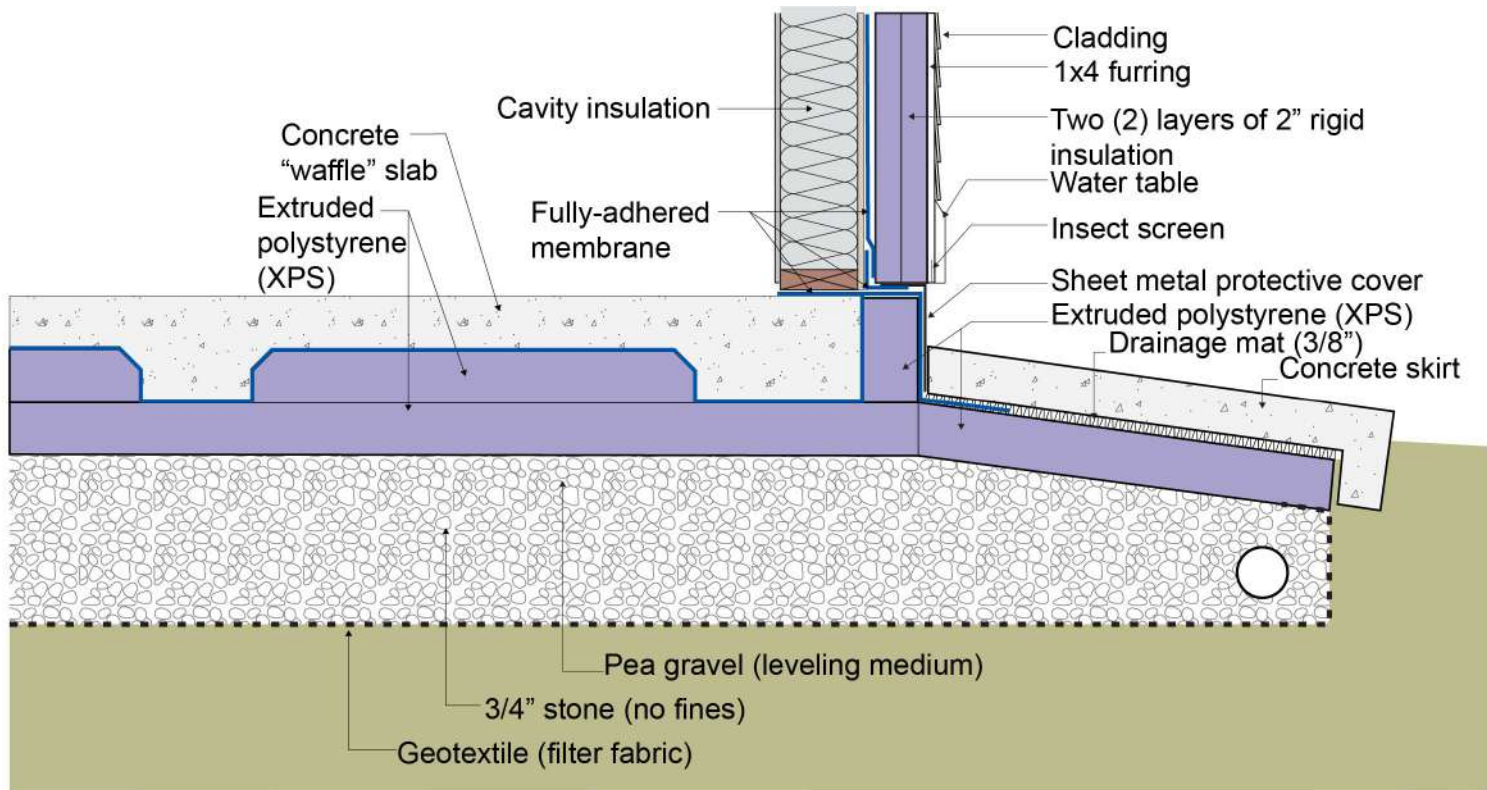












# Stucco Failures

# Stucco Evolved As A Barrier System



# Exterior Insulation Finish Systems EIFS



# Exterior Insulation Finish Systems

EIFS

Barrier System

Face-Sealed Not Water Managed







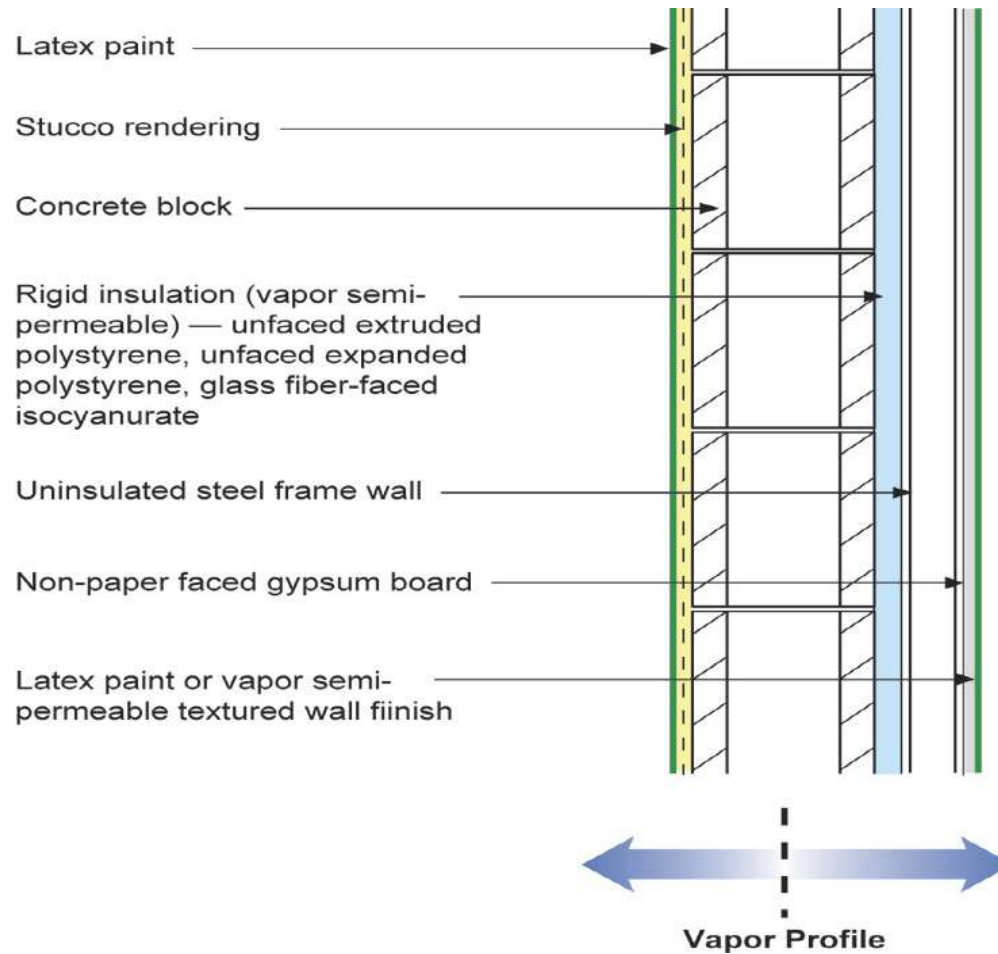




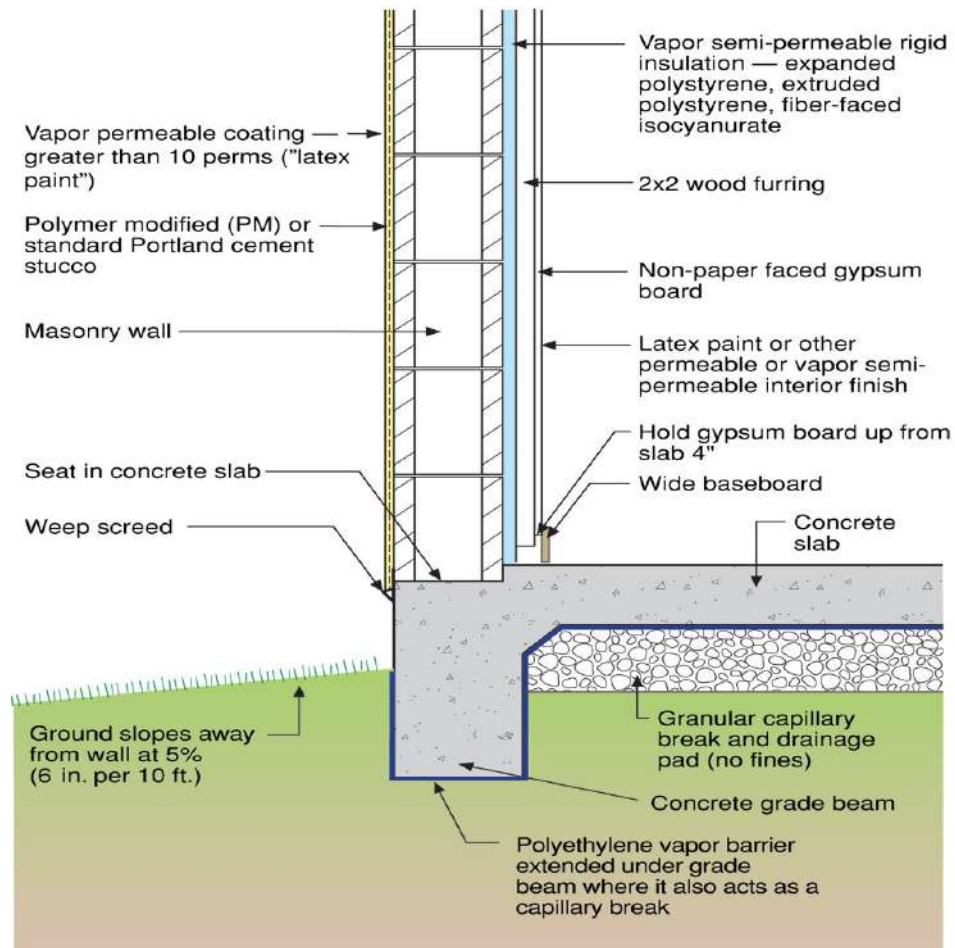




# Can Barrier or Face Seal Work?





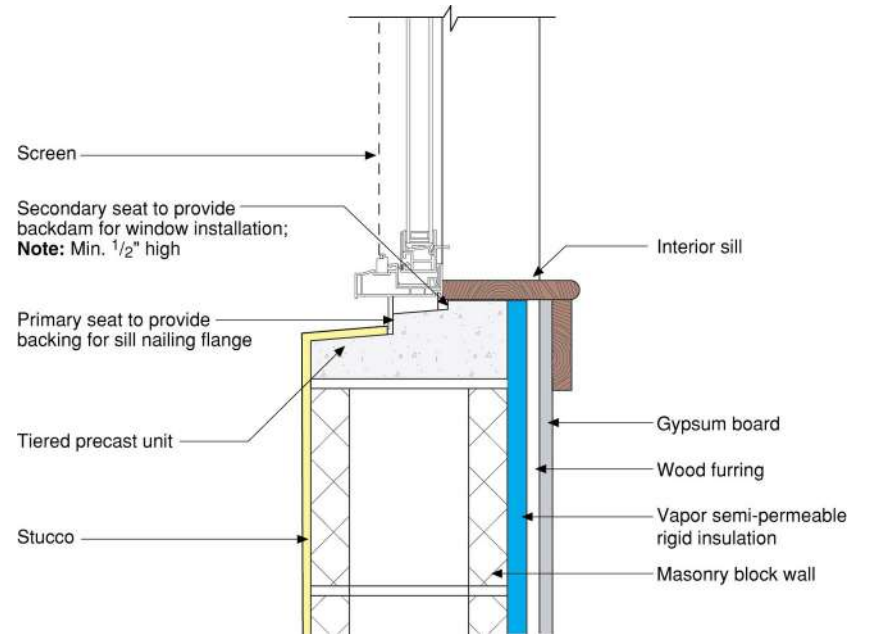
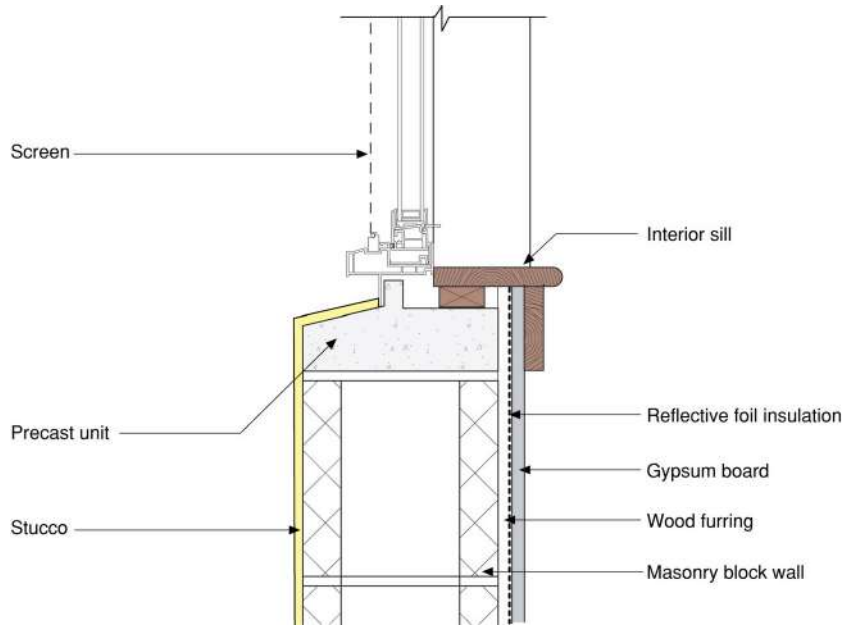












Reminder...  
Don't Do Stupid Things







# What Is Going On With Stucco?



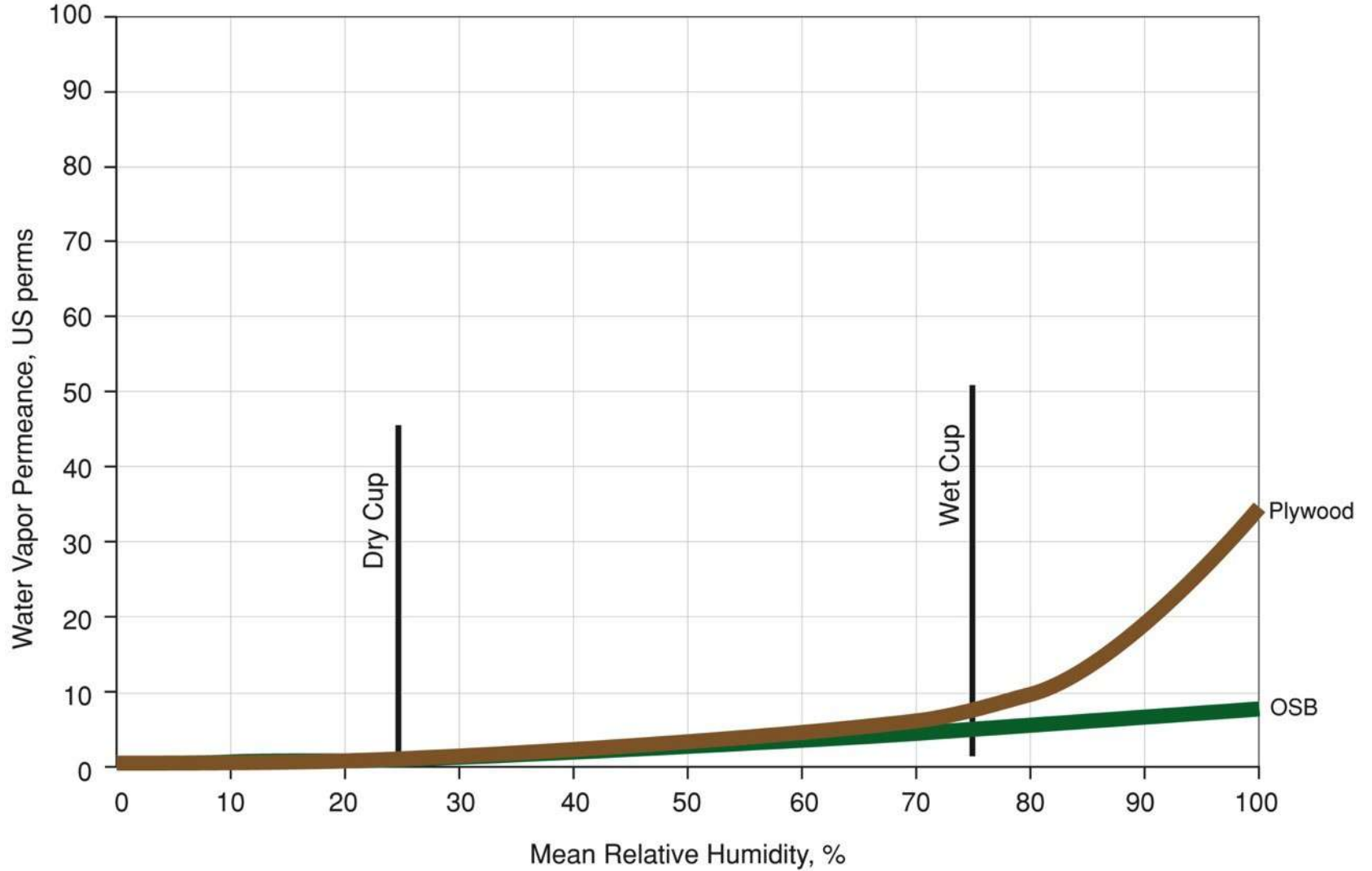
# Materials

## Inward Vapor Drive

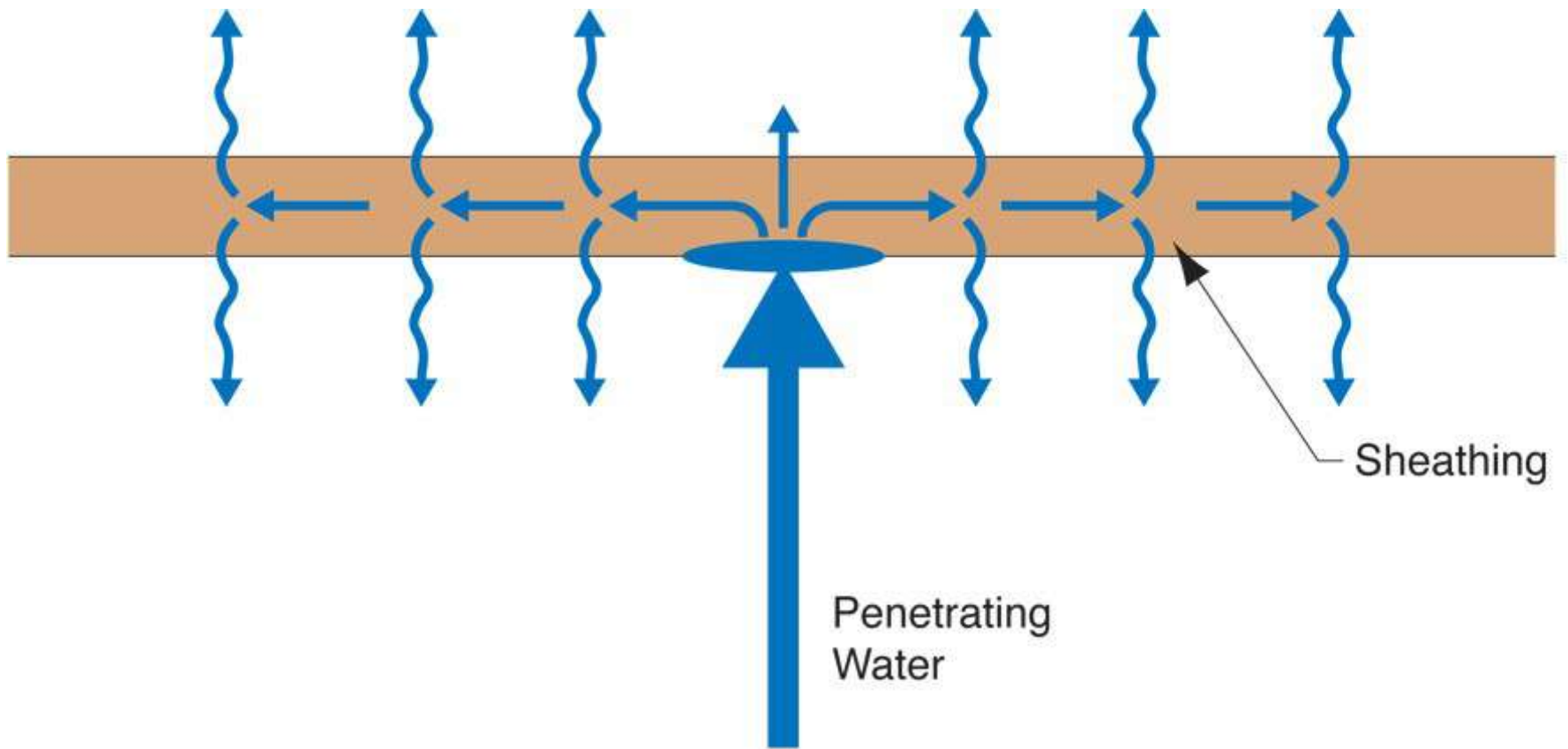
### Energy

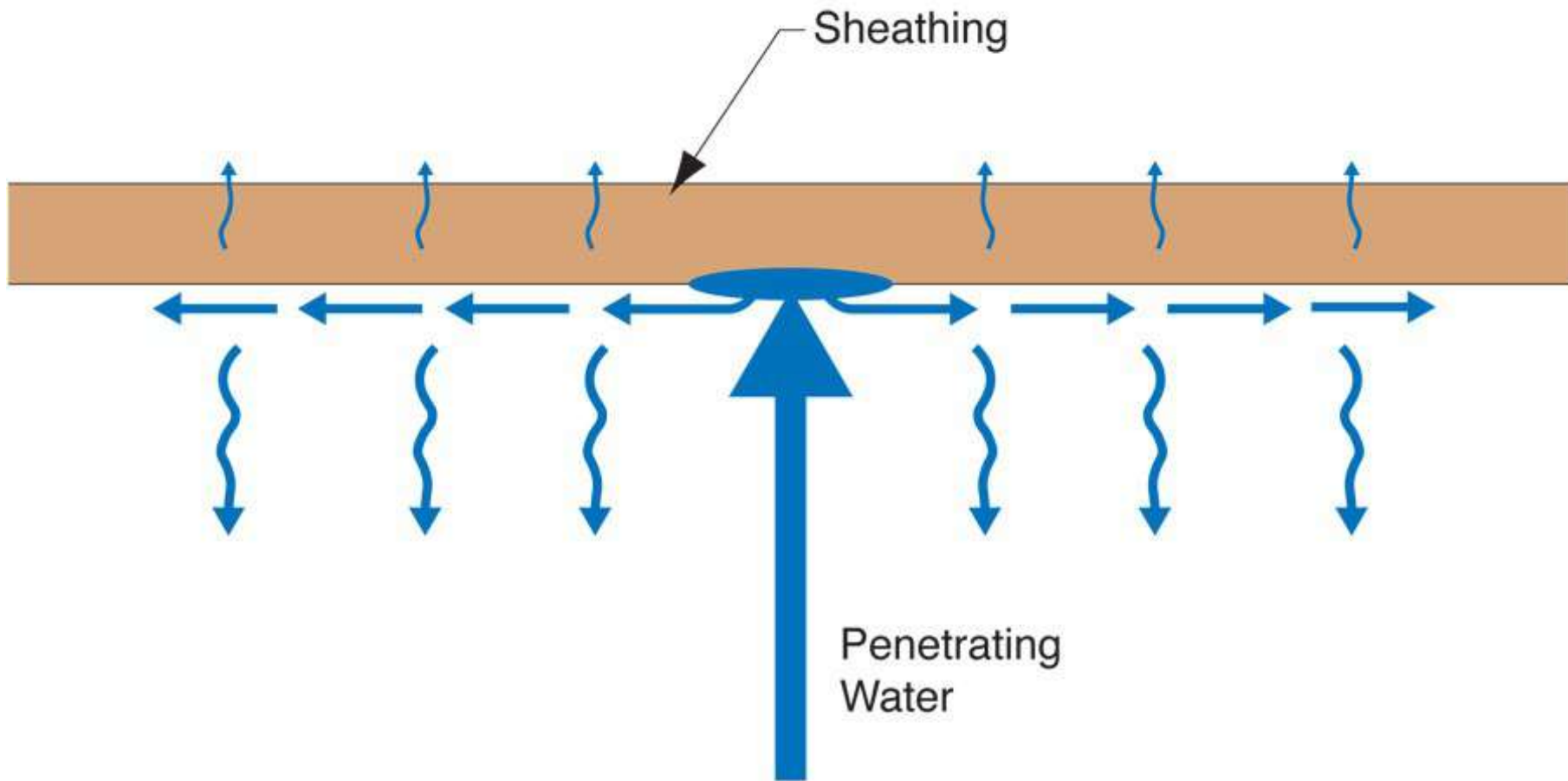


## Water Vapor Permeance of Sheathing Materials









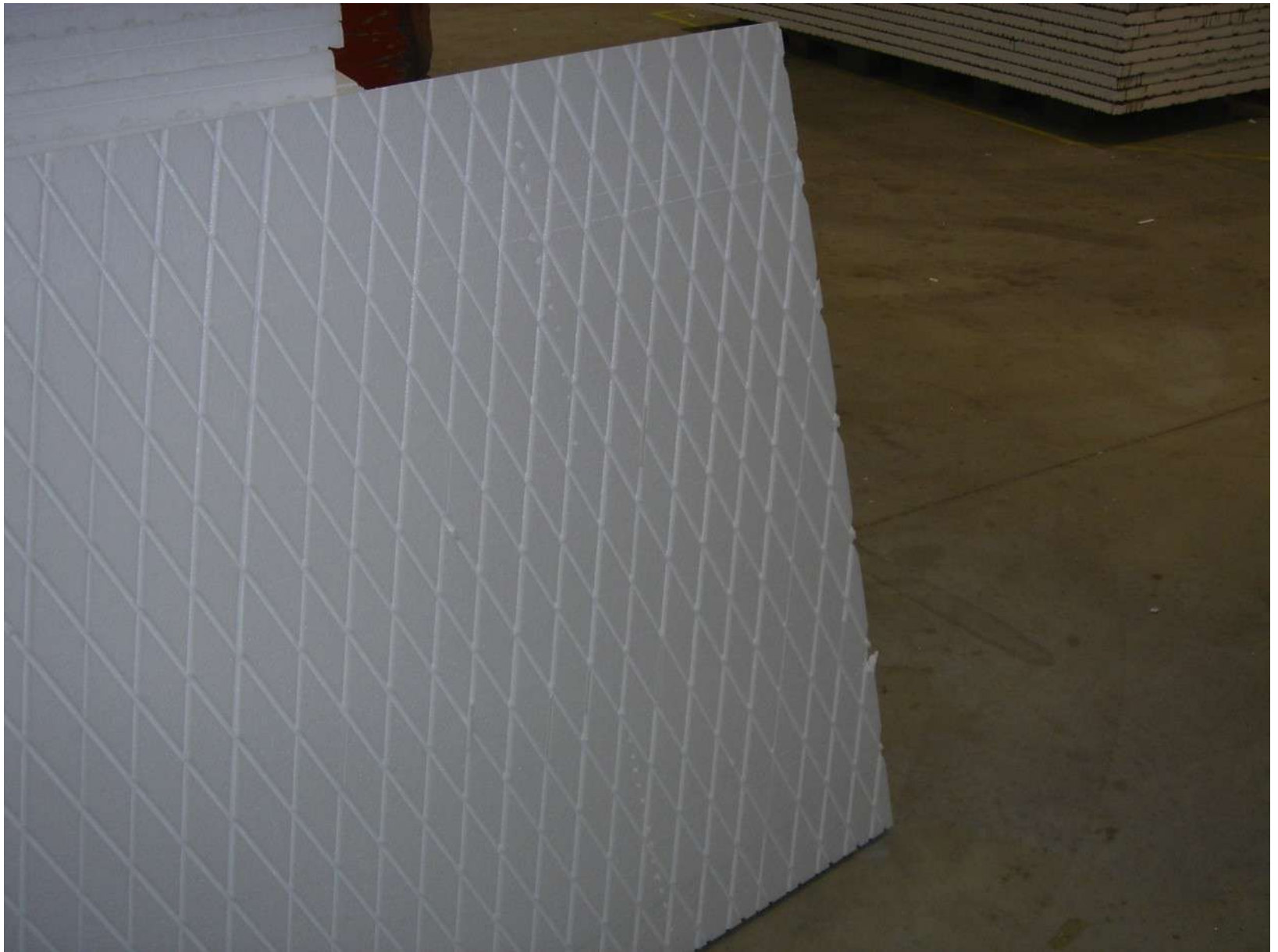
# Rain Screen





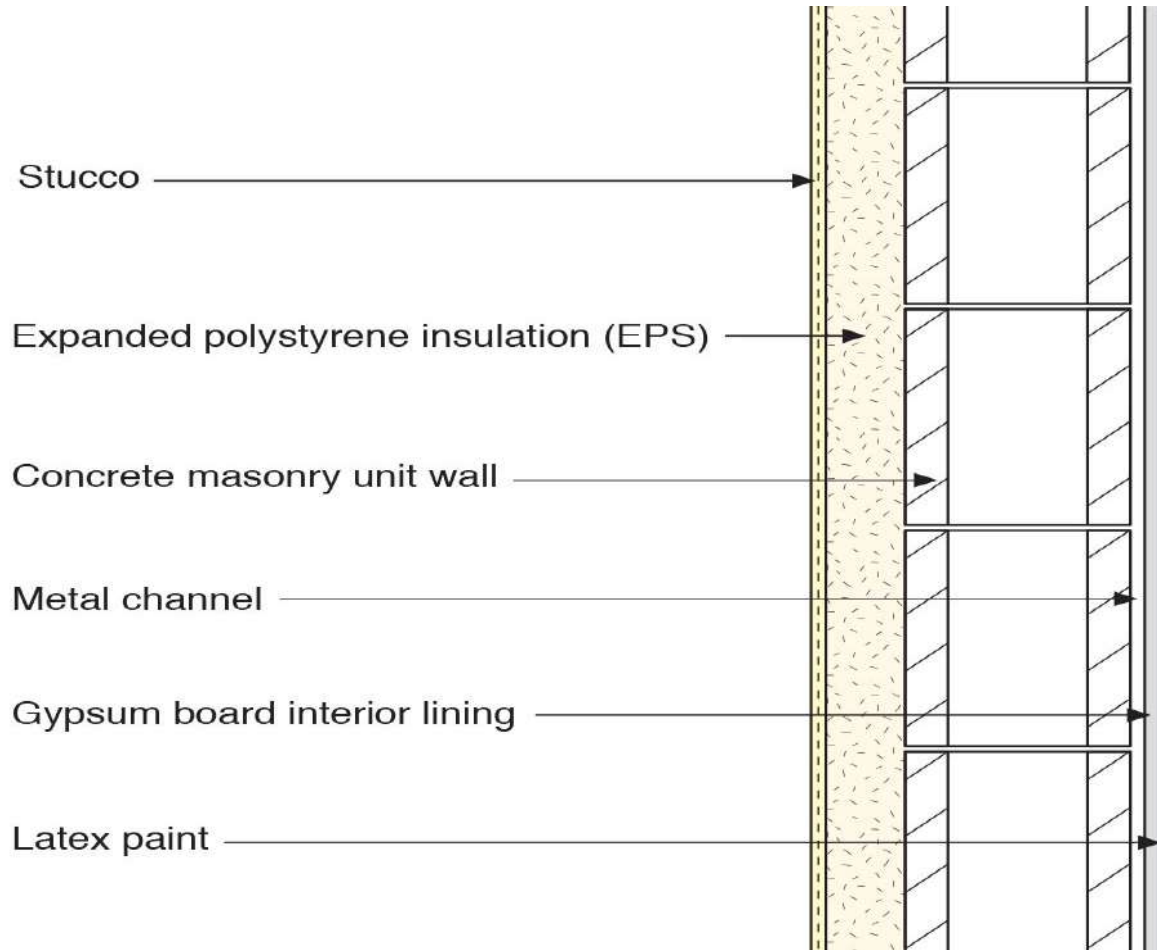


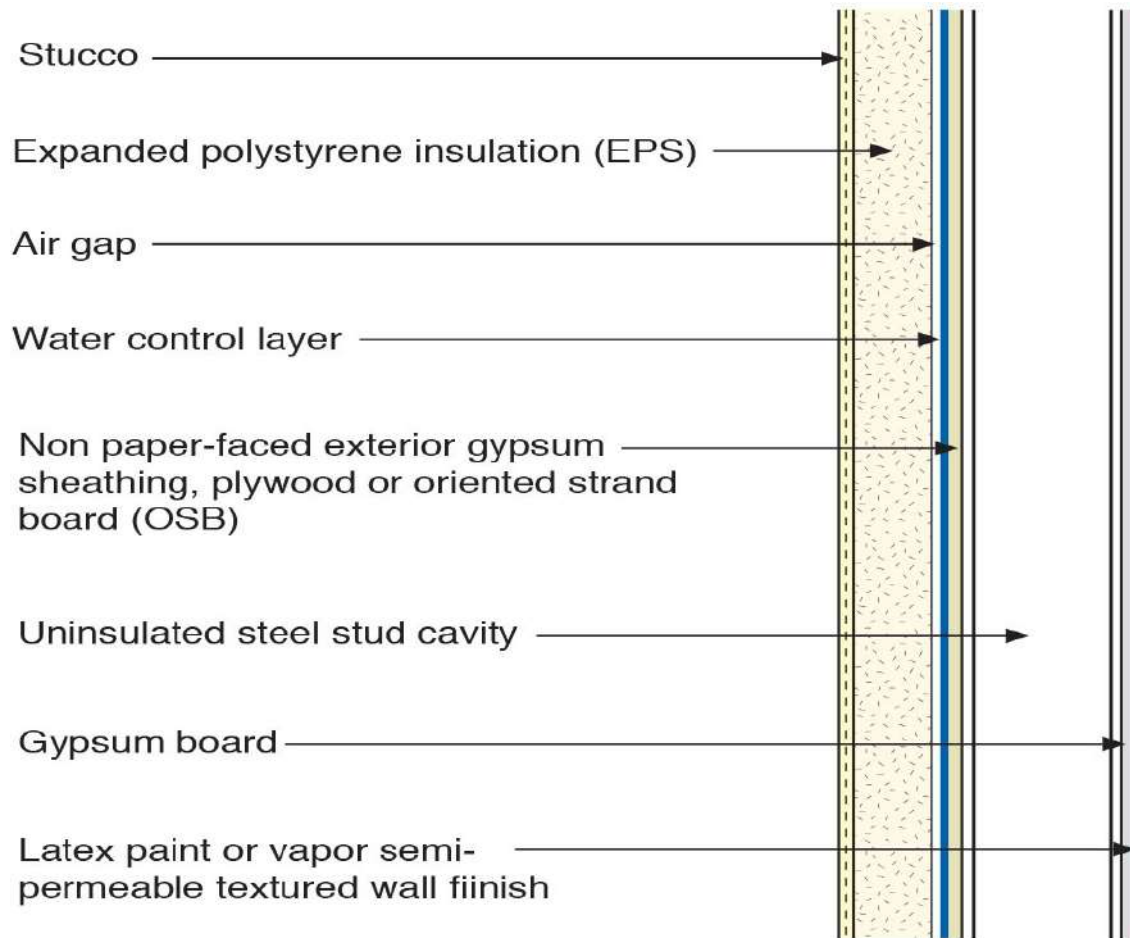




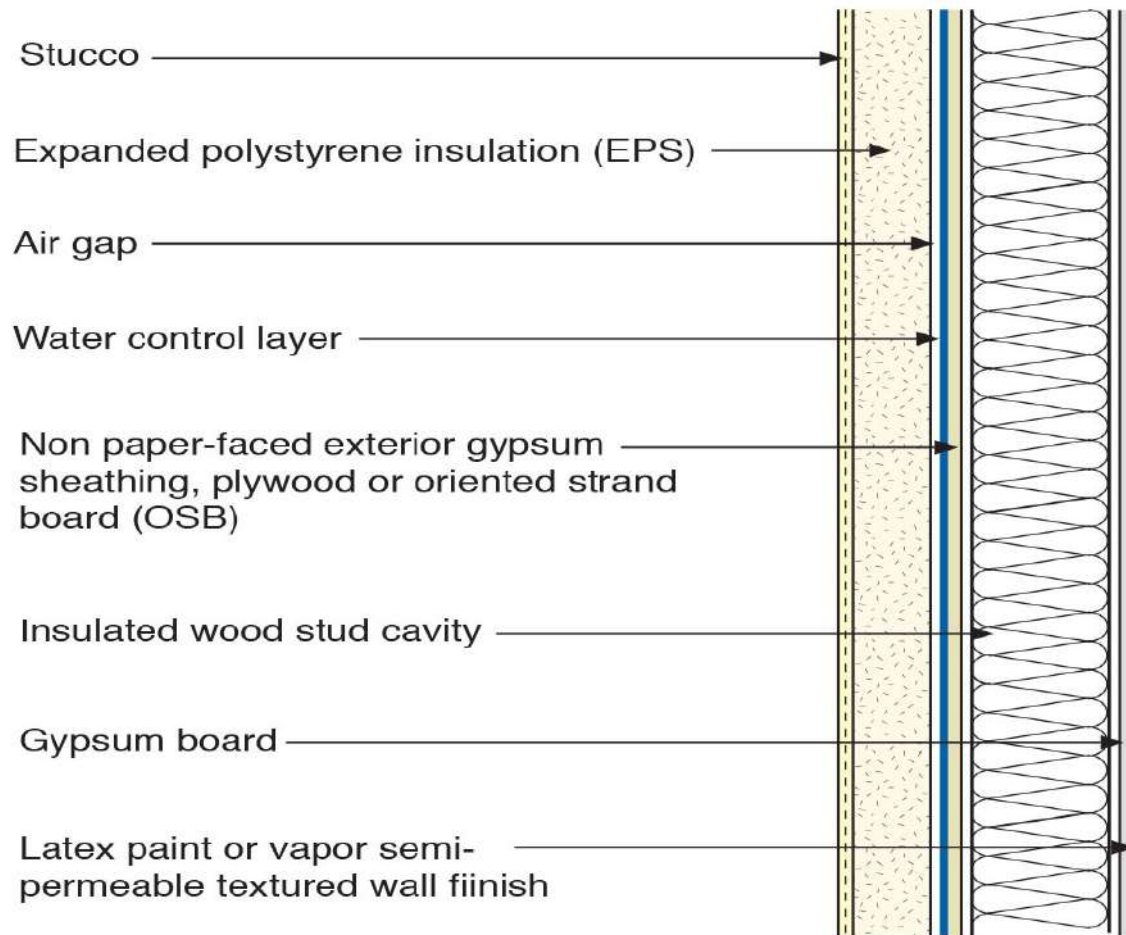


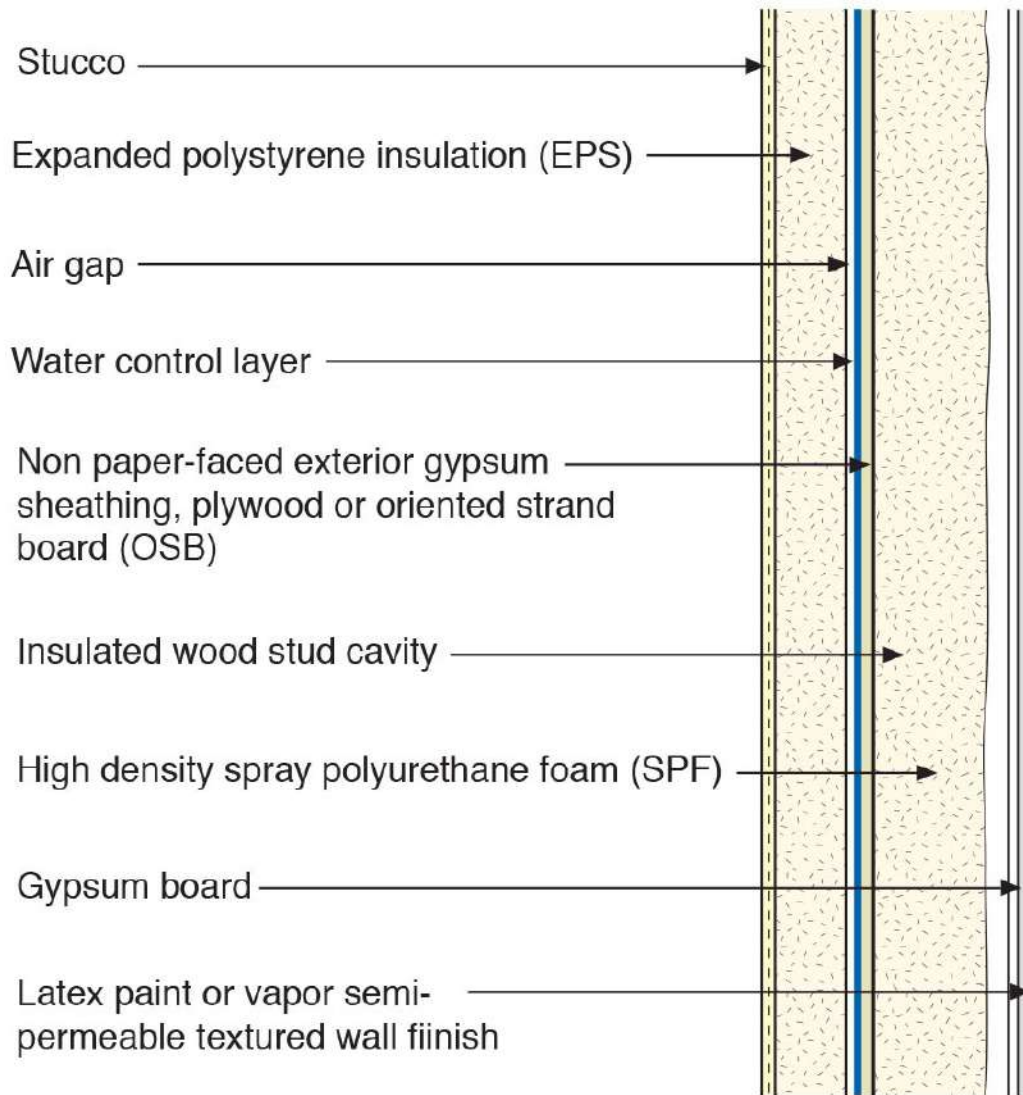
# EIFS No Longer Has Issues











# Back To Stucco....

































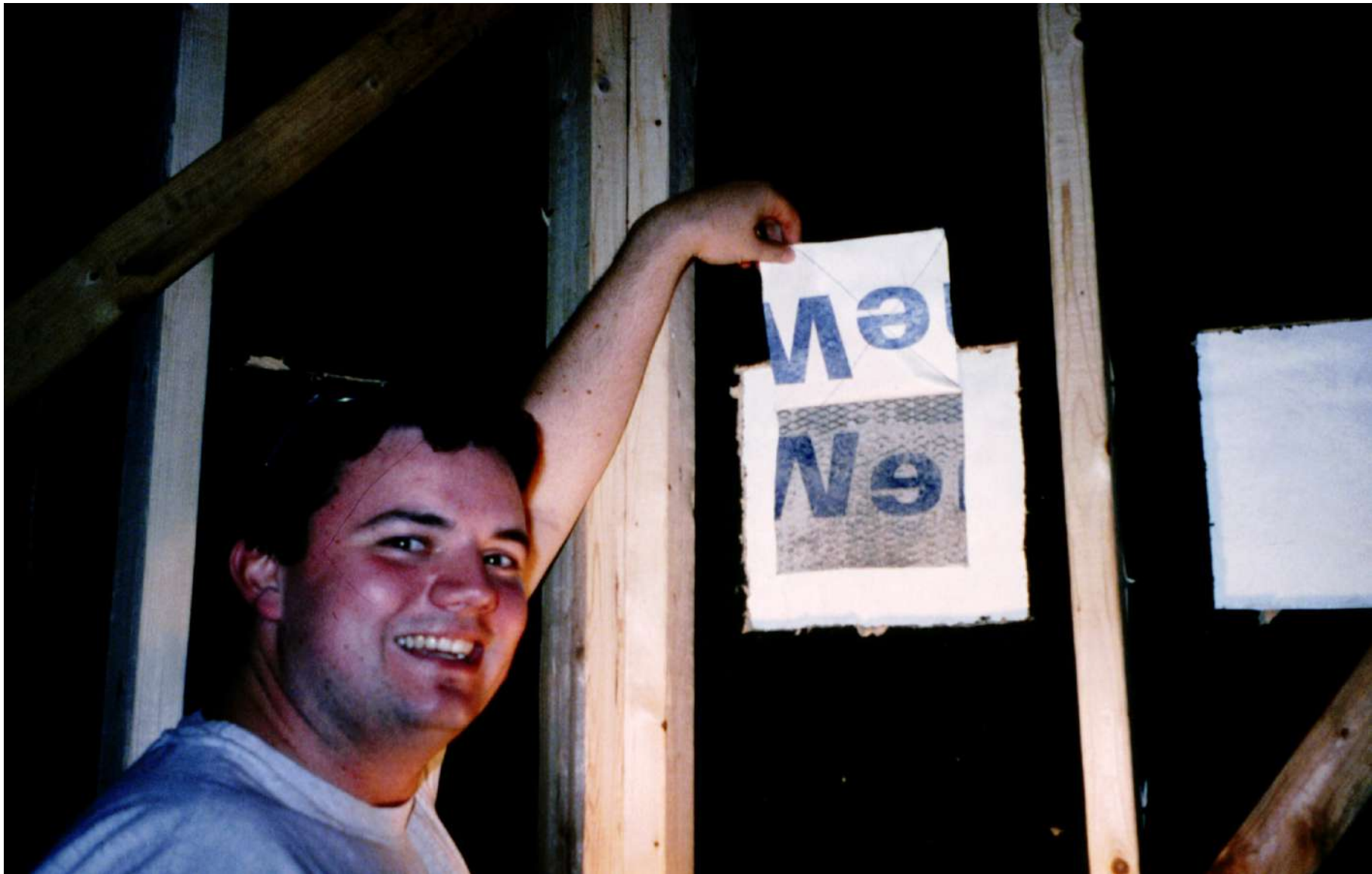


# Side Trip To My Backyard....







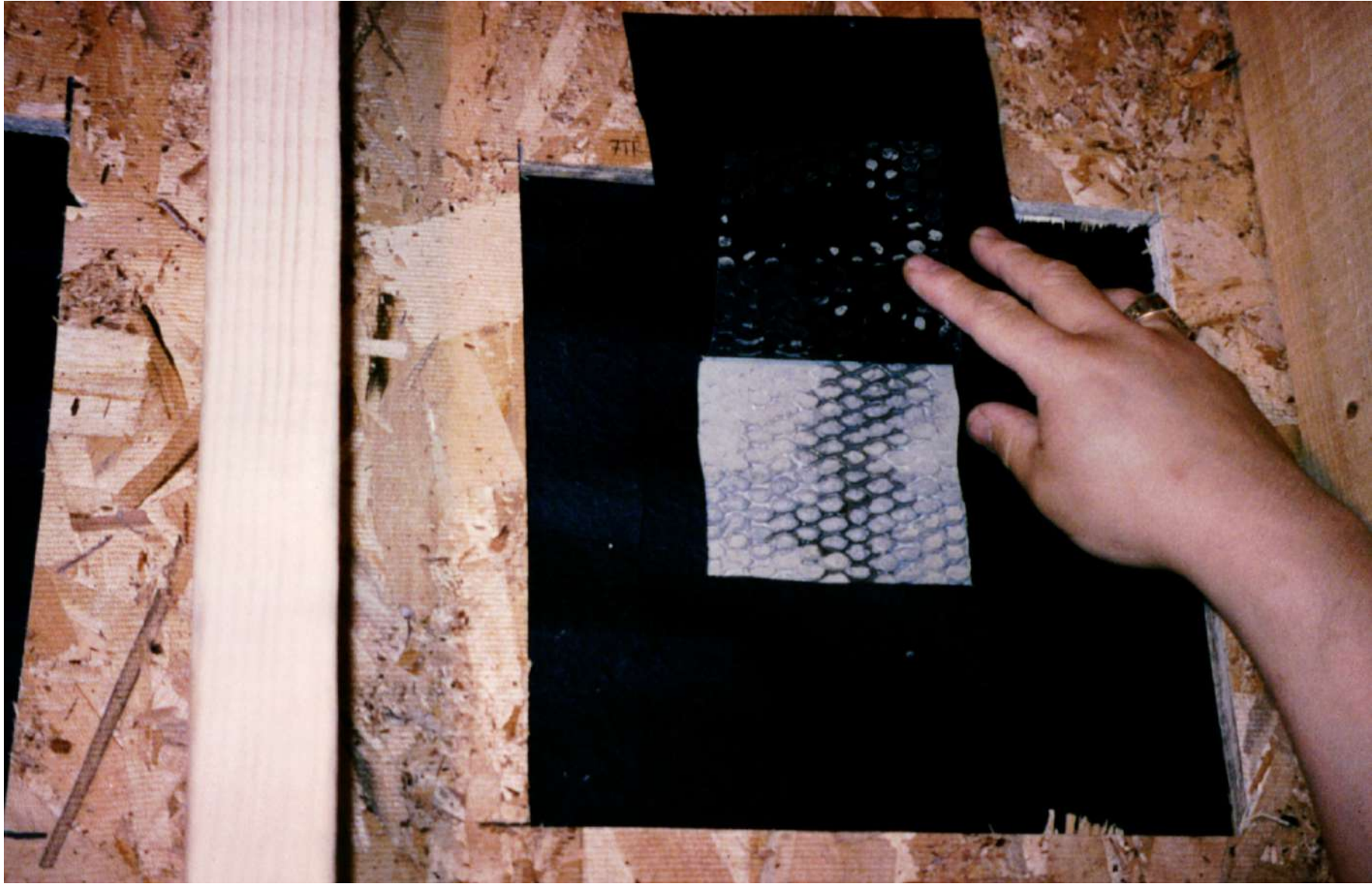






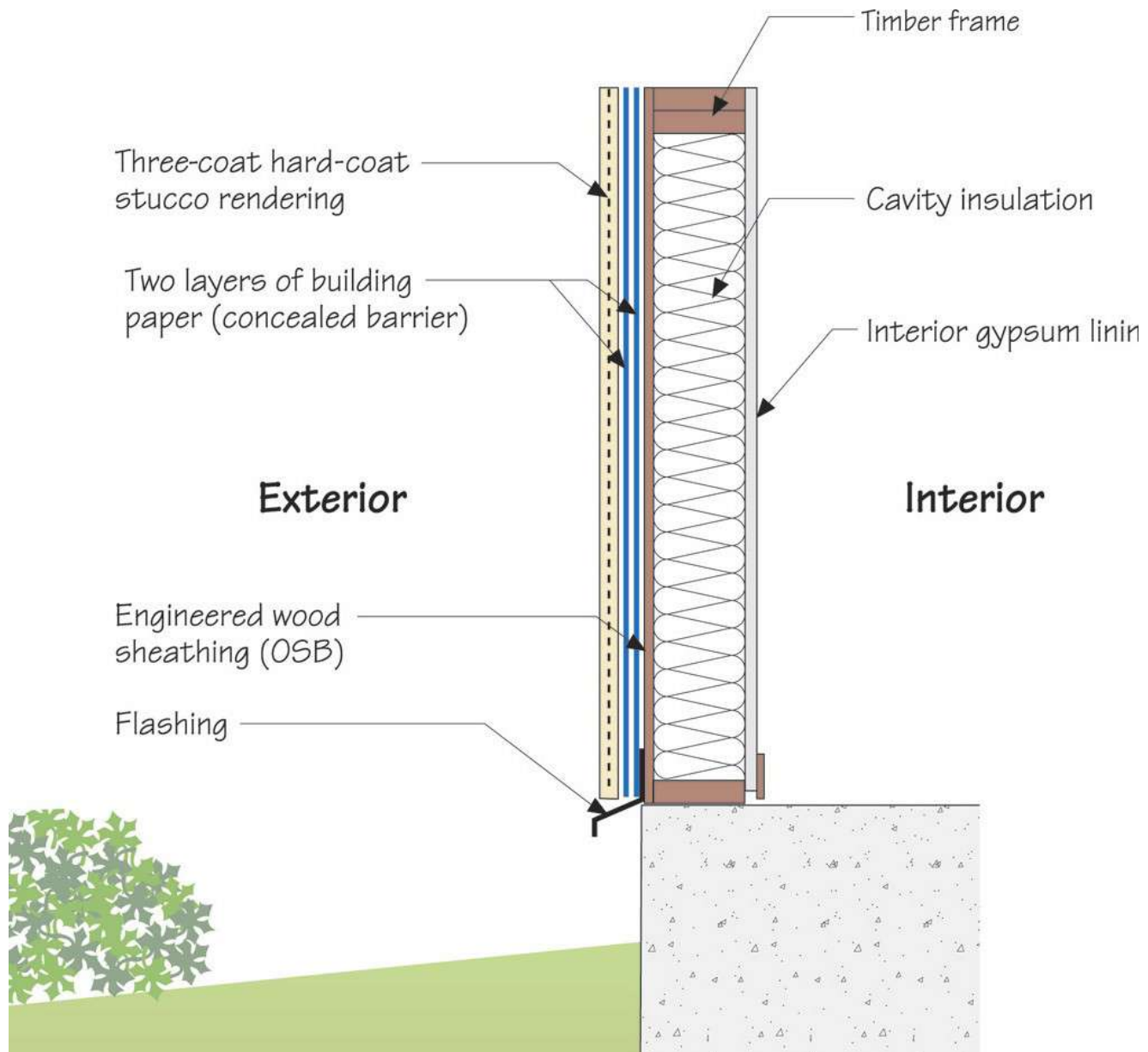








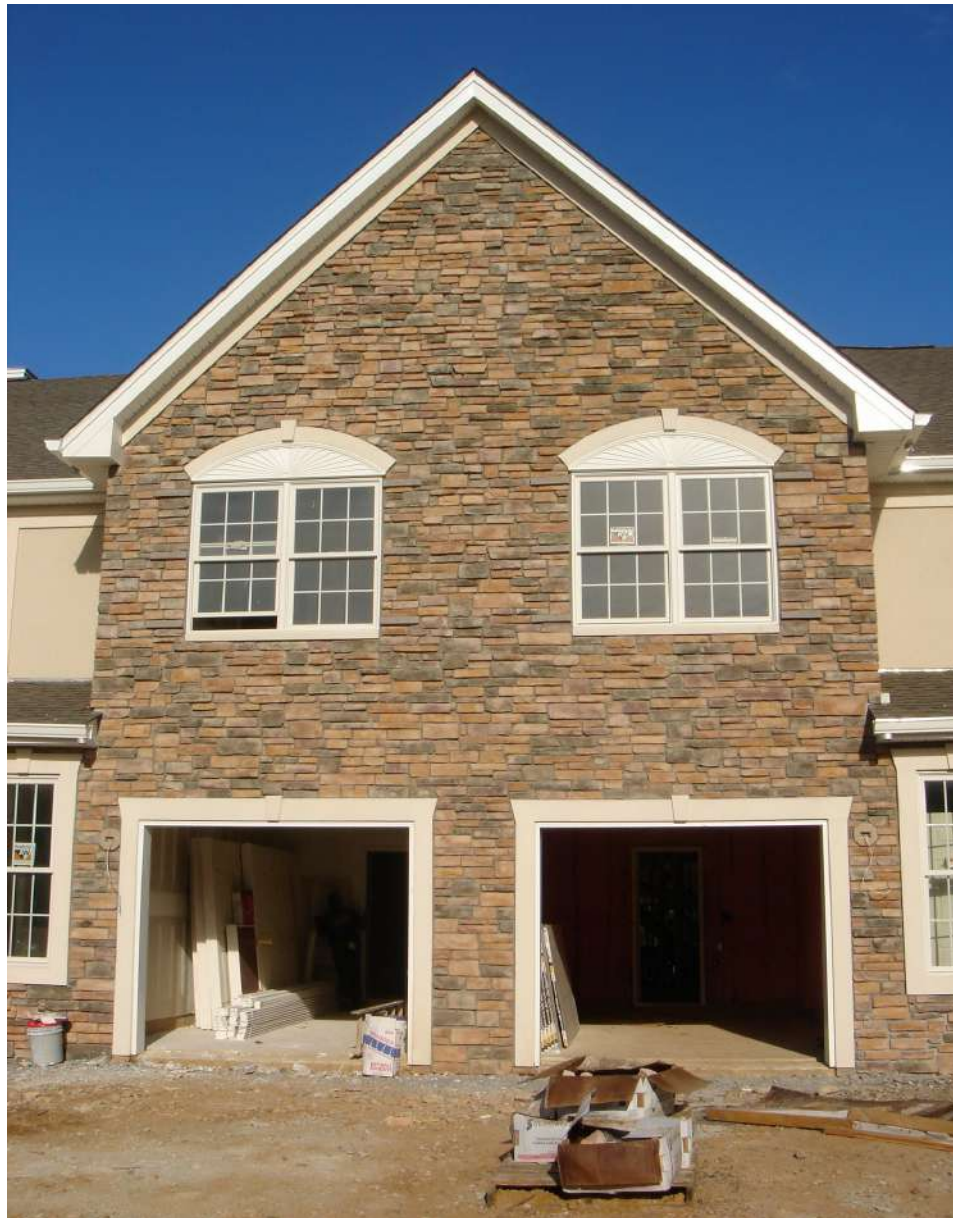






“Lumpy Stucco” ....  
Should Have Been The Big Warning....









# Side Trip To Vancouver....



























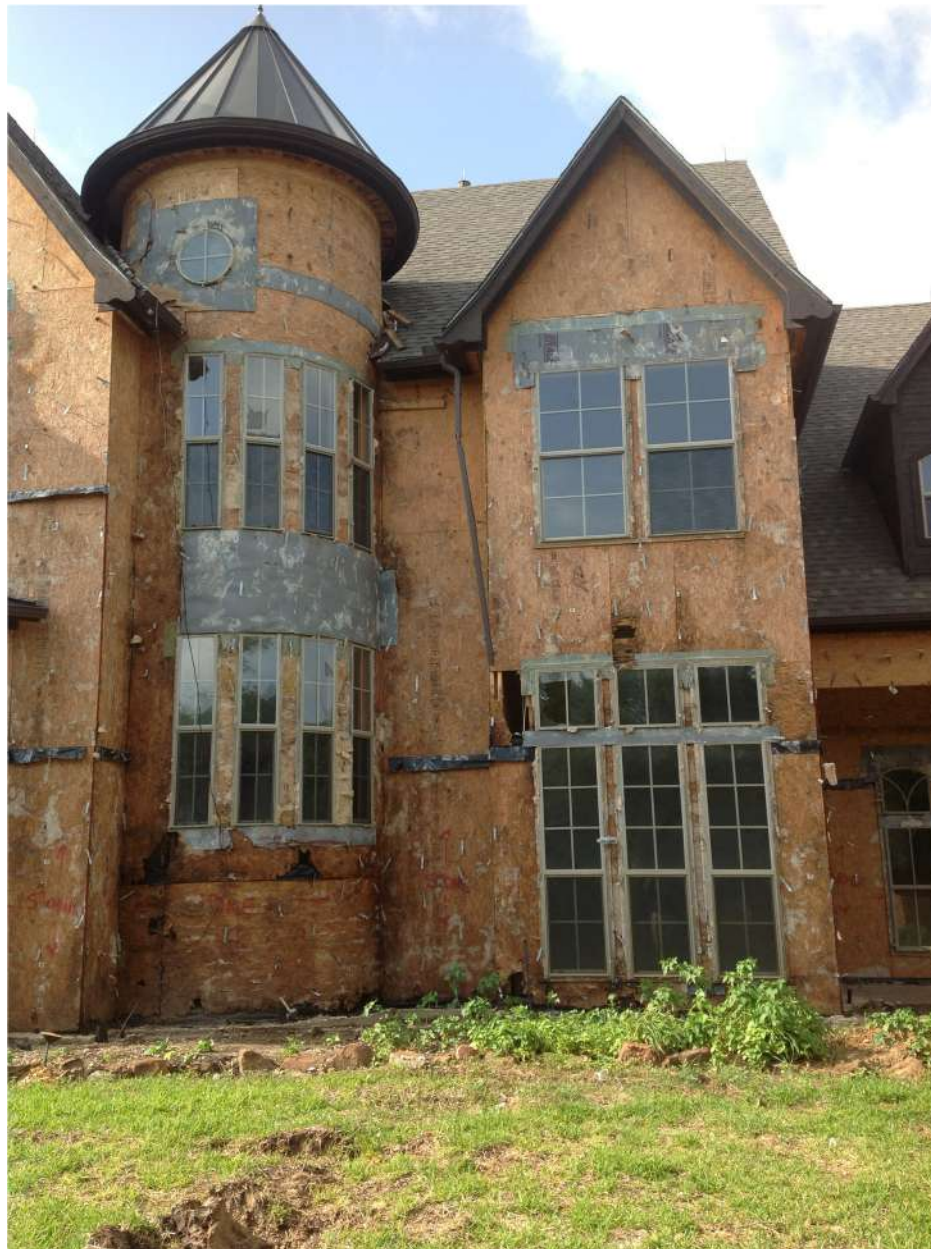
Back To America....Pennslyvania....  
And Then Pretty Much Anywhere It Rains...































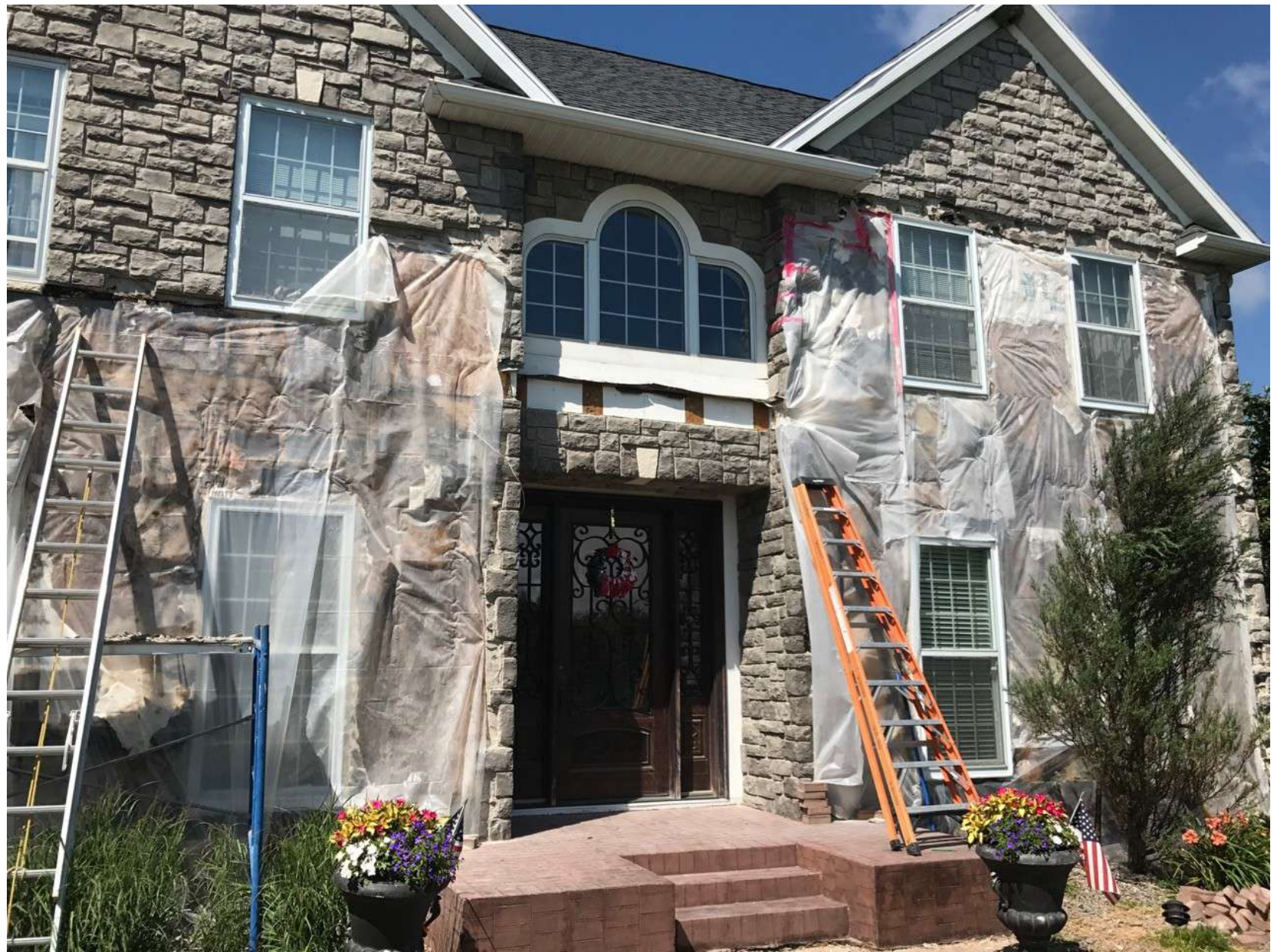






# Back To Lumpy Stucco....

















Easy Solution....









# Inward Vapor Drive

**Exterior Conditions**

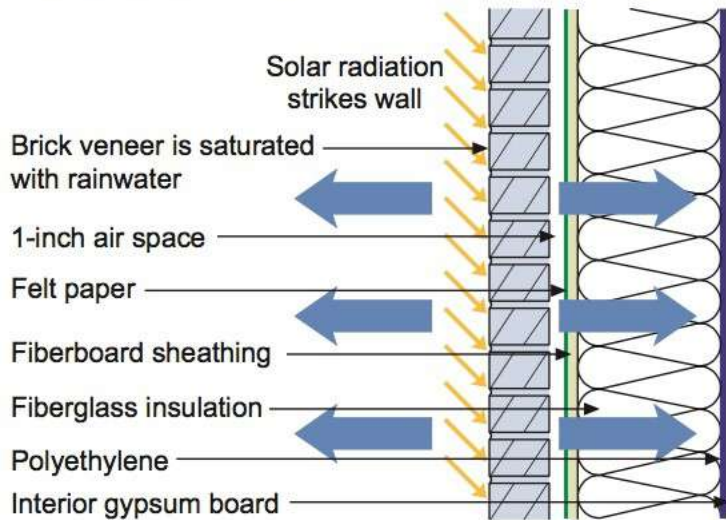
Temperature: 80°F  
Relative humidity: 75%  
Vapor pressure: 2.49 kPa

**Conditions within Cavity:**

Temperature: 100°F  
Relative humidity: 100%  
Vapor pressure: 6.45 kPa

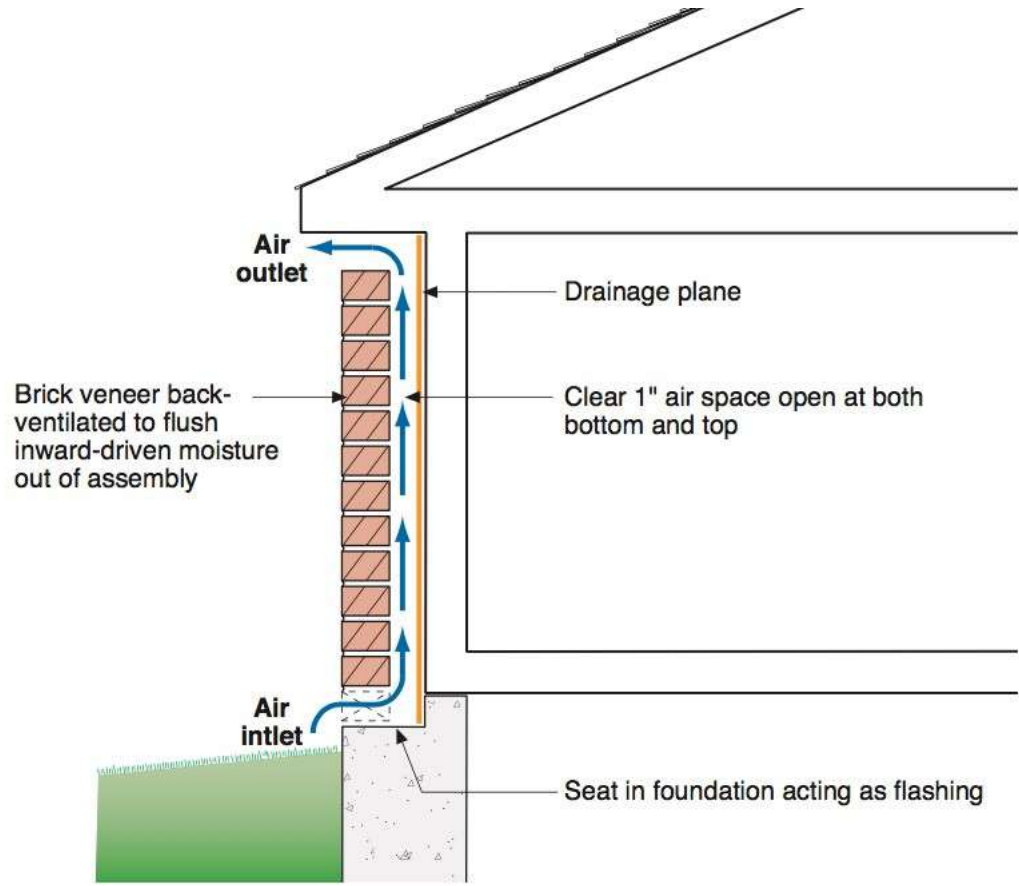
**Interior Conditions**

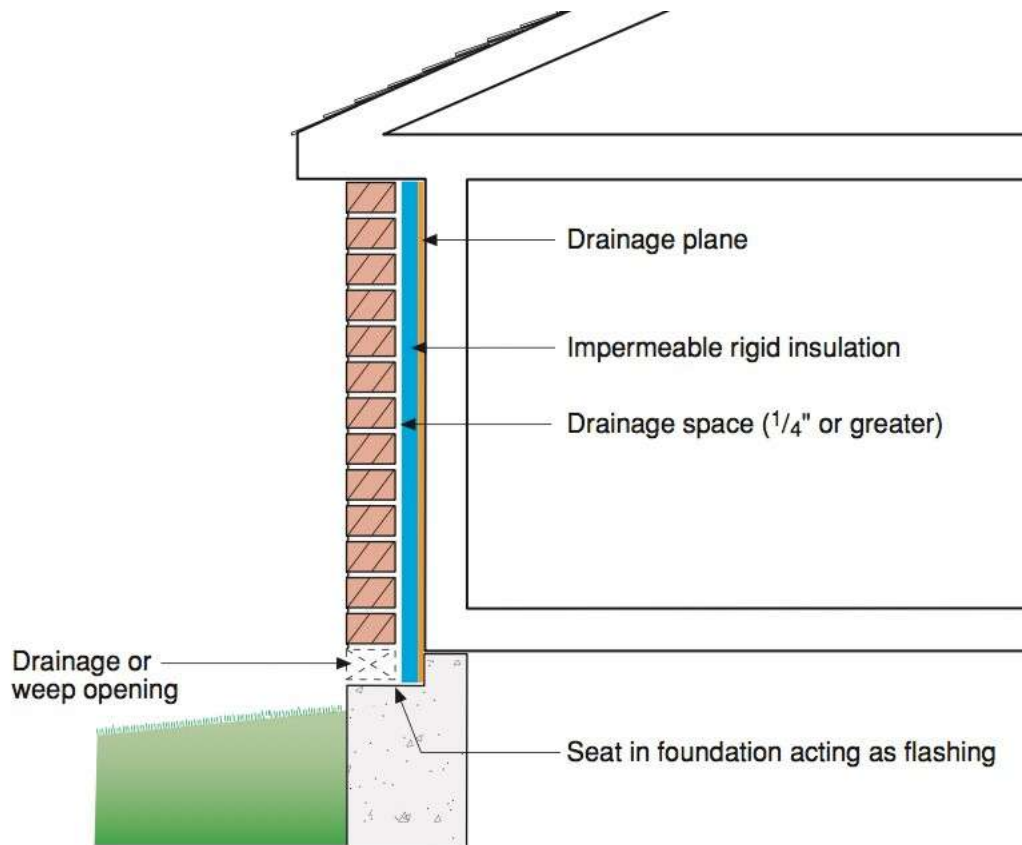
Temperature: 75°F  
Relative humidity: 60%  
Vapor pressure: 1.82 kPa

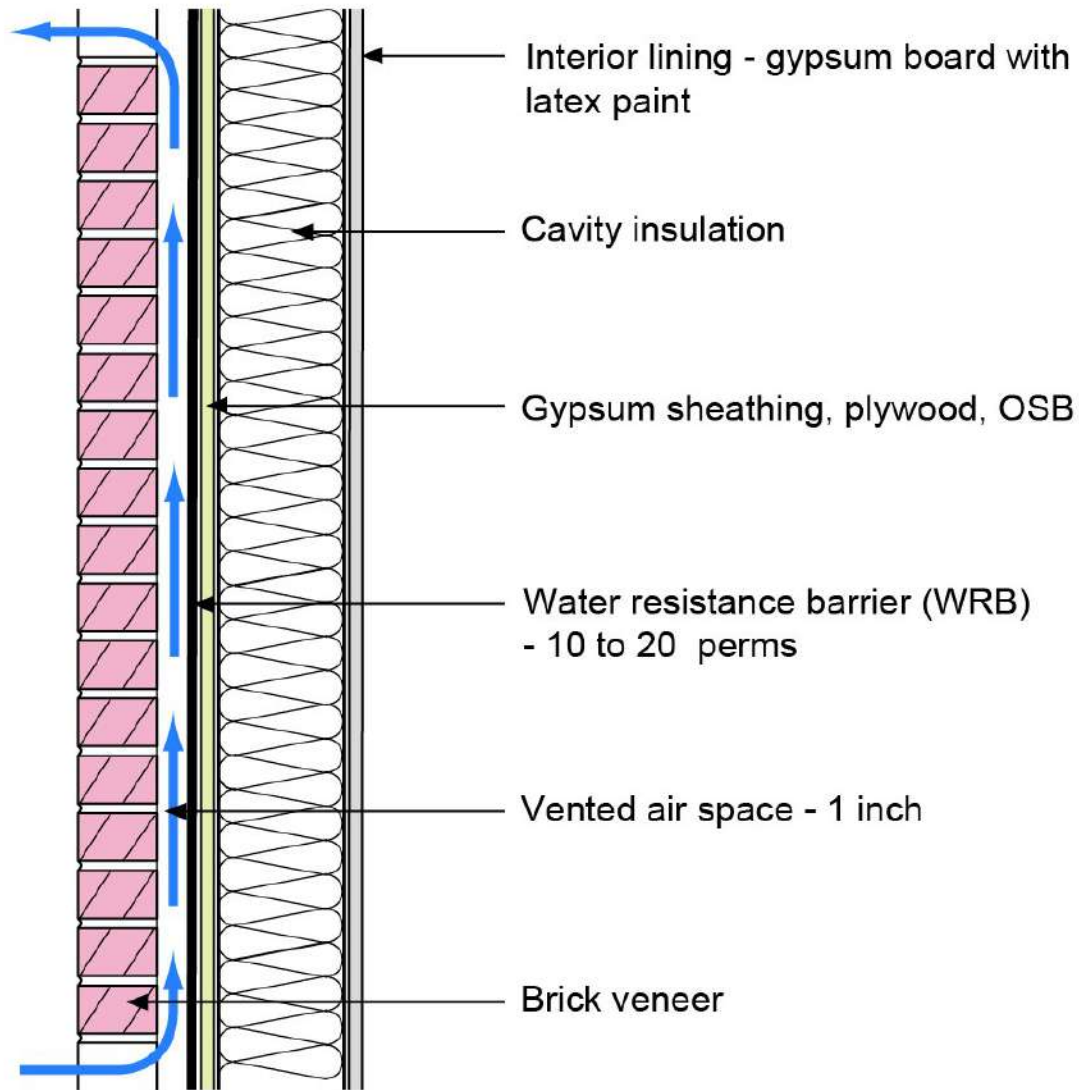


Vapor is driven both inward and outward by a high vapor pressure differential between the brick and the interior and the brick and the exterior.

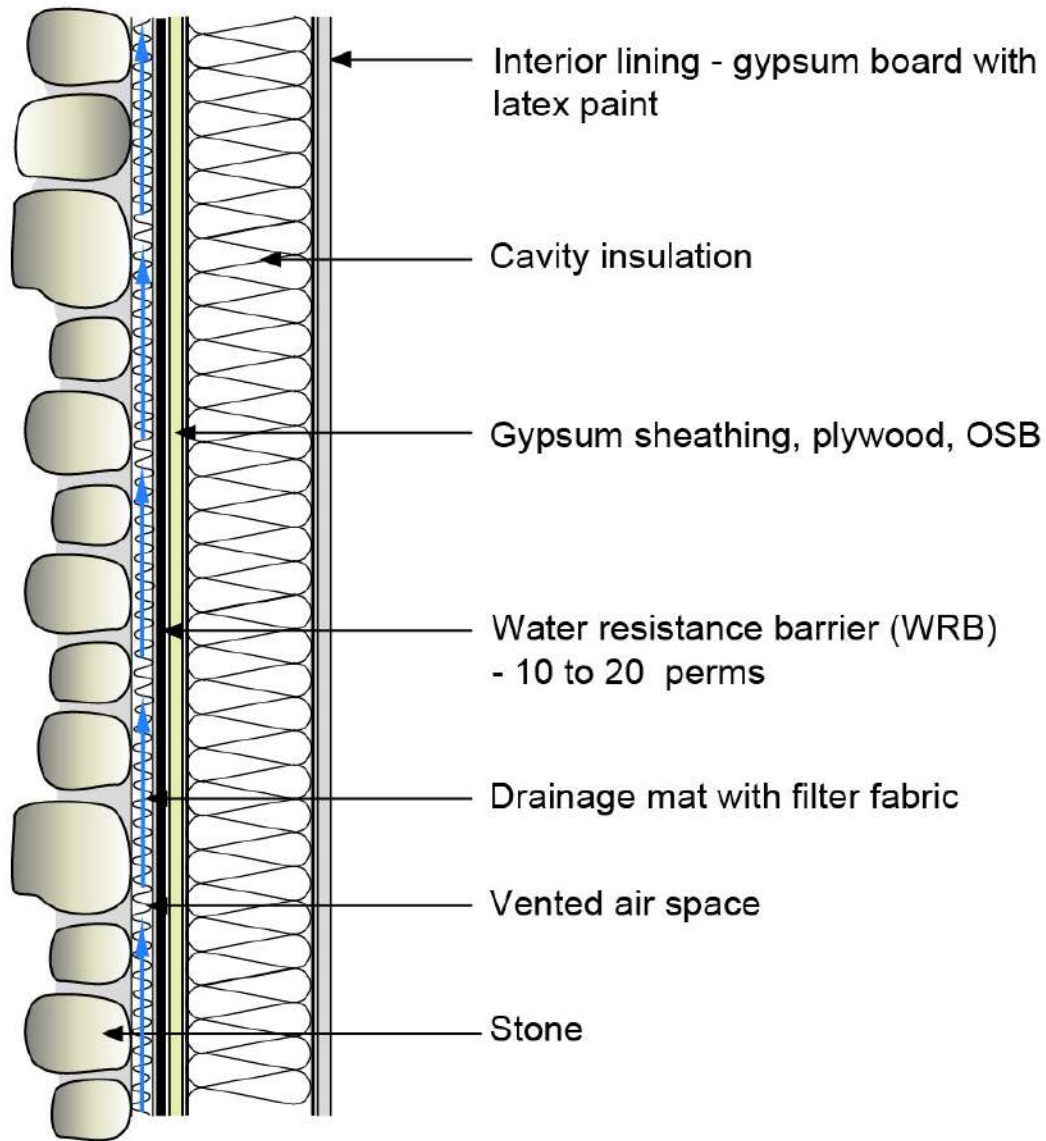


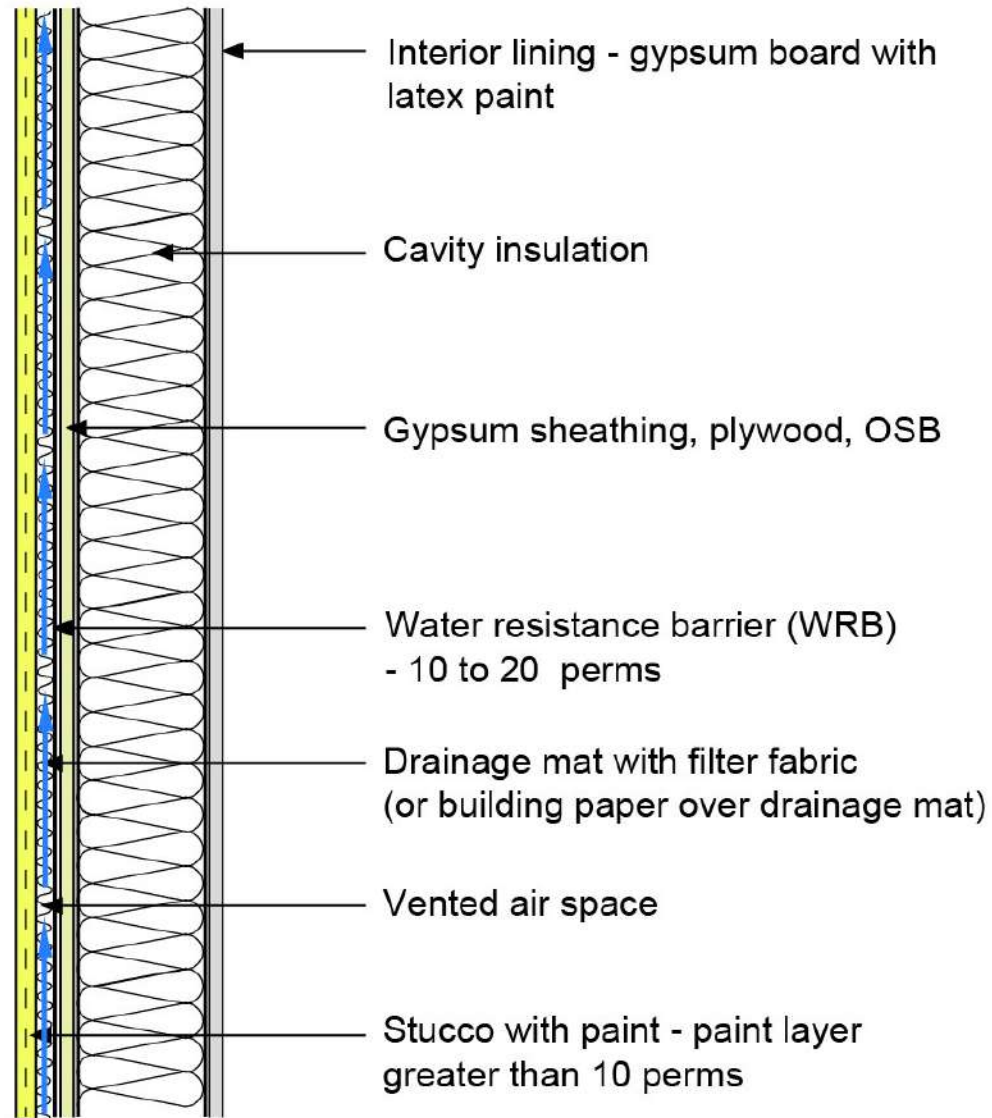




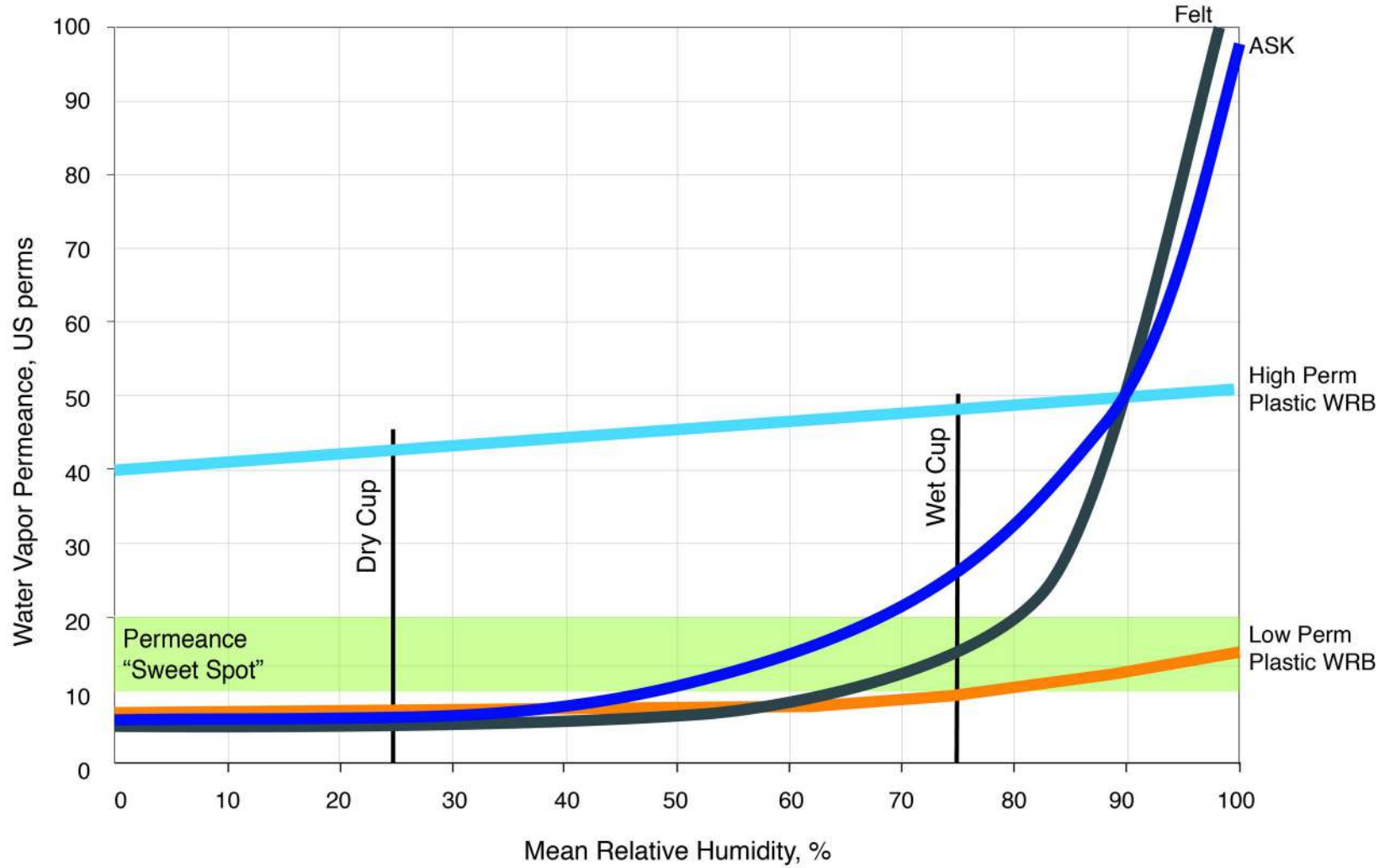






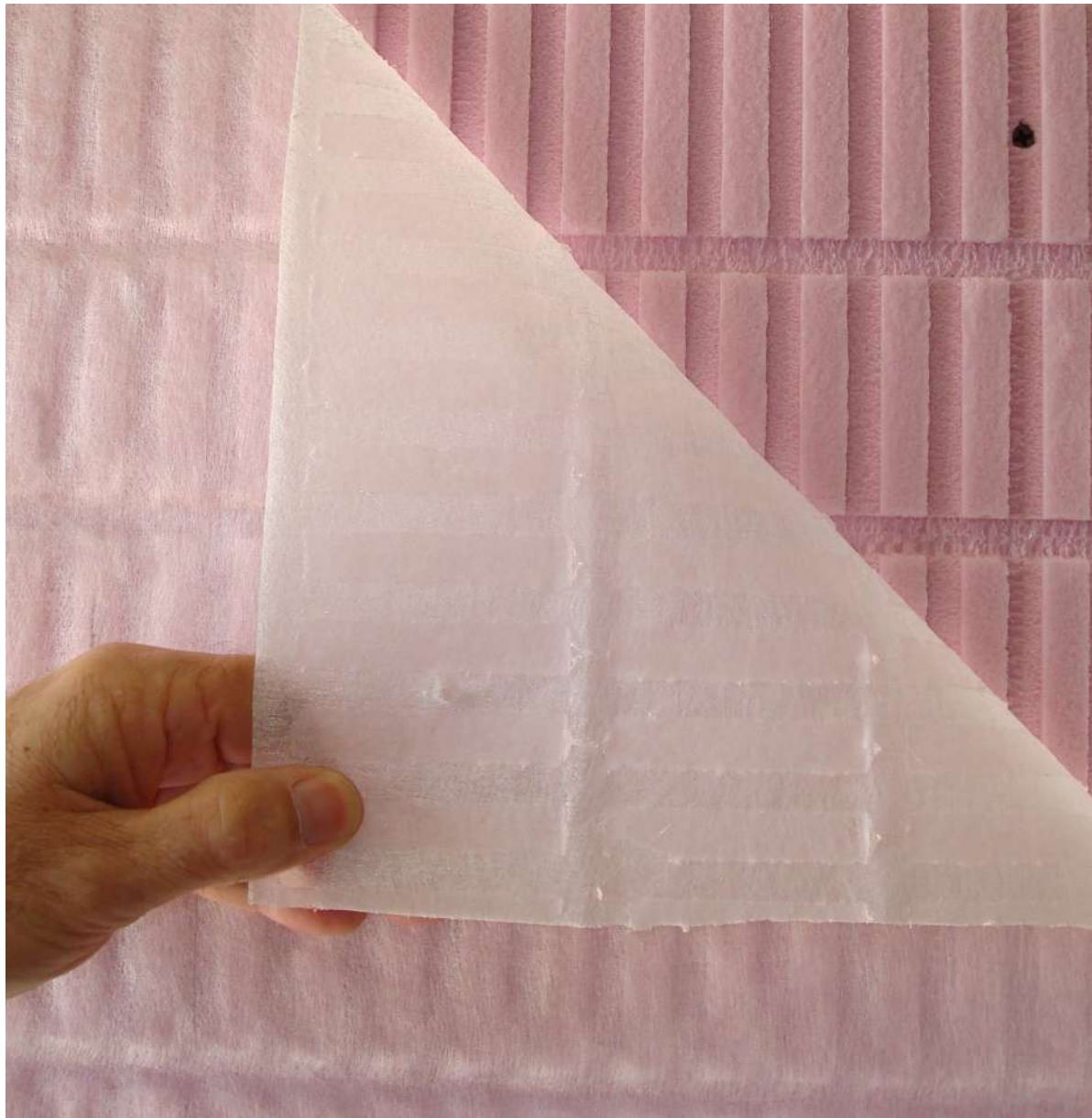


# Water Vapor Permeance of WRB's









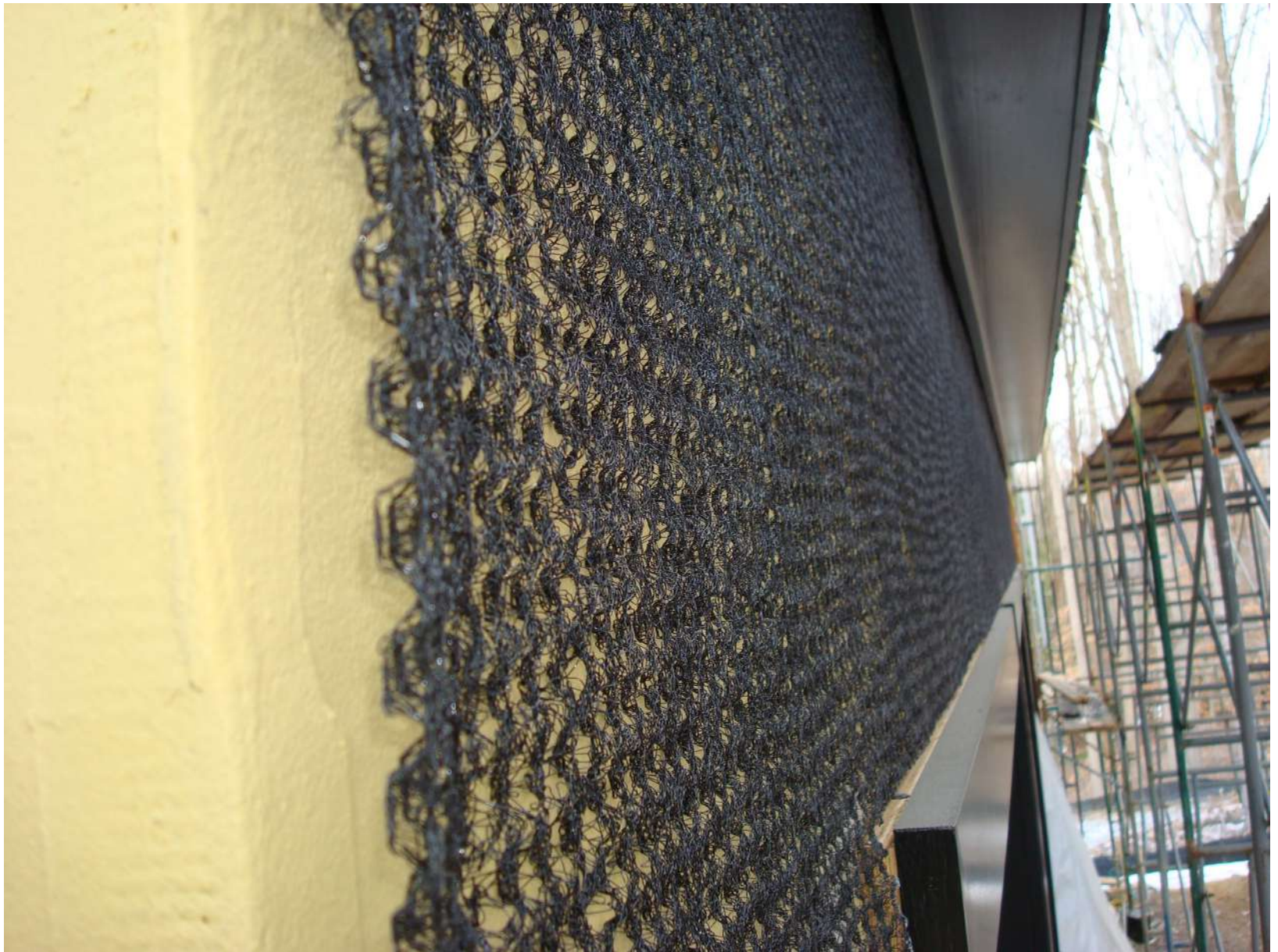












## Recommendations.....

Provide a 1/4 inch air space behind all stucco in regions where it rains more than 20 inches per year

Provide a 1/4 inch air space behind all stucco over three stories

Don't install interior vapor barriers

Air space can be reduced to 1/16 inch where inward vapor drive is limited



Recommendations....

Barrier works in Florida over block

Barrier does not work in Florida over OSB

Don't install interior vapor barriers in Florida

Don't drain a drained system into a barrier system

# Pressures and IAQ

# Definition of a Problem

People

Pollutant (hot, wet, UV, ozone)

Path

Pressure















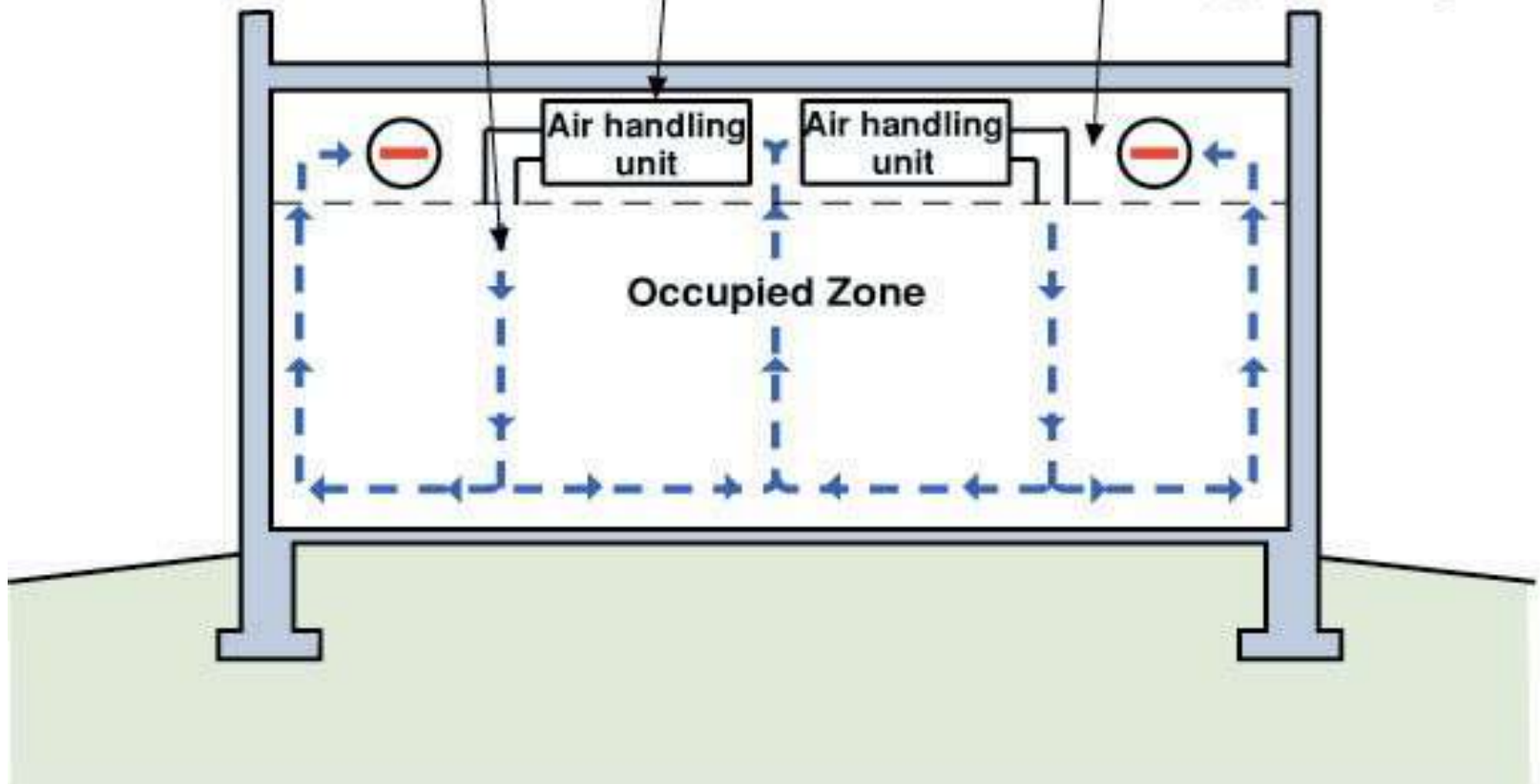




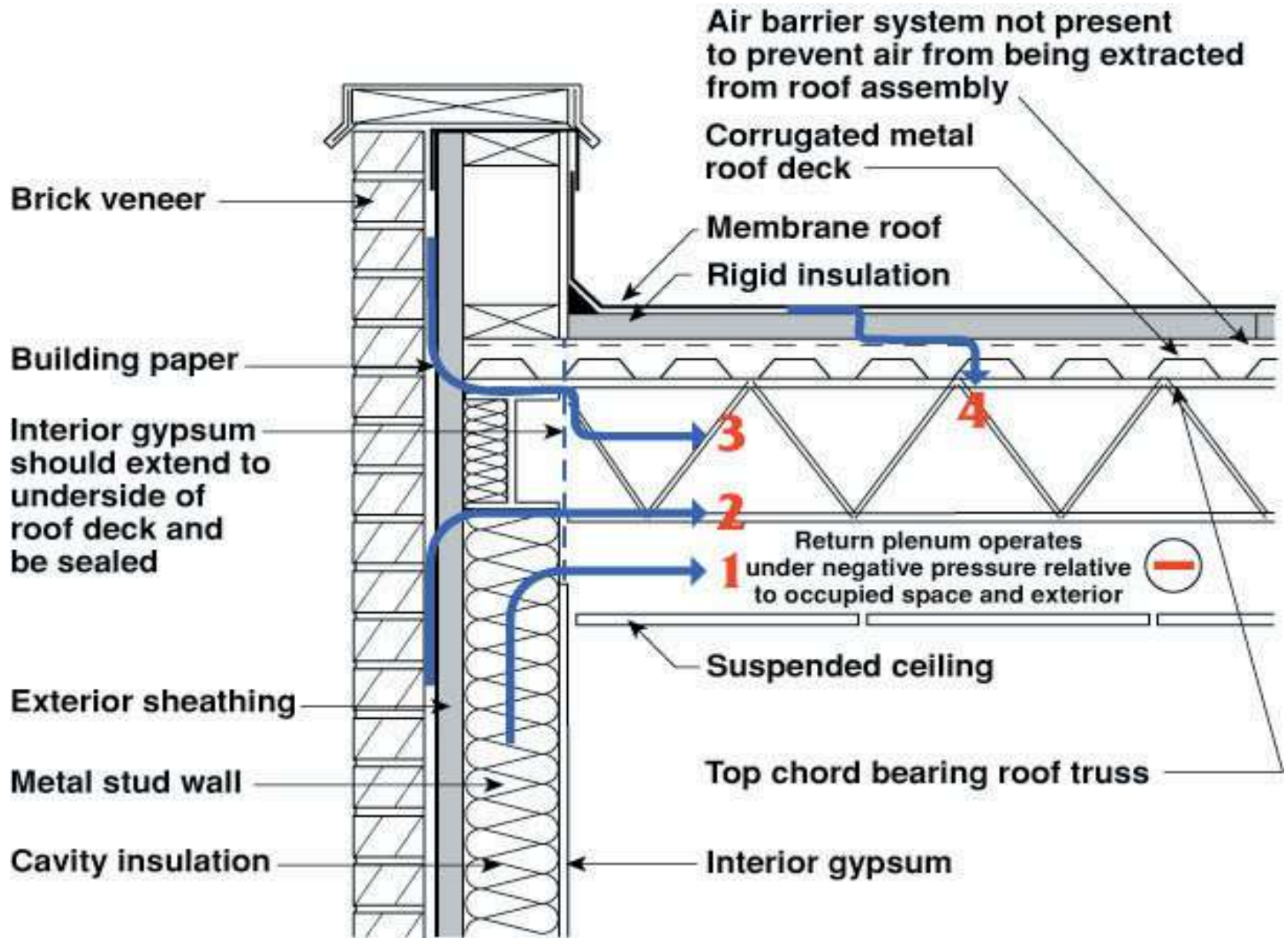
Supply air into occupied zone returns to AHU by passing through deliberately porous dropped ceiling or through return grilles installed in dropped ceiling

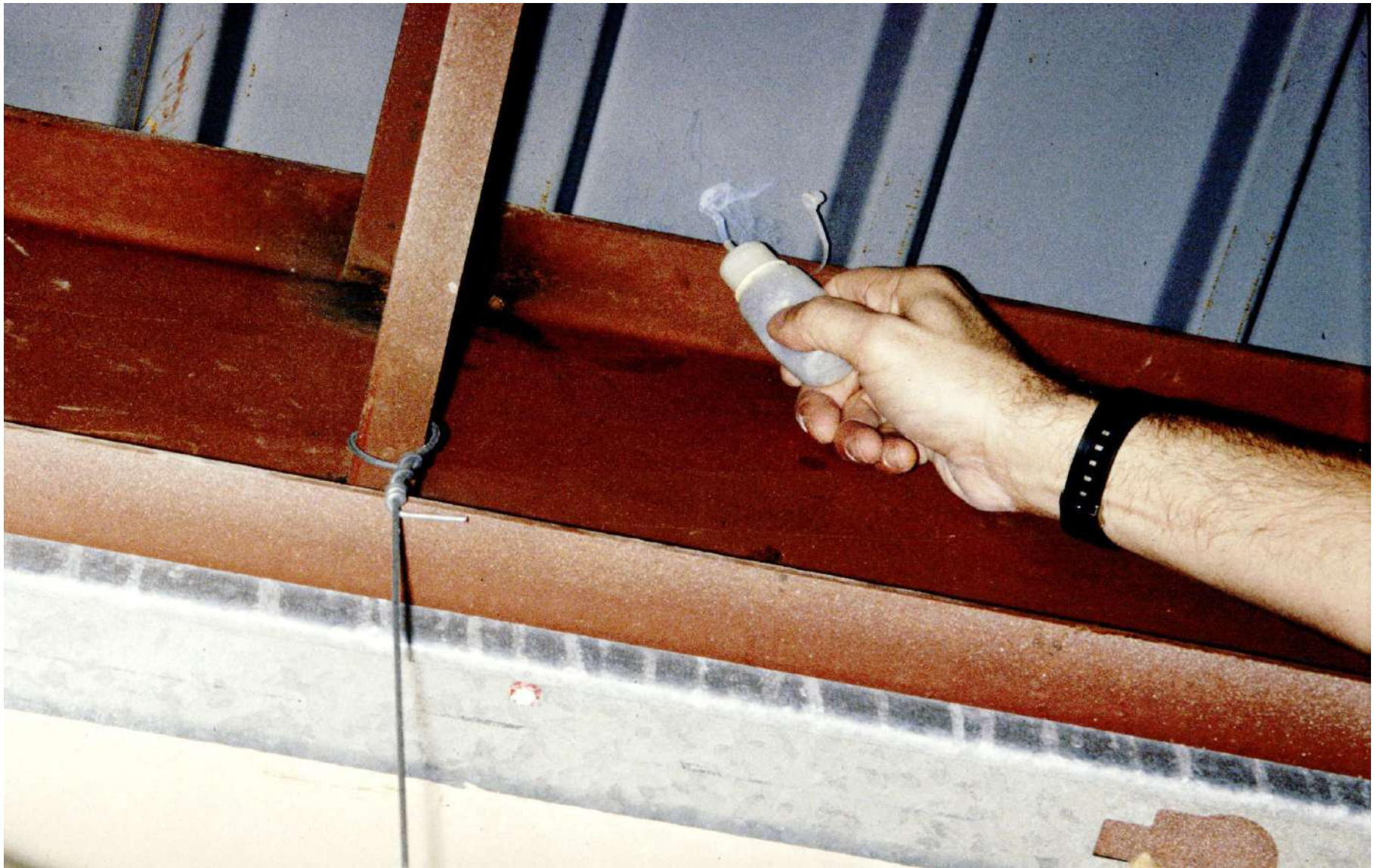
Air handling unit extracts air from dropped ceiling, conditions it and injects it into the occupied zones via supply ductwork

Dropped ceiling depressurized by air handling units extracting air from dropped ceiling



















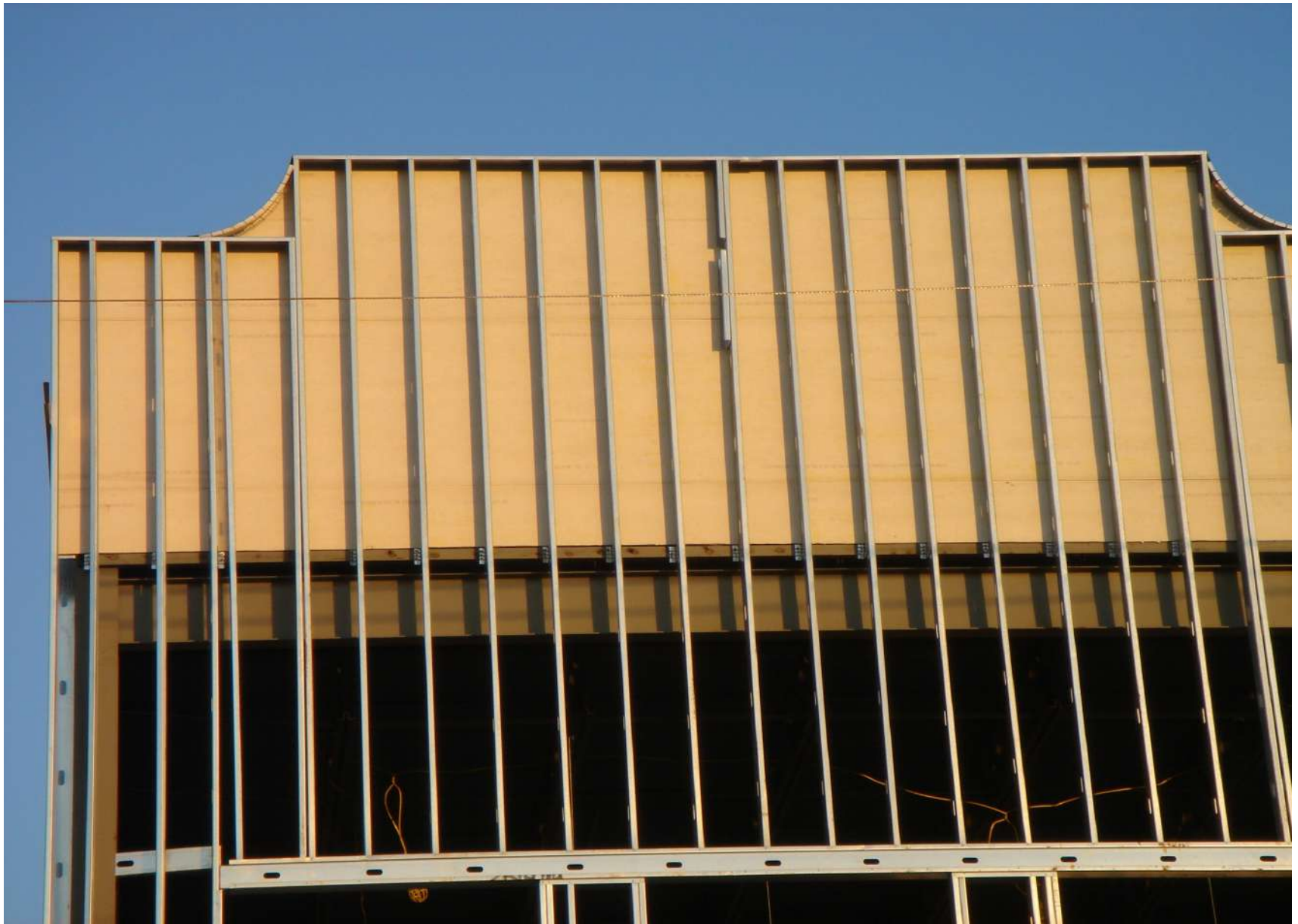




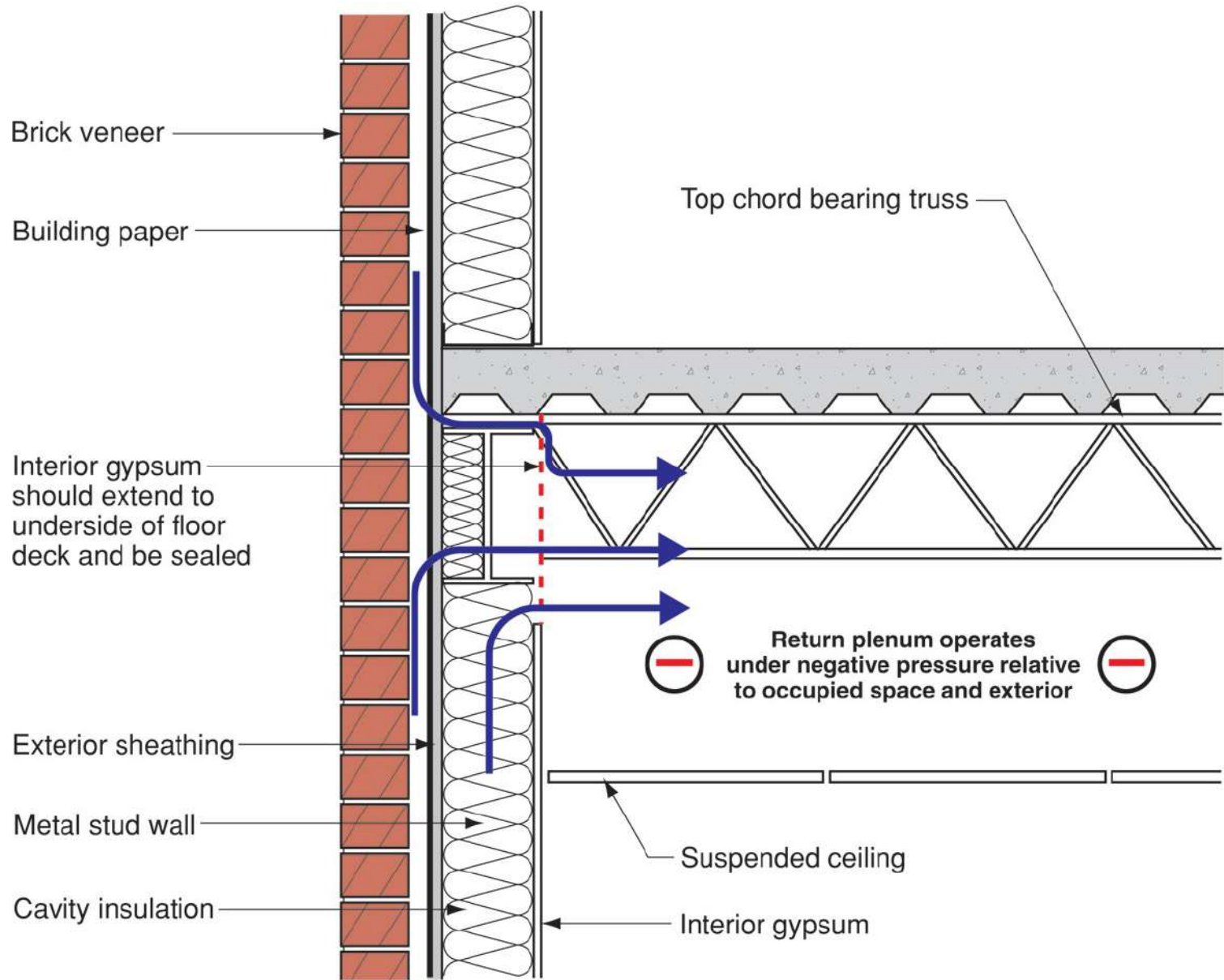
























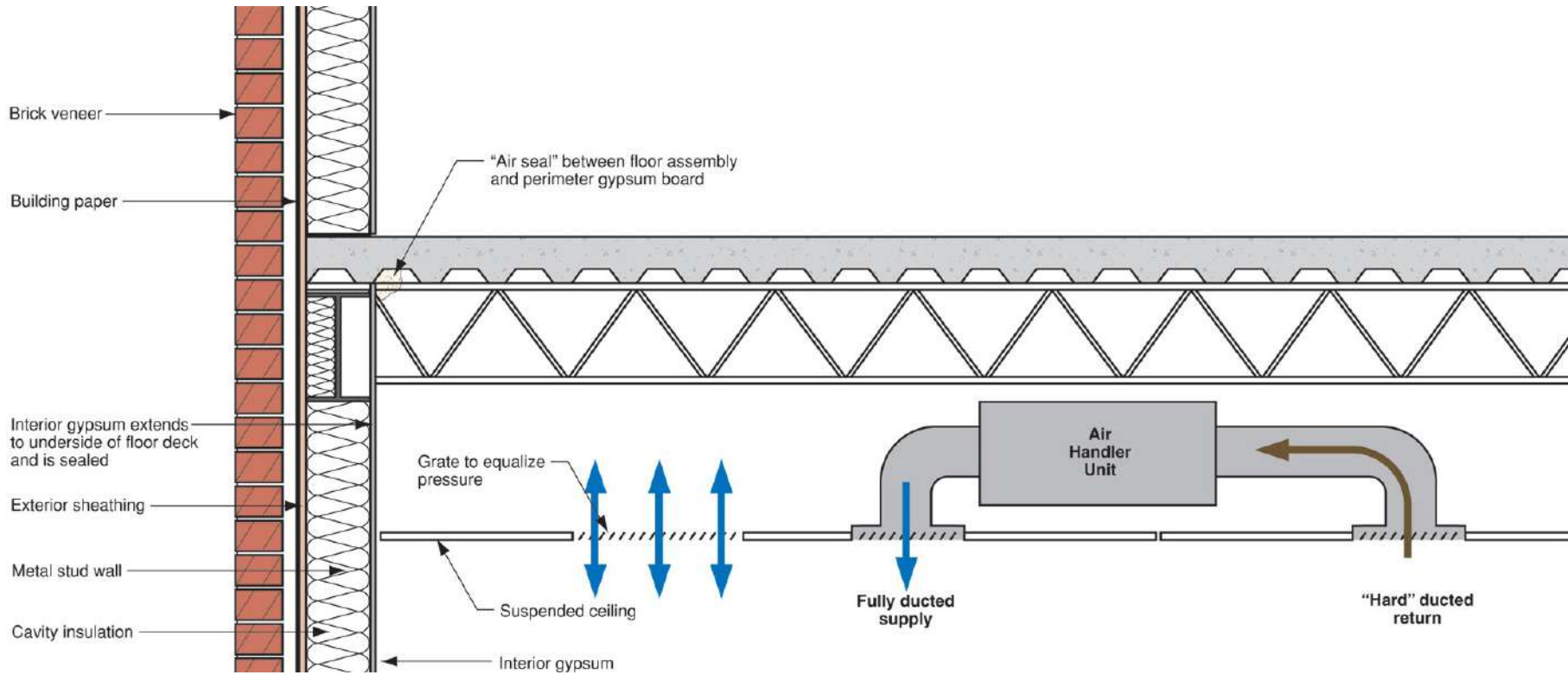




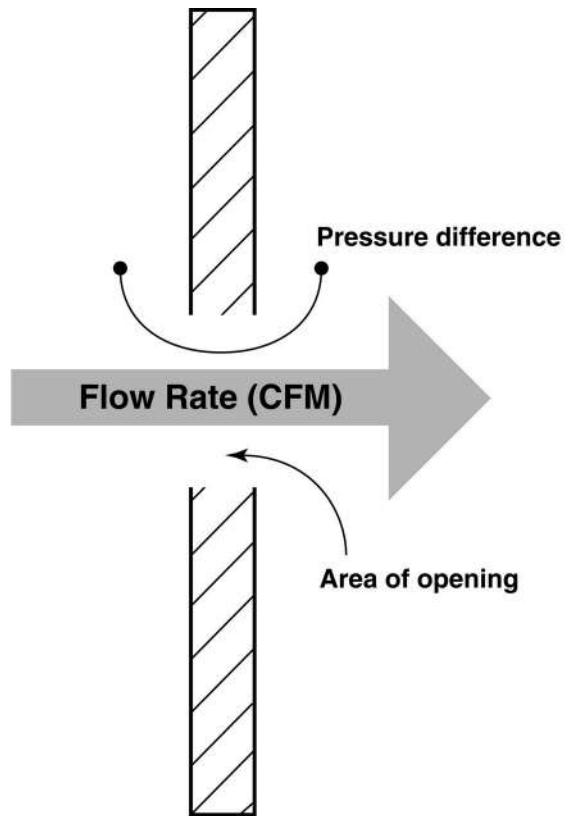












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### Air Flow

- Air flow depends on size of hole
  - Air flow depends on pressure difference
  - Air flows from higher pressure to lower pressure
- $\text{Flow} \cong \text{Area} \times \sqrt{\Delta P} \times \text{Coefficient}$

Figure 2.11  
**Three Dimensional Multi-Layer  
Multi-Cell Analogue**

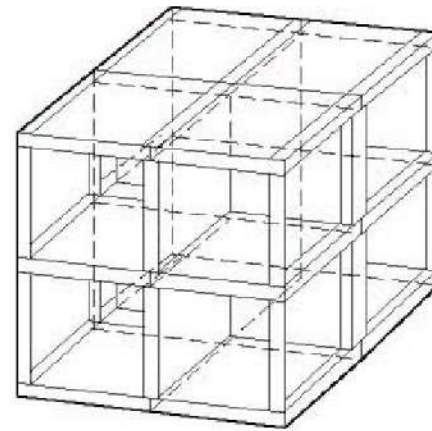


Figure 2.12  
**Three Dimensional Multi-Layer  
Multi-Cell Non-Contiguous  
Analogue**

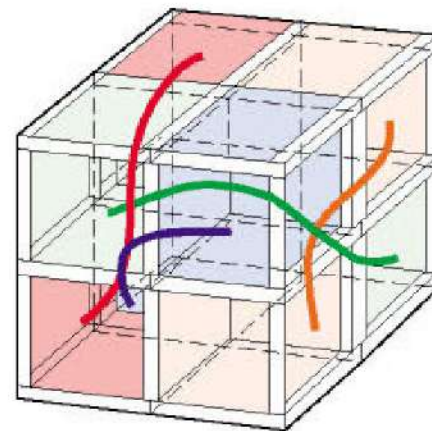
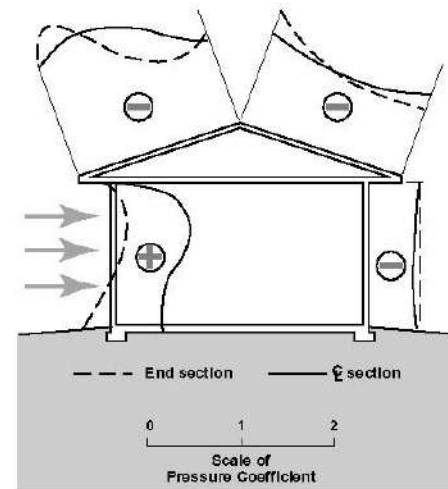
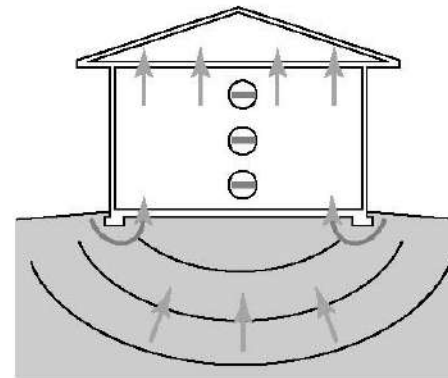


Figure 3.1  
**Exterior Air Pressure Field**  
(from Hutcheon & Handegord, 1983)

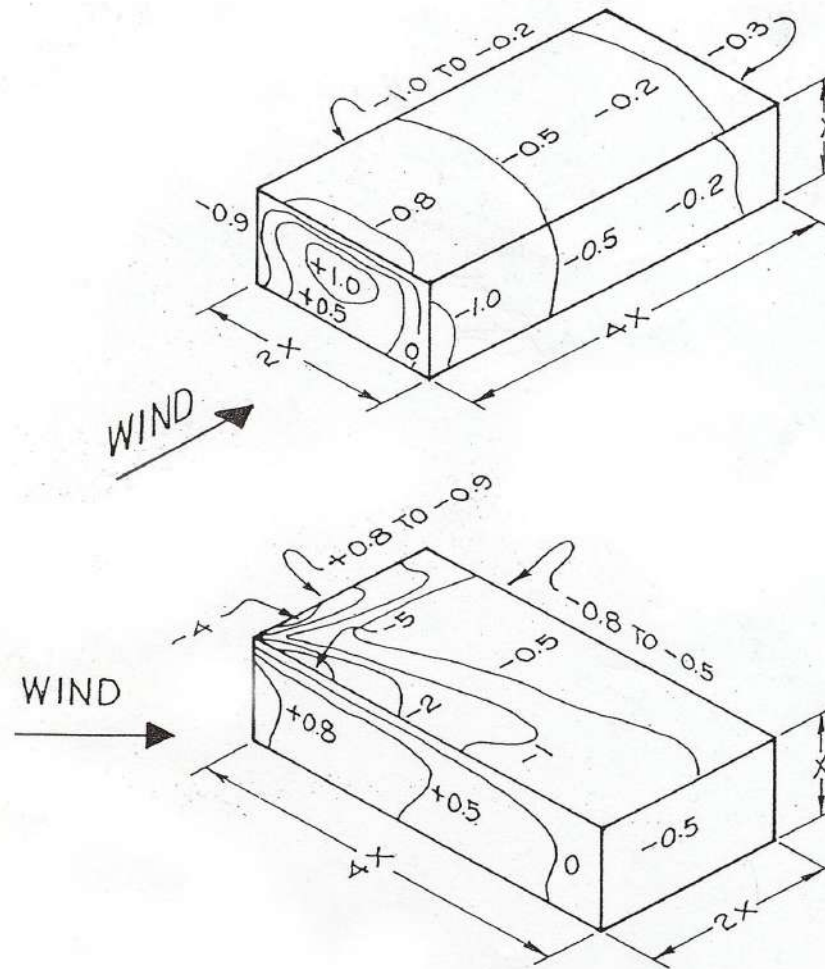


Distribution of pressures ( + ) and suctions ( - ) on a house with a low-sloped roof with wind perpendicular to eave

Figure 3.2  
**Exterior Air Pressure Field Extending Below Grade**







Pressure coefficients on walls and roof of rectangular buildings without parapets.

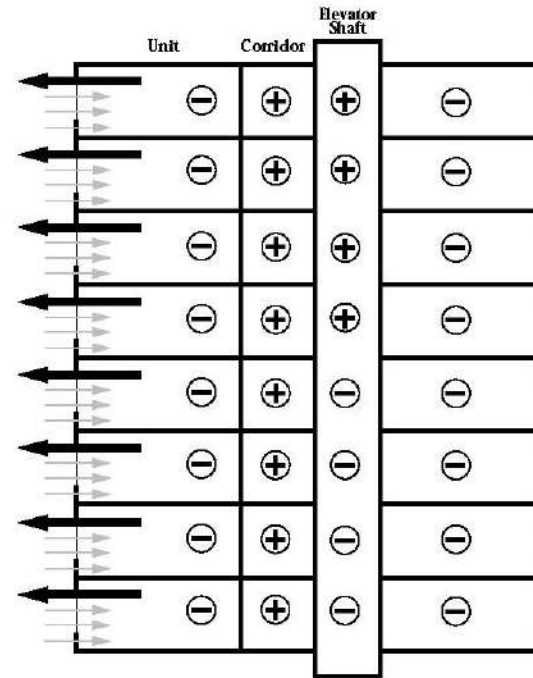


Figure 3.3  
**Interior Air Pressure Field**

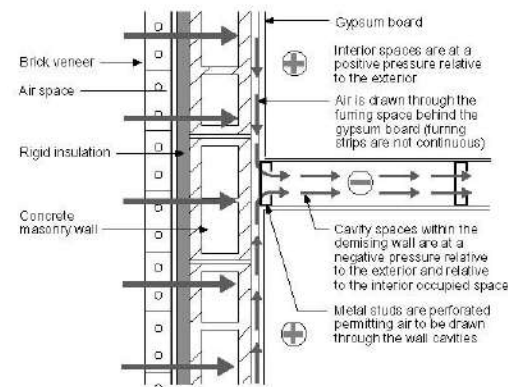


Figure 3.4  
**Interstitial Air Pressure Field**

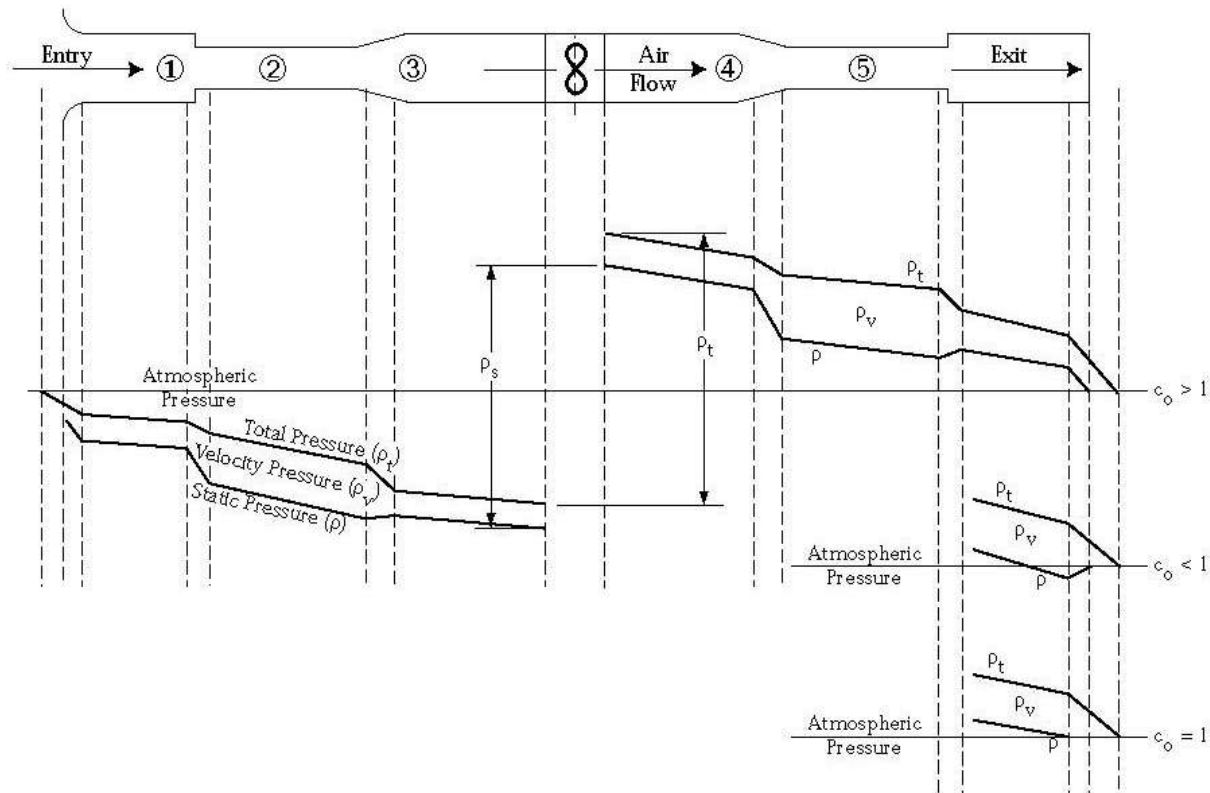


Figure 3.5  
**Air Conveyance System Air Pressure Field**  
 (from Sauer & Howell, 1990)





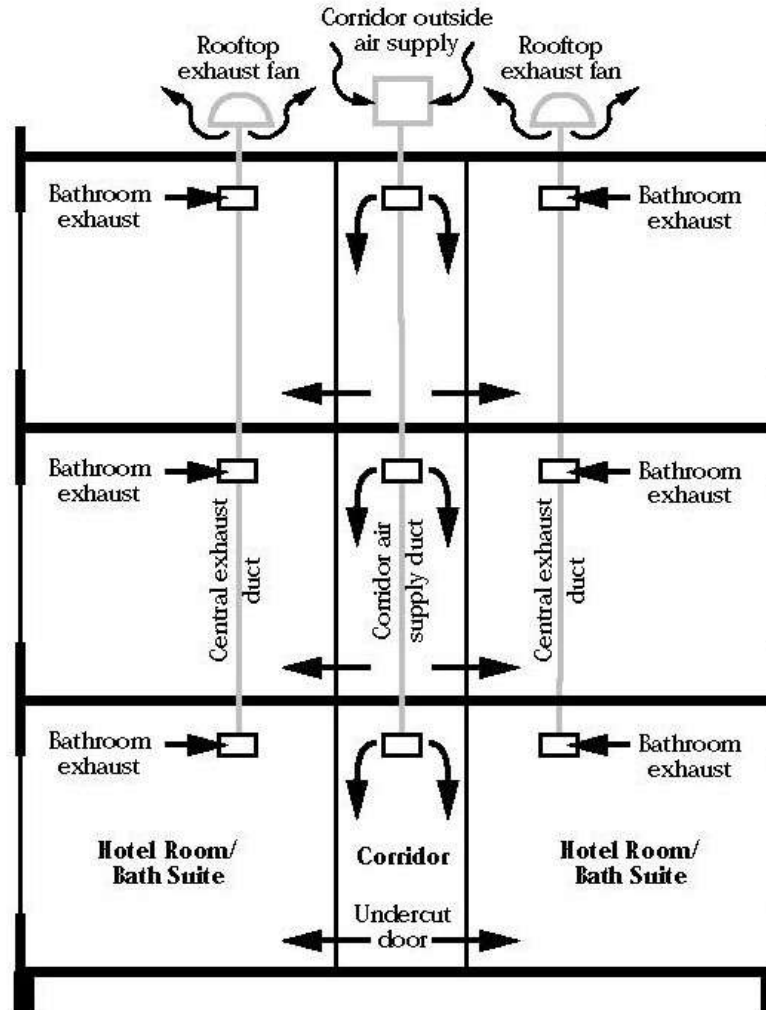


Figure 3.8

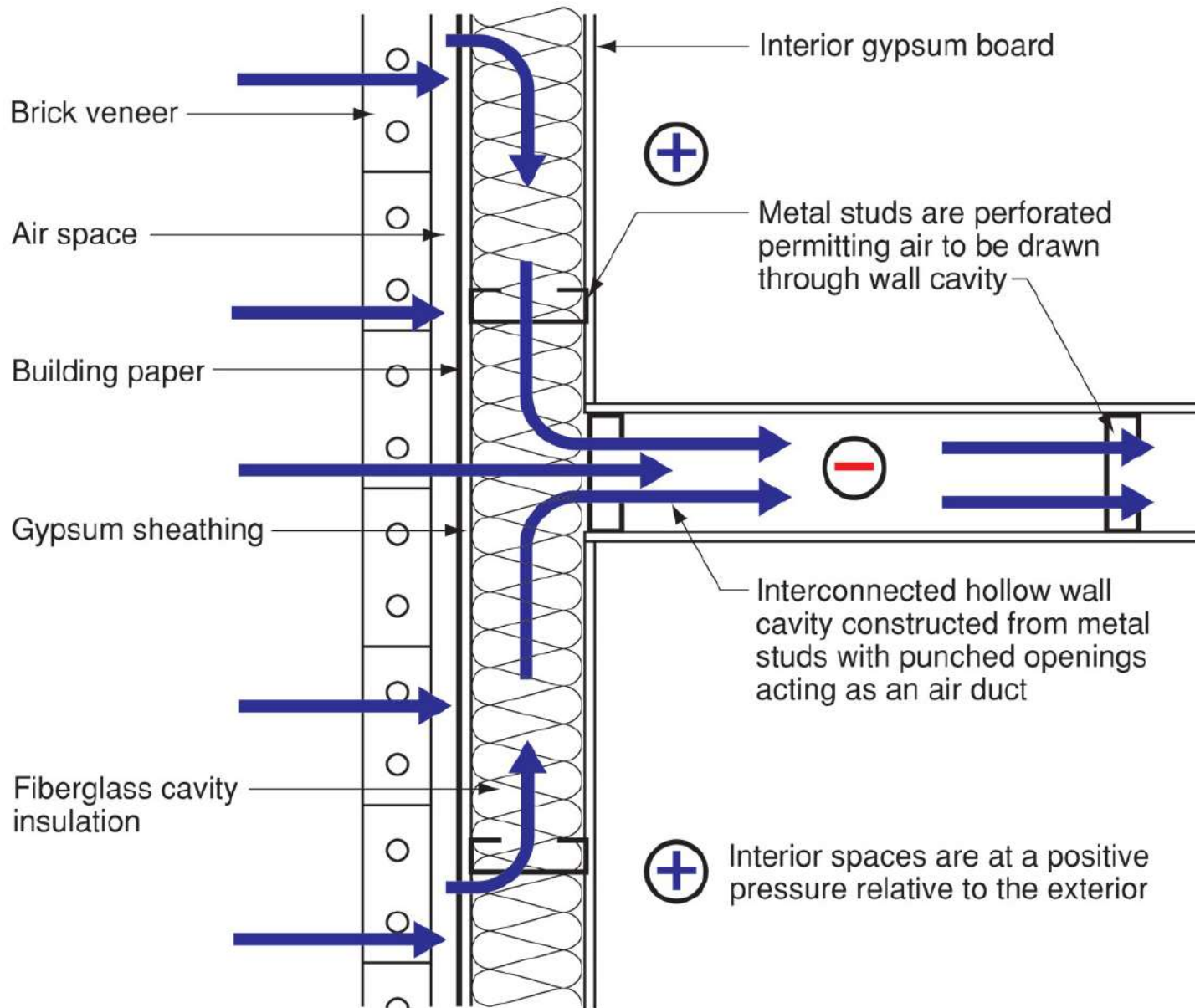
**Hotel HVAC System**

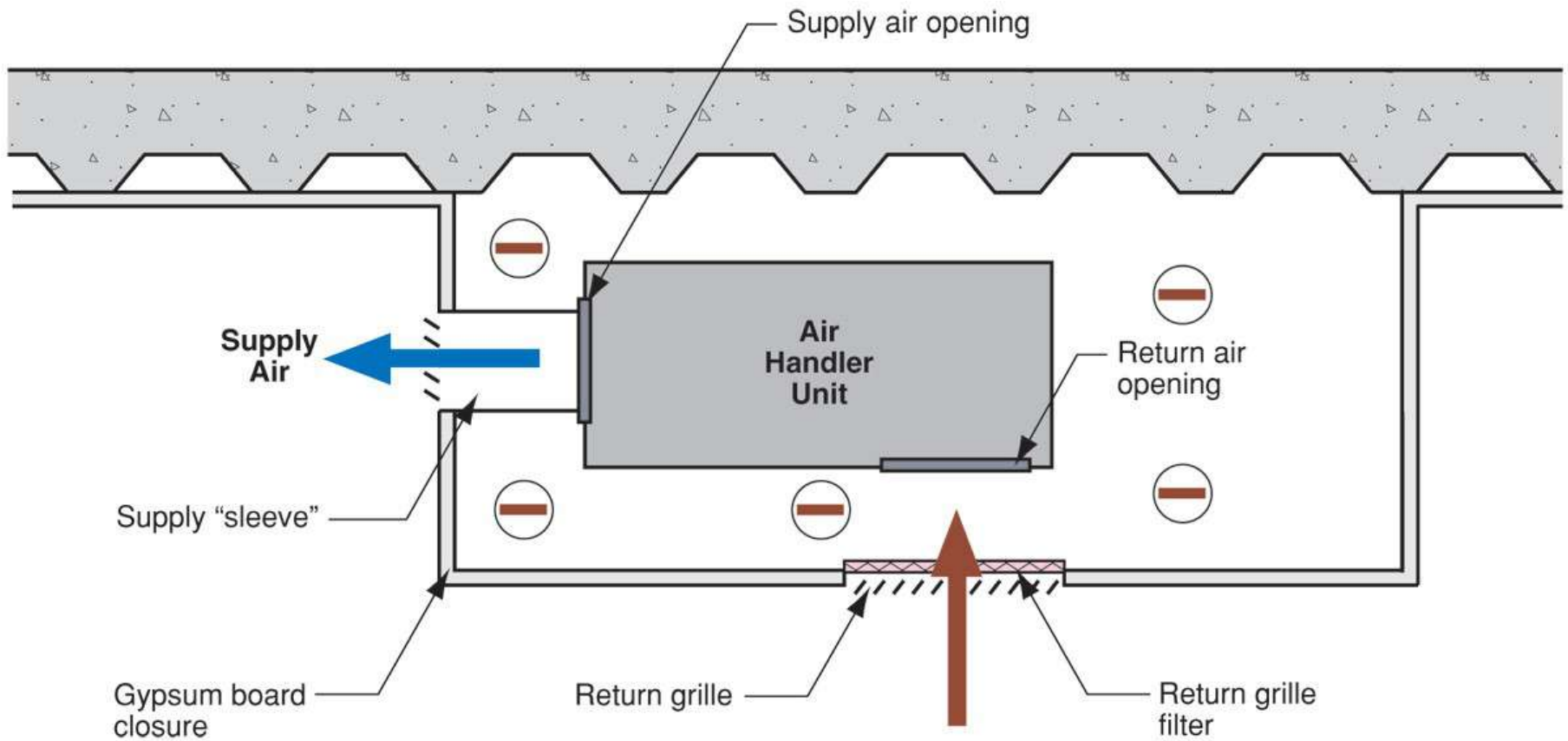
- Air exhausted from bathrooms via central rooftop exhaust fans
- Air supplied from corridors via undercut doors



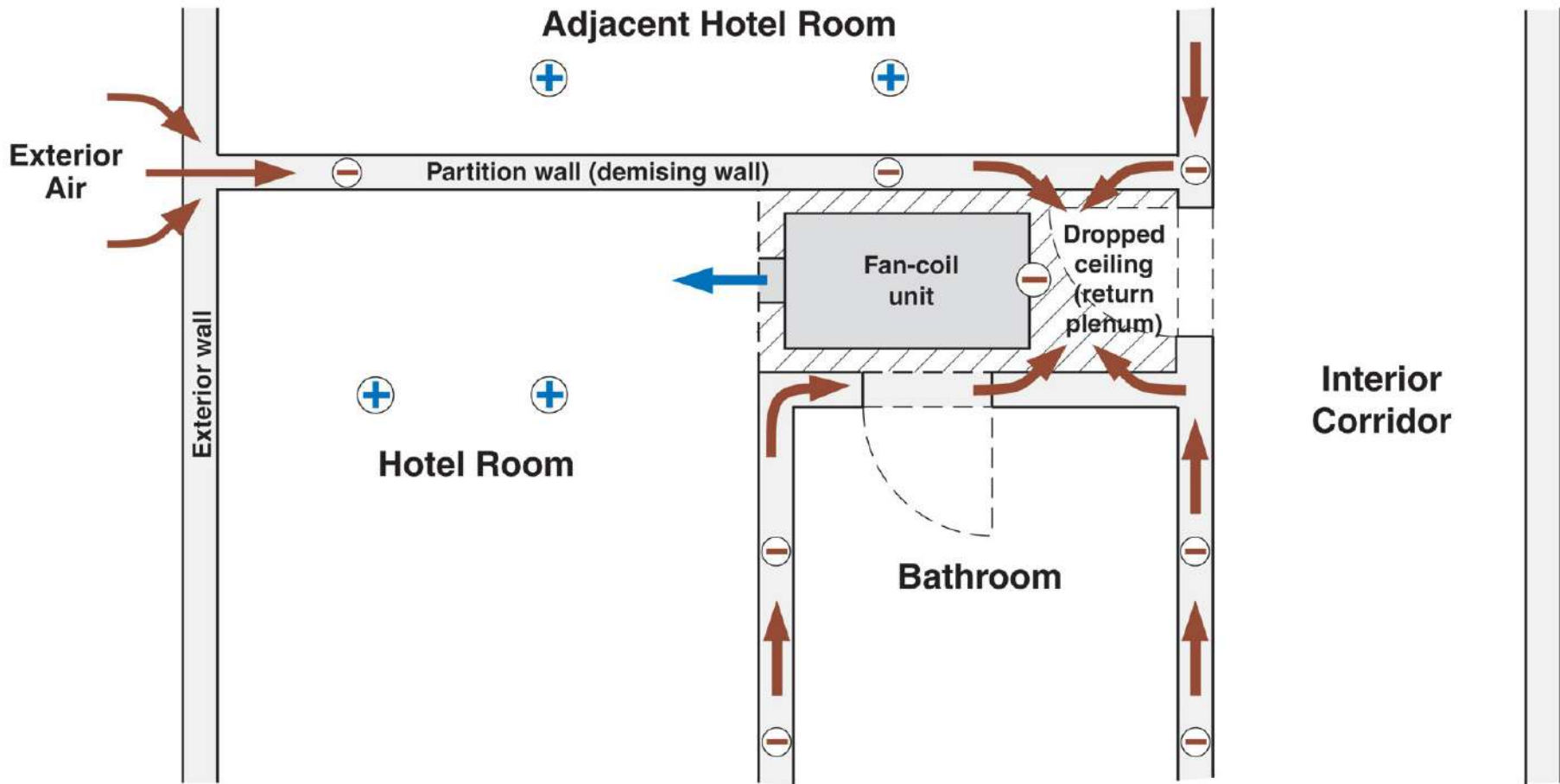












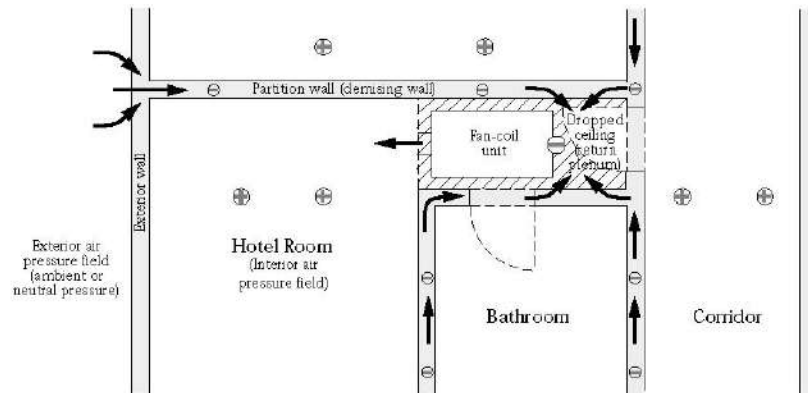


Figure 3.10  
**Pressure Field Due to Fan-Coil Unit**  
**Plan View**

- Room is at positive air pressure relative to exterior-driven air from corridor and air supplied to room from fan-coil unit pulling air from exterior through the demising wall
- Fan-coil unit depressurizes dropped ceiling assembly due to return plenum design
- Demising wall cavity pulled negative due to connection to dropped ceiling return plenum

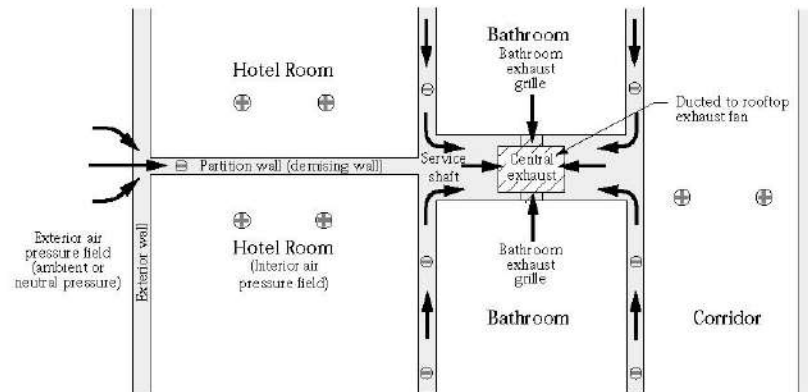


Figure 3.11  
**Pressure Field Due to Central Exhaust**  
**Plan View**

- Leakage of central exhaust duct pulls air out of service shaft depressurizing shaft and demising walls























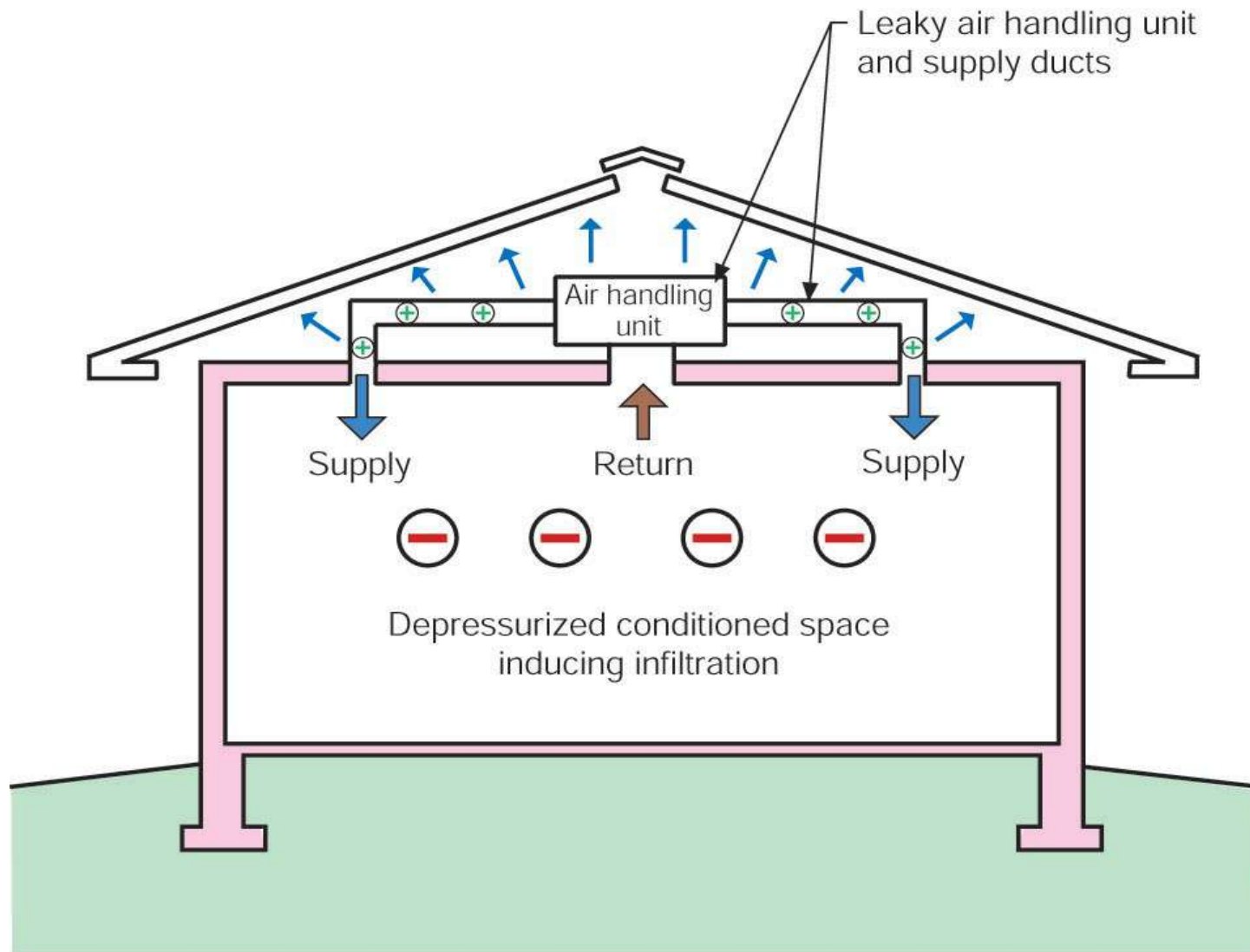




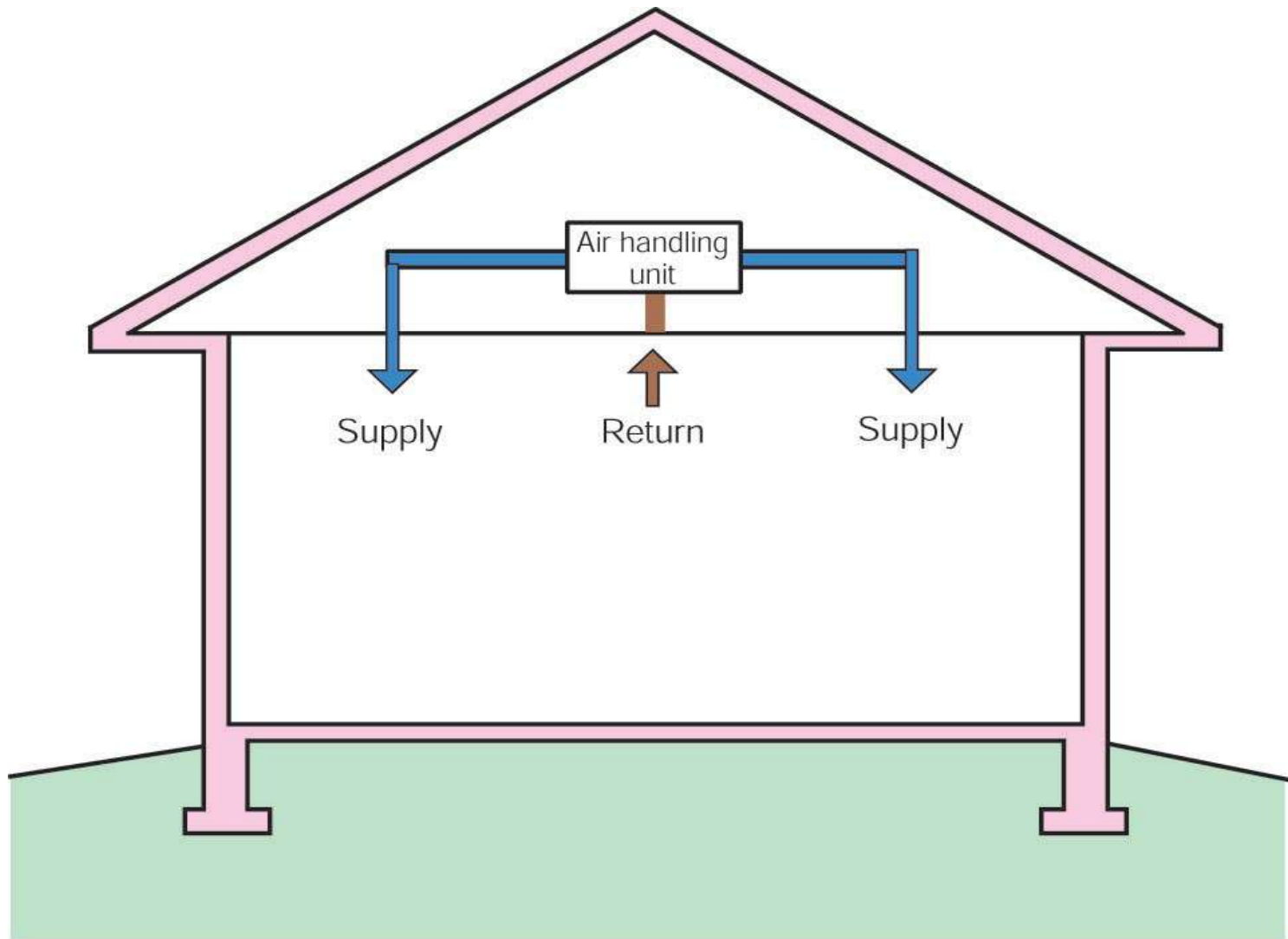






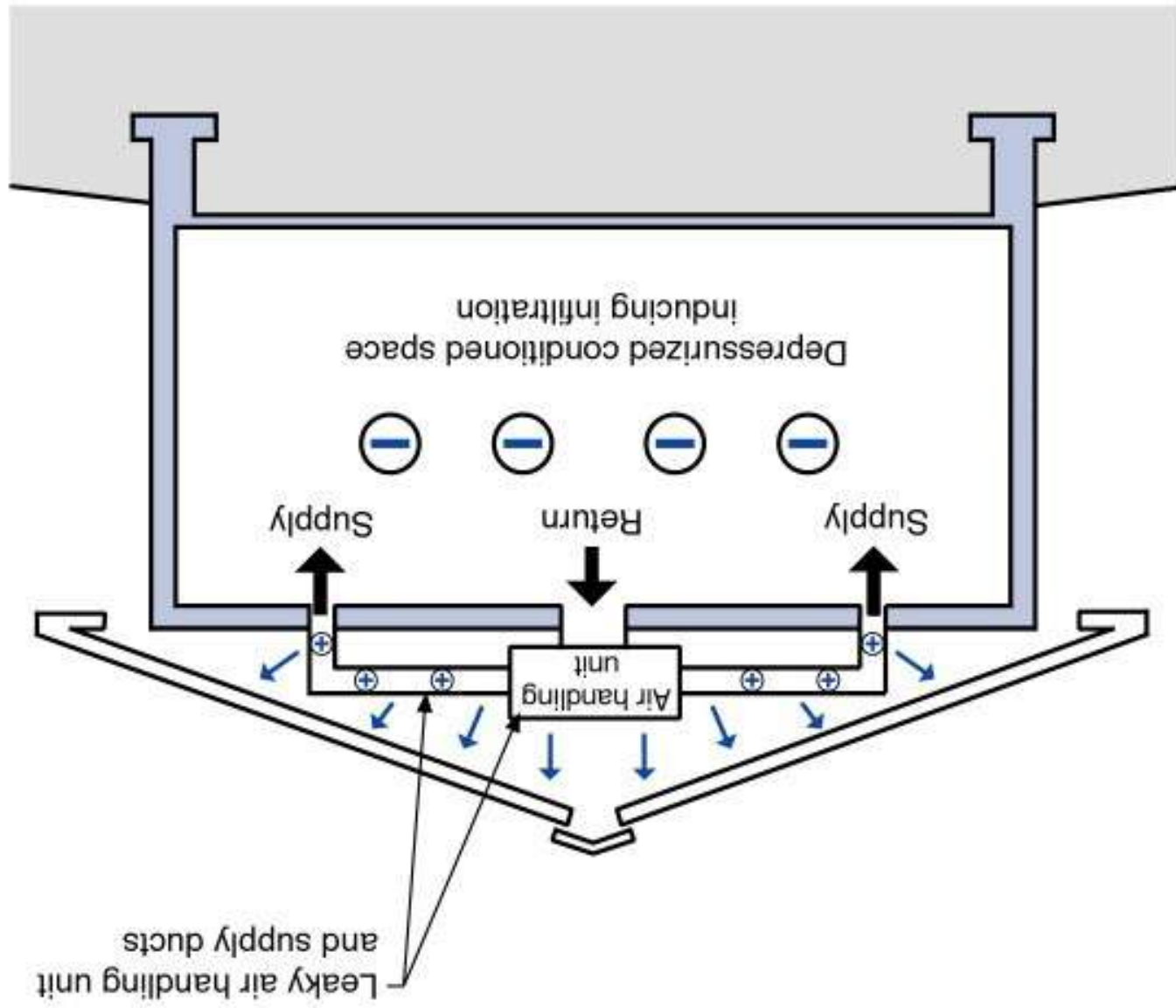


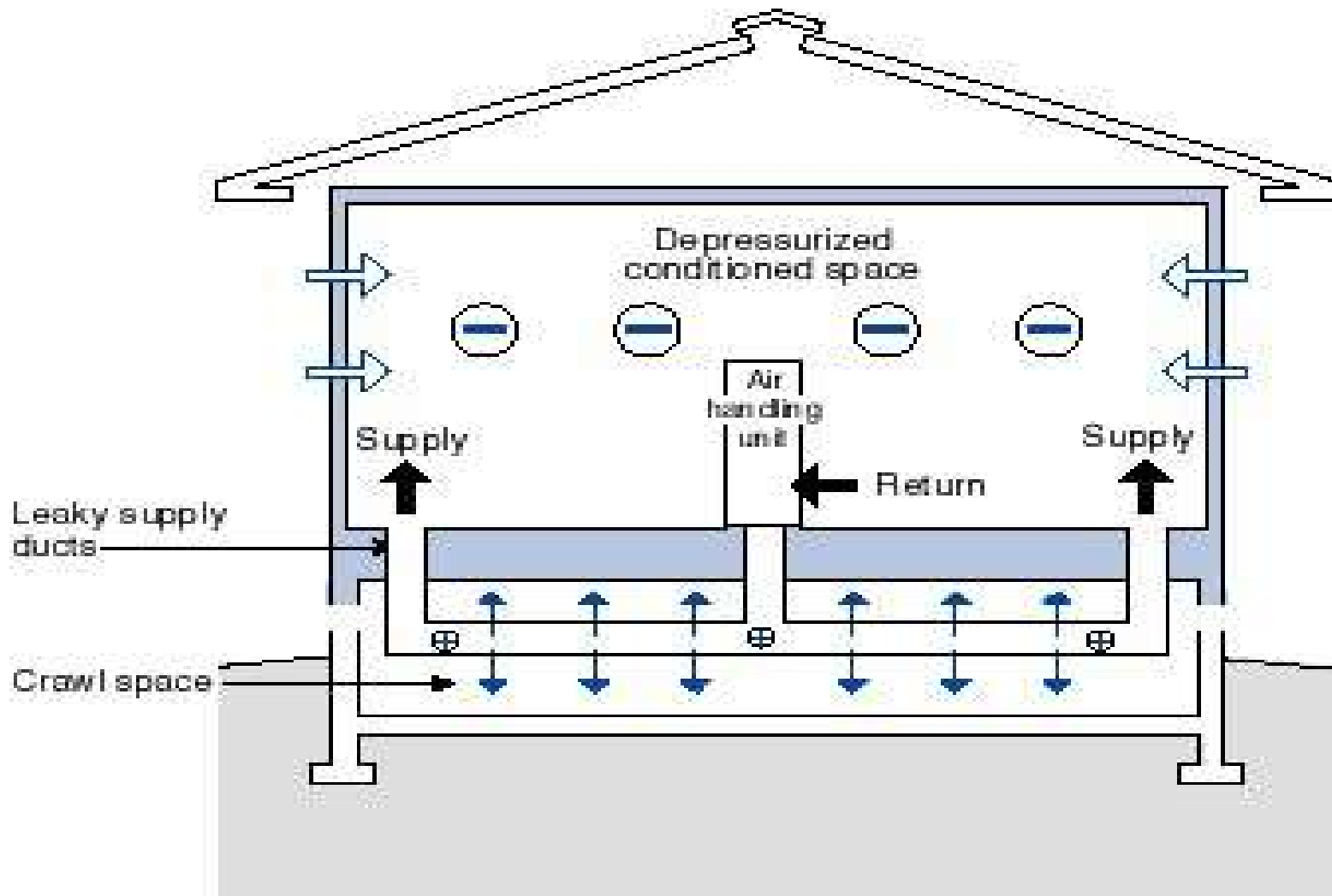
Note: Colored shading depicts the building's thermal barrier and pressure boundary. The thermal barrier and pressure boundary enclose the conditioned space.



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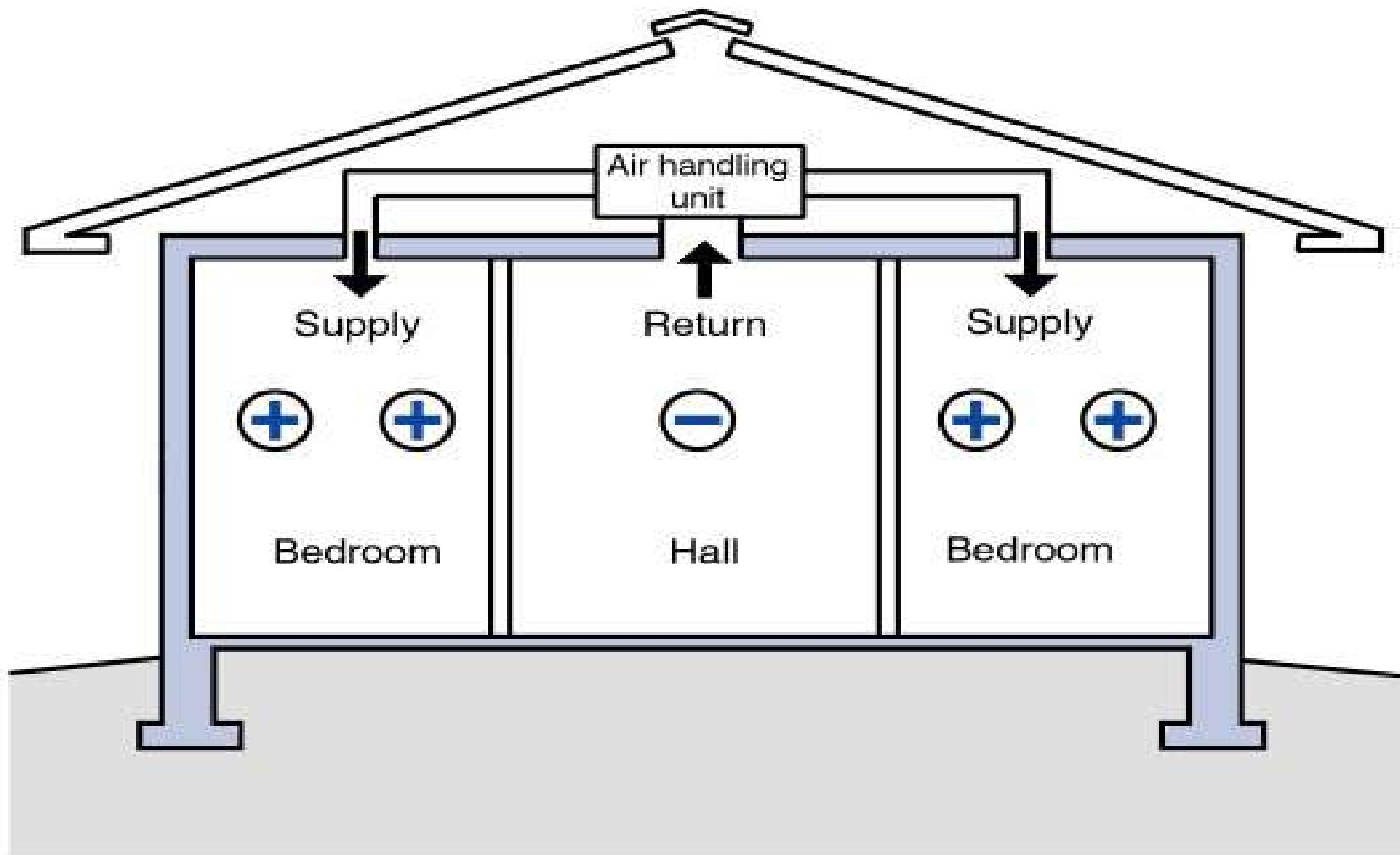








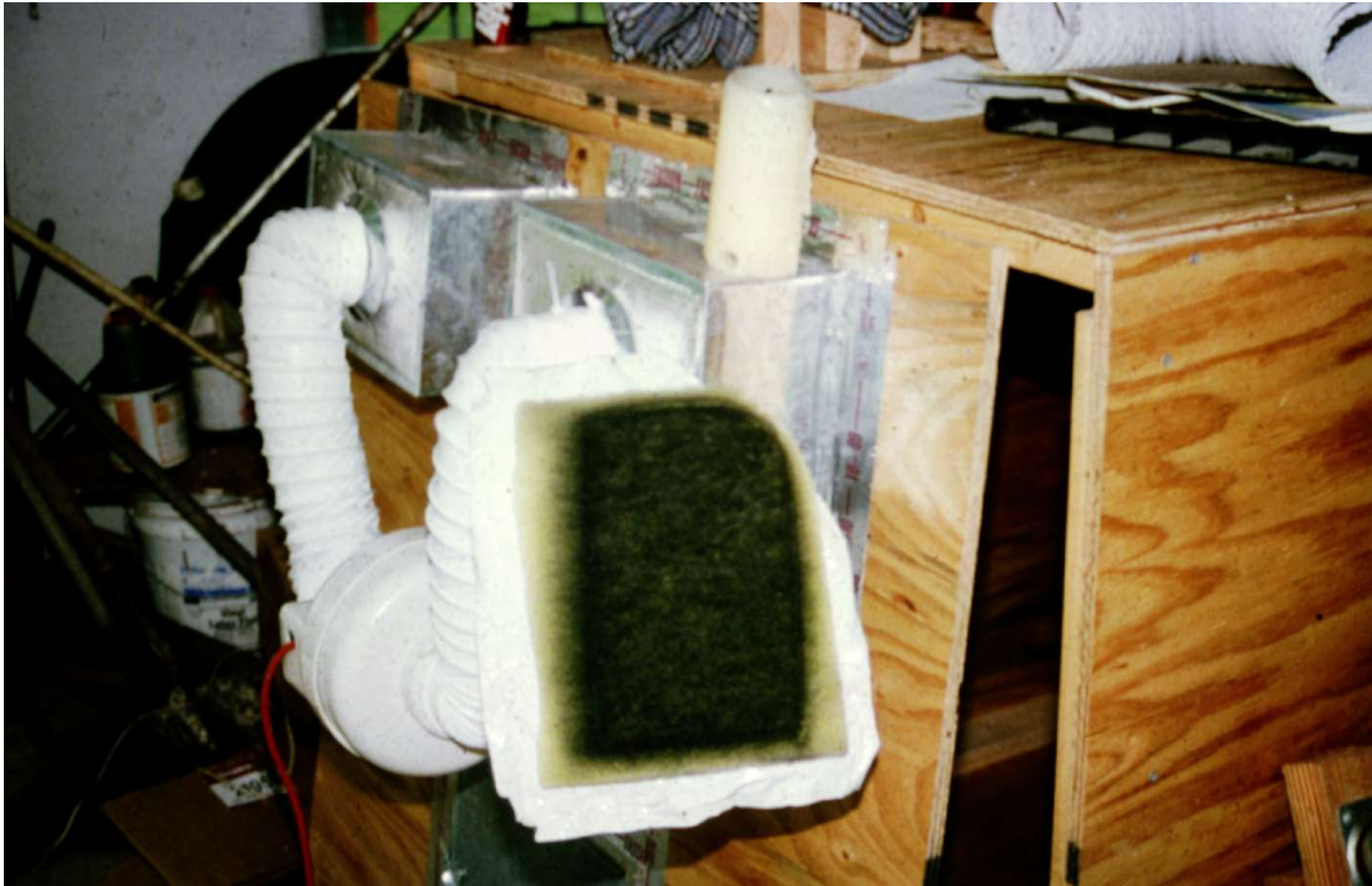


















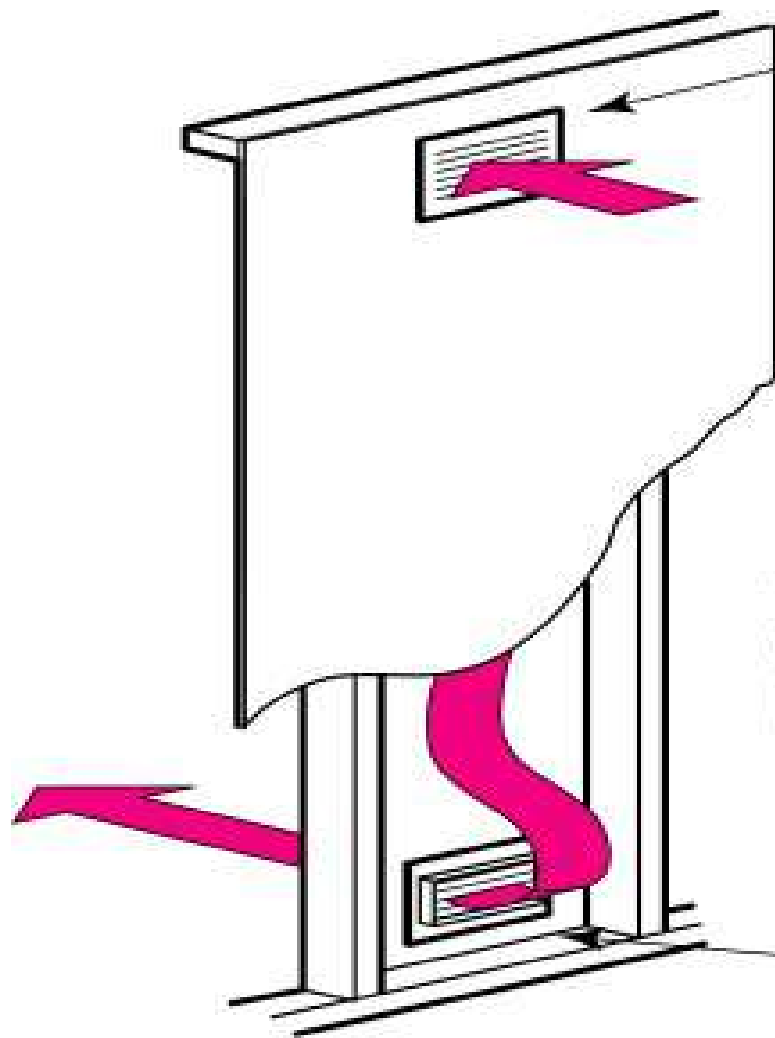










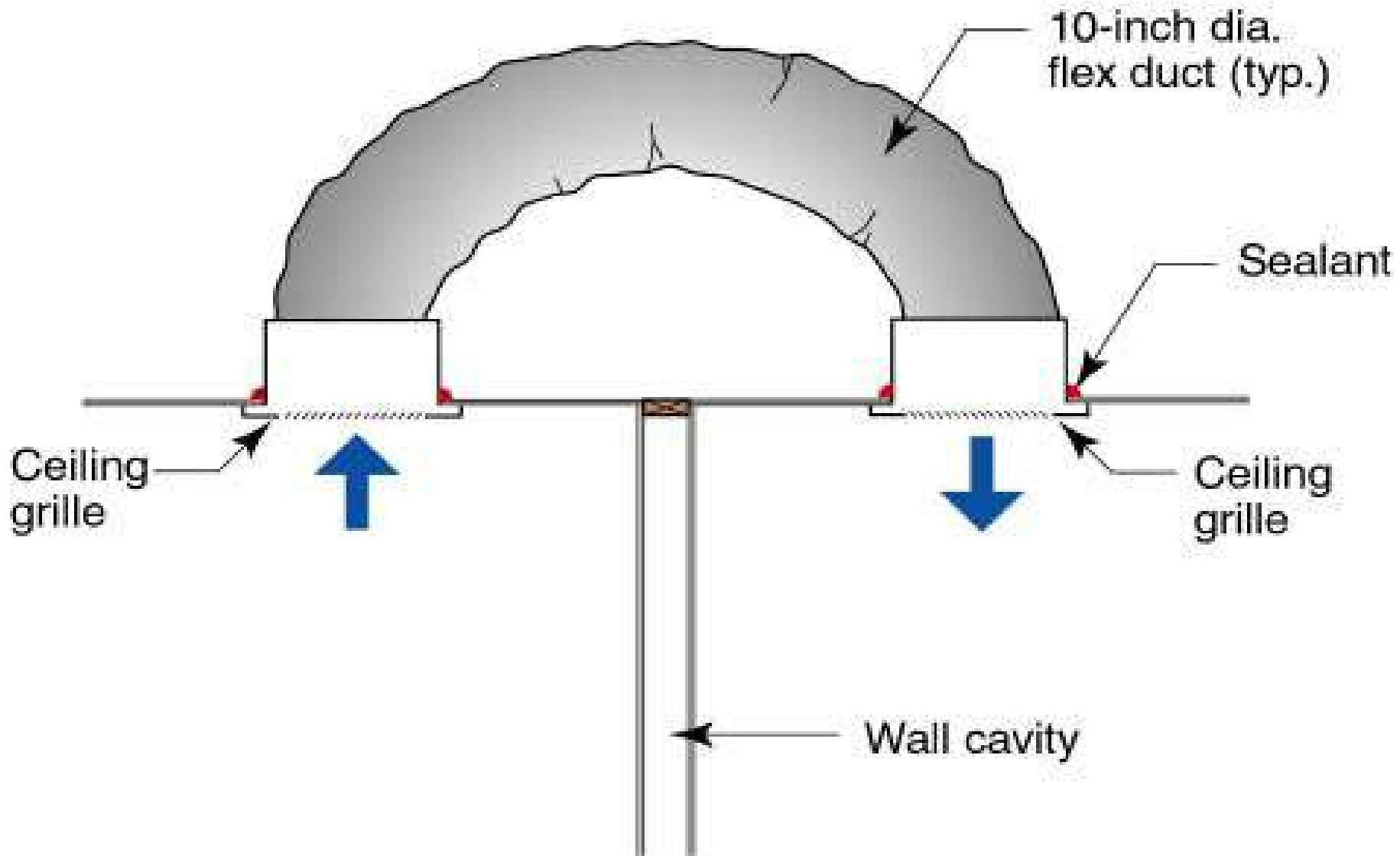


Grille located high in wall on bedroom side to avoid blockage by furniture

Cavity is sealed tight, drywall glued to studs and plates on both sides

Grille located low in wall on hallway side







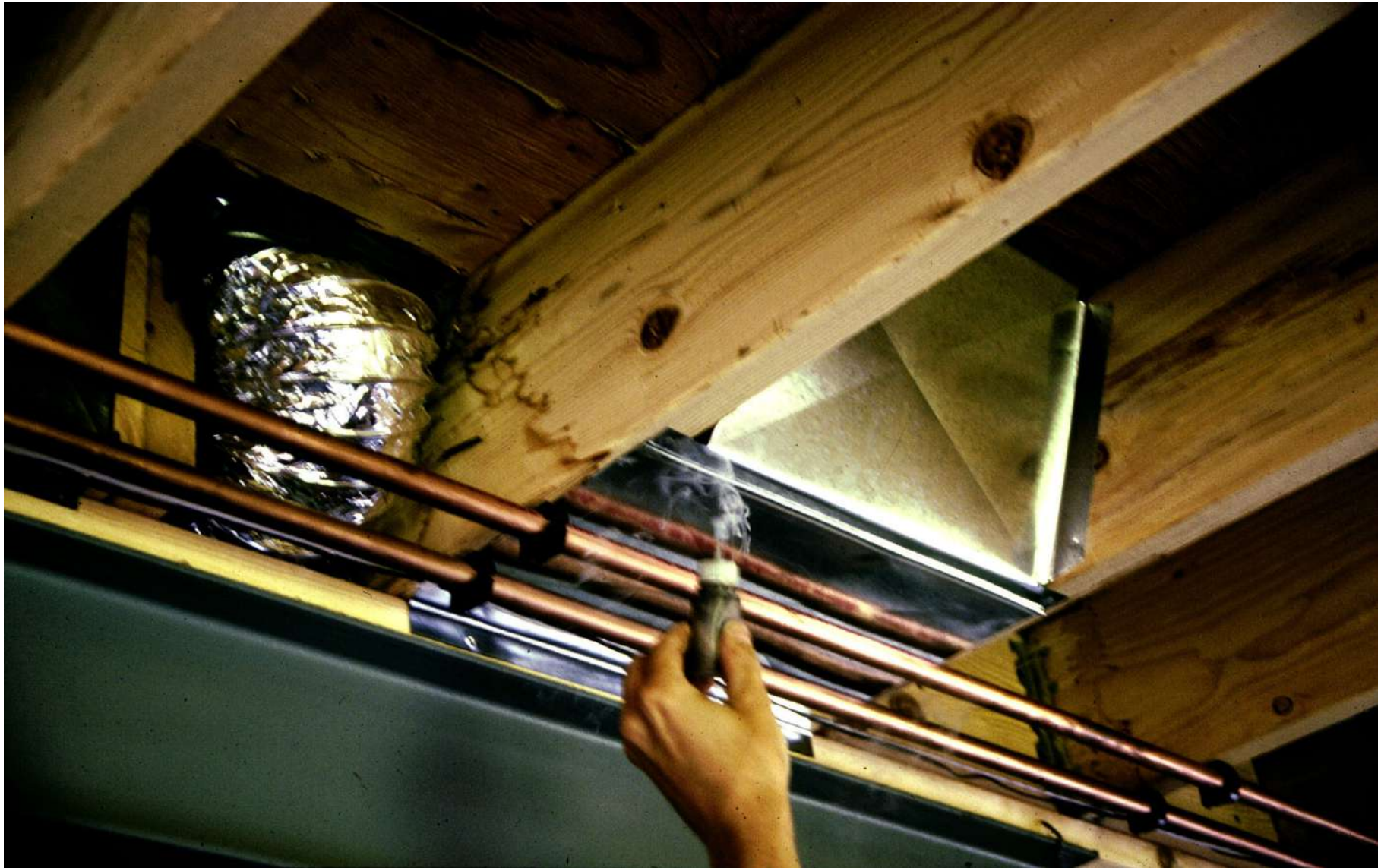












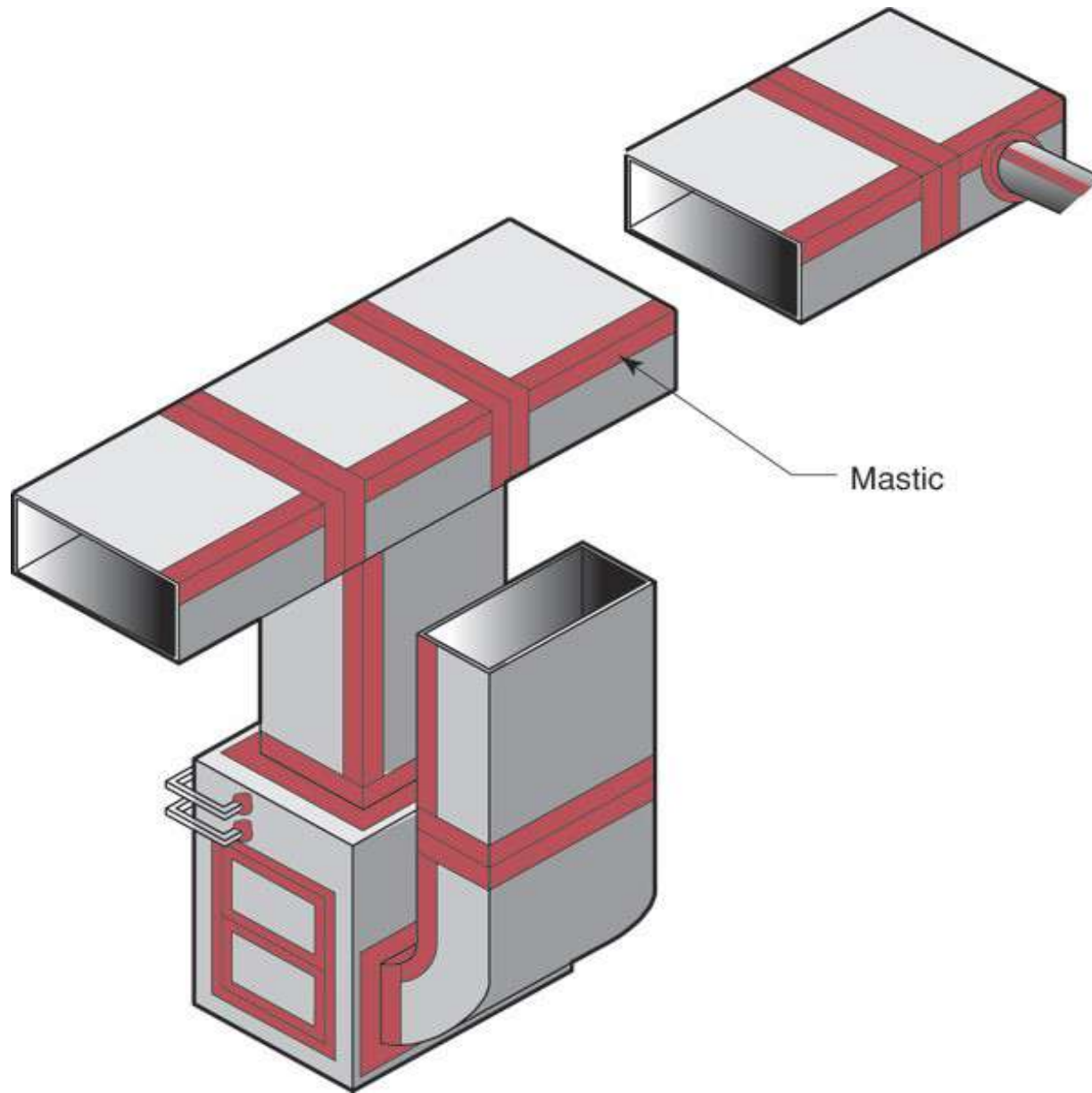




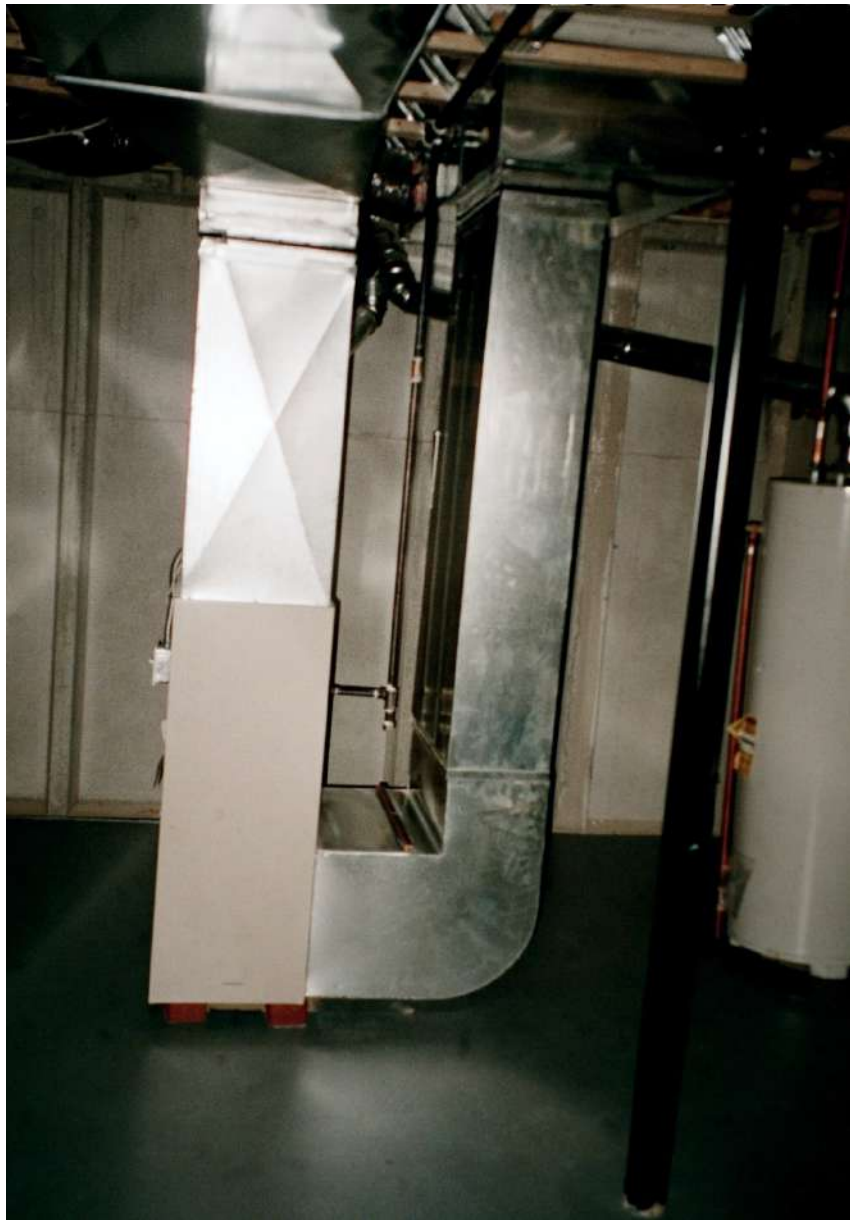




















# Mechanical Systems

# Mechanical Systems

## Cooling System To Make It Cold

# Mechanical Systems

Cooling System To Make It Cold

Dehumidification System To Make It Dry



# Mechanical Systems

Cooling System To Make It Cold

Dehumidification System To Make It Dry

Heating System To Make It Warm

## Mechanical Systems

Cooling System To Make It Cold

Dehumidification System To Make It Dry

Heating System To Make It Warm

Energy Recovery System To Keep It Cold  
and Dry and Warm and Comfortable

# Mechanical Systems

Cooling System To Make It Cold

Dehumidification System To Make It Dry

Heating System To Make It Warm

Energy Recovery System To Keep It Cold  
and Dry and Warm and Comfortable

Distribution System To Make It Uniform



## Mechanical Systems

Cooling System To Make It Cold

Dehumidification System To Make It Dry

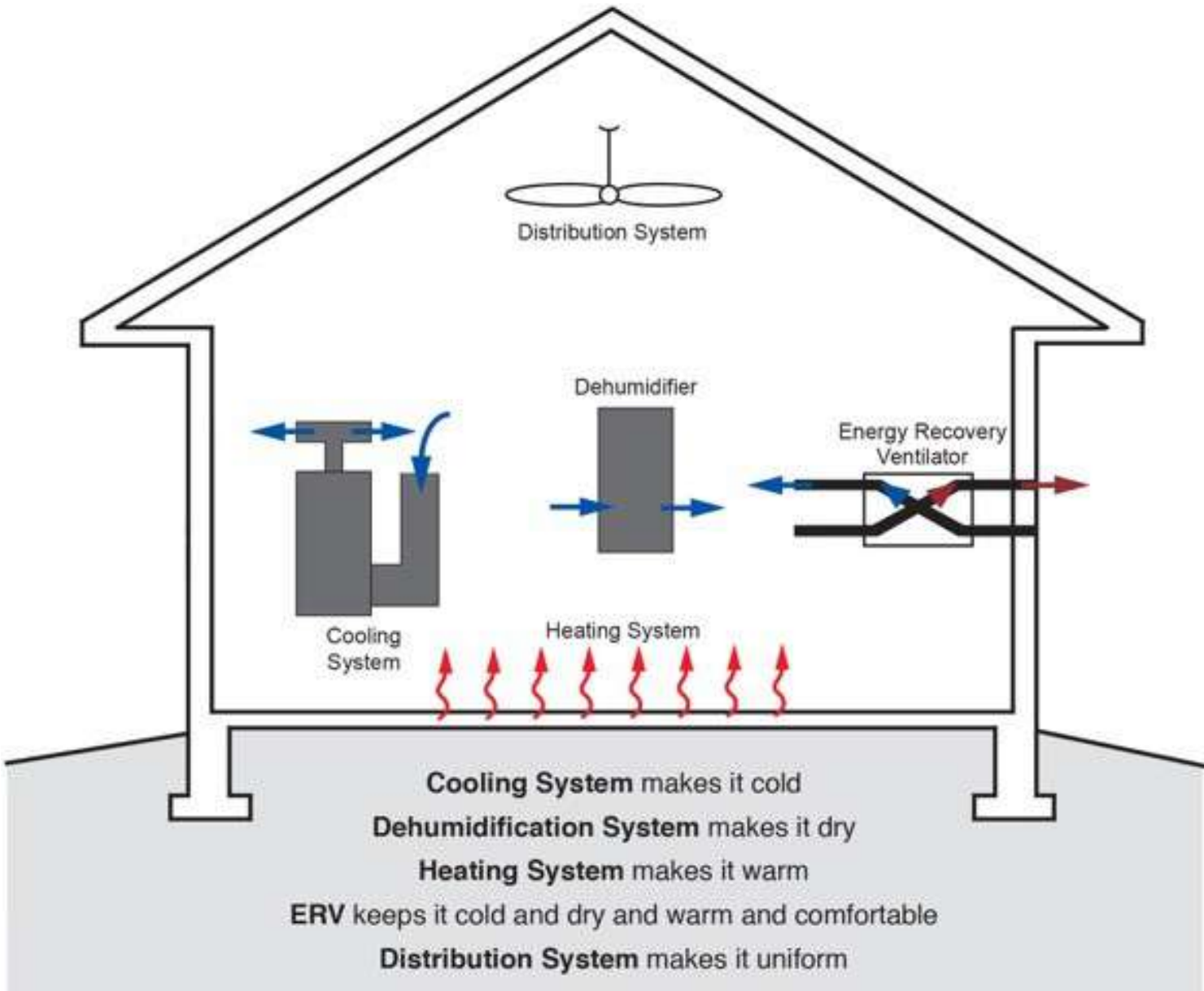
Heating System To Make It Warm

Energy Recovery System To Keep It Cold  
and Dry and Warm and Comfortable

Distribution System To Make It Uniform

Range Hoods Are A Special Kind of Hell

Don't Try to Combine Them.....





# Build Tight - Ventilate Right

Build Tight - Ventilate Right  
How Tight?  
What's Right?

# Air Barrier Metrics

Material 0.02 l/(s-m<sup>2</sup>) @ 75 Pa

Assembly 0.20 l/(s-m<sup>2</sup>) @ 75 Pa

Enclosure 2.00 l/(s-m<sup>2</sup>) @ 75 Pa

0.25 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> @ 50 Pa



Getting rid of big holes      3 ach@50  
Getting rid of smaller holes   1.5 ach@50  
Getting German                0.6 ach@50

Best

As Tight as Possible - with -

Balanced Ventilation

Energy Recovery

Distribution and Mixing

Source Control - Spot exhaust ventilation

Filtration

Material selection

Worst

Leaky - with – Nothing

Spot Ventilation in Bathroom/Kitchen

Exhaust Ventilation – with – No Distribution  
and No Mixing

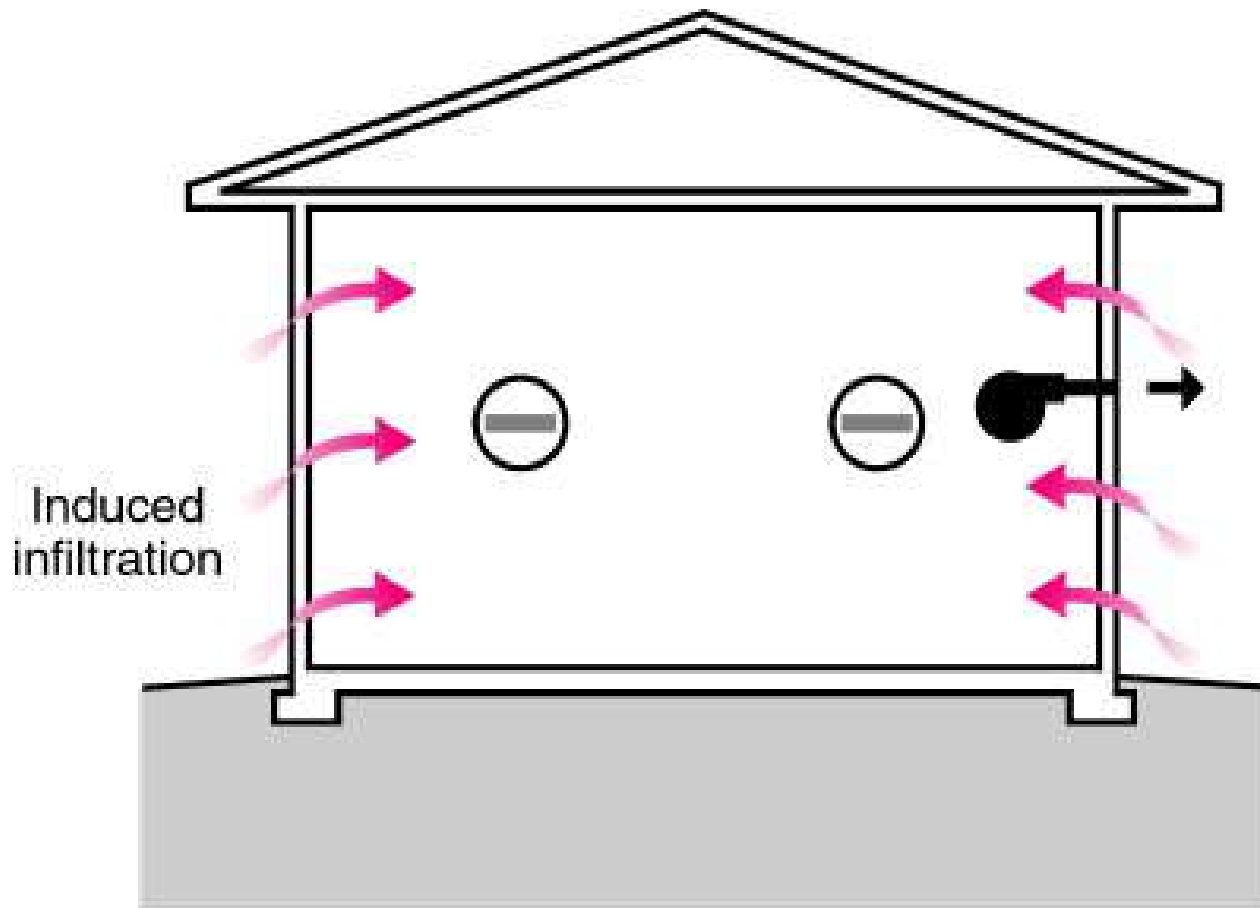


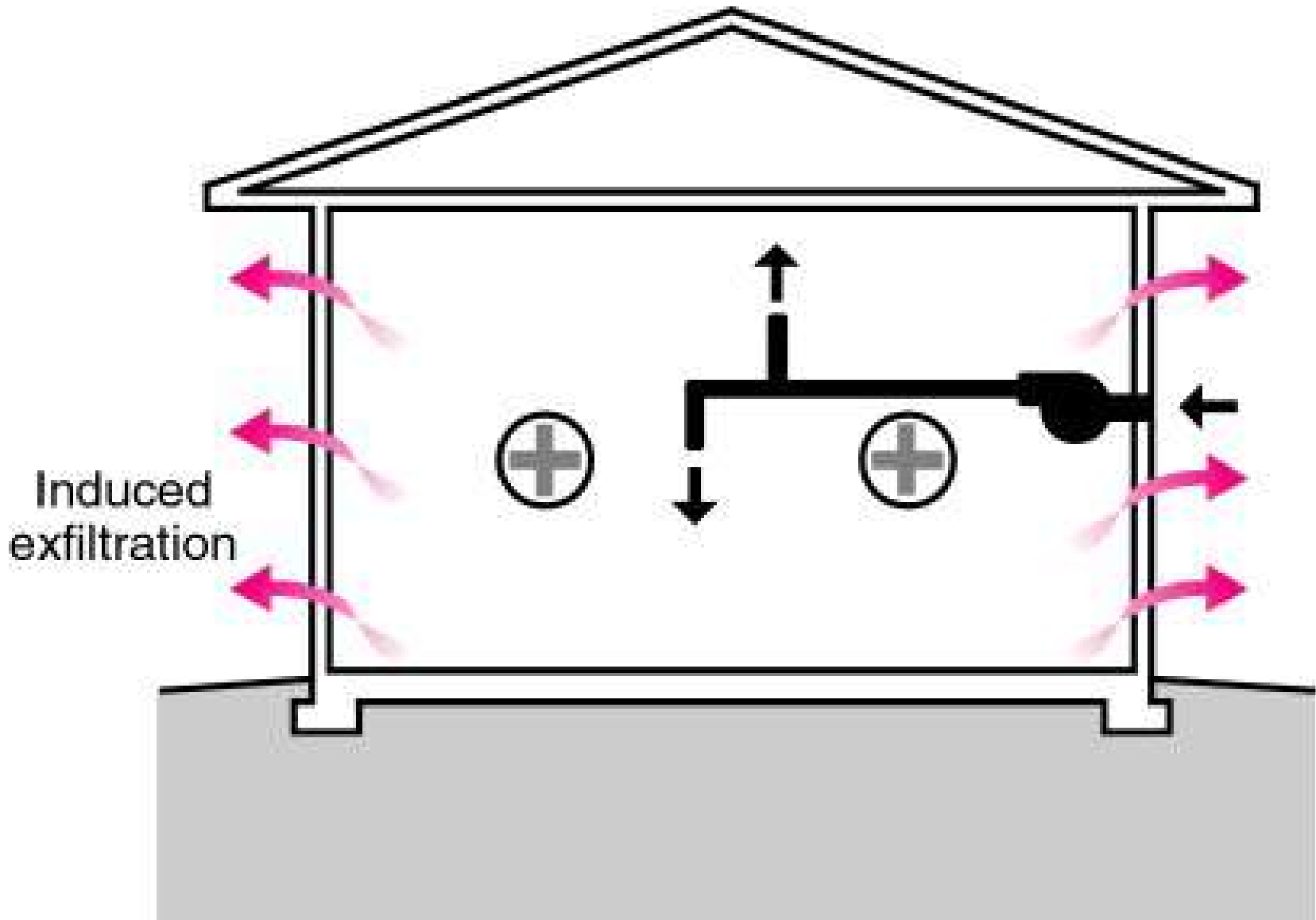
# Three Types of Controlled Ventilation Systems

Exhaust Ventilation

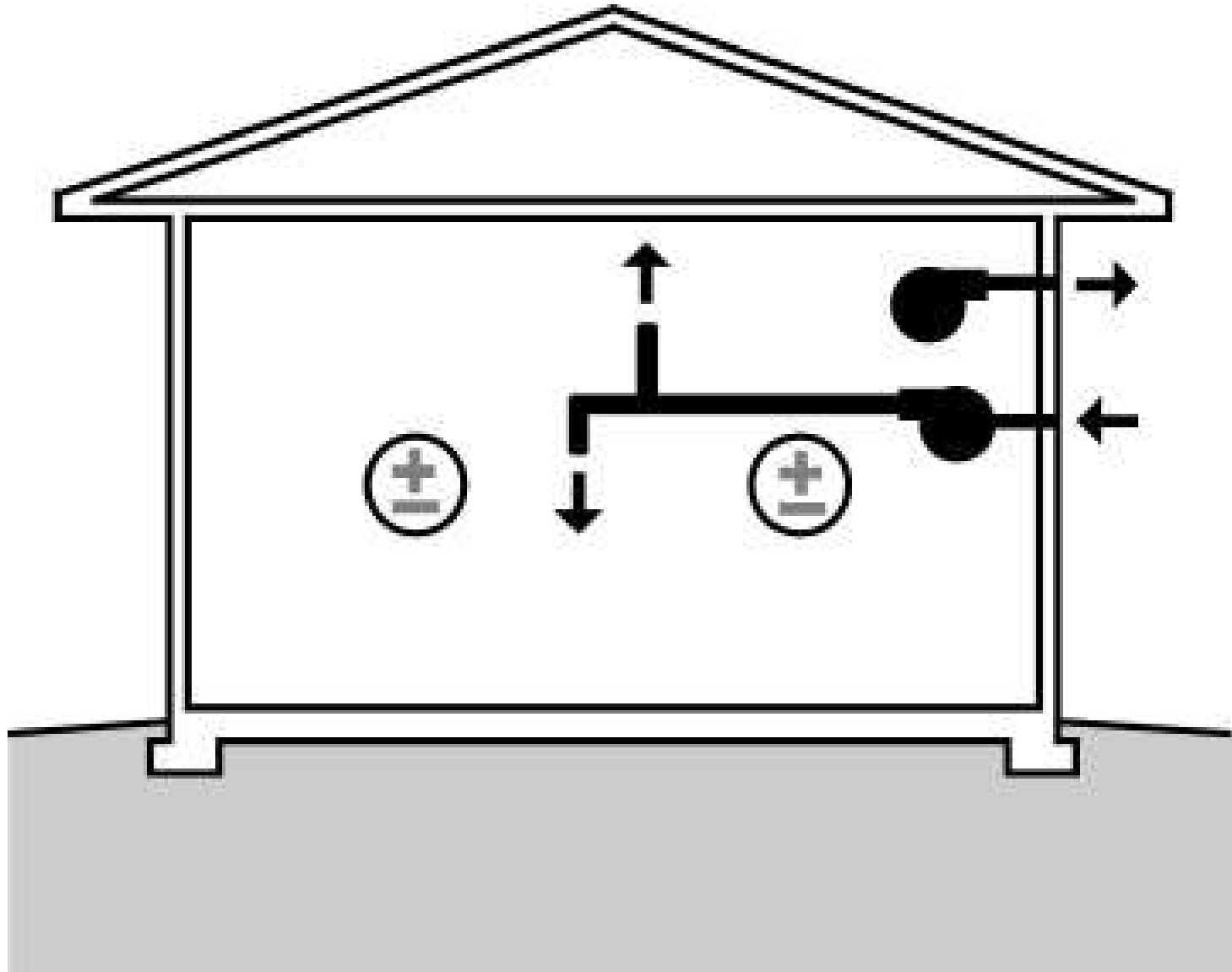
Supply Ventilation

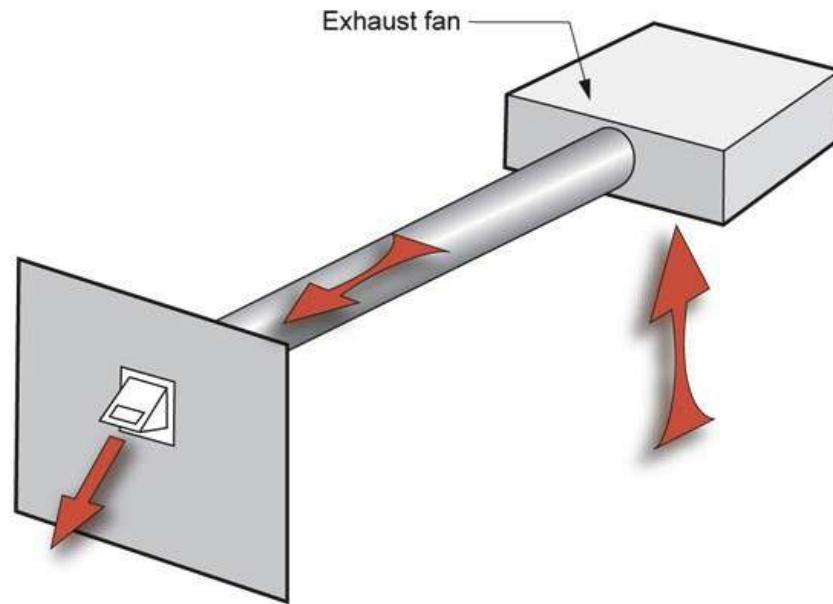
Balanced Ventilation

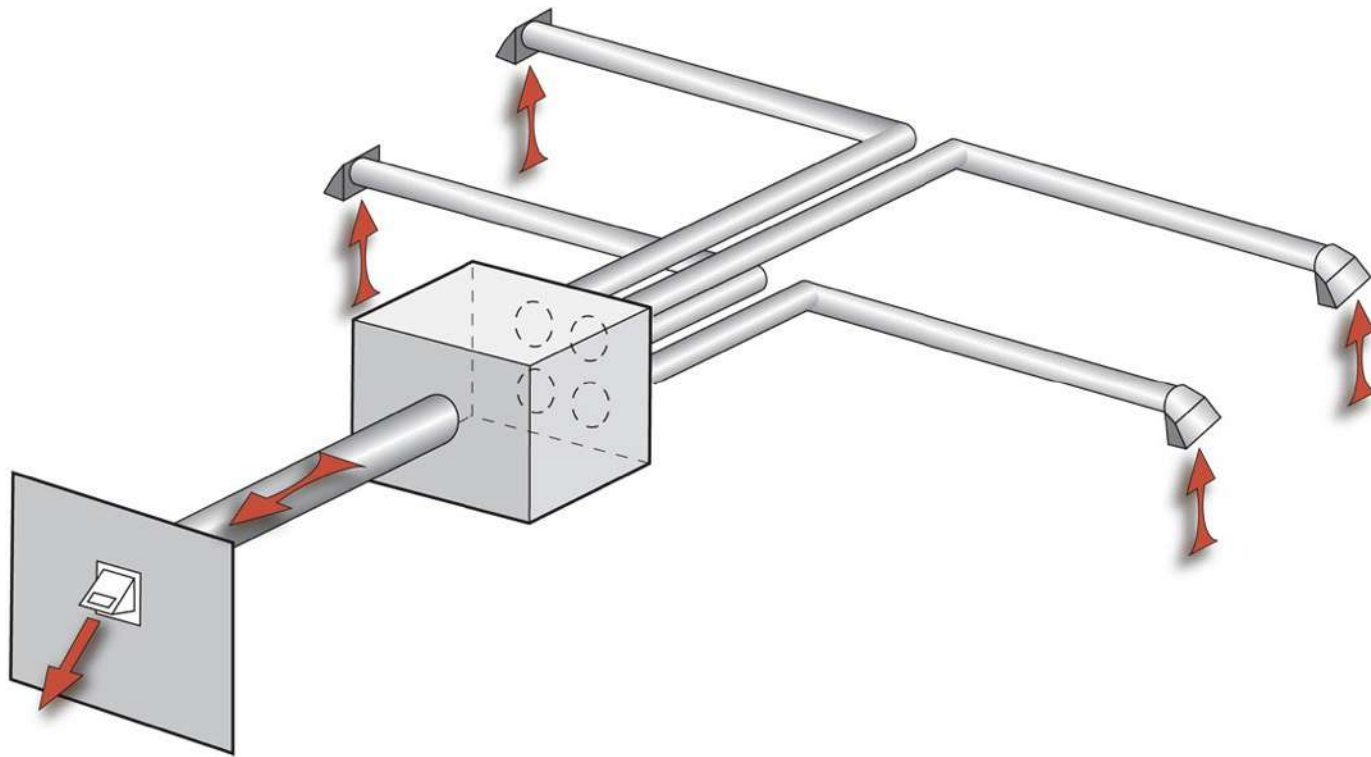




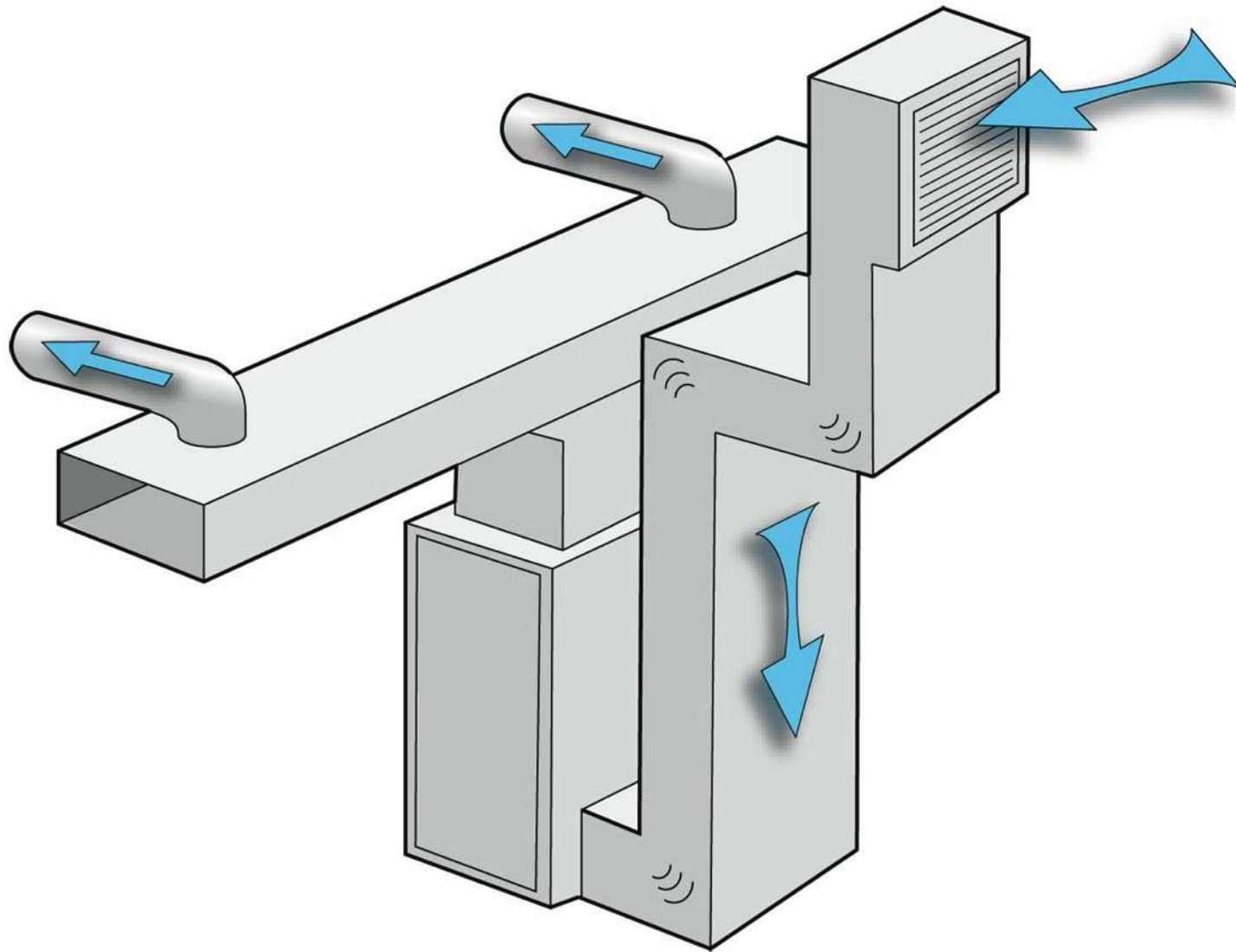


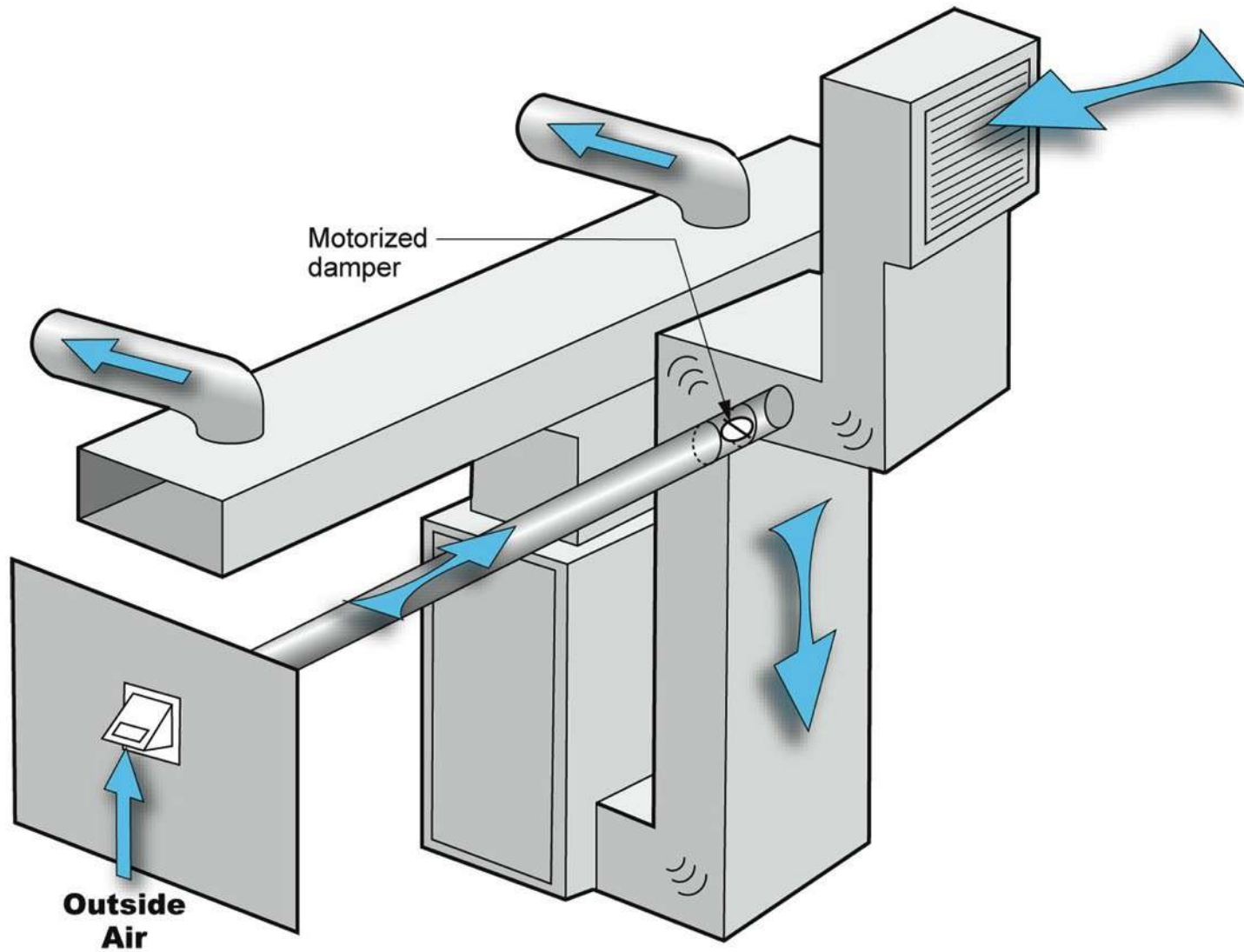


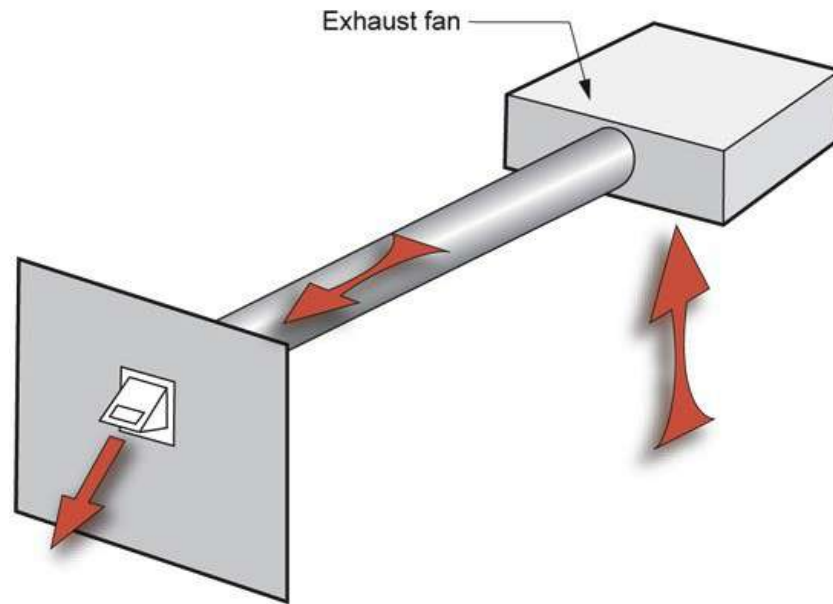




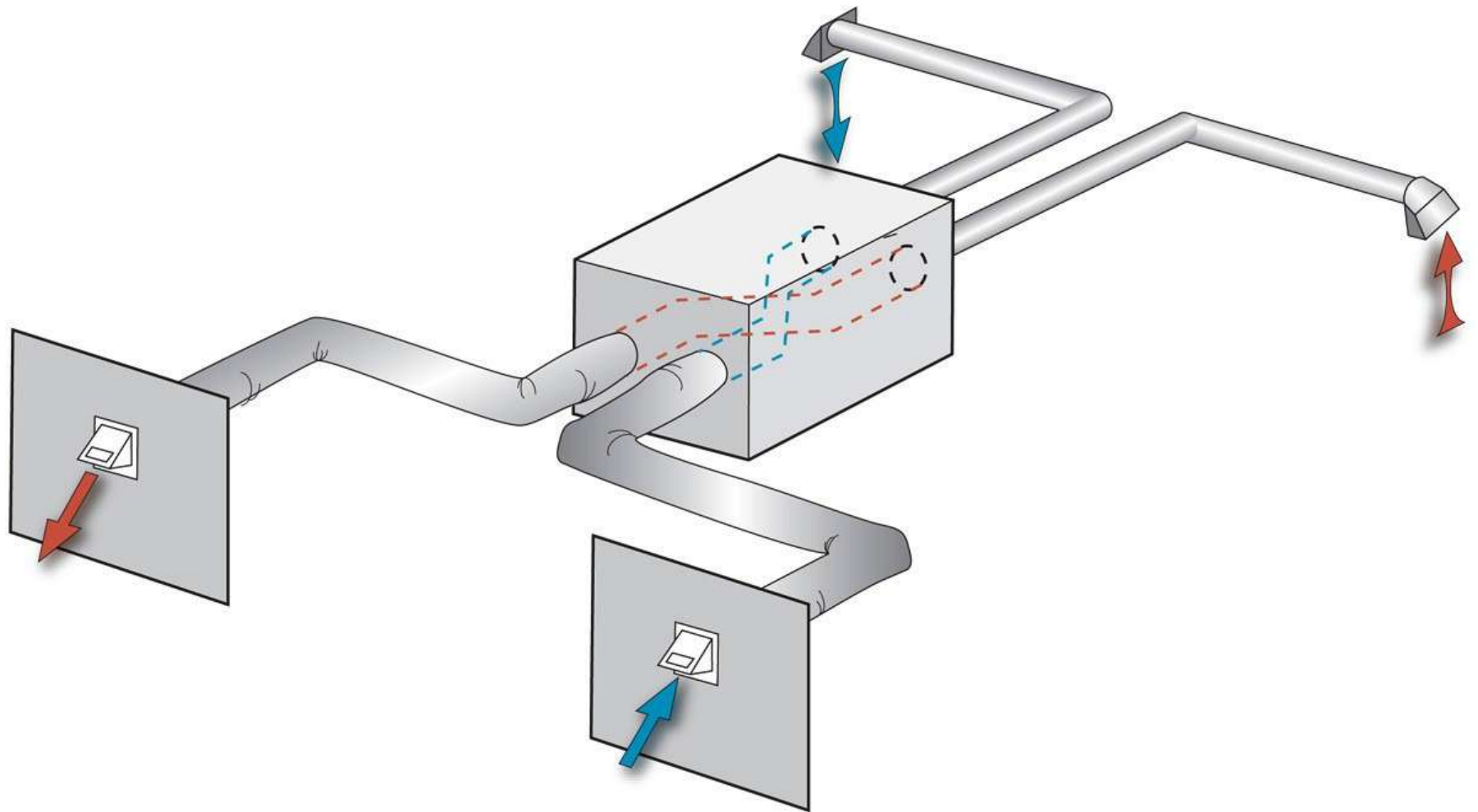












# Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control

Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control  
Health Science Basis for Ventilation Rates is  
Extremely Limited



Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control  
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Extremely Limited  
Almost Nothing Cited Applies to Housing

Ventilation Rates Are Based on Odor Control  
Health Science Basis for Ventilation Rates is  
Extremely Limited

Almost Nothing Cited Applies to Housing  
The Applicable Studies Focus on Dampness

# House

**2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>**

**3 bedrooms**

**8 ft. ceiling**

**Volume: 16,000 ft<sup>3</sup>**

.35 ach    93 cfm

.30 ach    80 cfm

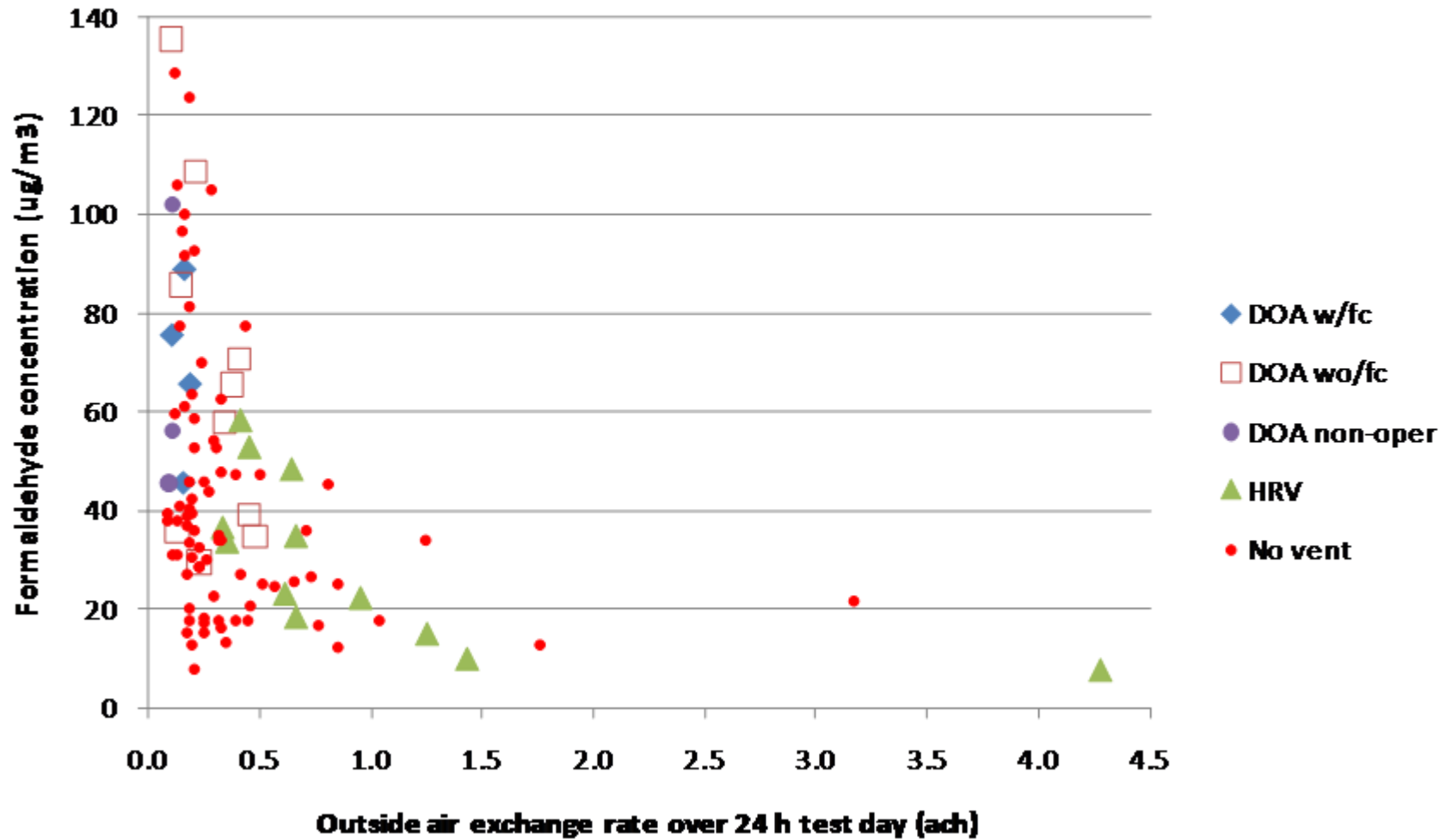
.25 ach    67 cfm

.20 ach    53 cfm

.15 ach    40 cfm



## Formaldehyde sample concentration versus PFT measured outside air exchange rate over the test day



ASHRAE Standard 62.2 calls for 7.5 cfm per person plus 0.03 cfm per square foot of conditioned area

Occupancy is deemed to be the number of bedrooms plus one

ASHRAE Standard 62.2 calls for 7.5 cfm per person plus 0.03 cfm per square foot of conditioned area

Occupancy is deemed to be the number of bedrooms plus one

Outcome is often bad – part load humidity problems, dryness problems, energy problems



IRC 2018 and IRC 2021 calls for 7.5 cfm per person plus 0.01 cfm per square foot of conditioned area

Occupancy is deemed to be the number of bedrooms plus one

A 30 % credit is provided if the ventilation system is “balanced” and provides distribution

3 Bedroom House – 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

30 cfm plus 75 cfm

105 cfm

3 Bedroom House – 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

30 cfm plus 25 cfm

55 cfm



3 Bedroom House – 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

30 cfm plus 25 cfm

55 cfm

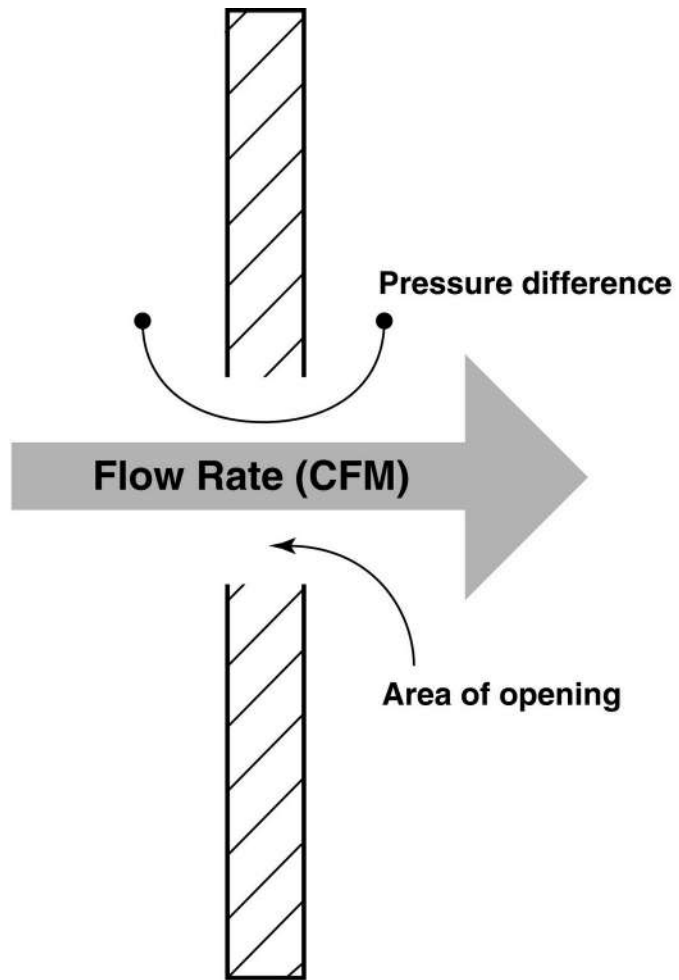
With Balanced and Distributed 30 percent  
credit

38.5 cfm

# The Cult of The Blower Door







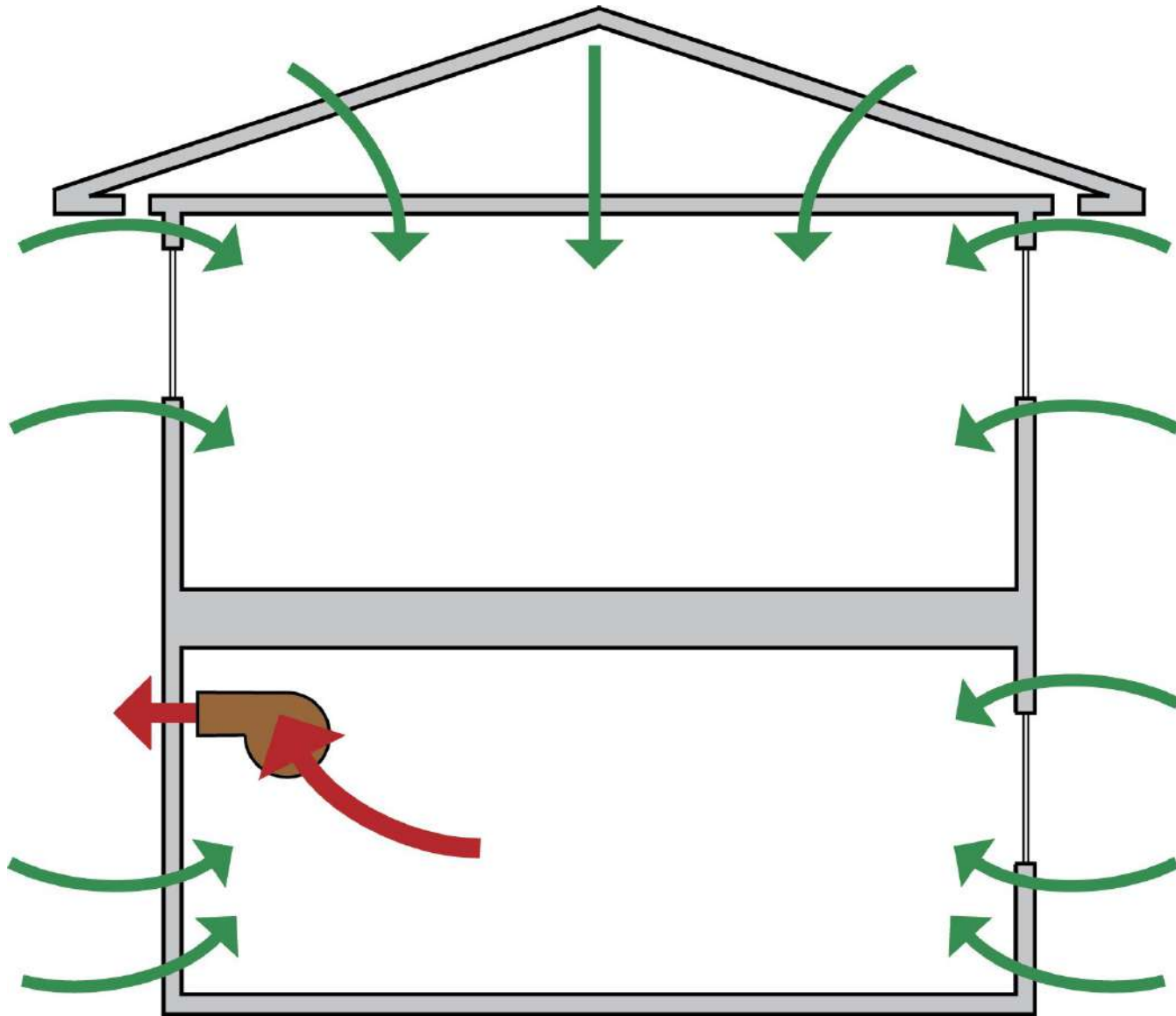
# Blower Door Can't Get You The True ACH On A Short Term Basis – Hour, Day, Week

Don't Know Where The Holes Are

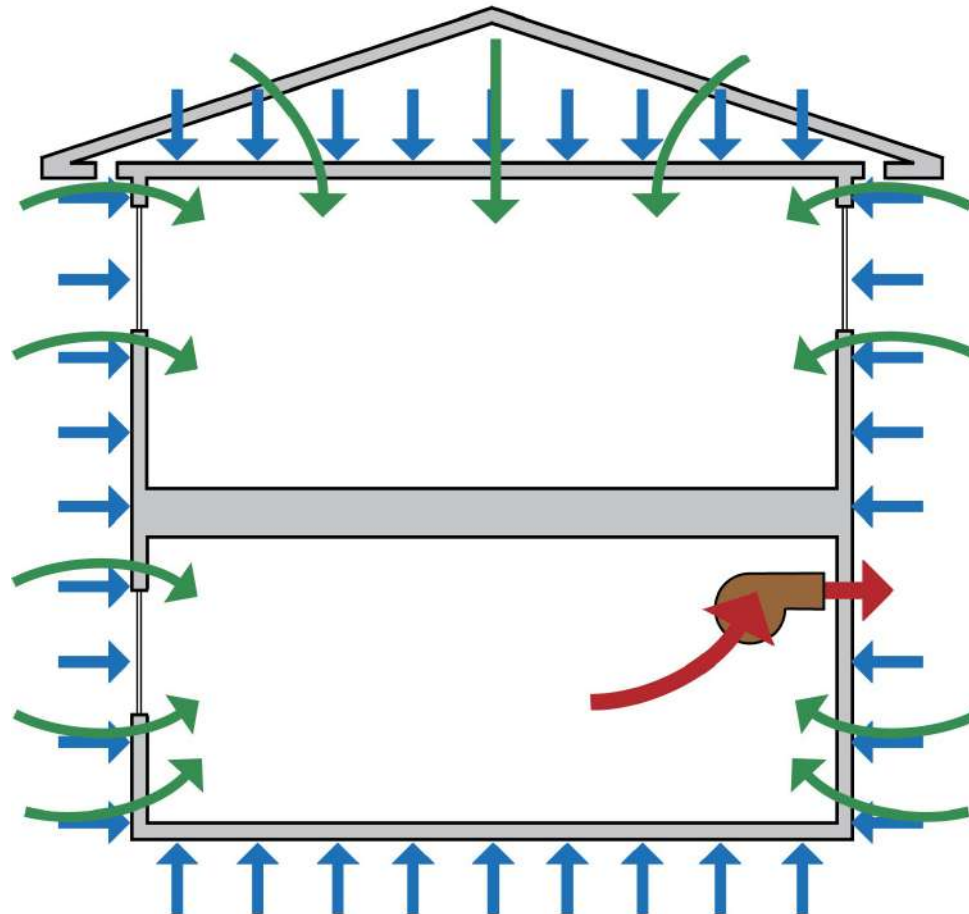
Don't Know The Type of Holes

Don't Know The Pressure Across The Holes





$$ELA \approx C \times \frac{\text{Rate of flow}}{\sqrt{\text{Pressure difference}}}$$



$$(\text{Meters})^2 \approx \frac{1}{780} \times \frac{\text{Litres per second}}{\sqrt{\text{Pascals}}}$$

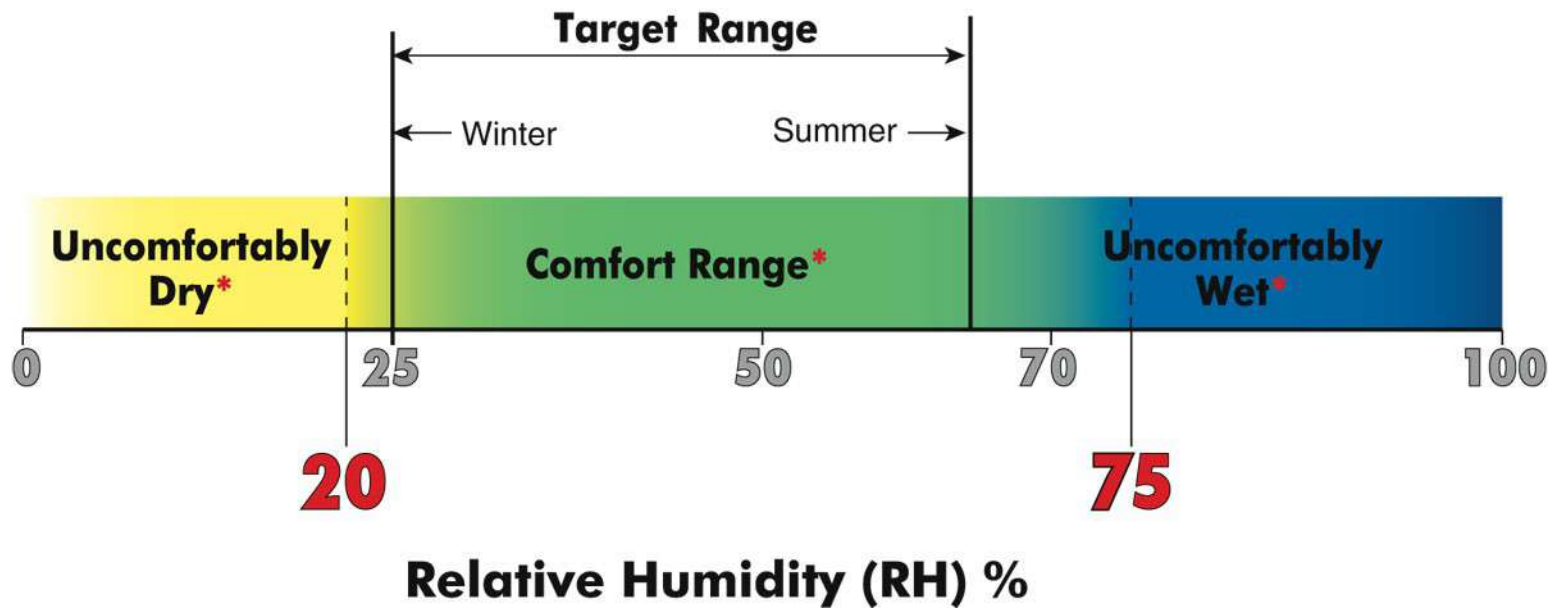
# Dilution Is Not The Solution To Indoor Pollution

## Source Control

# Dilution For People

## Source Control For The Building

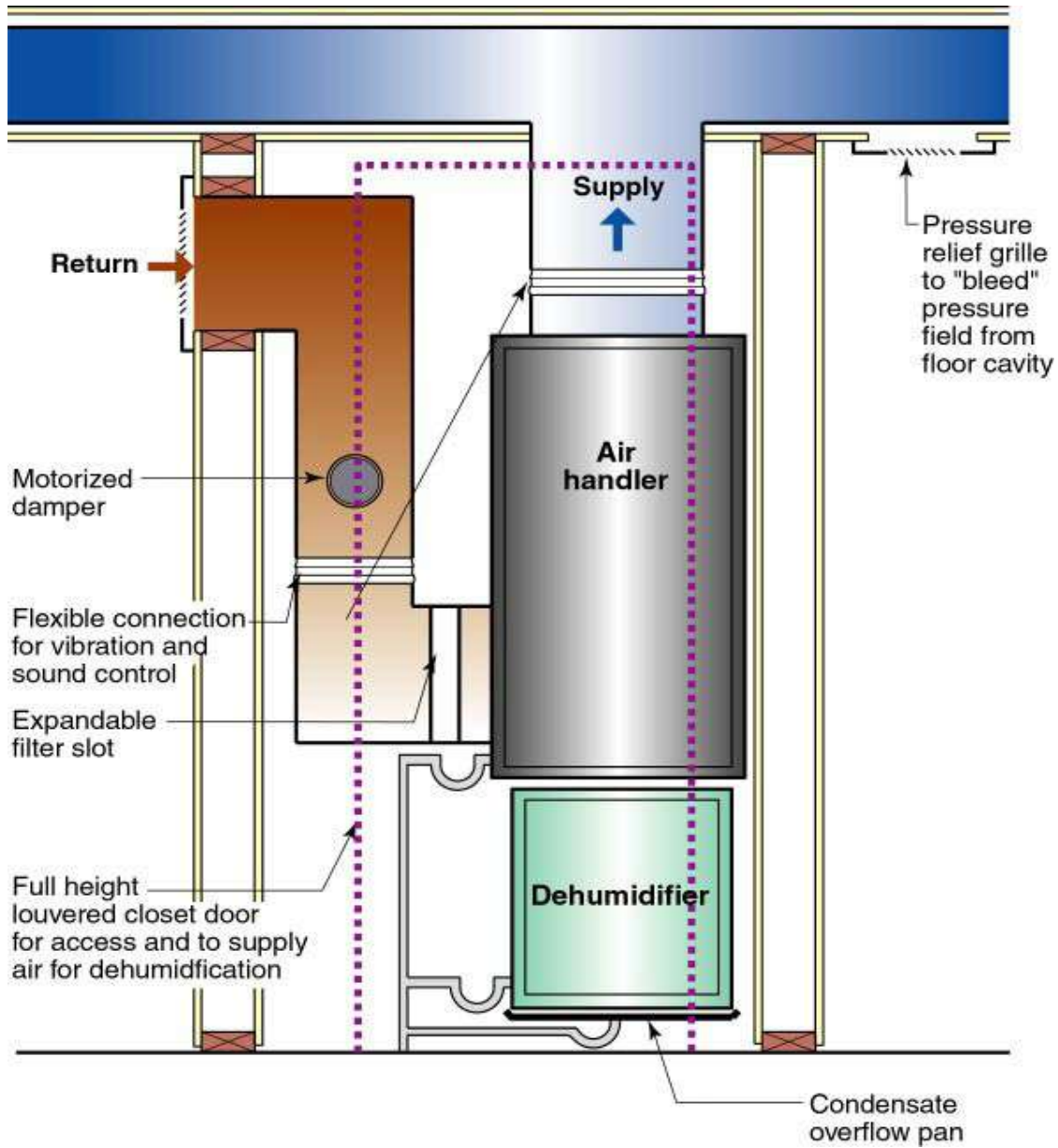




## Recommended Range of Relative Humidity

Above 25 percent during winter

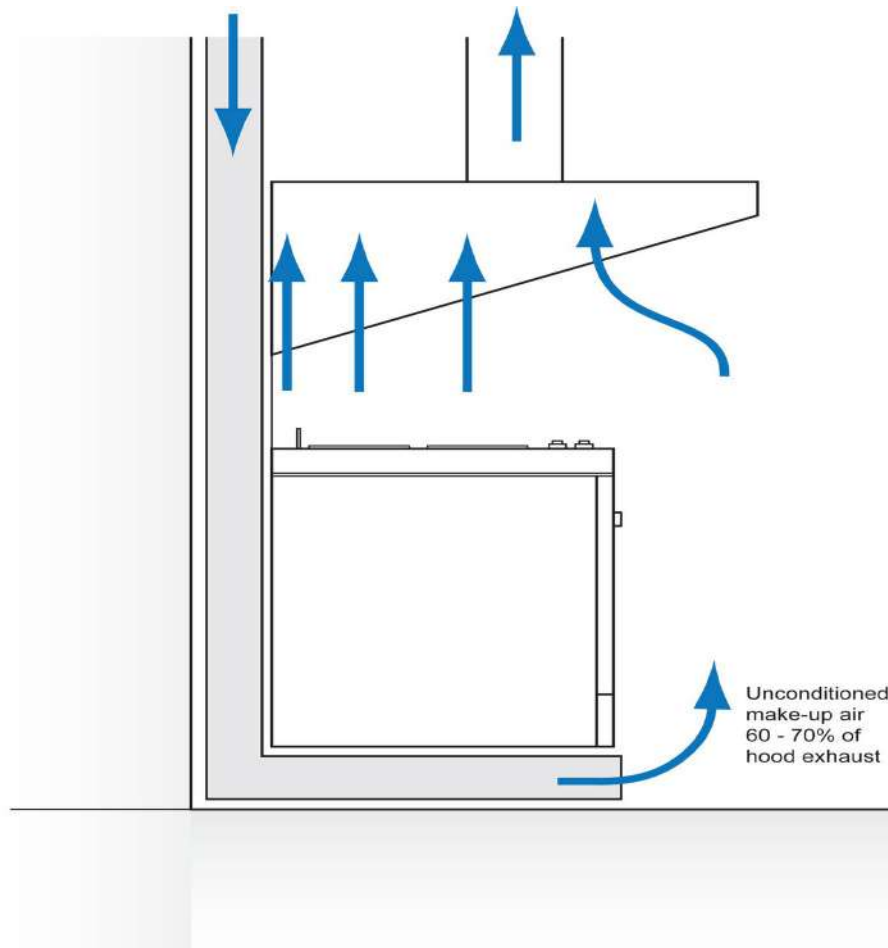
Below 70 percent during summer



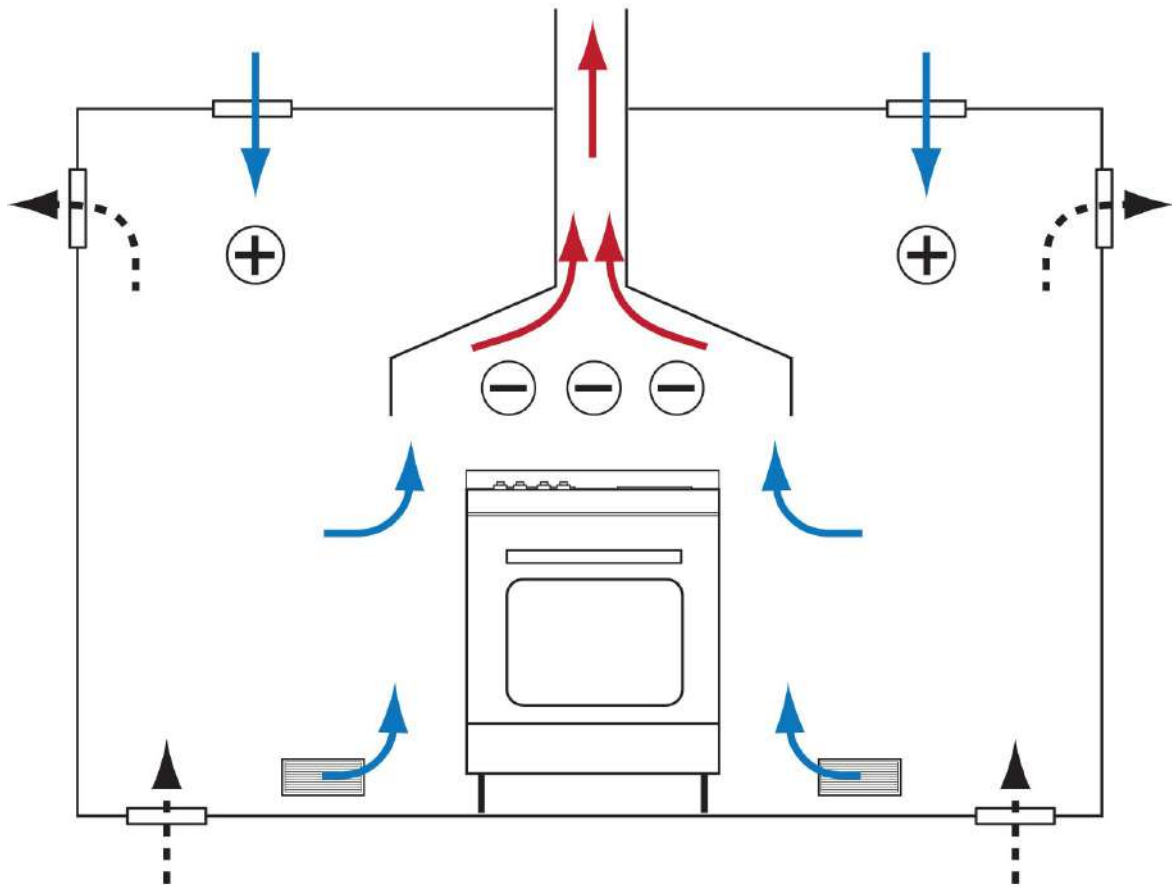




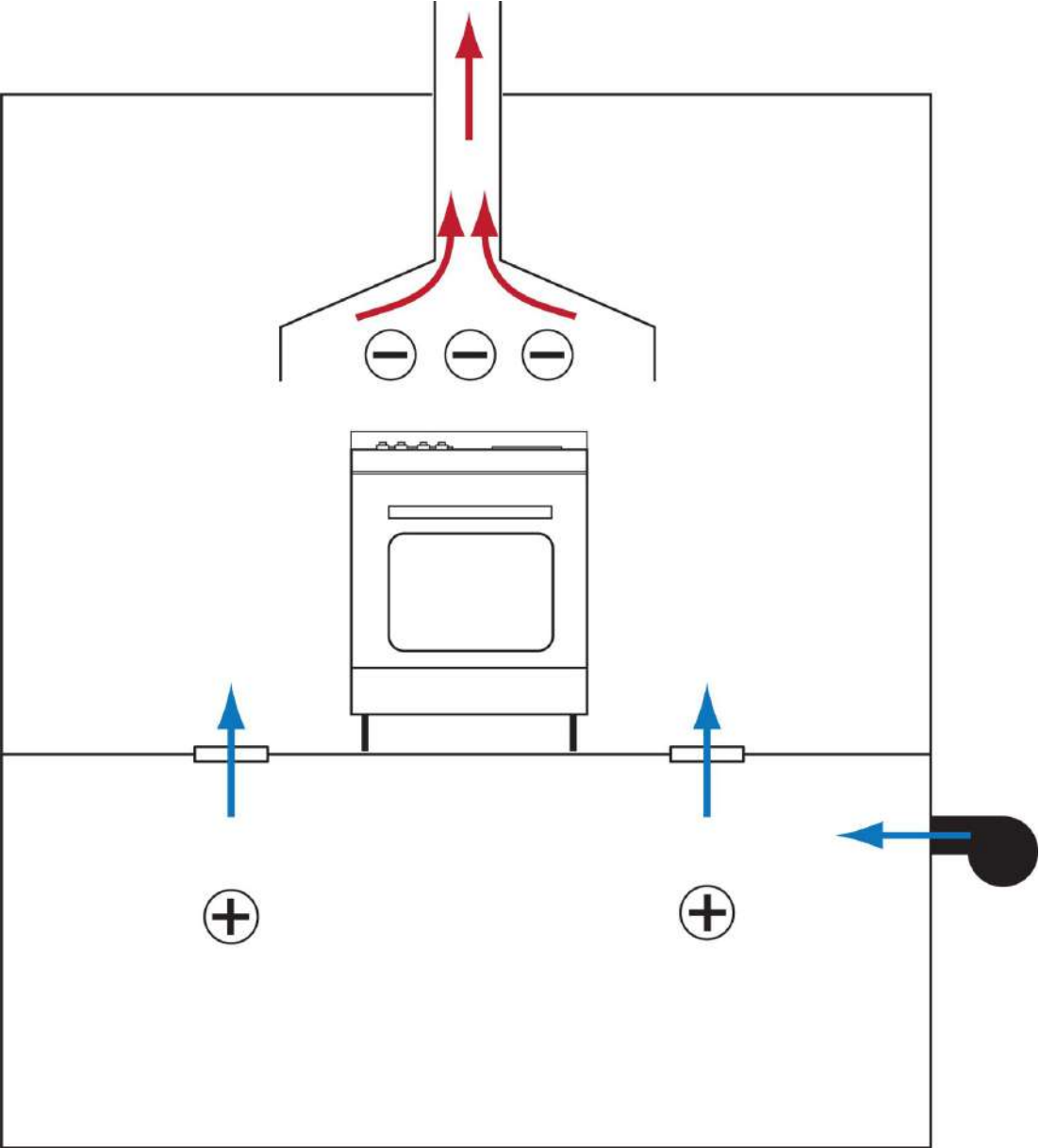
# Kitchen Exhaust Hoods



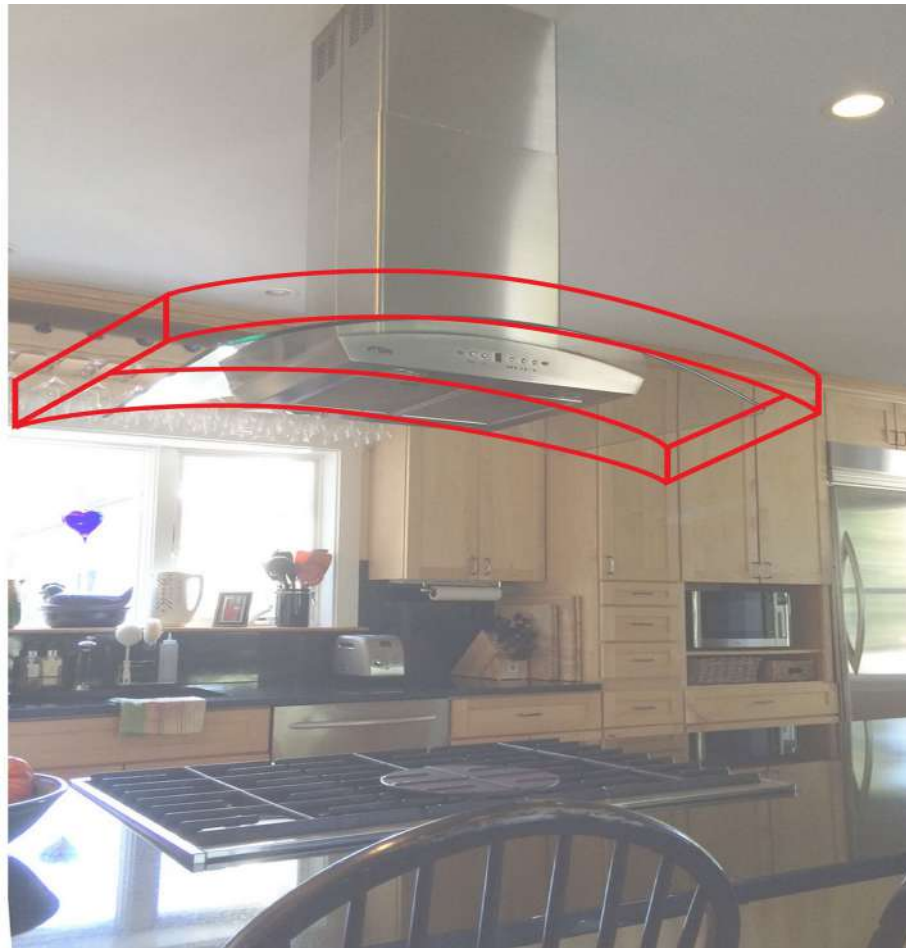










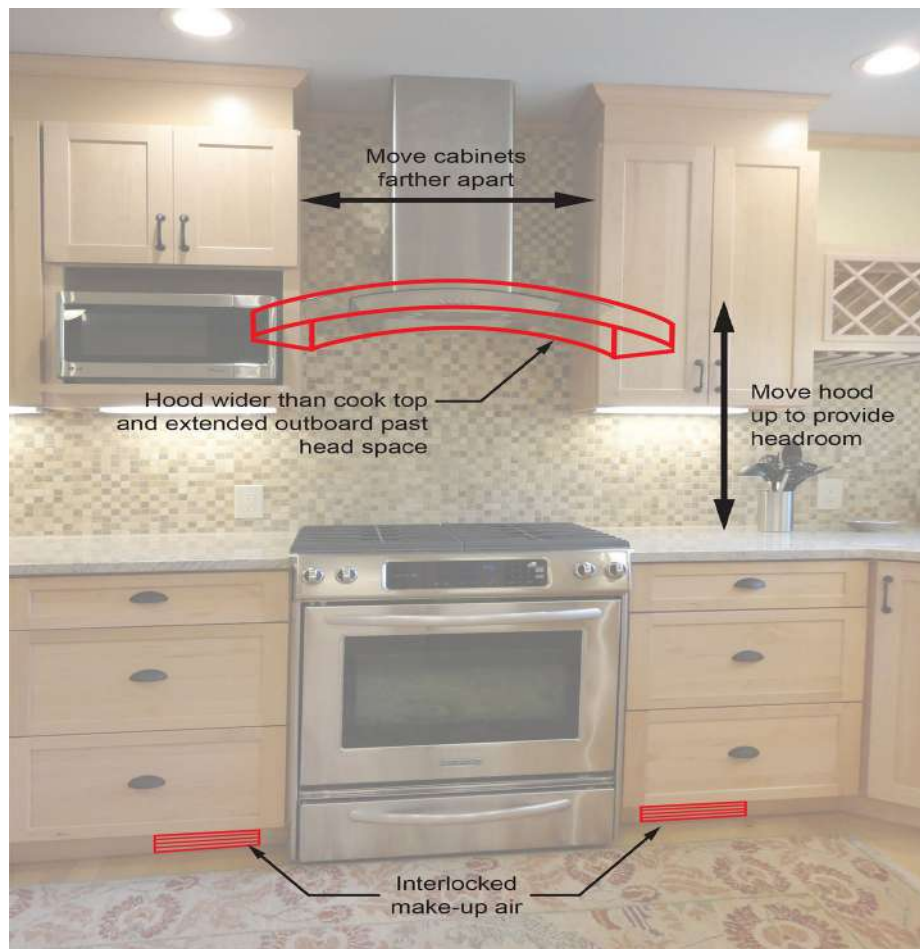








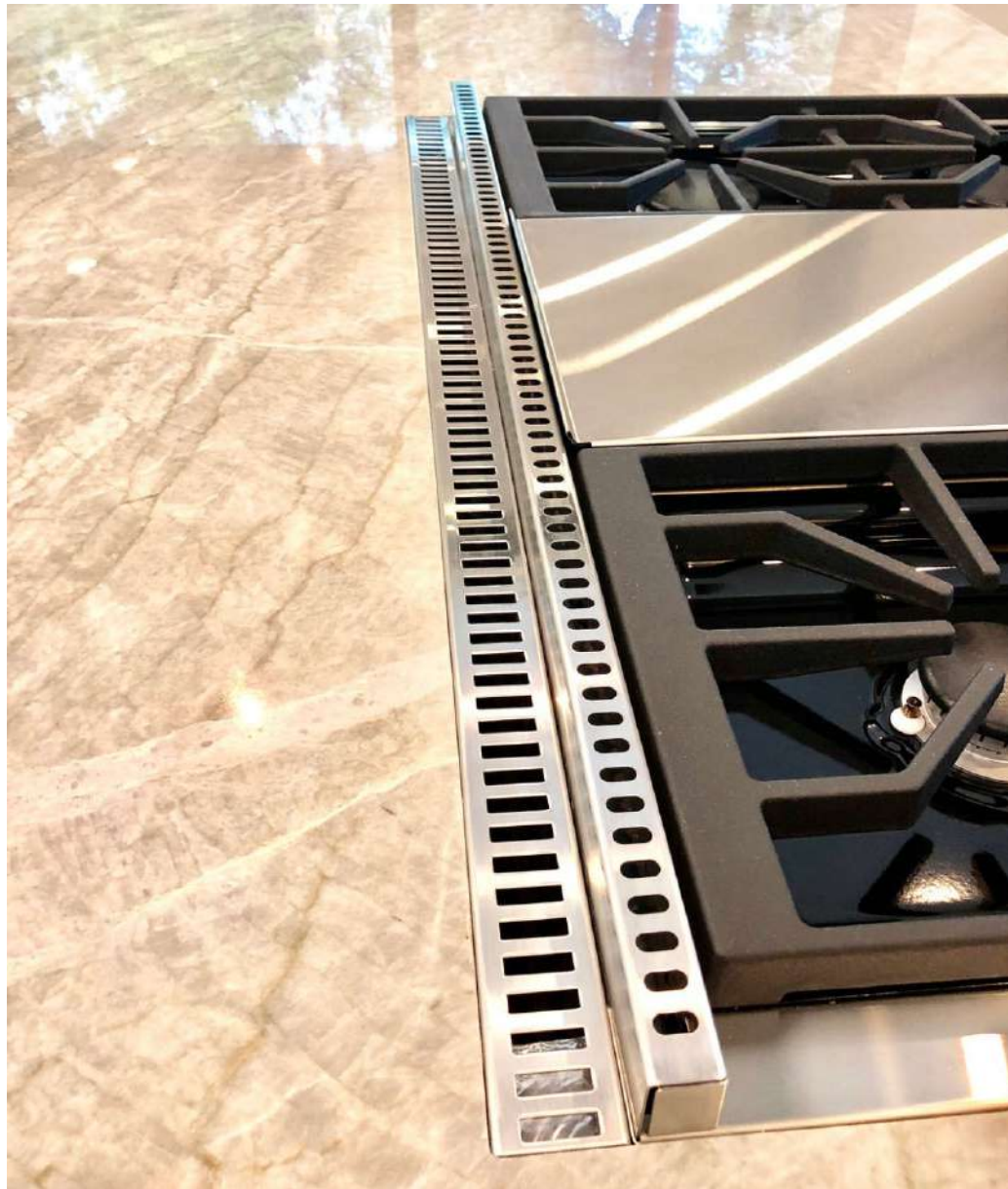












# Clothes Dryers







# Fireplaces





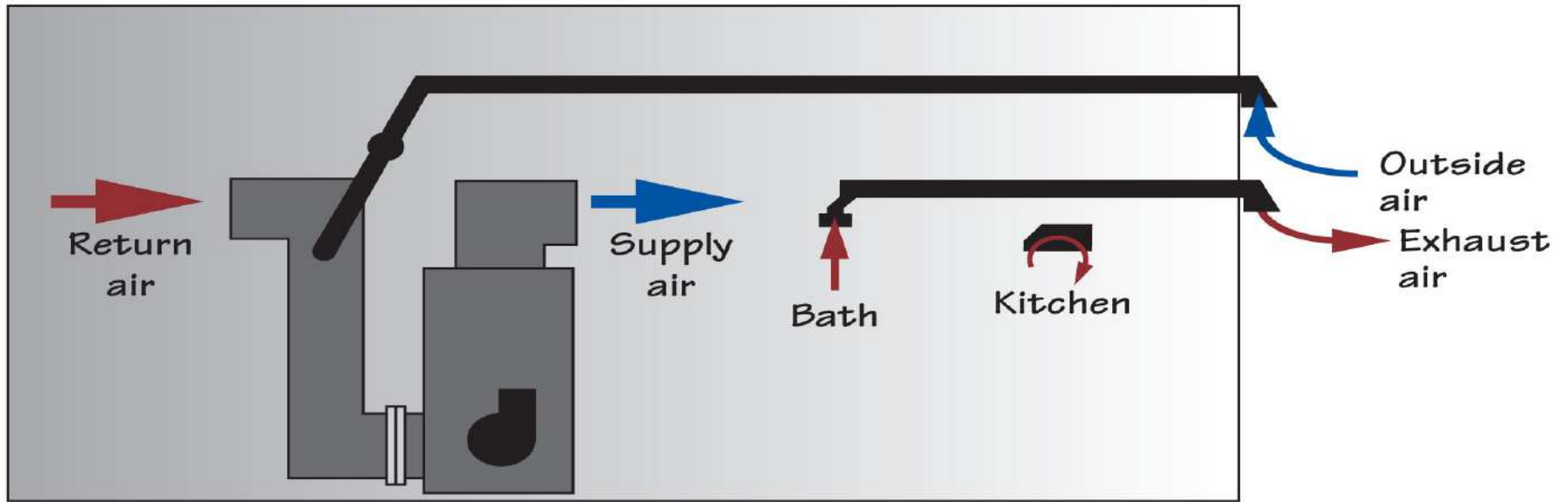


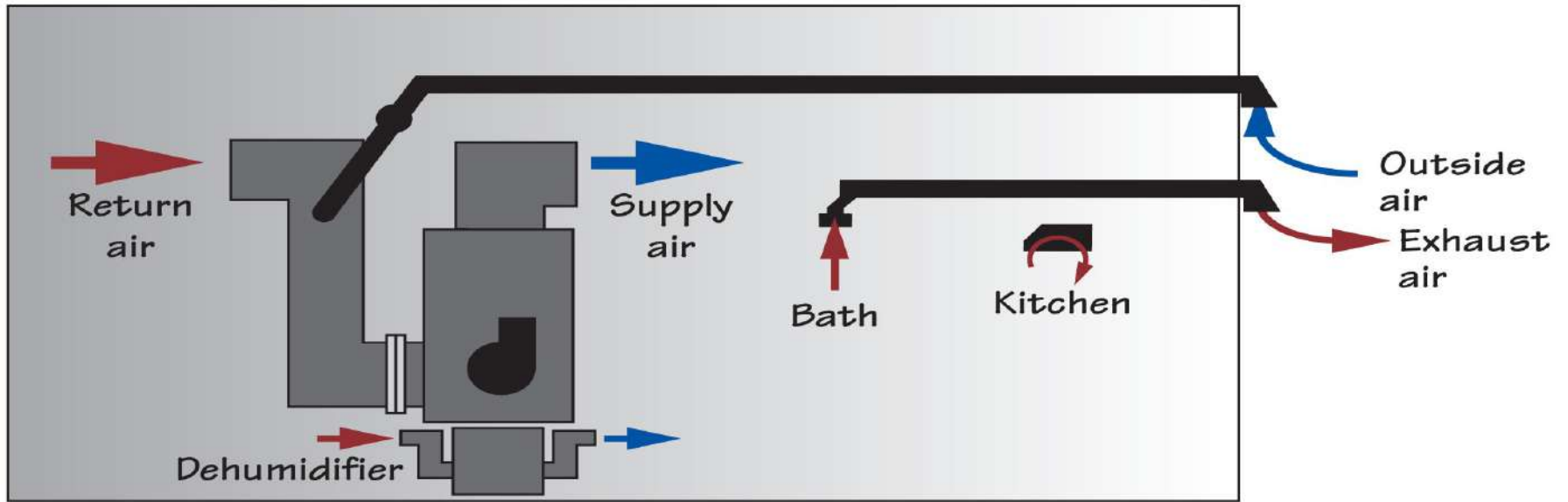




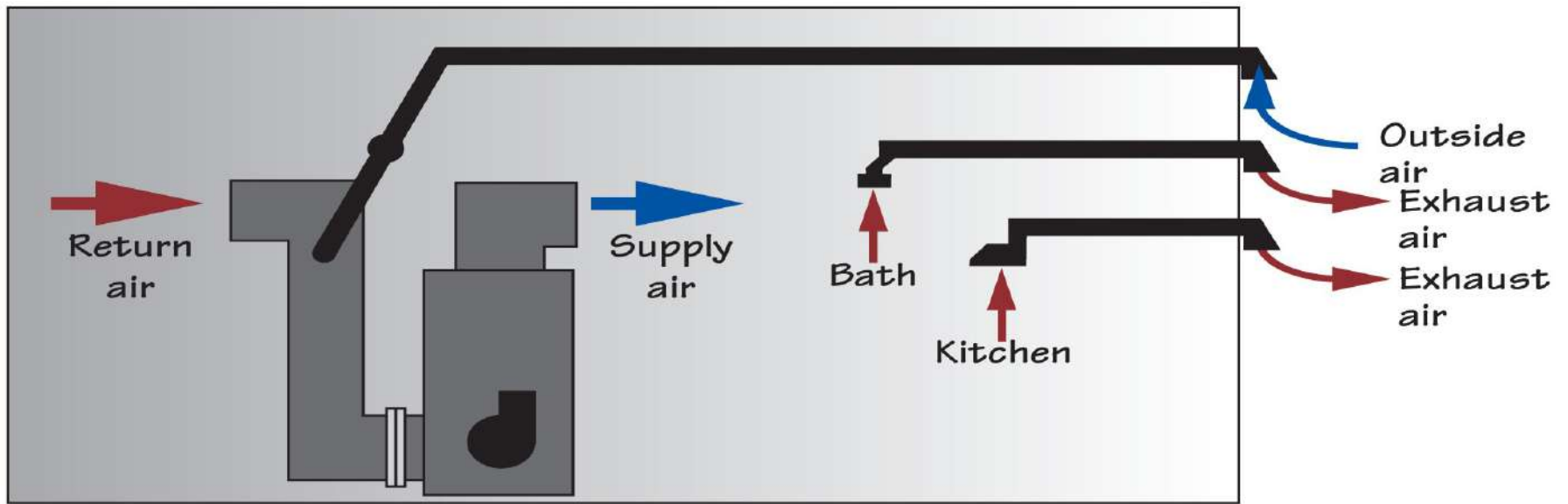


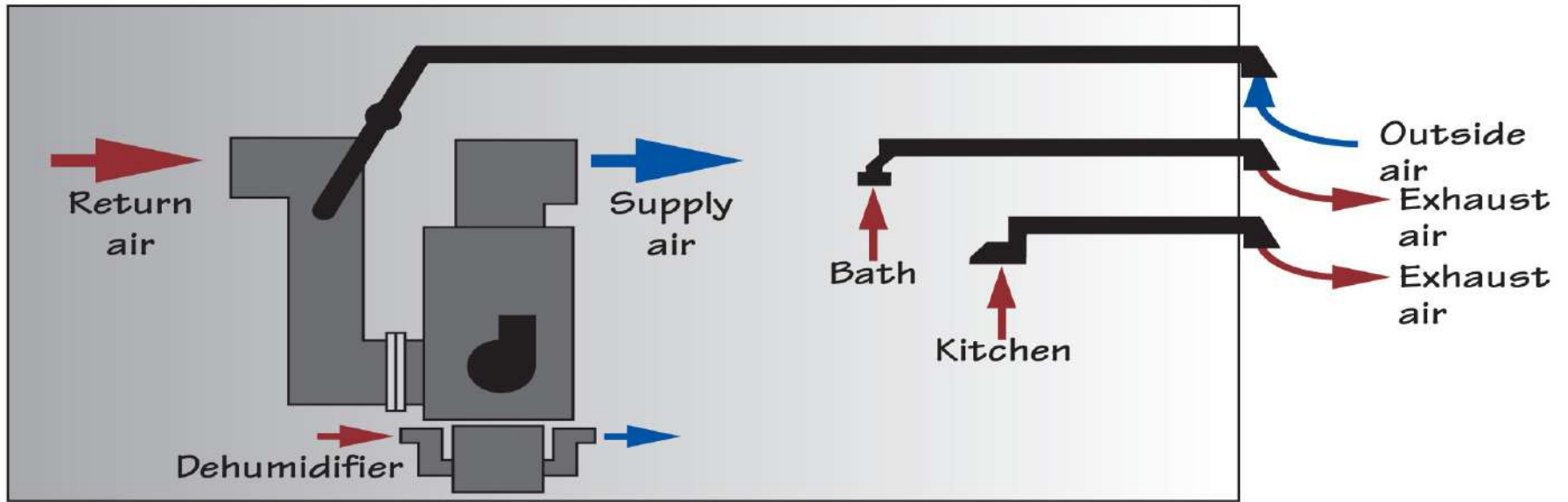
# Approaches

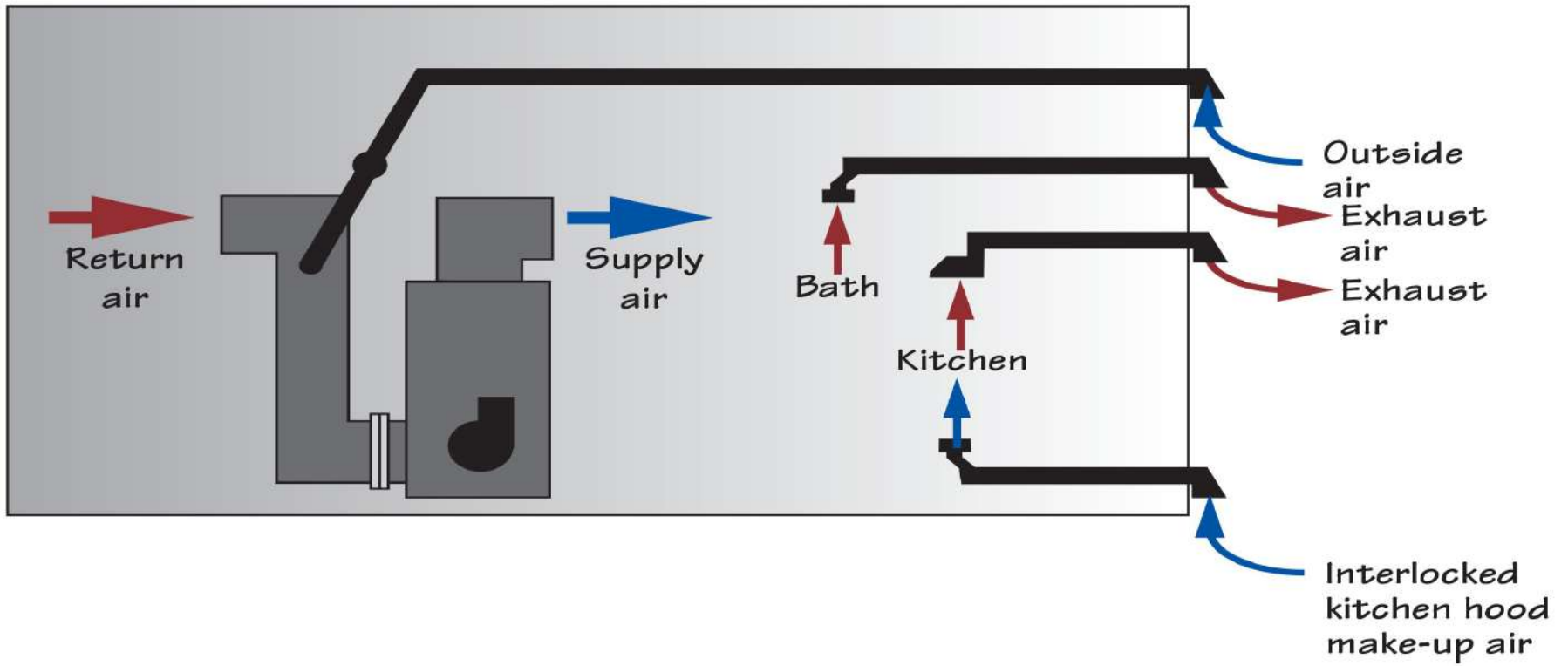


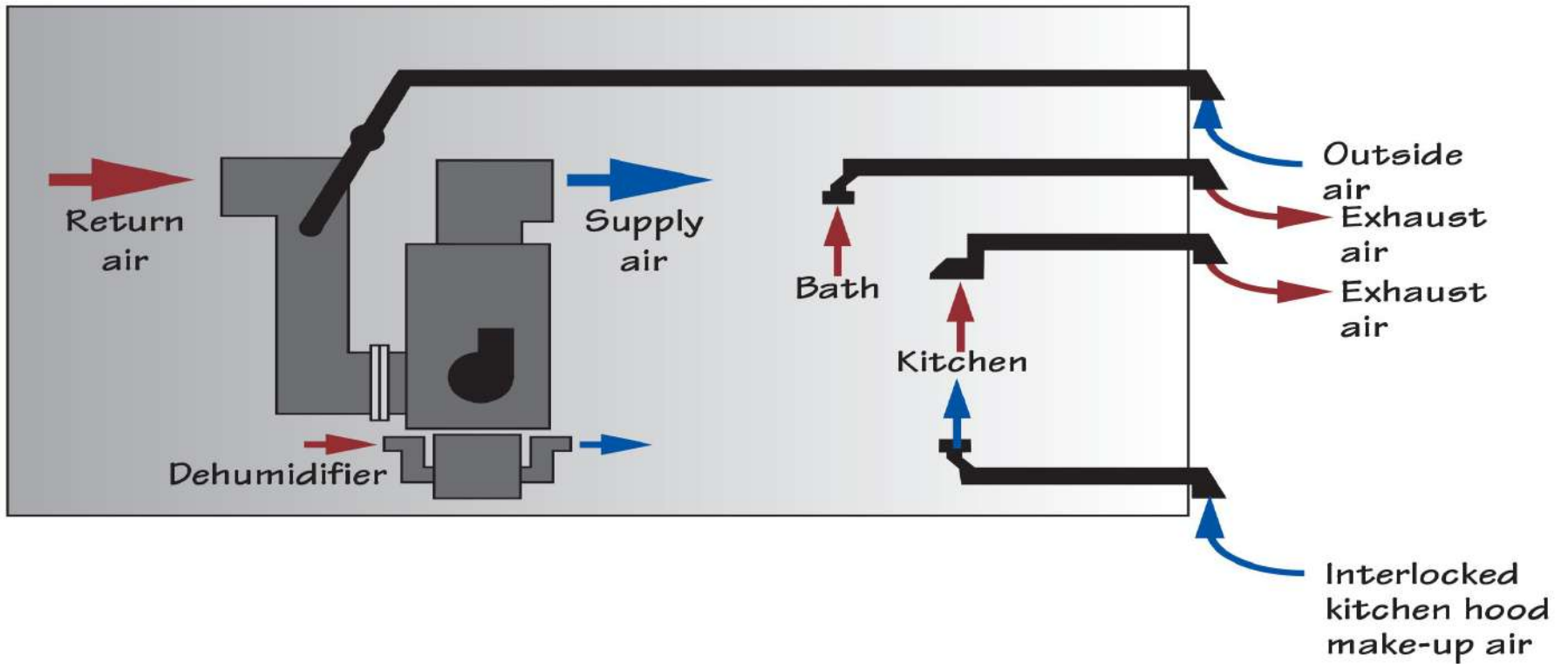




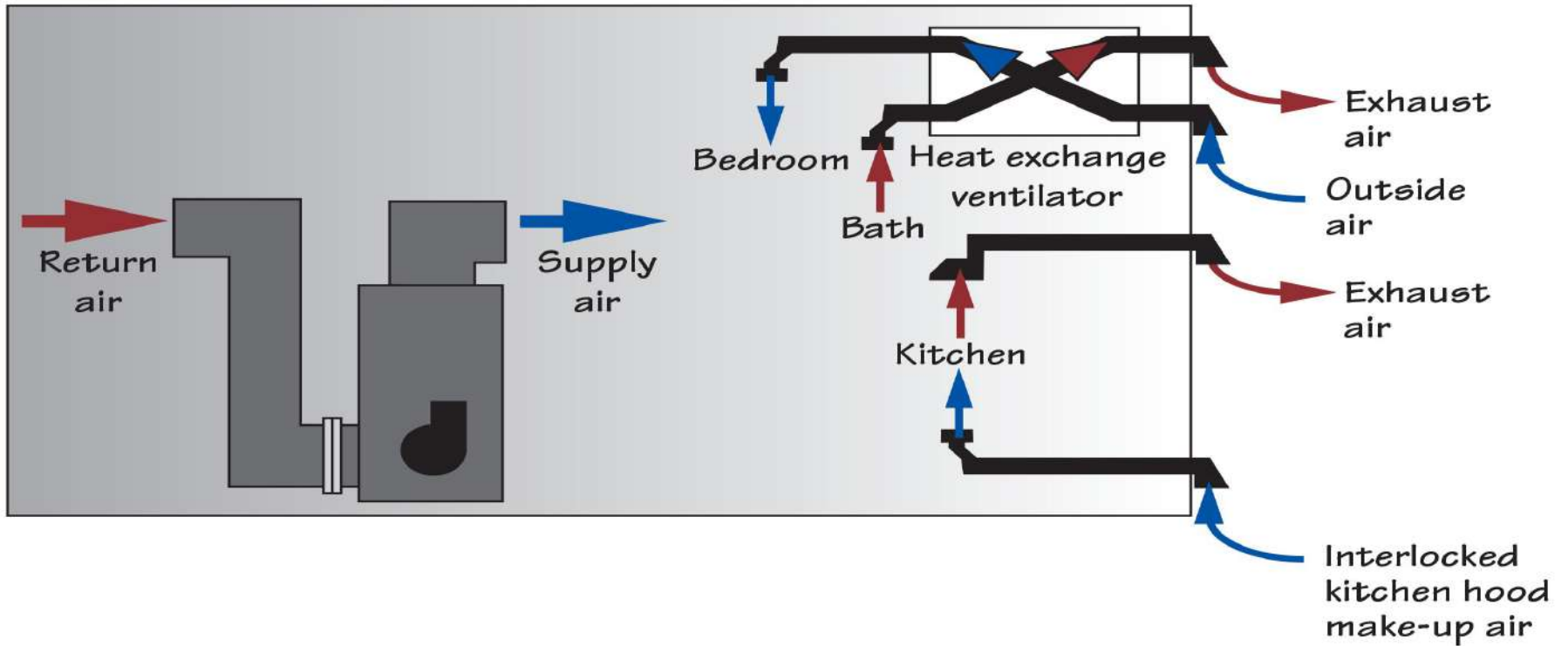


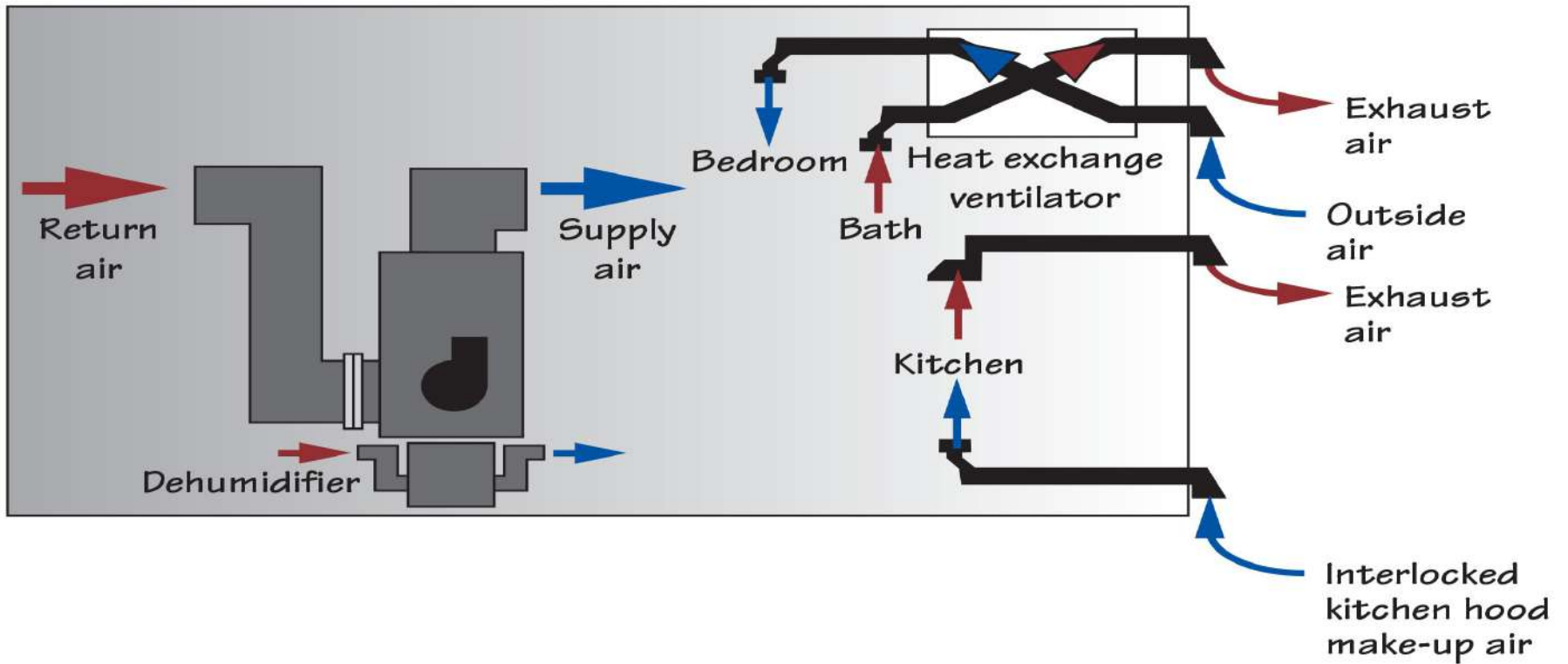


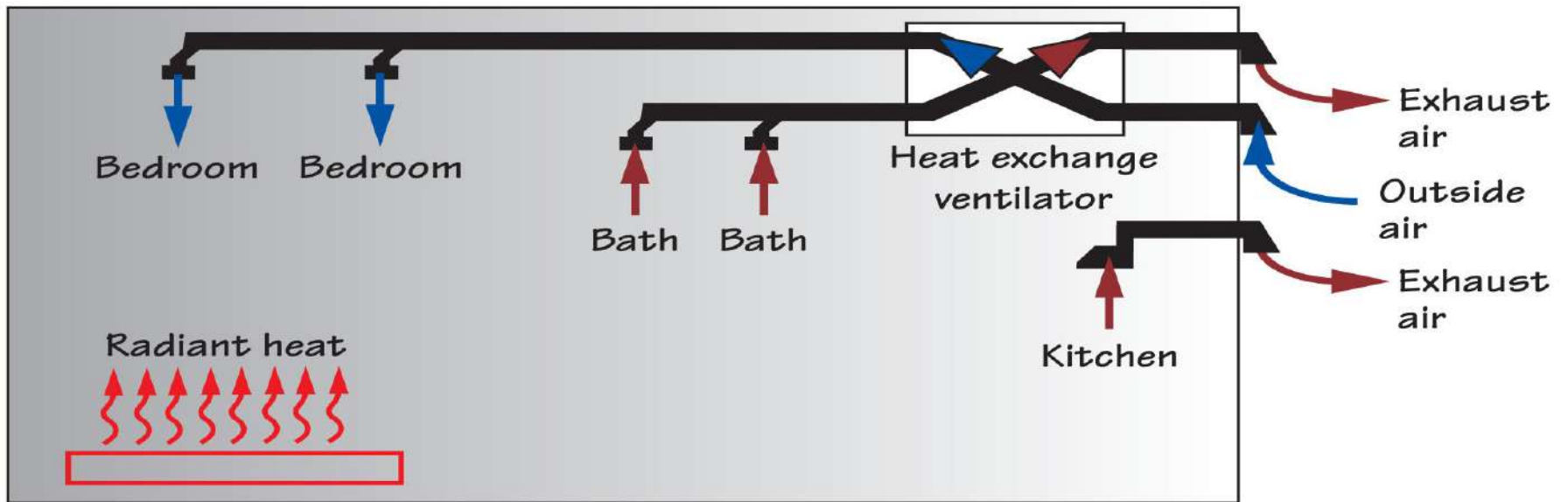


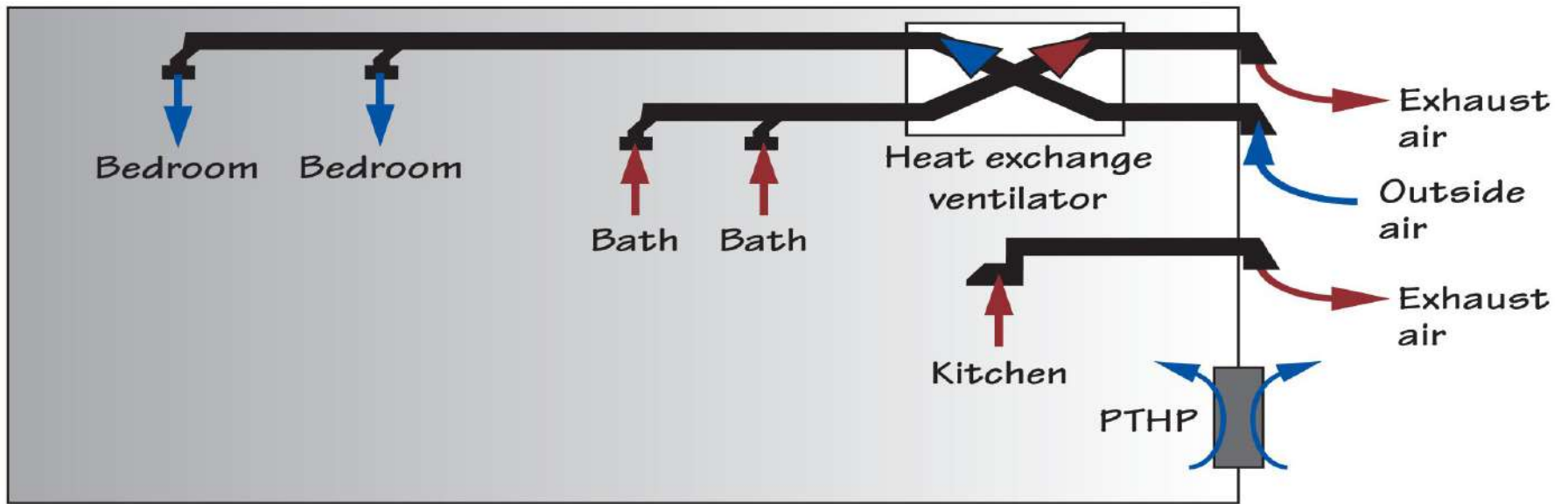




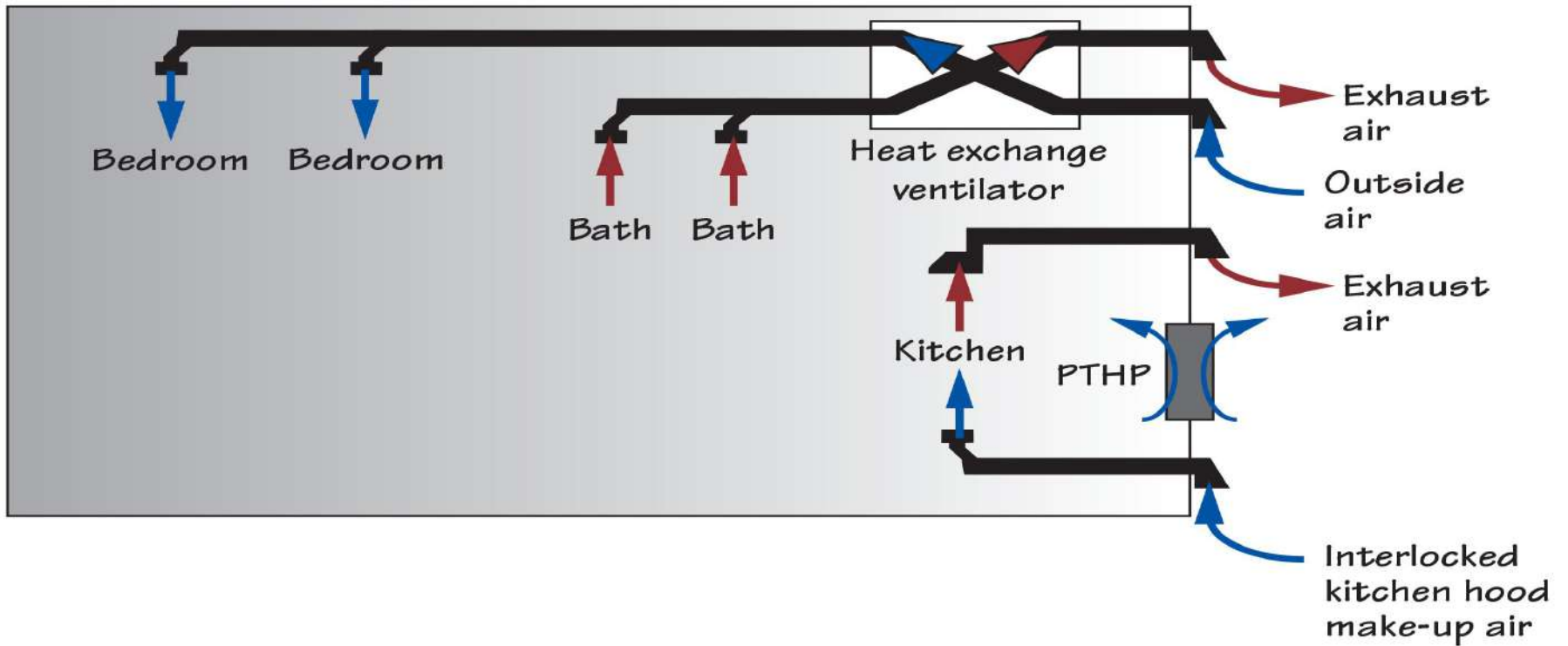


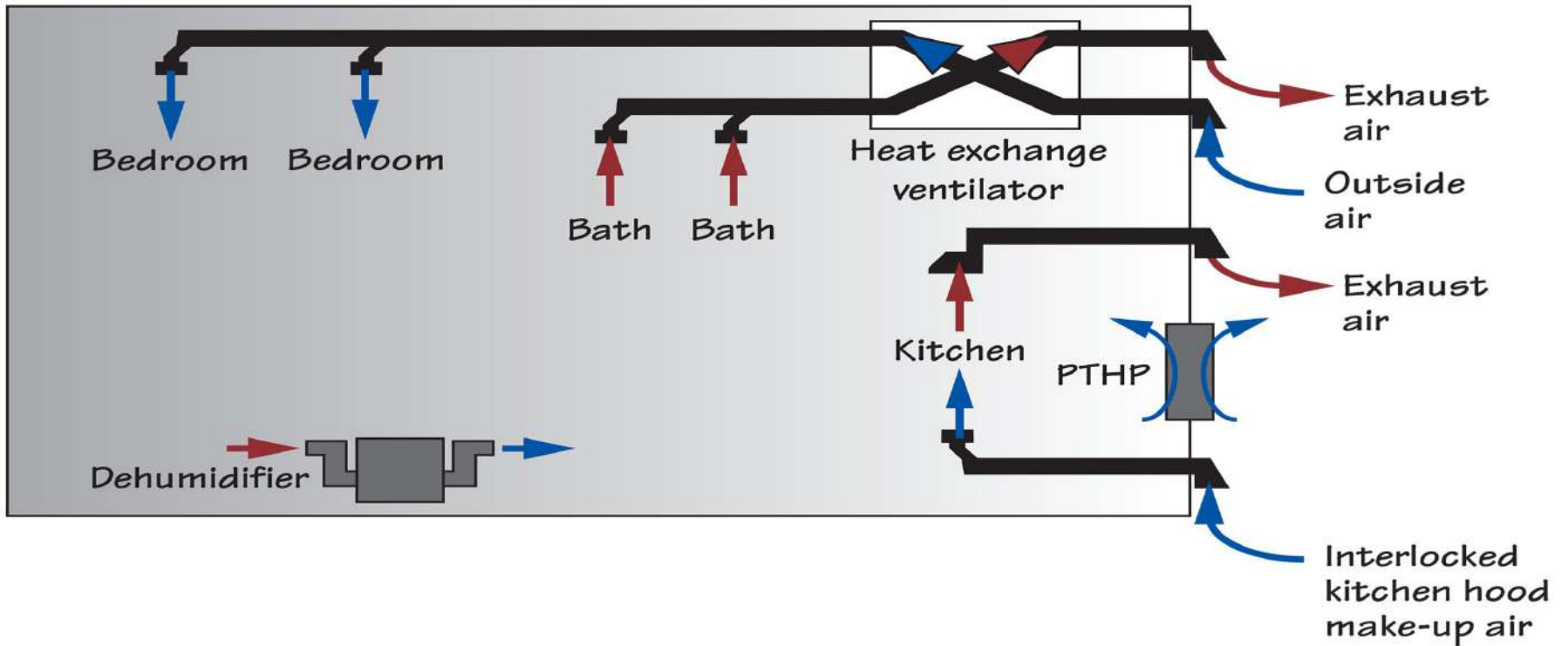


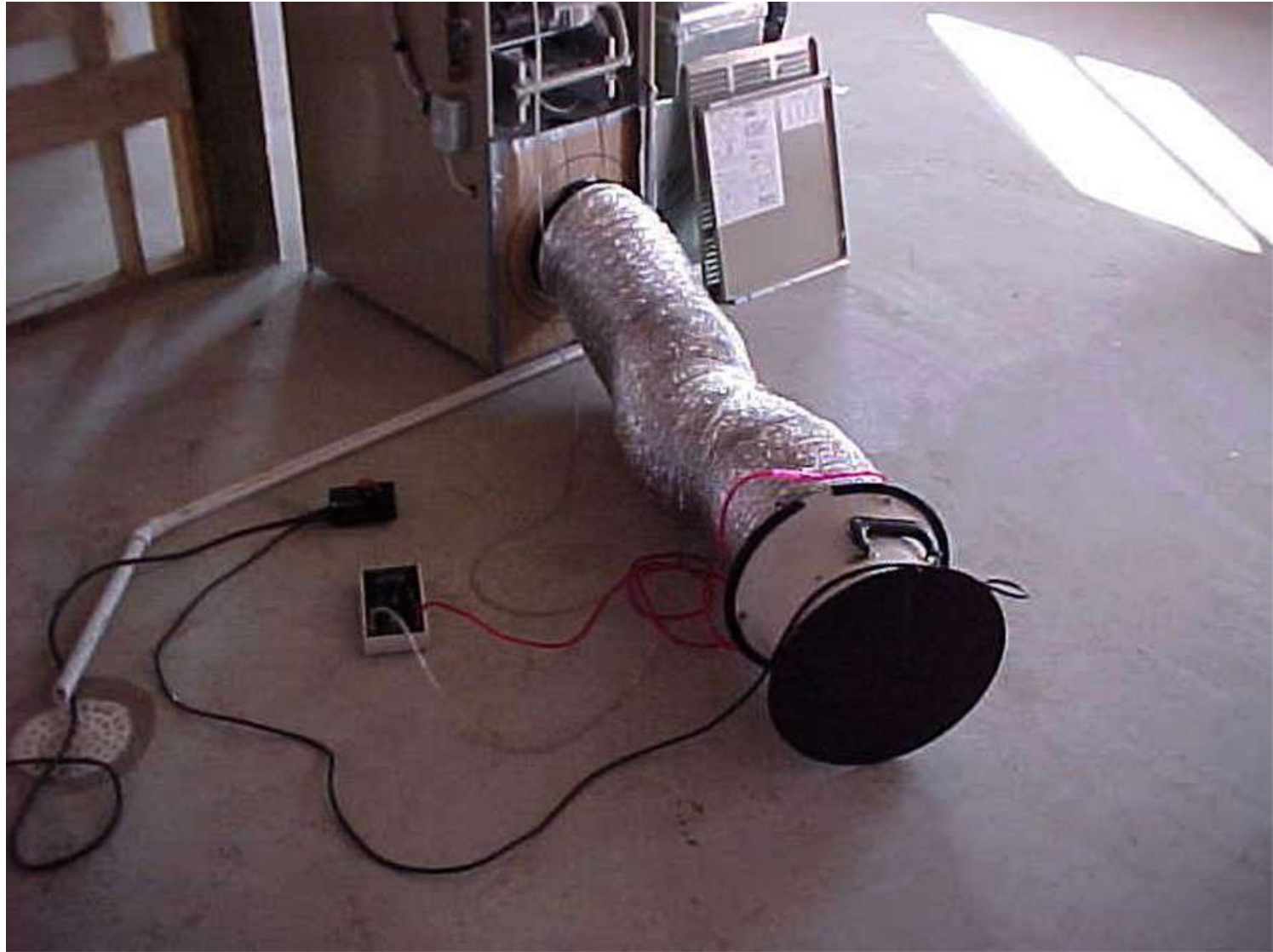








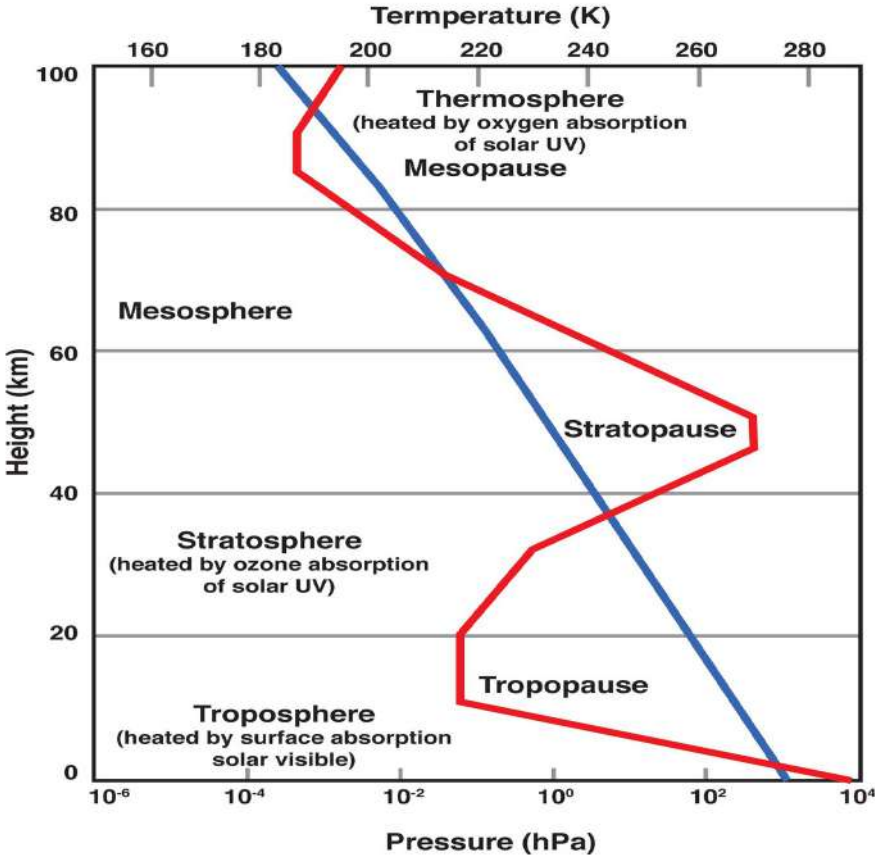


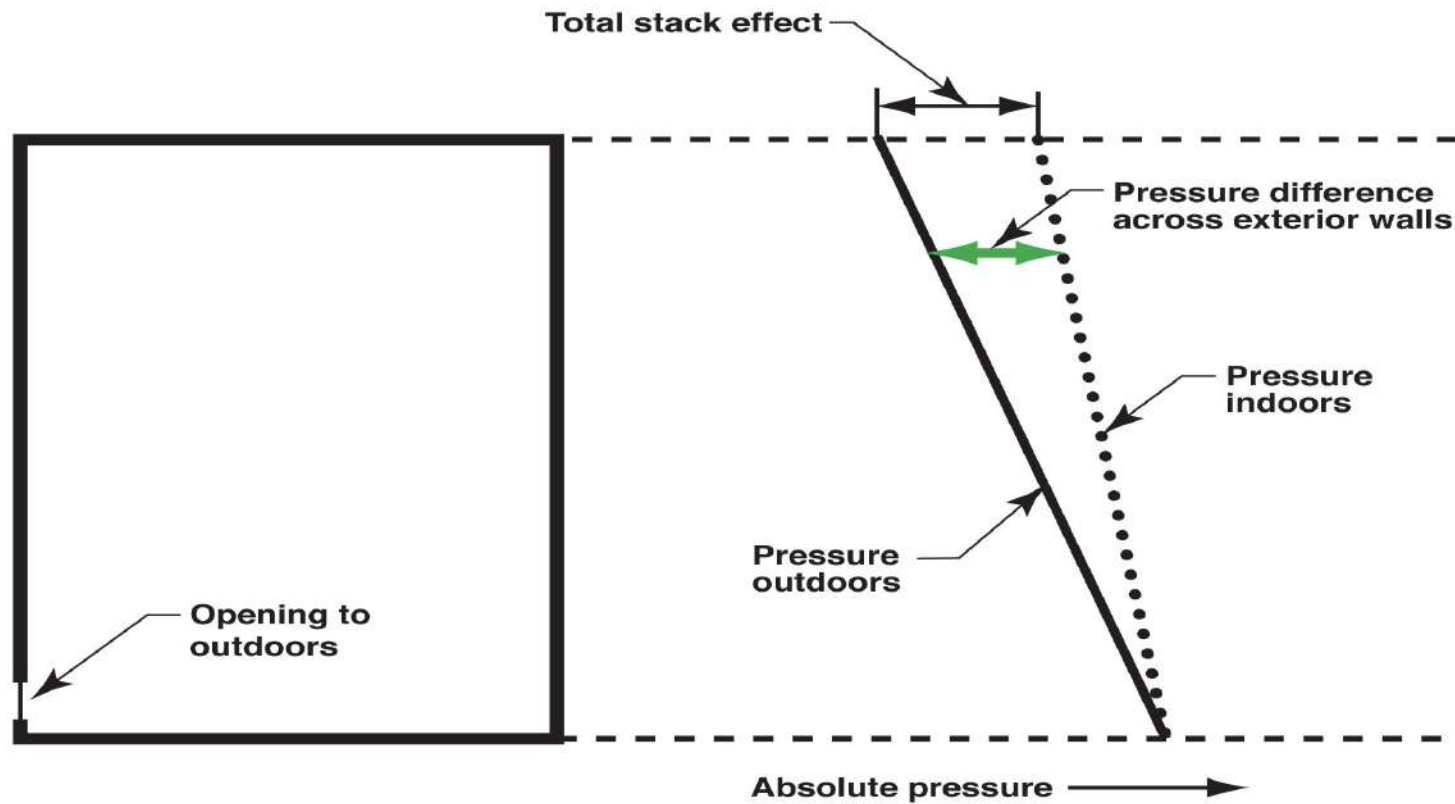


# Lapse Rate

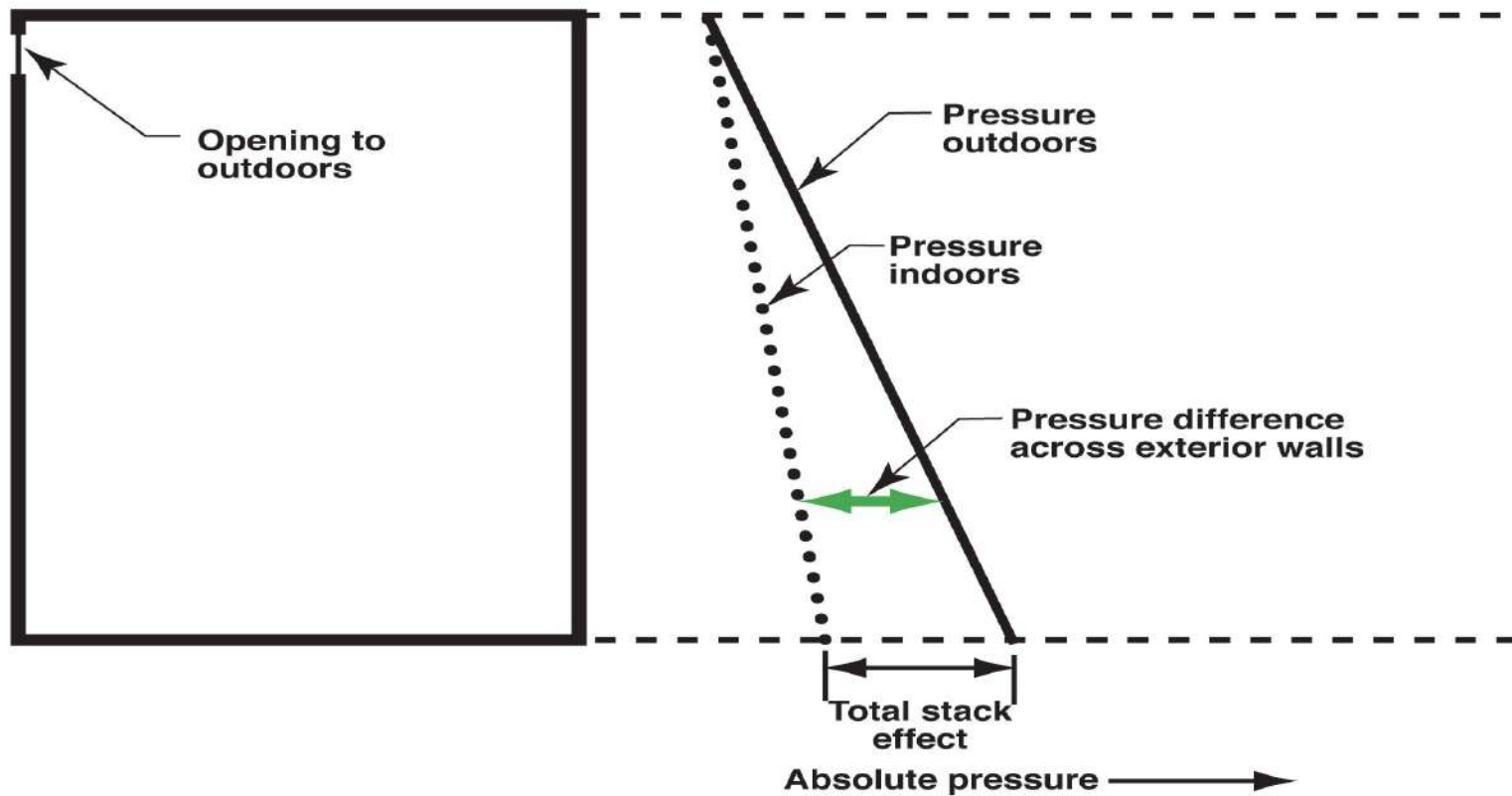


U.S. Standard Atmosphere (1976)

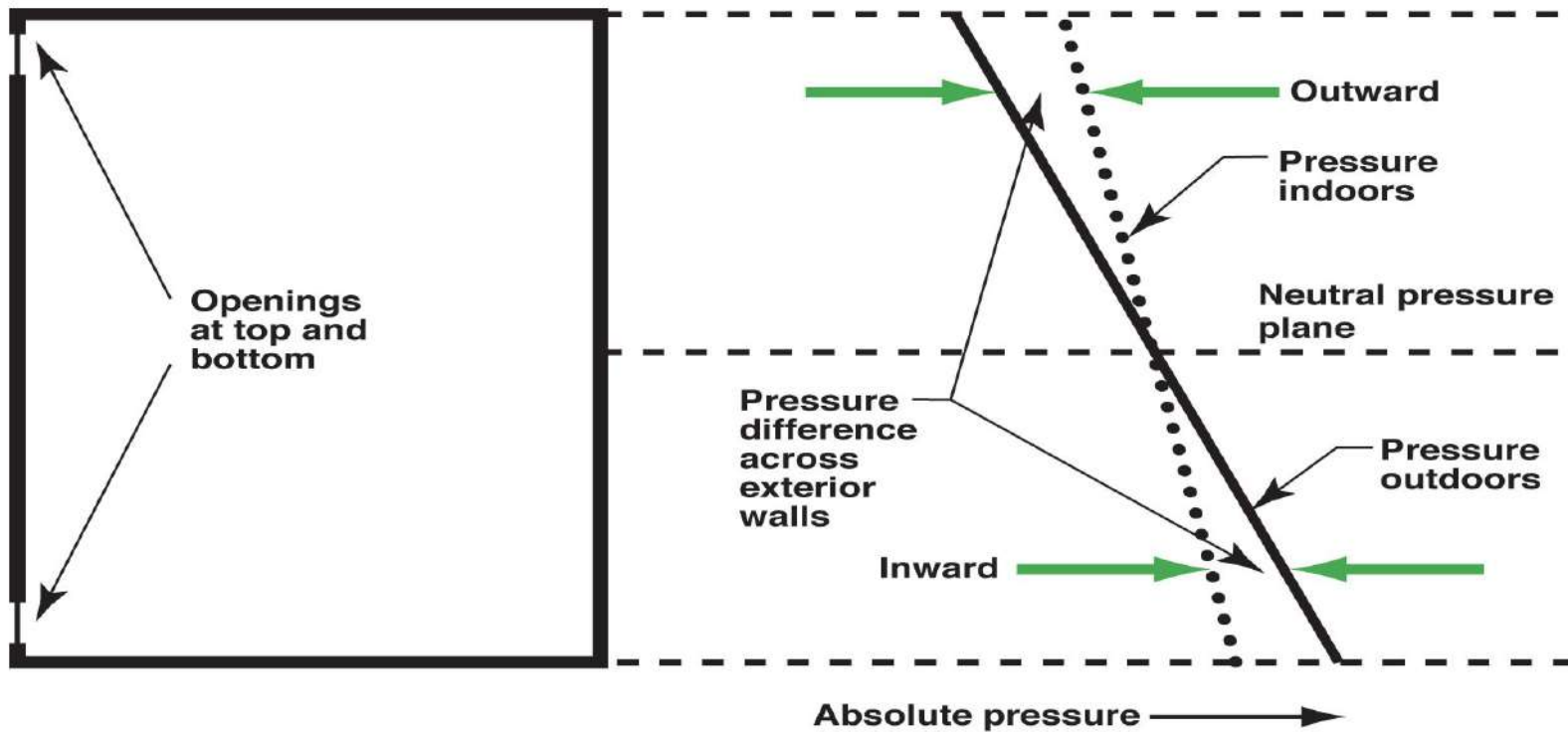




**Figure 11.1: Building with no internal separations with opening at the bottom  
(Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**

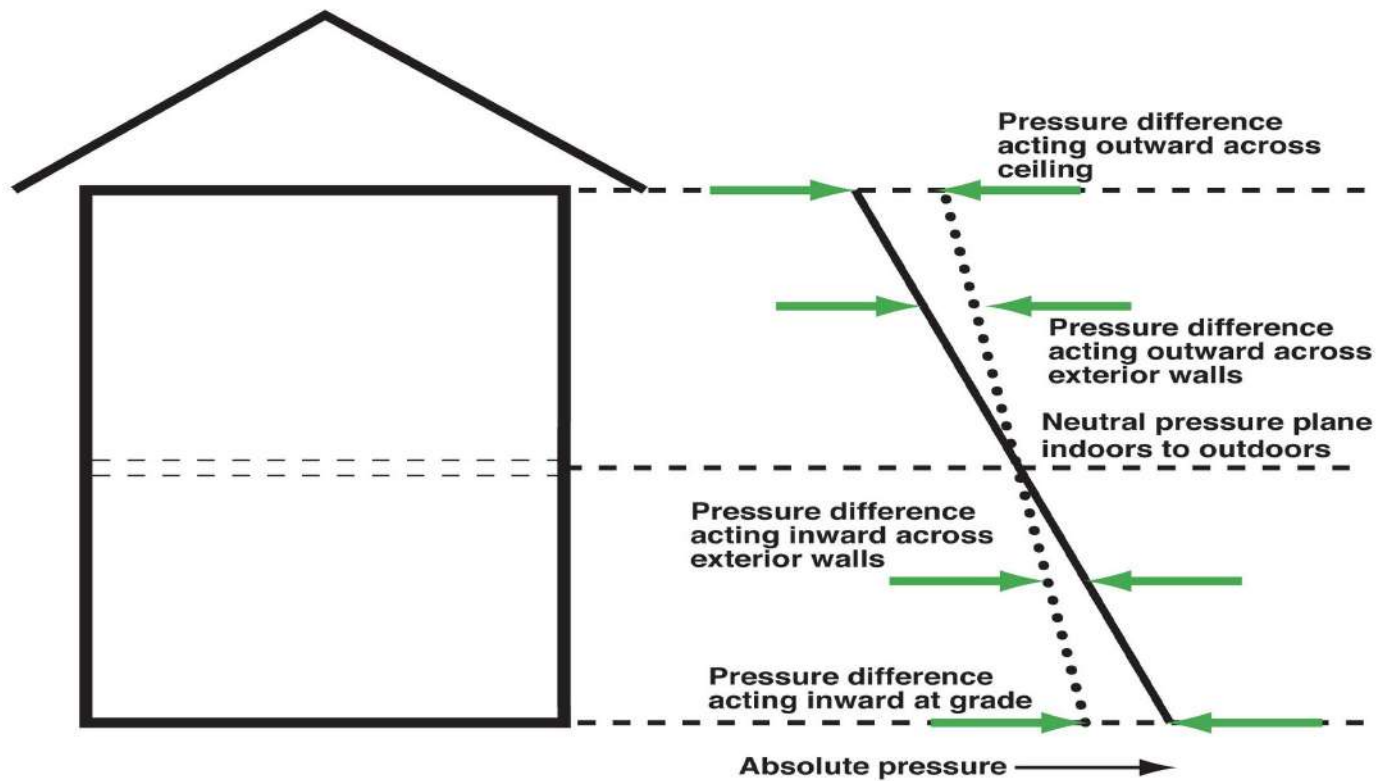


**Figure 11.2: Building with no internal separations with opening at the top  
(Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**



**Figure 11.3: Building with no internal separations with openings at top and bottom (Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**



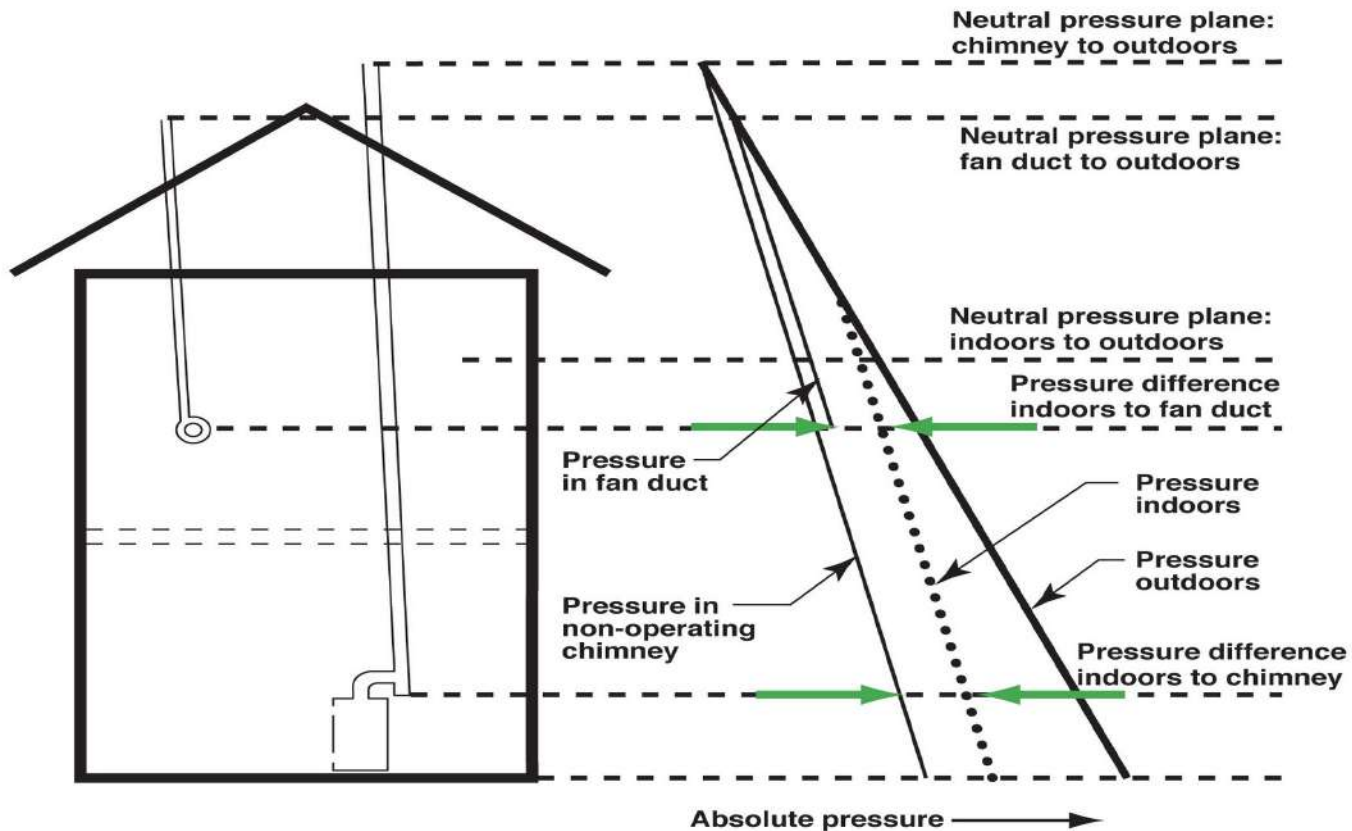


**Figure 11.4: Basic two storey house with vented attic  
(Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**



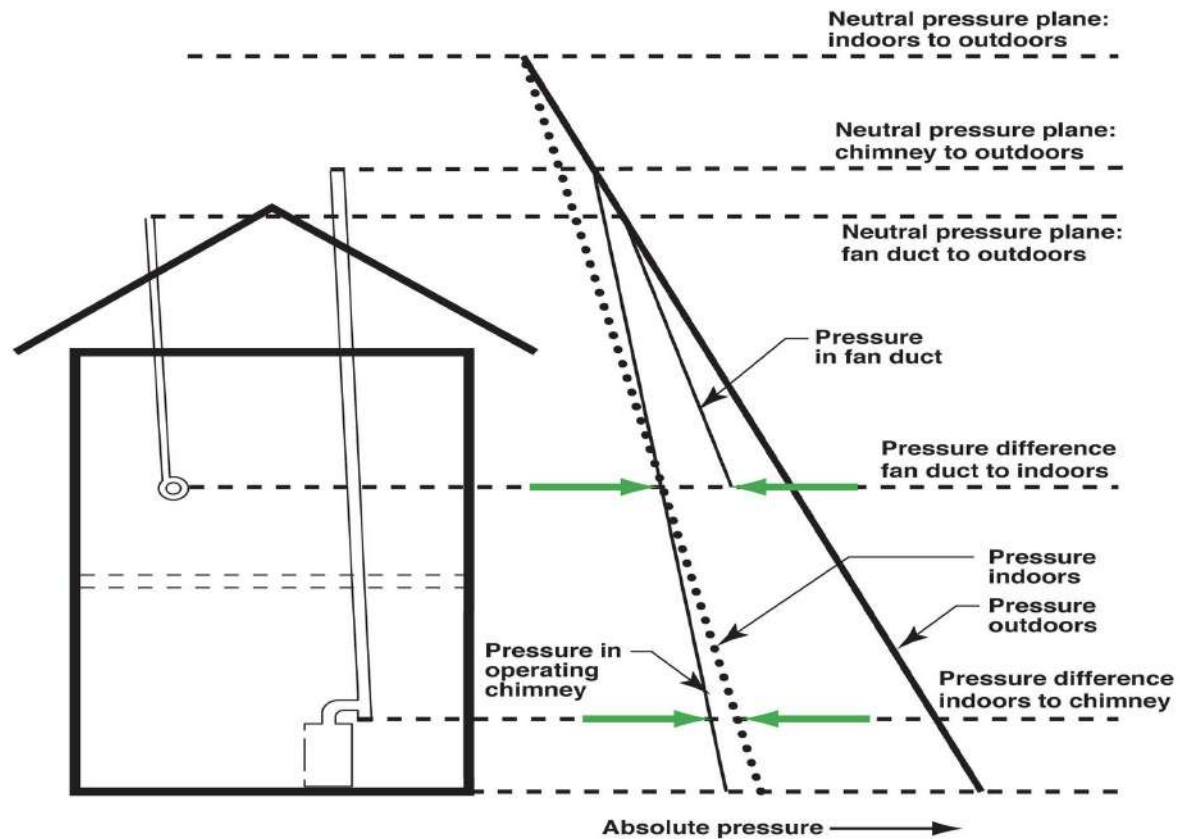




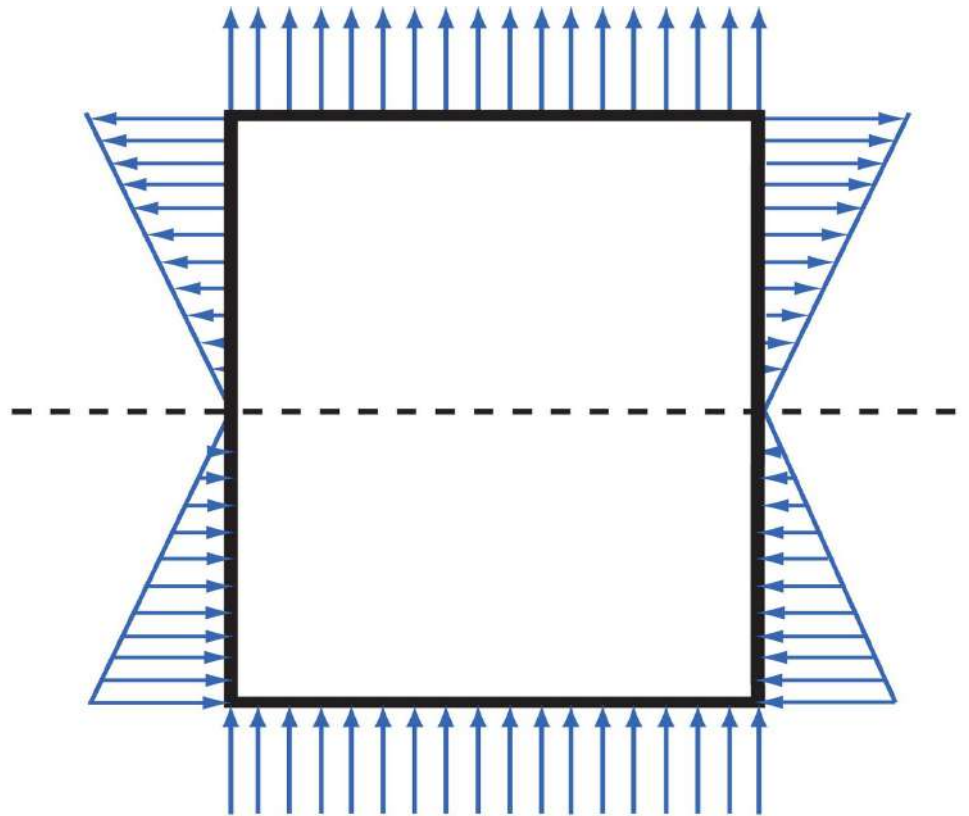


**Figure 11.5: Two storey house with non-operating chimney and exhaust fan  
(Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**

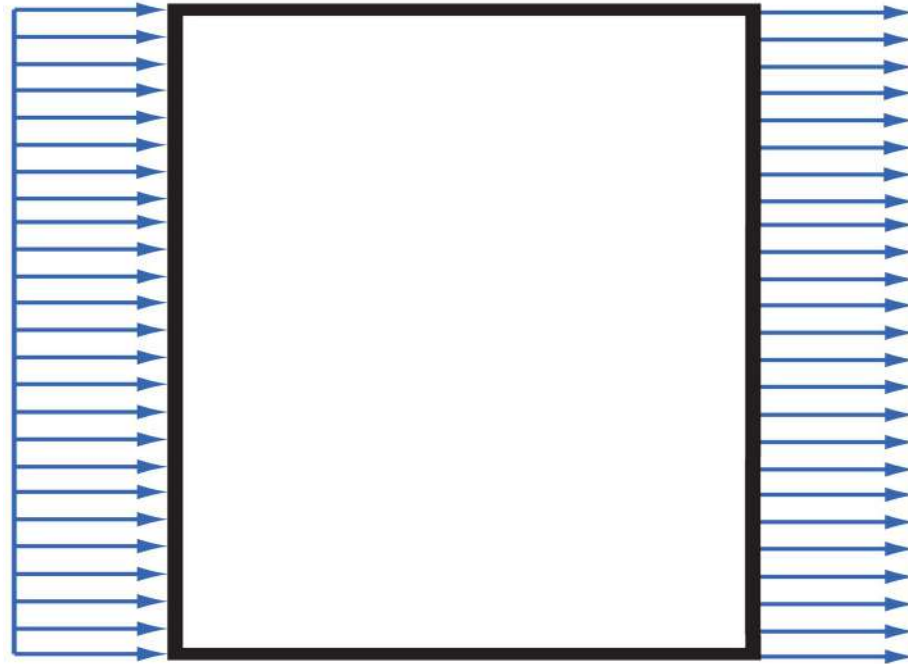




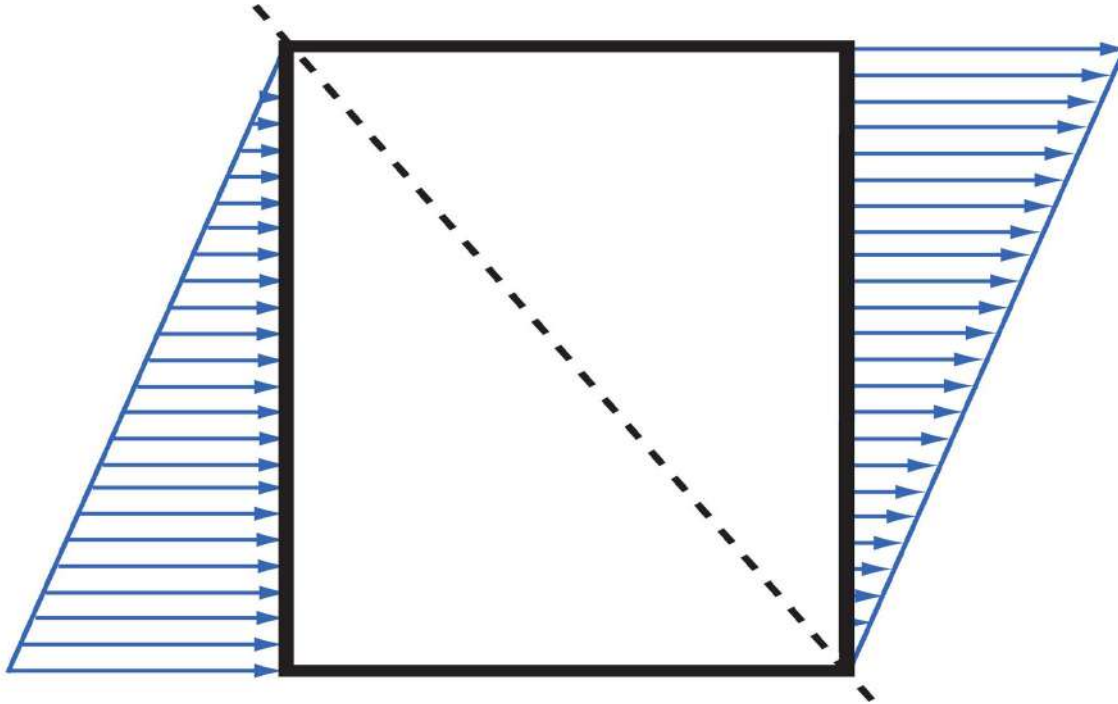
**Figure 11.6: Two storey house with operating chimney  
(Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**



**Stack effect**

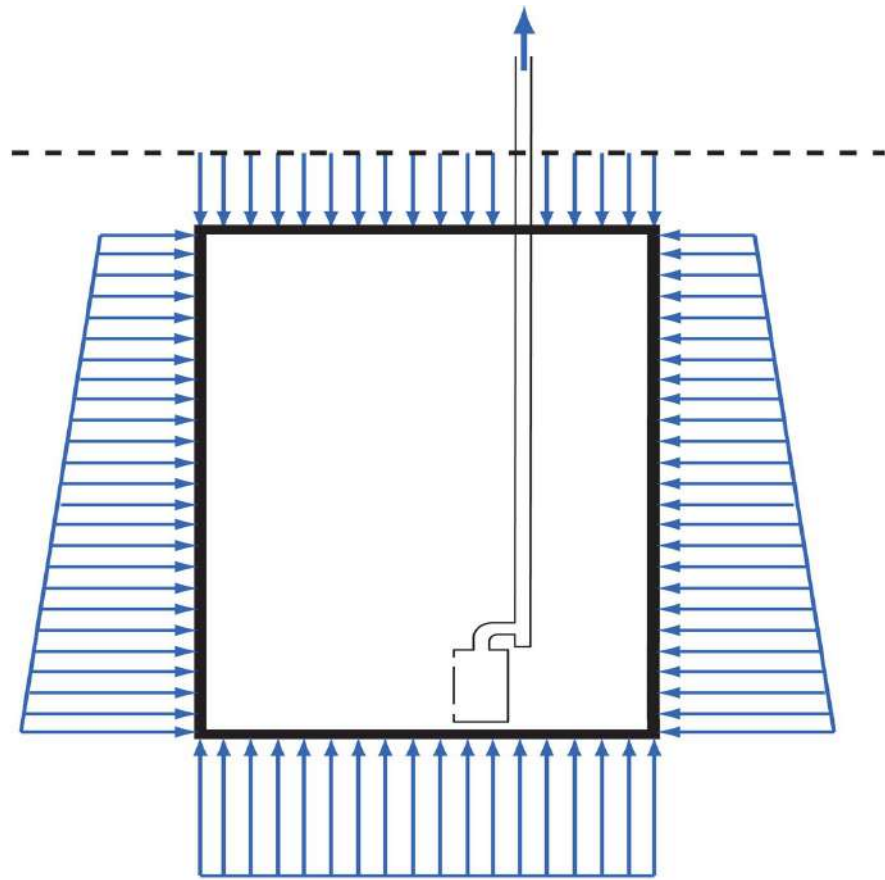


**Wind**

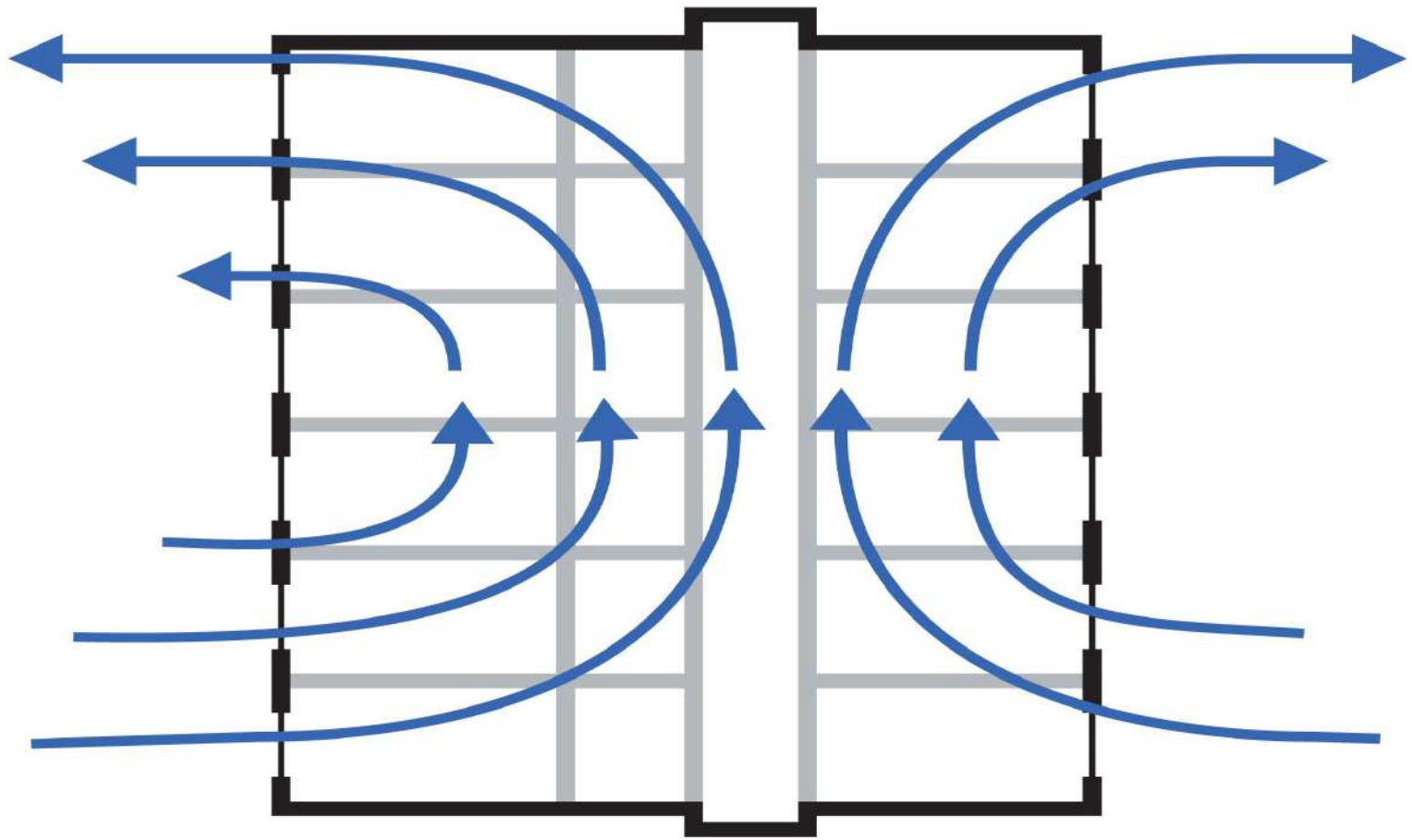


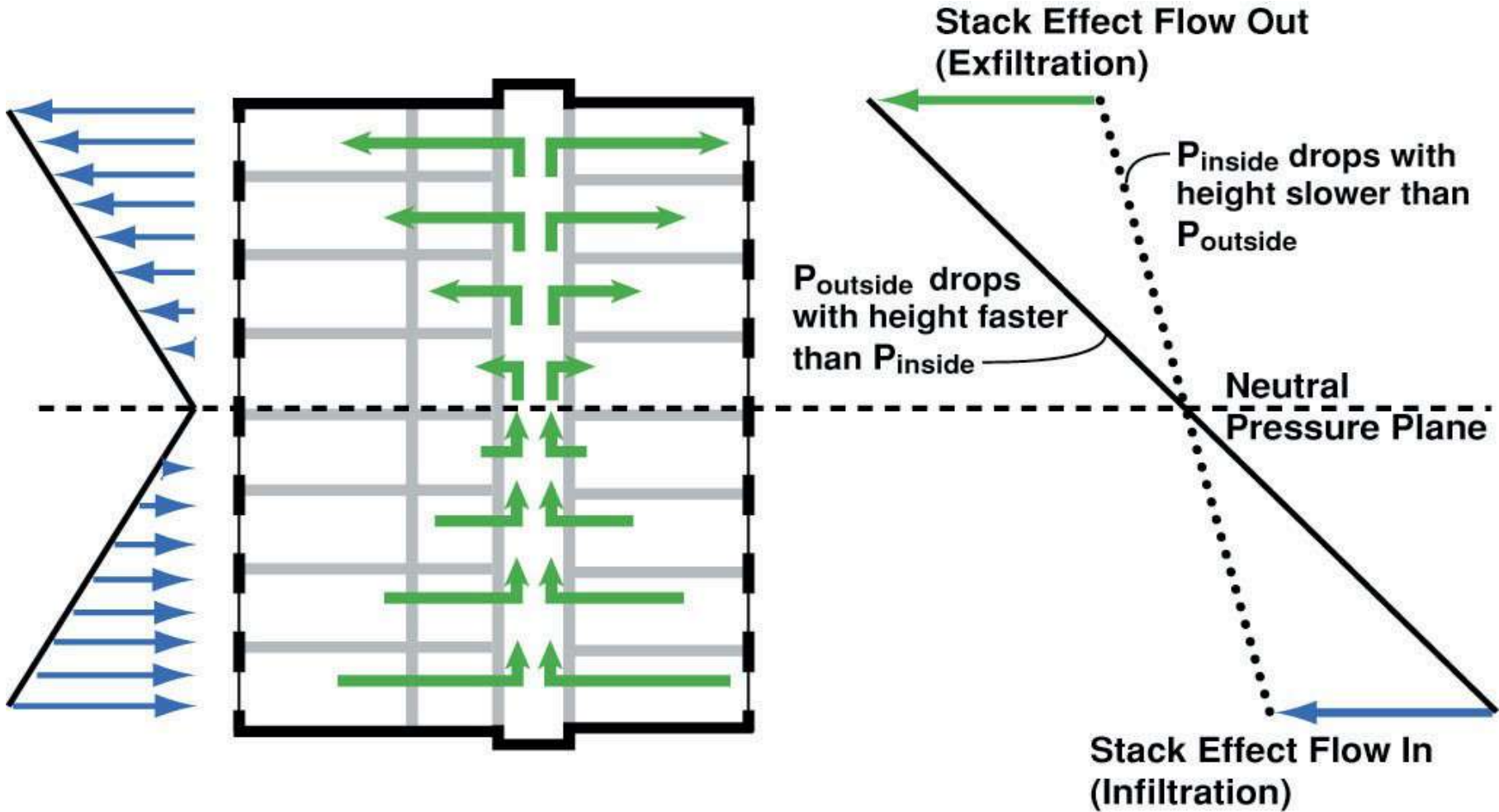
### Stack effect and wind

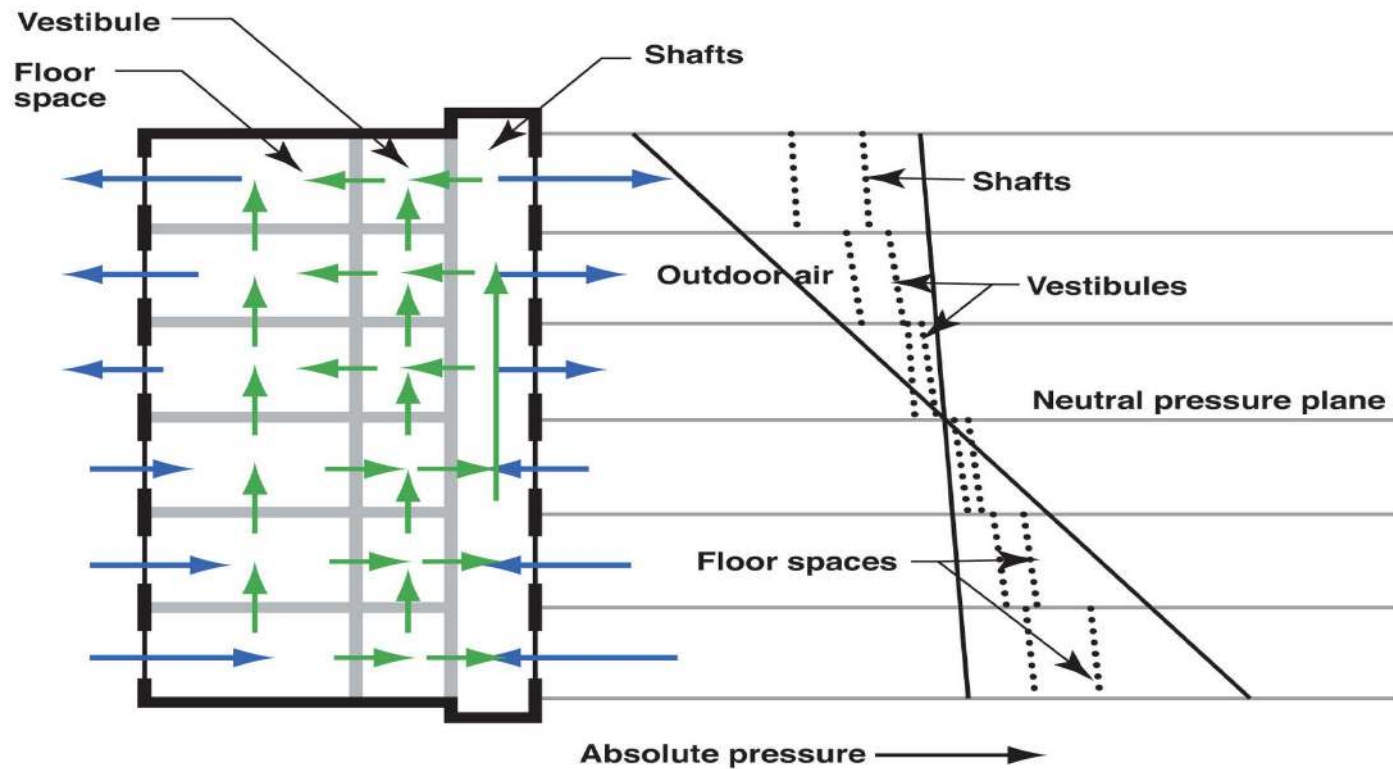




**Chimney effect**

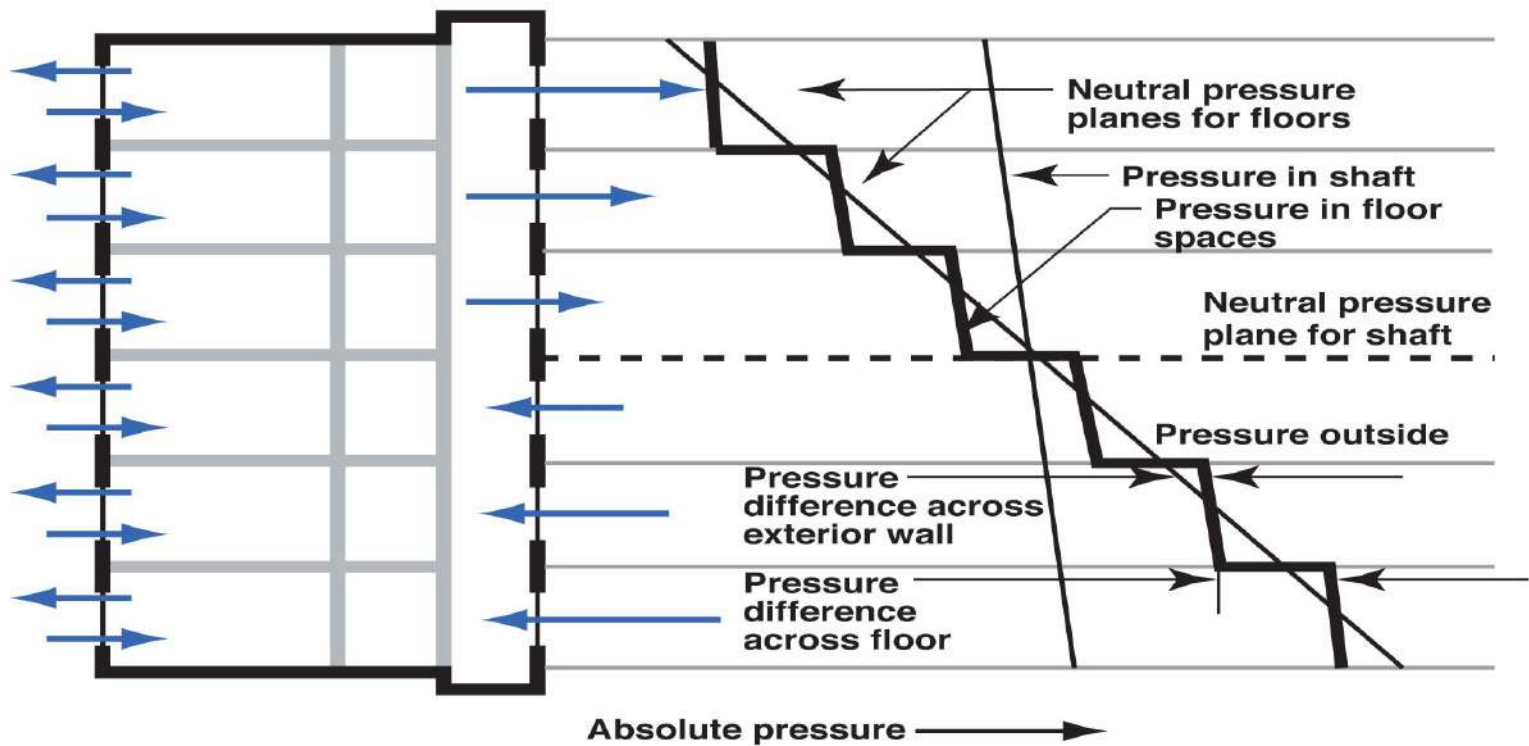




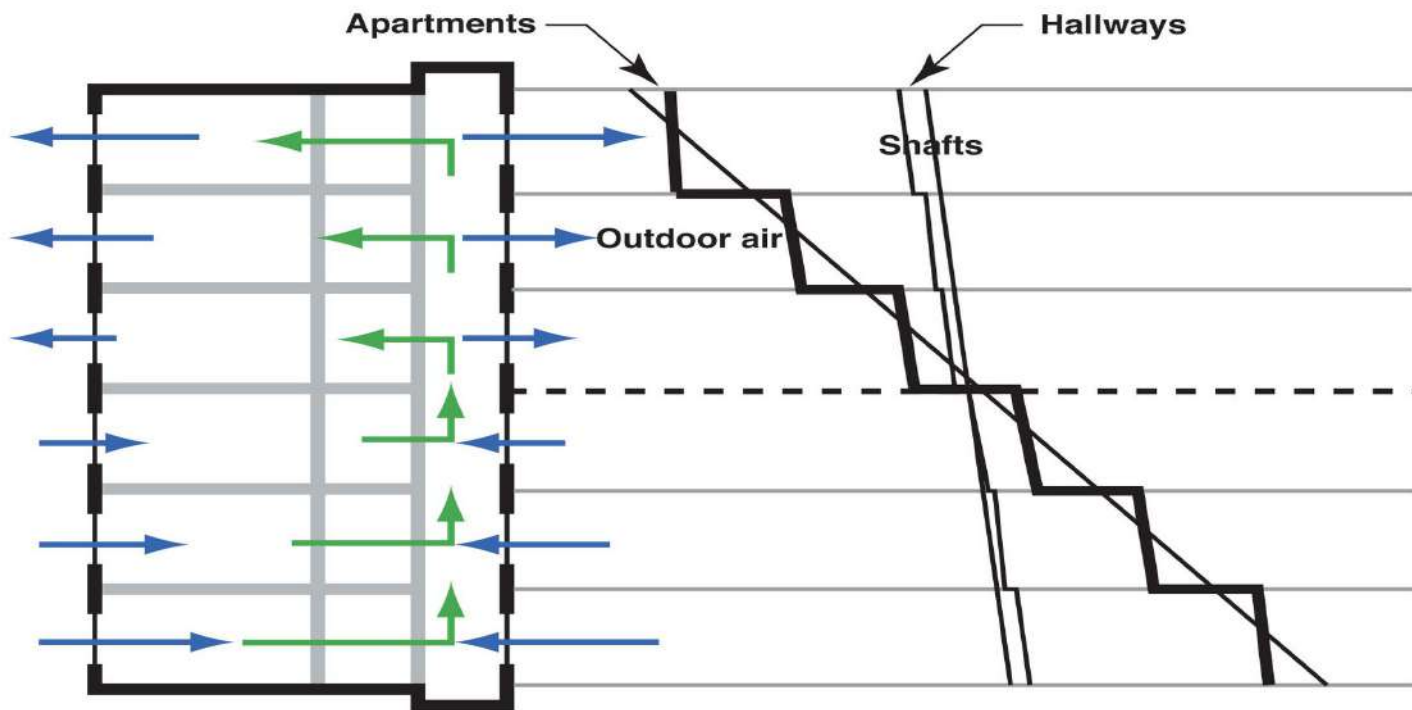


**Figure 11.8: Stack effect pressures in high rise office building  
(Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**





**Figure 11.9: Multi-storey building with floor spaces isolated from vertical shafts (Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**



**Figure 11.12: Apartment building with tighter apartment entry doors  
(Adapted from G.O. Handegord, 1998)**

## Reduced Individual Unit Stack Effect

