

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

Building Science

Adventures In Building Science

www.buildingscience.com

“It isn’t what we don’t know that gives us trouble, it’s what we know that ain’t so”

Will Rogers

“There are known knowns. These are things we know. There are known unknowns. There are things that we know we don’t know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don’t know we don’t know.

Donald Rumsfeld

Order of Magnitude

Order of Magnitude

1 to 10

10 to 100

100 to 1000

1000 to 10000

First Order Effects, Second Order Effects.....

What is a Building?

A Building is an Environmental Separator

- Control heat flow
- Control airflow
- Control water vapor flow
- Control rain
- Control ground water
- Control light and solar radiation
- Control noise and vibrations
- Control contaminants, environmental hazards and odors
- Control insects, rodents and vermin
- Control fire
- Provide strength and rigidity
- Be durable
- Be aesthetically pleasing
- Be economical

Zeroth Law – Equal Systems

First Law - Conservation of Energy

Second Law - Entropy

Third Law – Absolute Zero

2nd Law of Thermodynamics

In an isolated system, a process can occur only if it increases the total entropy of the system

Rudolf Clausius

Heat Flow Is From Warm To Cold
Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold
Moisture Flow Is From More To Less
Air Flow Is From A Higher Pressure to a
Lower Pressure
Gravity Acts Down

Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold
Moisture Flow Is From More To Less

Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold
Moisture Flow Is From More To Less

Thermal Gradient – Thermal Diffusion
Concentration Gradient – Molecular Diffusion

Moisture Flow Is From Warm To Cold
Moisture Flow Is From More To Less

Thermal Gradient – Thermal Diffusion
Concentration Gradient – Molecular Diffusion

Vapor Diffusion

Thermodynamic Potential



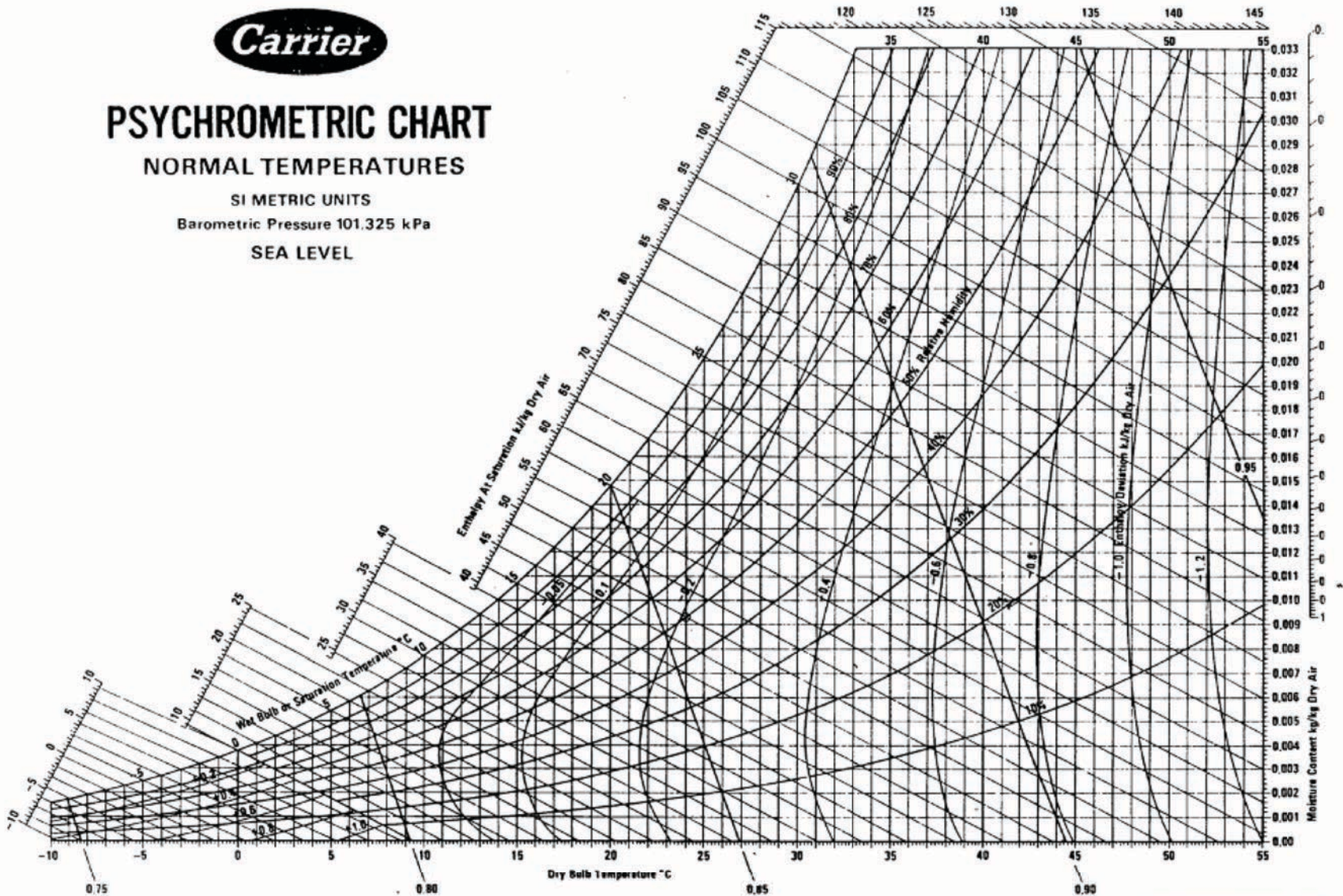
PSYCHROMETRIC CHART

NORMAL TEMPERATURES

SI METRIC UNITS

Barometric Pressure 101.325 kPa

SEA LEVEL



Below 0°C Properties and Enthalpy Deviation Lines Are For Ice

Copyright ©Carrier Corporation 1975
Cat. No. 794 002 Printed in U.S.A.

Damage Functions

Damage Functions

Water

Heat

Ultra Violet Radiation

Damage Functions

Water

Heat

Ultra Violet Radiation

Oxidization (Ozone)

Fatigue (Creep)

The Three Biggest Problems In Buildings Are Water, Water and Water...

80 Percent of all Construction Problems are Related to Water

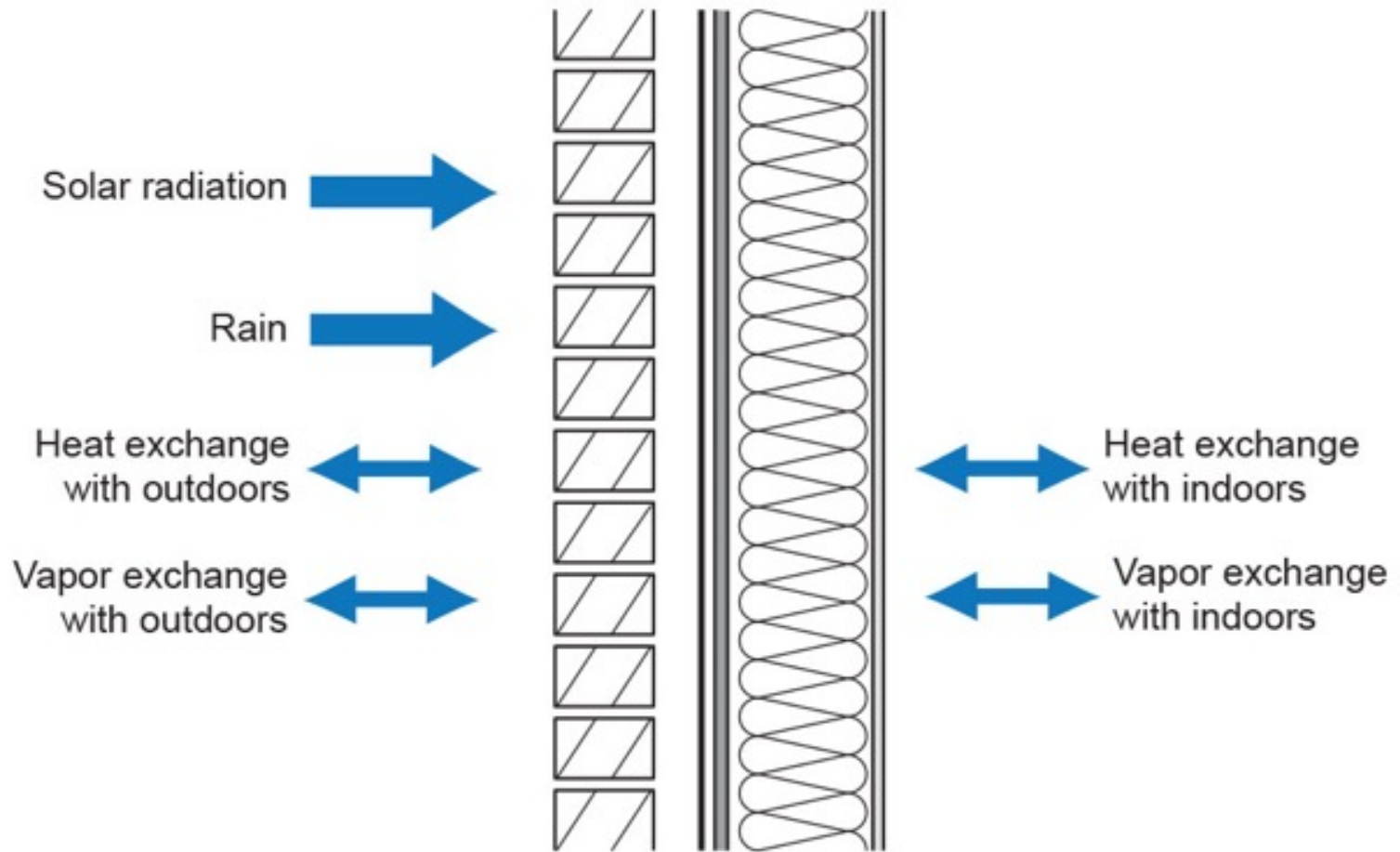
Heat

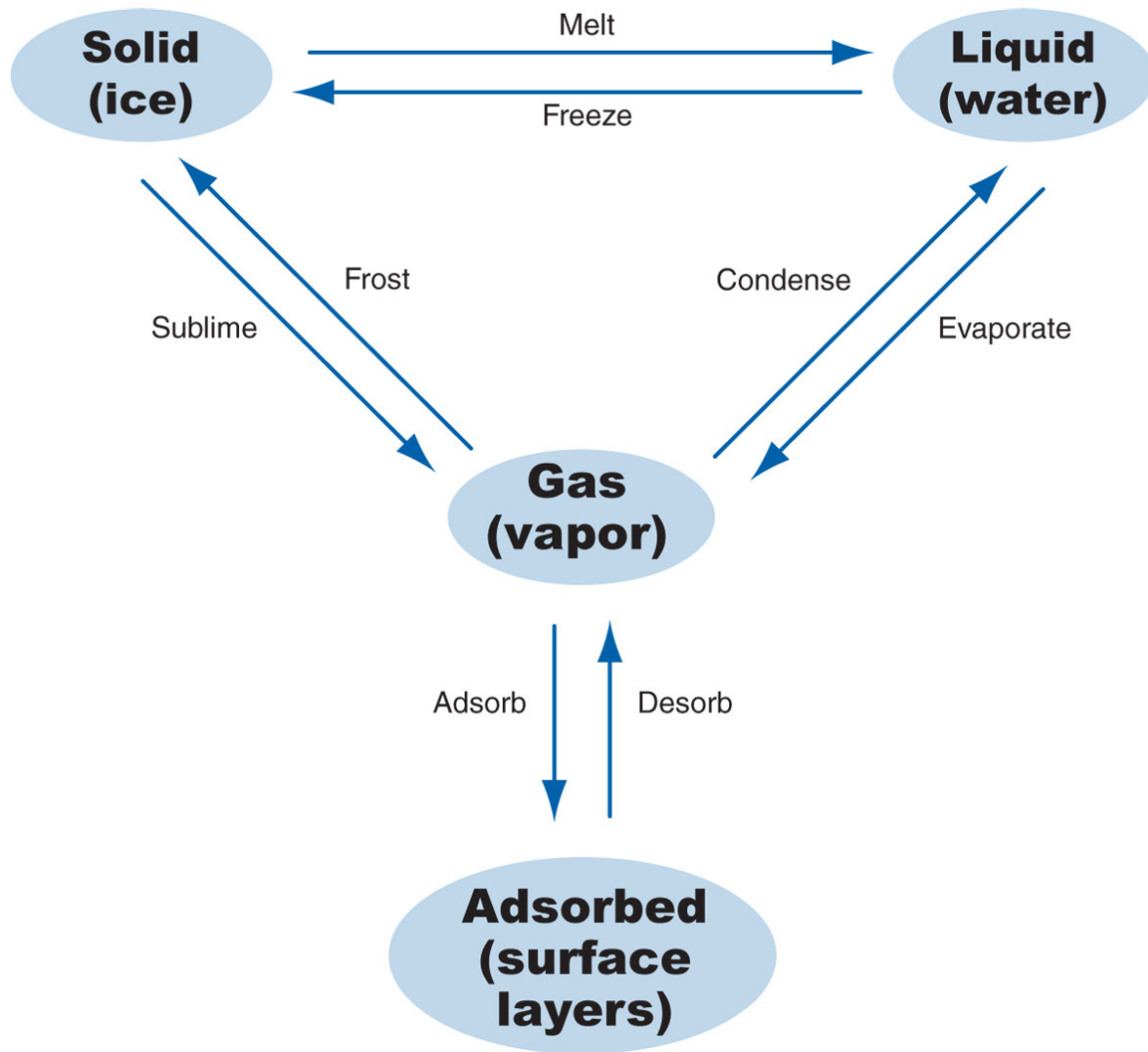
Air

Moisture

HAM

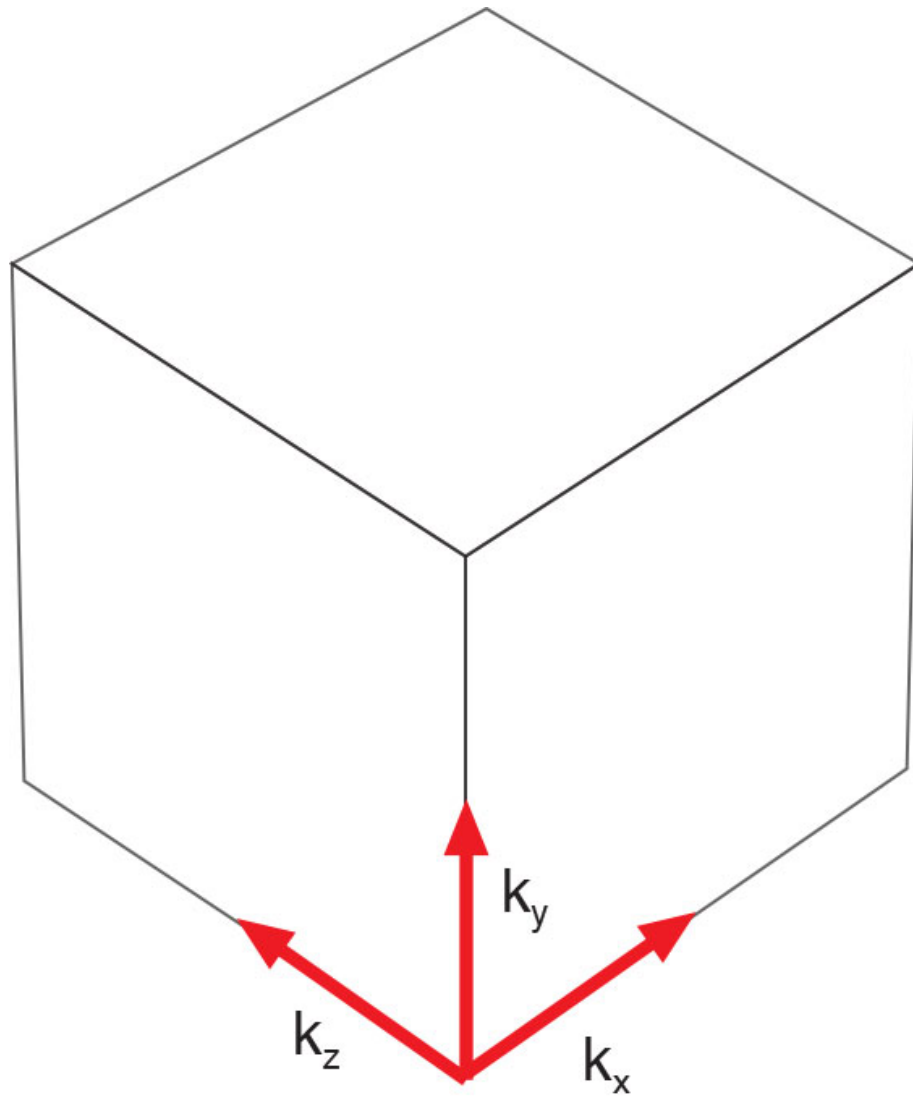
Hygrothermal Analysis

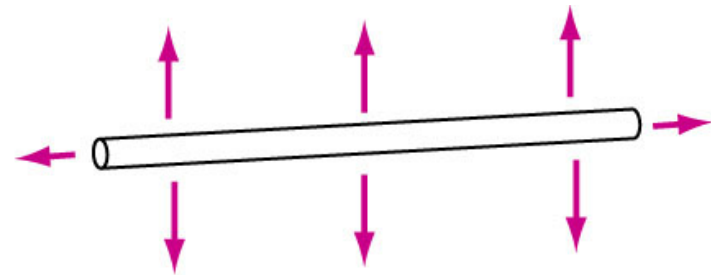
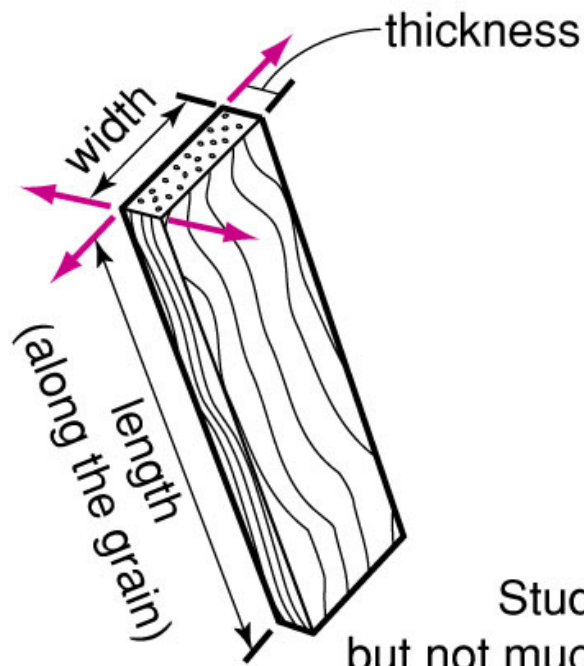




Moisture Transport in Porous Media

Phase	Transport Process	Driving Potential
Vapor	Diffusion	Vapor Concentration
Adsorbate	Surface Diffusion	Concentration
Liquid	Capillary Flow	Suction Pressure
	Osmosis	Solute Concentration

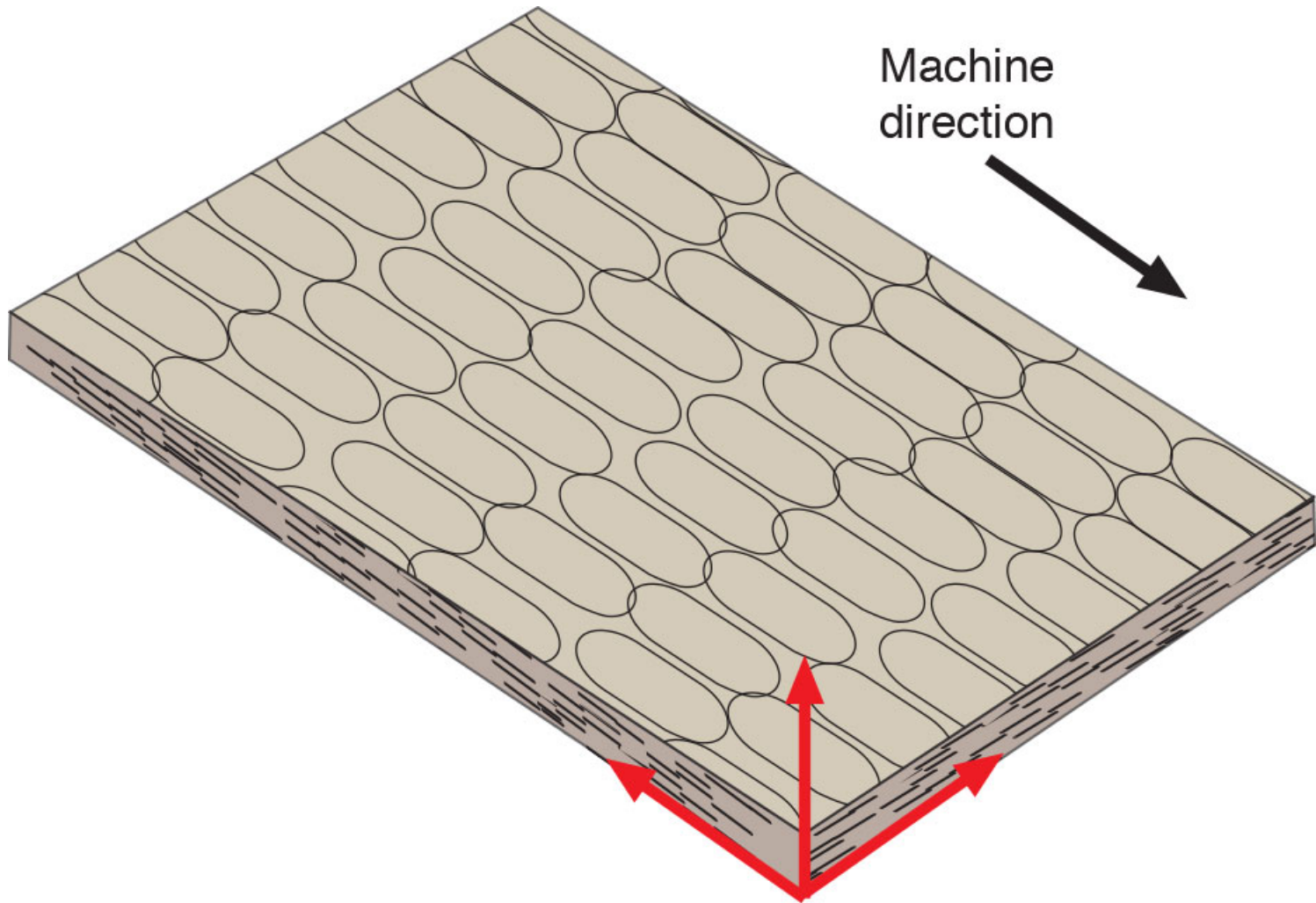




Wood Fiber

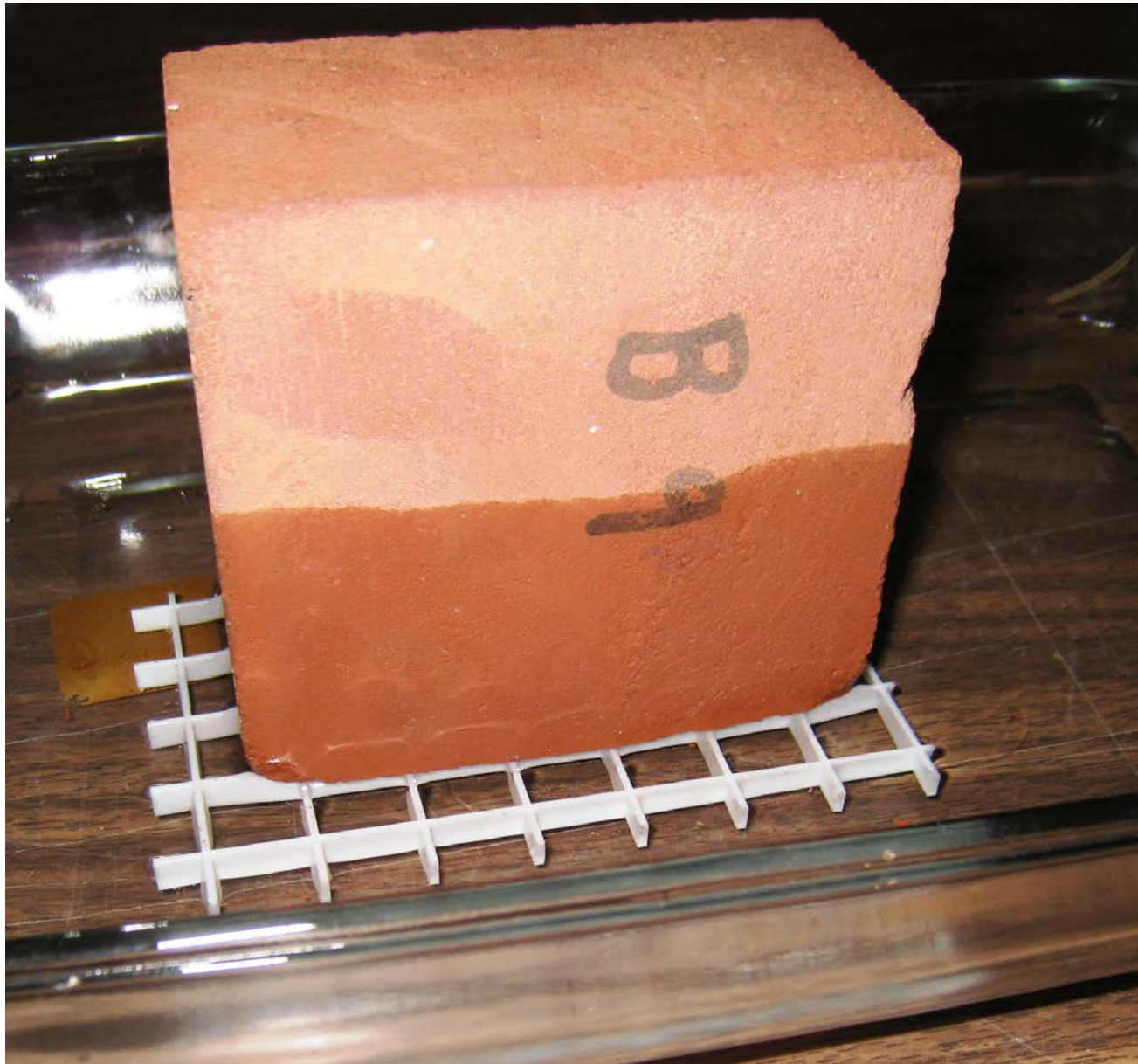
Fibers get much thicker than longer when they pick up moisture

Studs get much wider and thicker, but not much longer, when they pick up moisture

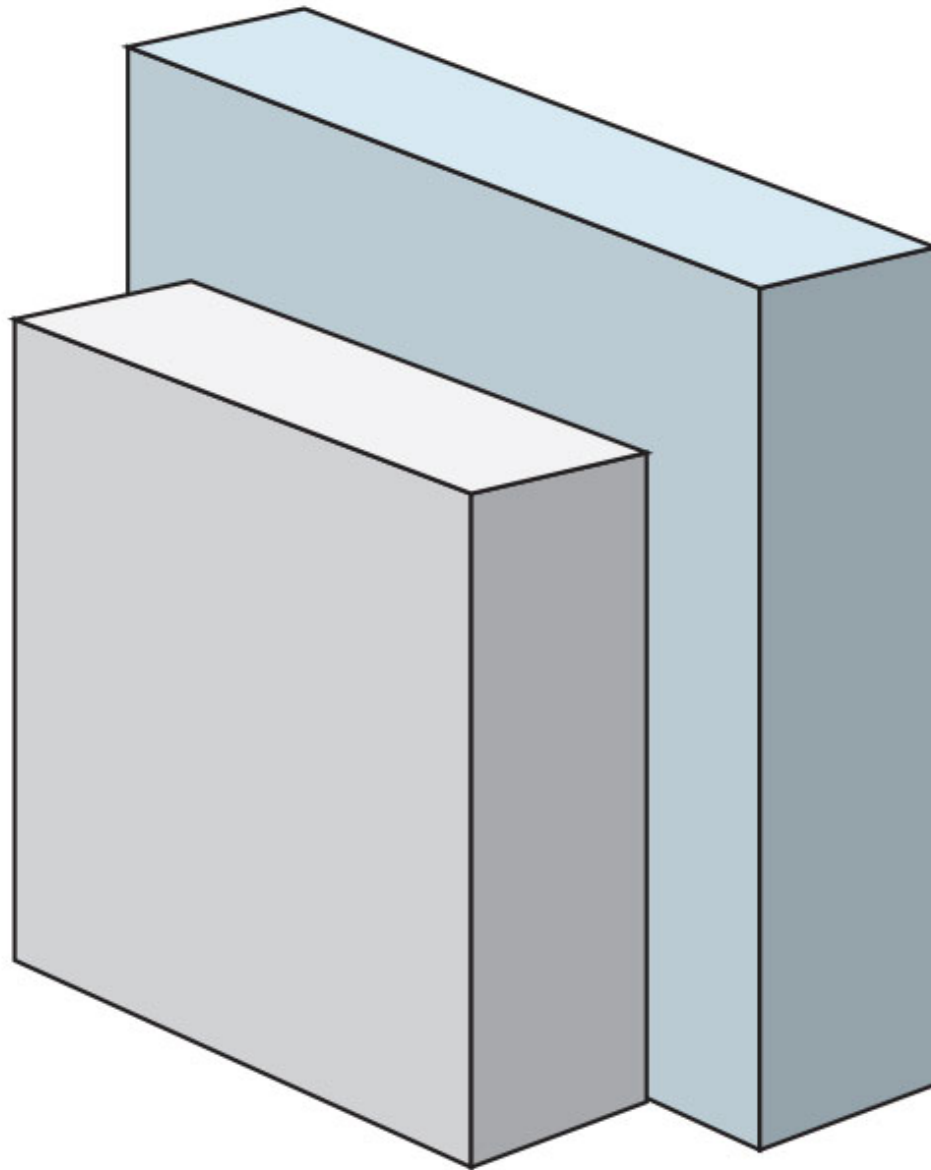


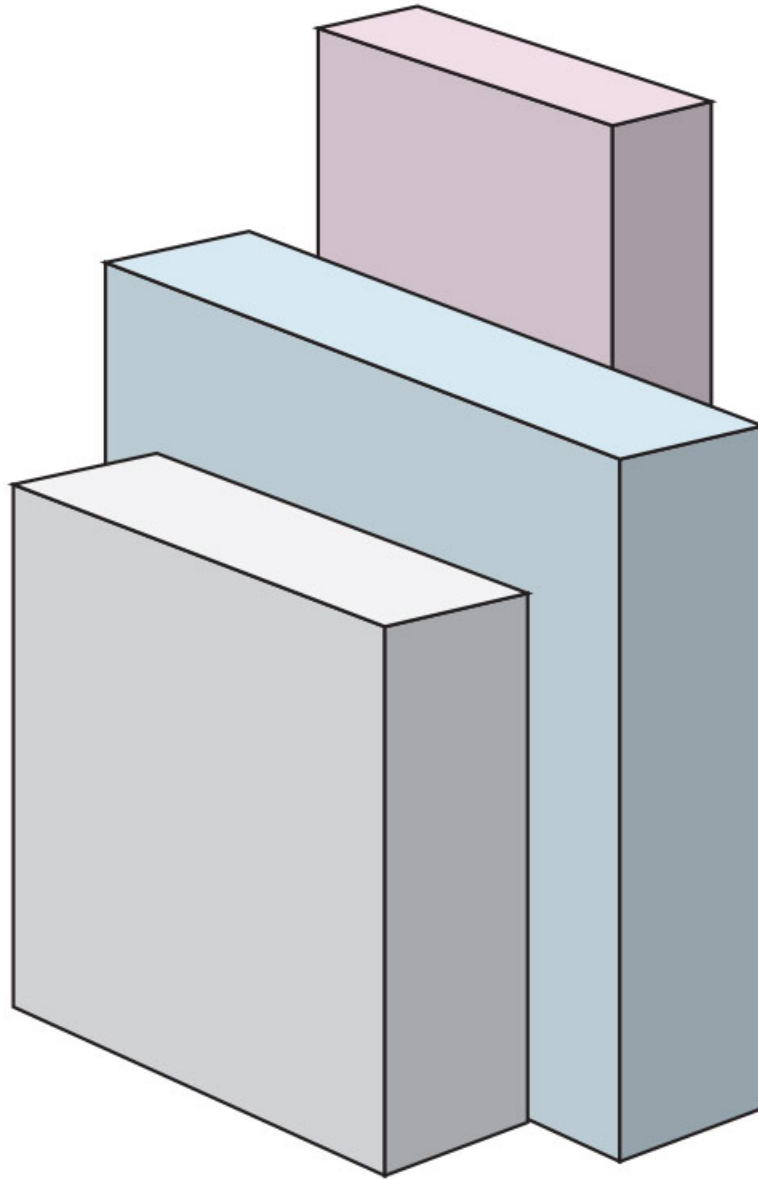




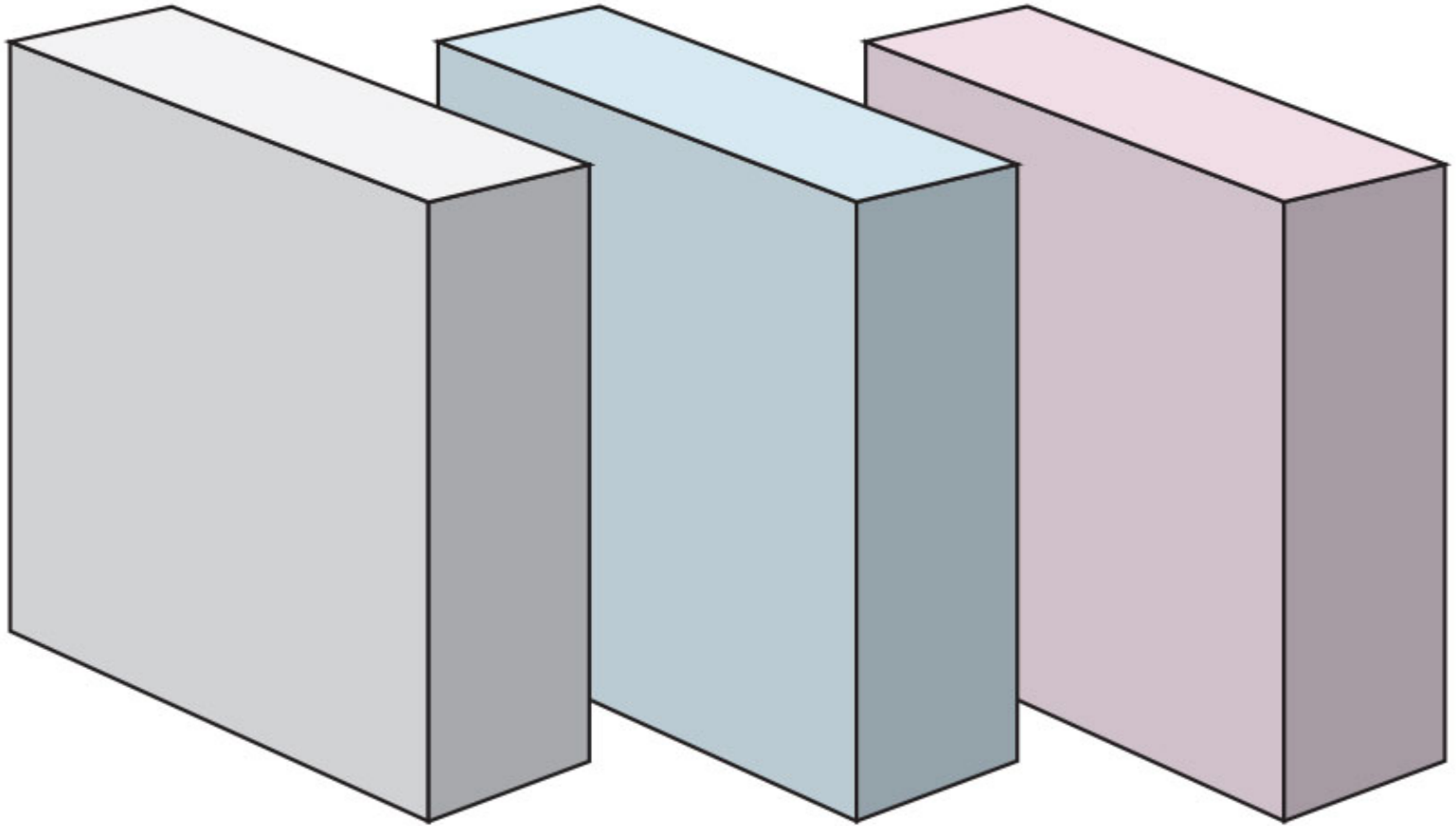








Rain and Airflow Missing



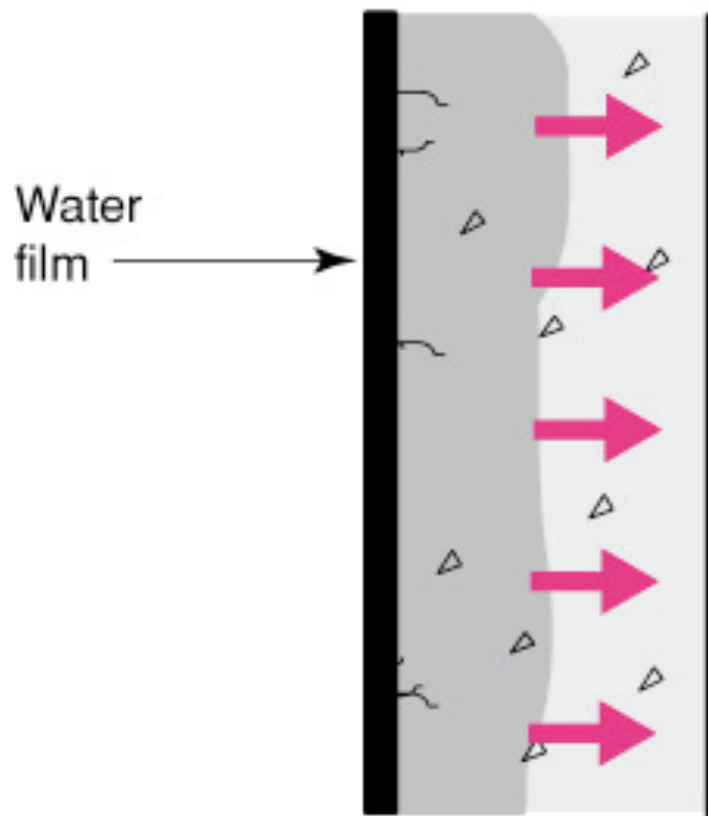
Recall That Rain and Airflow Are Missing

Moisture Transport in Assemblies

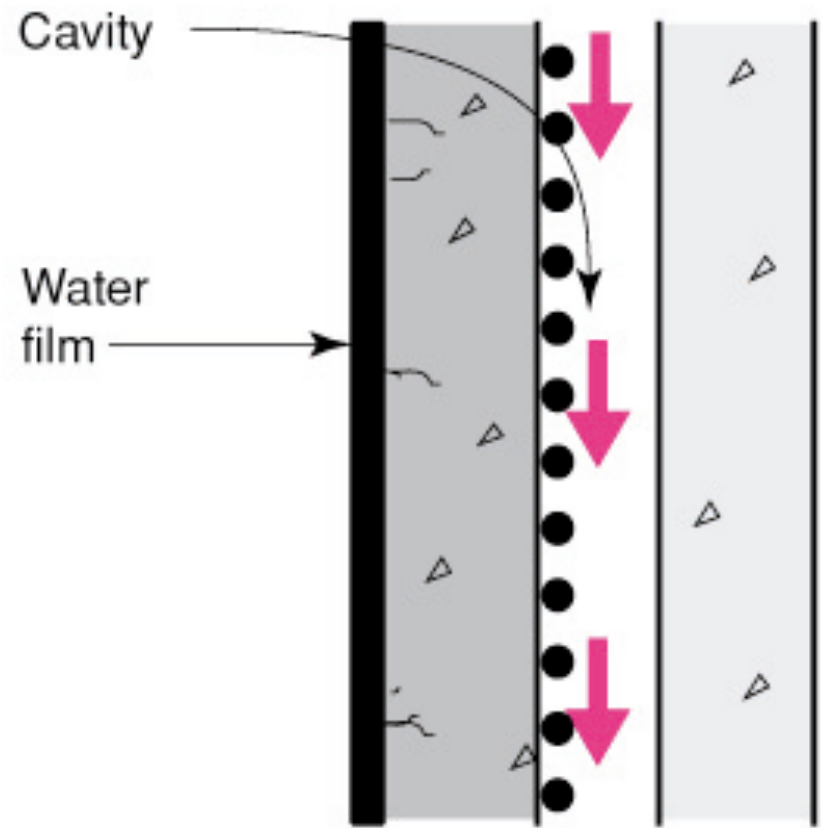
Phase	Transport Process	Driving Potential
Vapor	Diffusion	Vapor Concentration
	Convective Flow	Air Pressure

Adsorbate	Surface Diffusion	Concentration

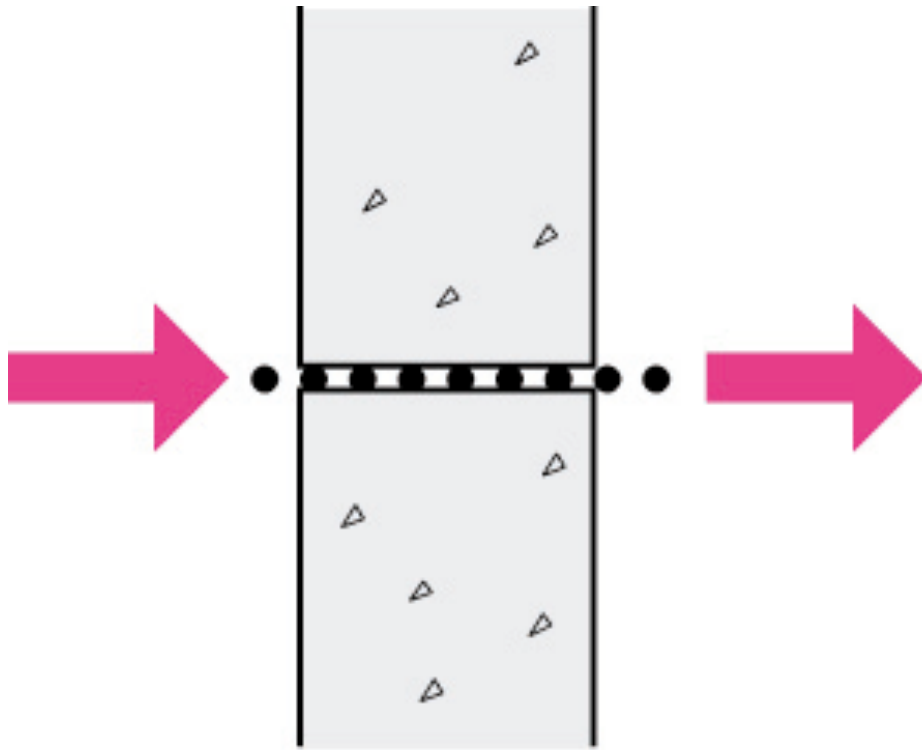
Liquid	Capillary Flow	Suction Pressure
	Osmosis	Solute Concentration
	Gravitational Flow	Height
	Surface Tension	Surface Energy
	Momentum	Kinetic Energy
	Convective Flow	Air Pressure



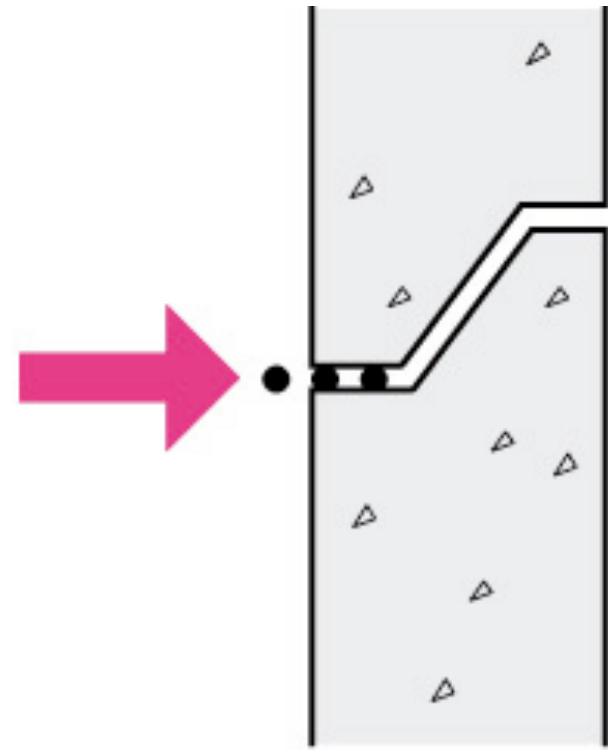
Capillary suction draws water into porous material and tiny cracks



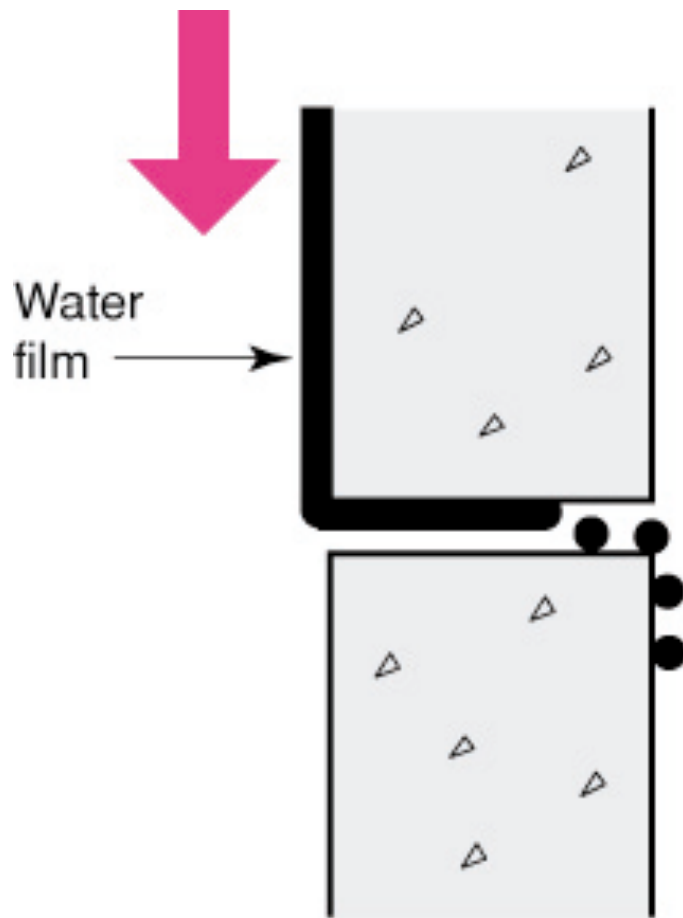
Cavity acts as capillary break and receptor for capillary water interrupting flow



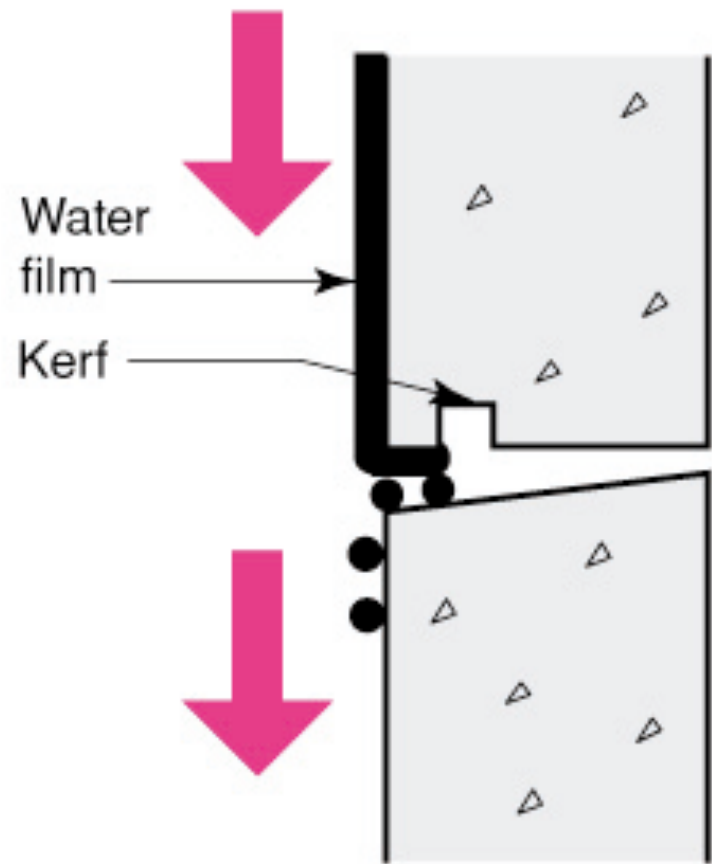
Rain droplets can be carried through a wall by their own momentum



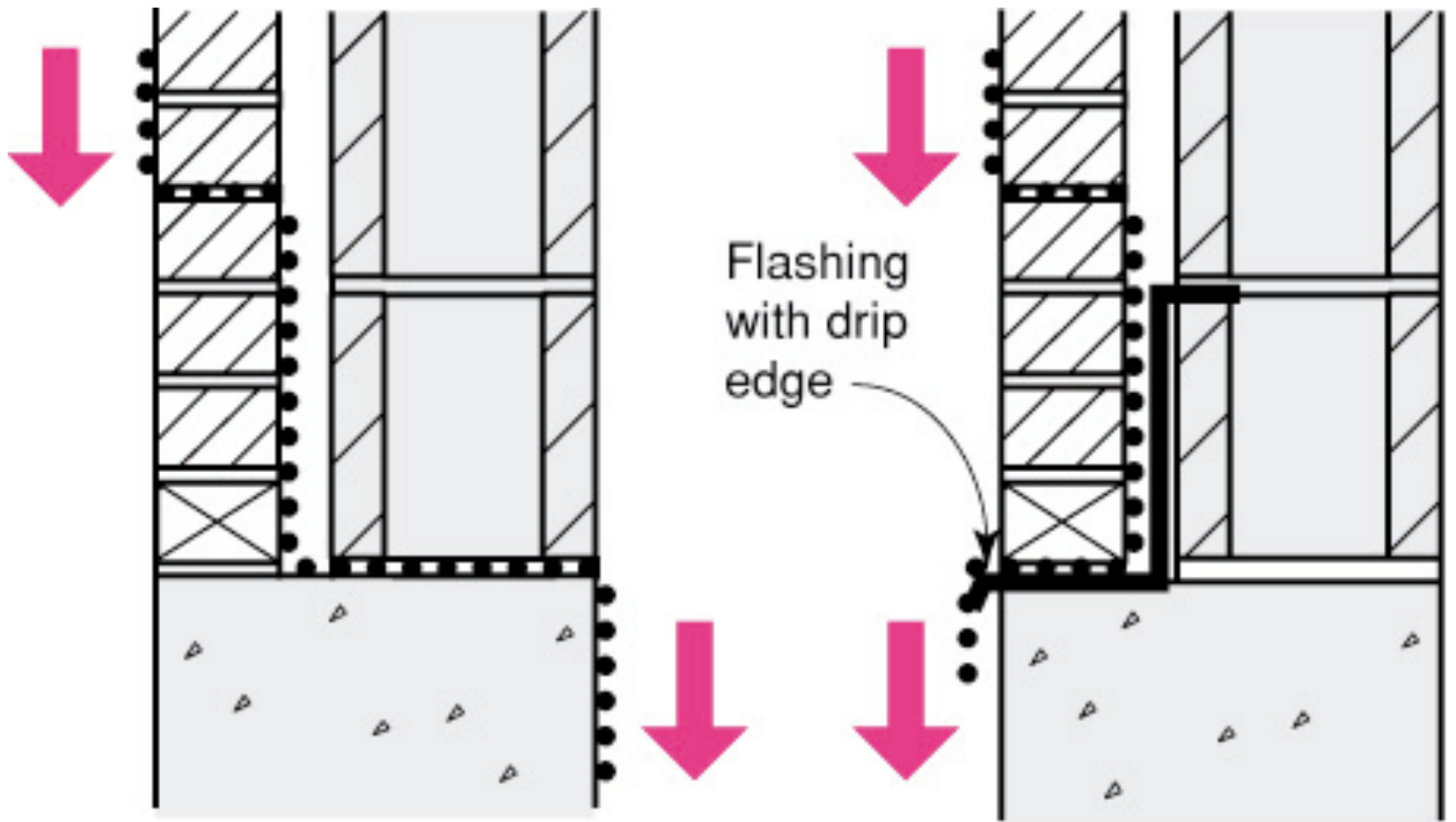
Rain entry by momentum can be prevented by designing wall systems with no straight through openings



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



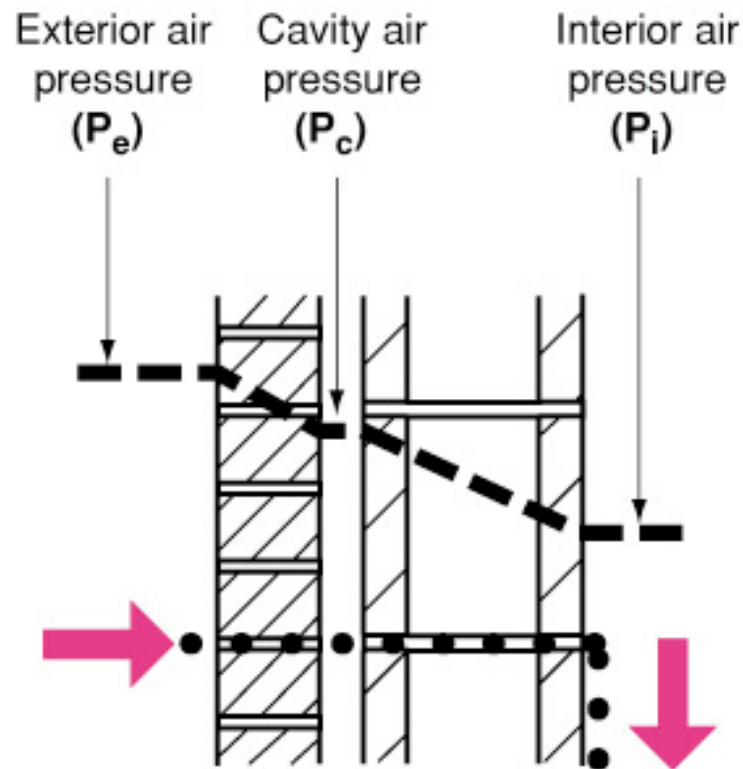
Providing a kerf or drip edge will promote the formation of a water droplet and interrupt flow



Flashing
with drip
edge

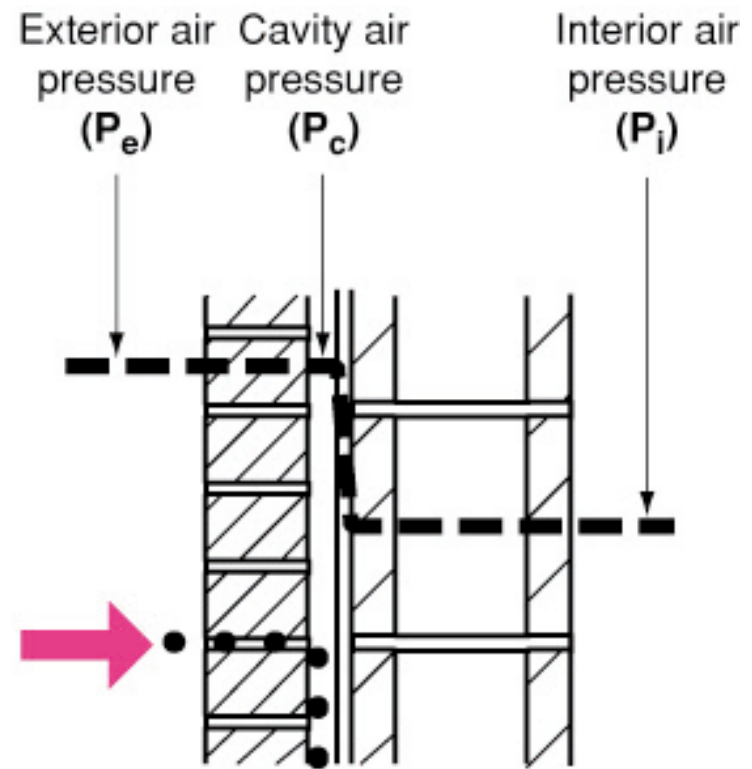
Rainwater can flow down
surfaces and enter through
openings and cavities

Flashings direct gravity
flow rainwater back toward
the exterior



$$P_e > P_c > P_i$$

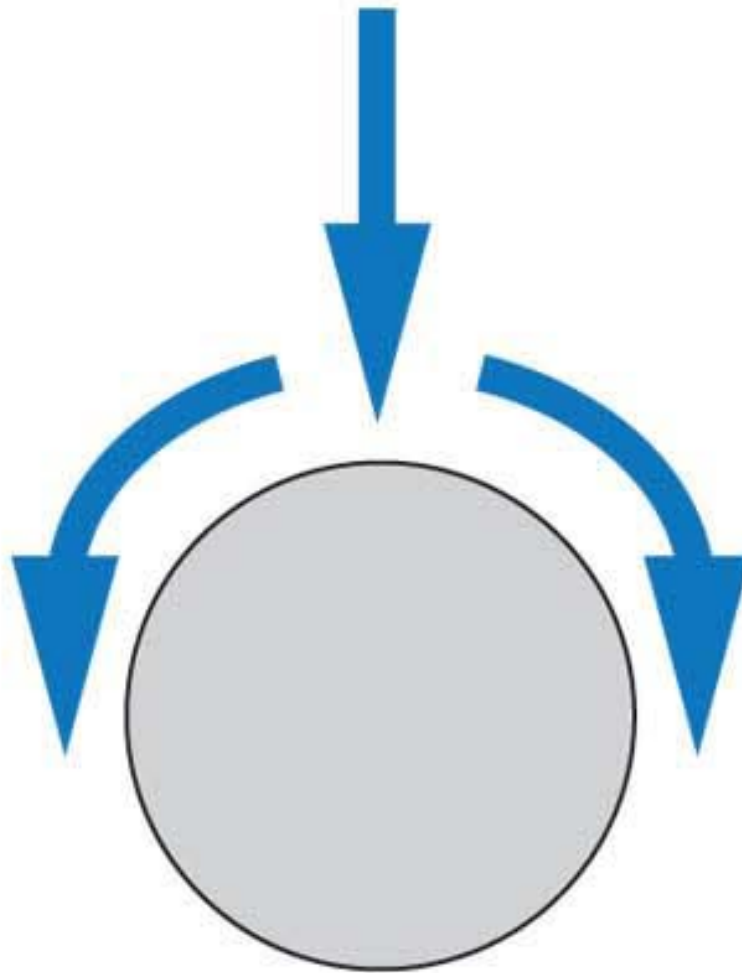
Driven by air pressure differences, rain droplets are drawn through wall openings from the exterior to the interior

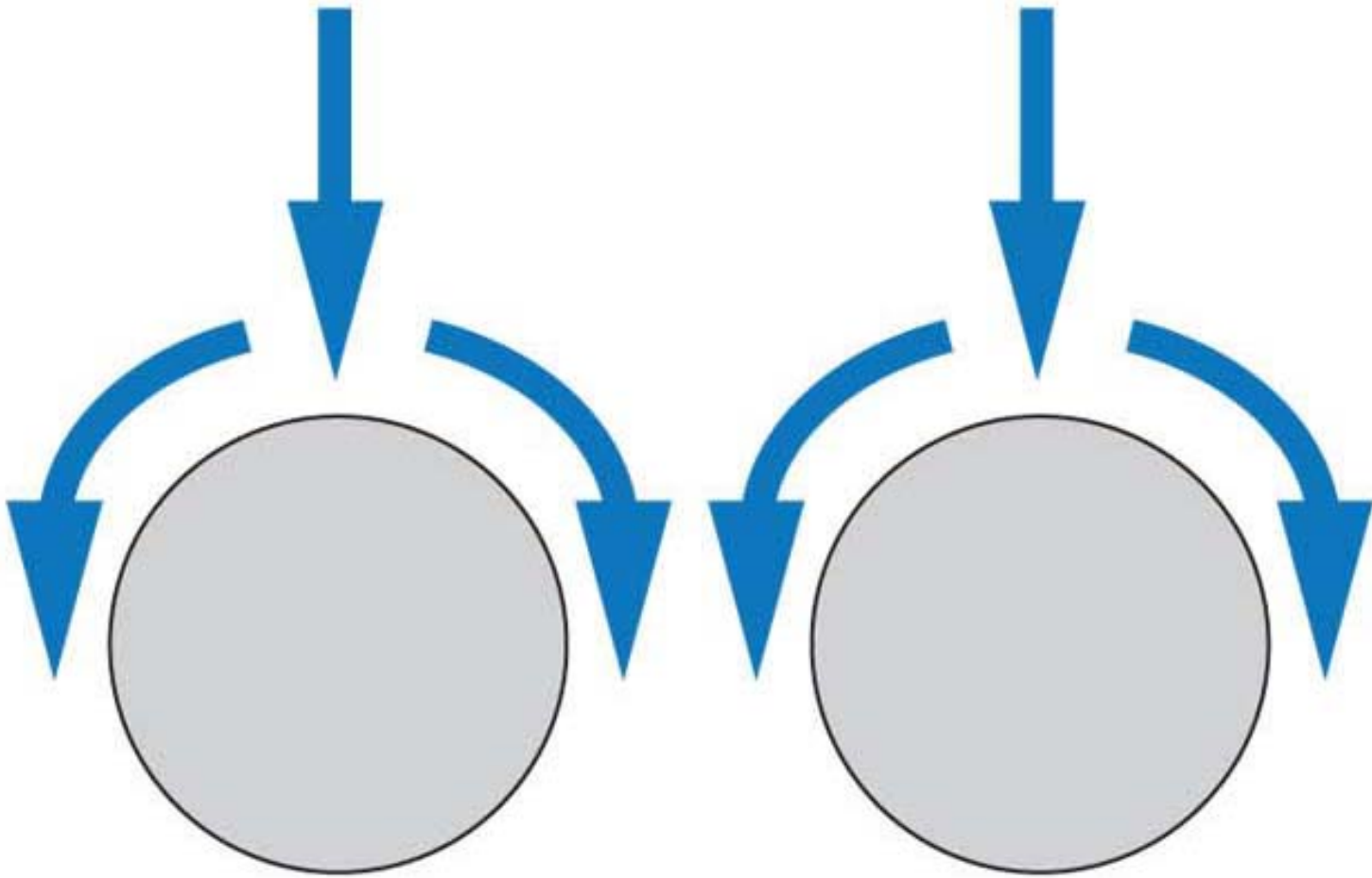


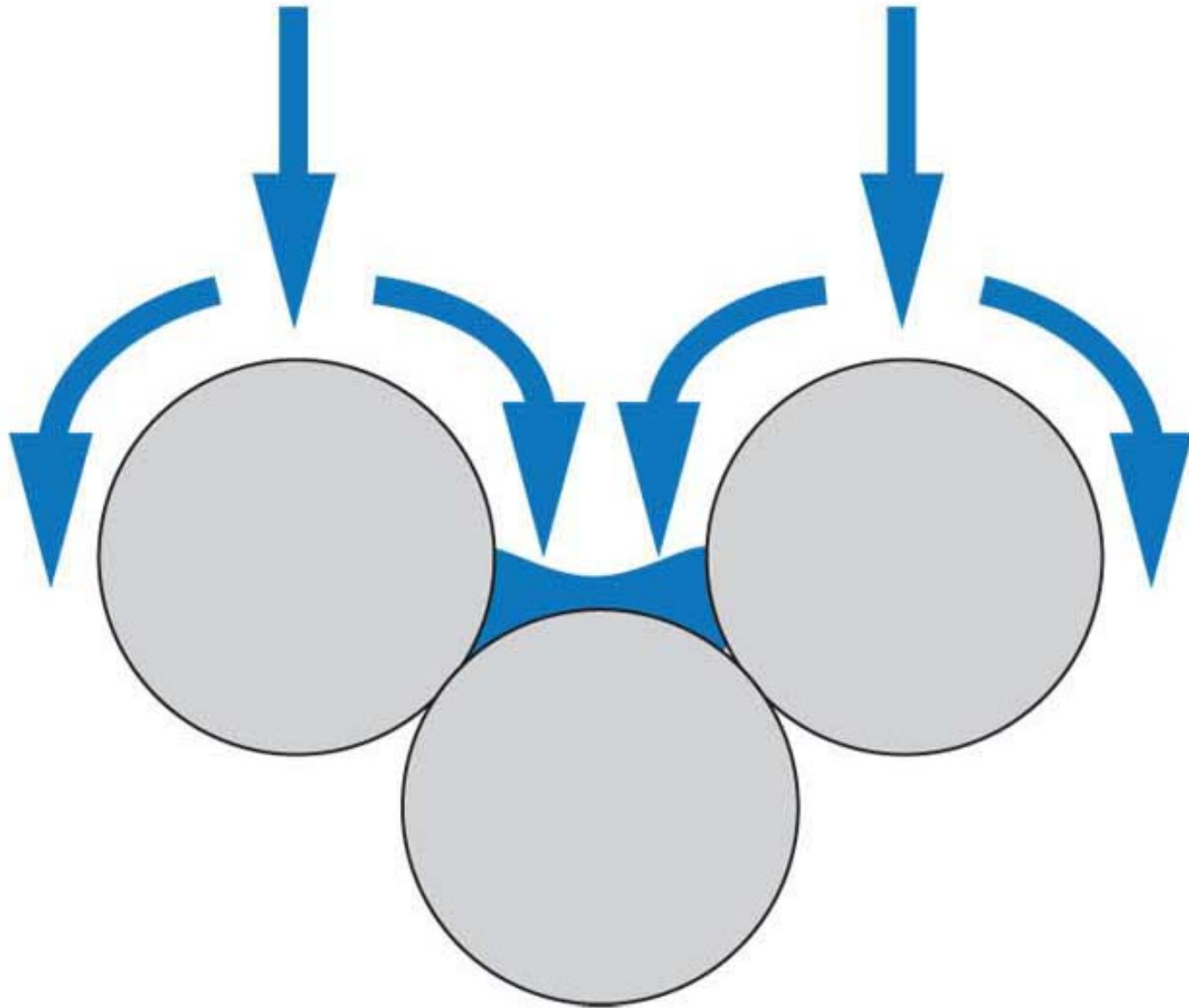
$$P_e = P_c > P_i$$

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

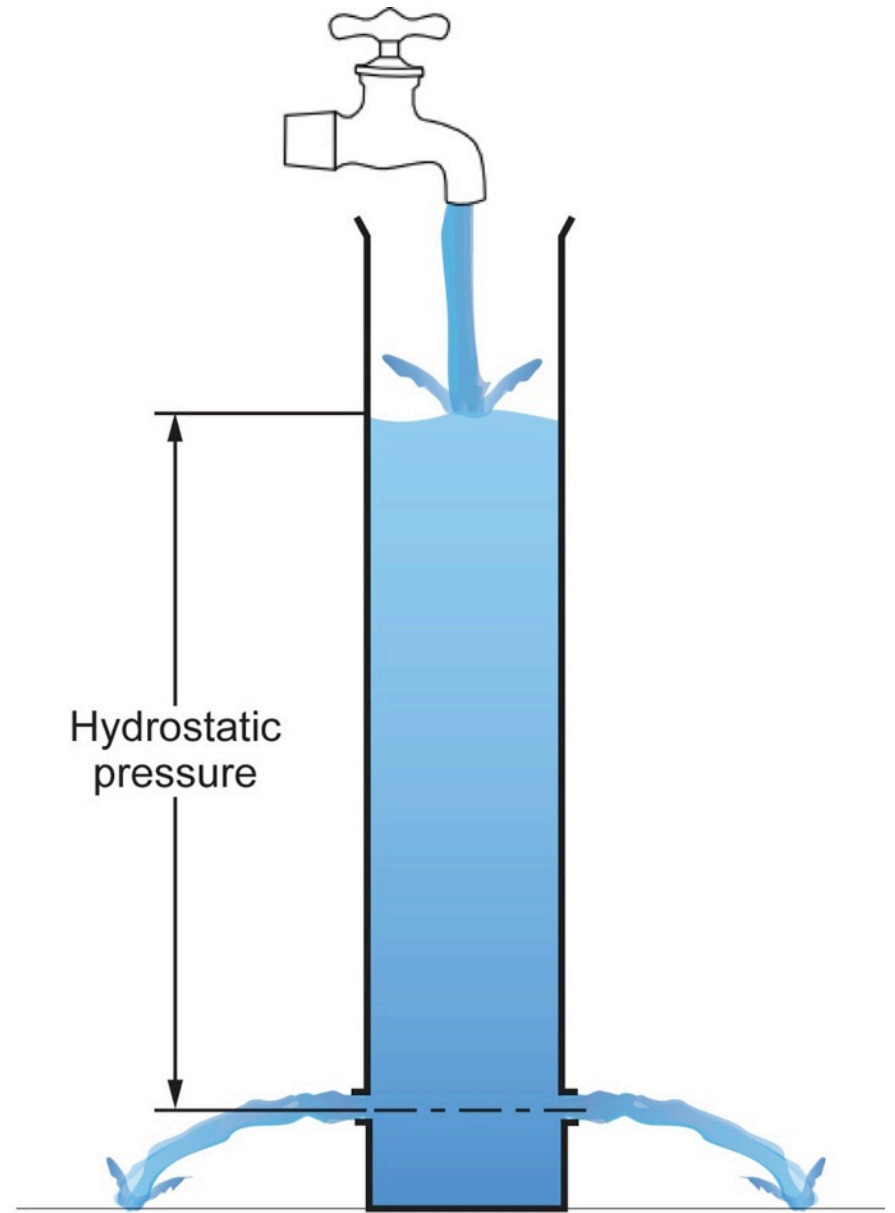
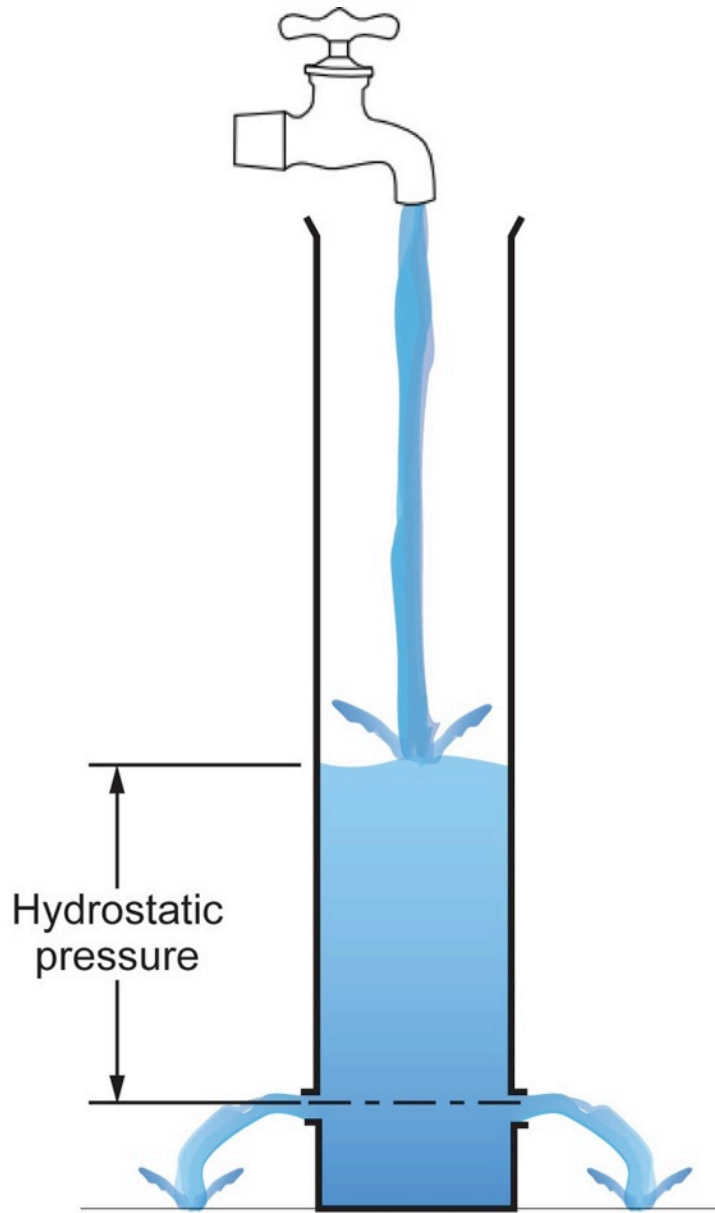


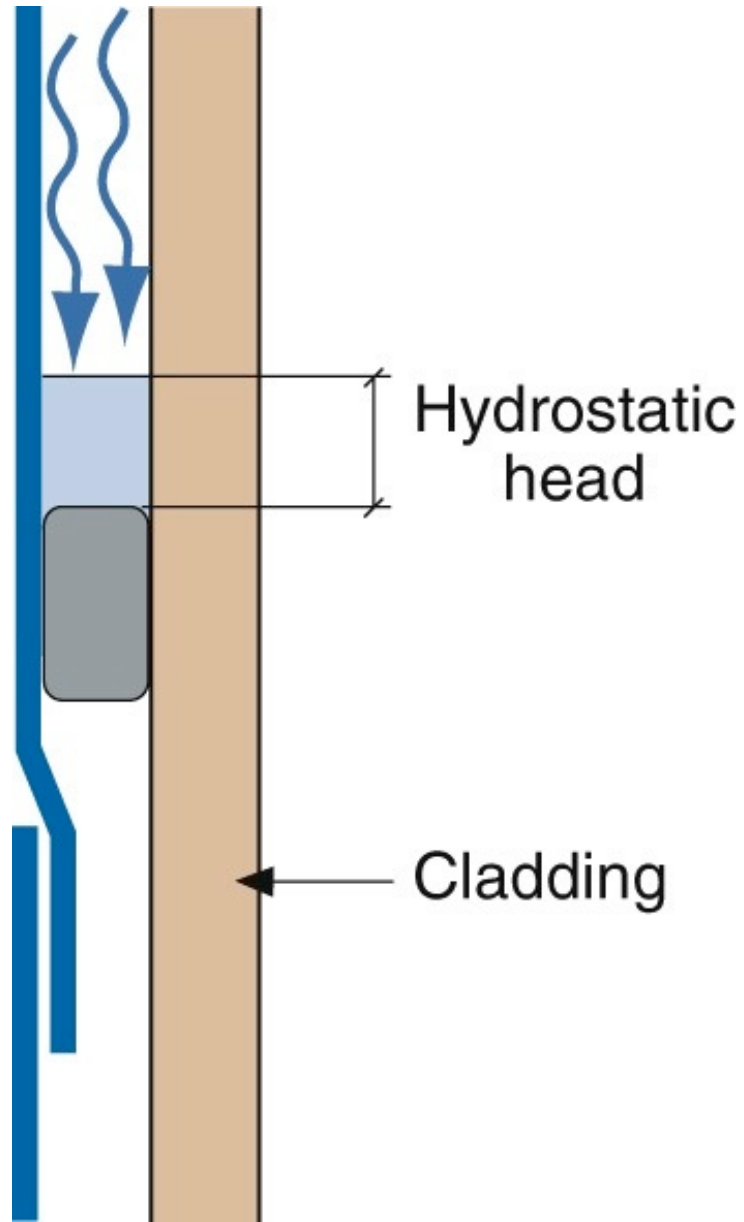


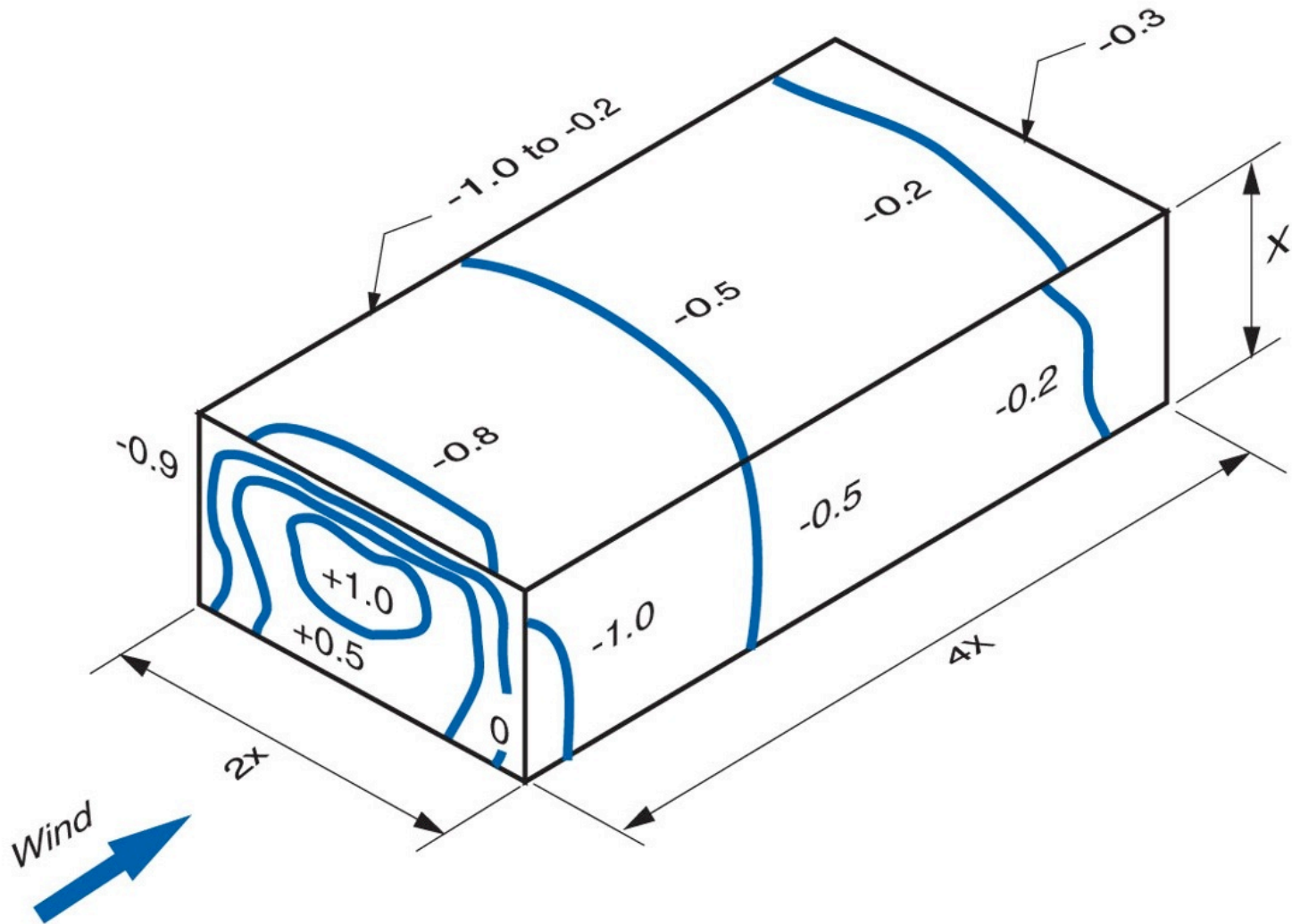






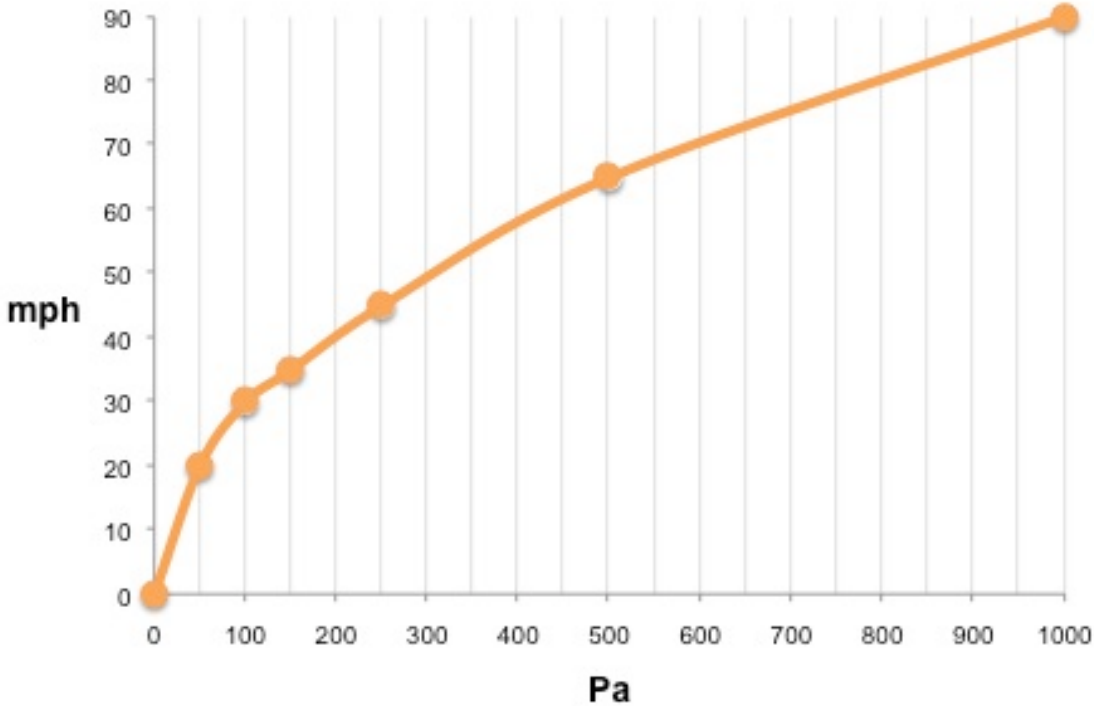






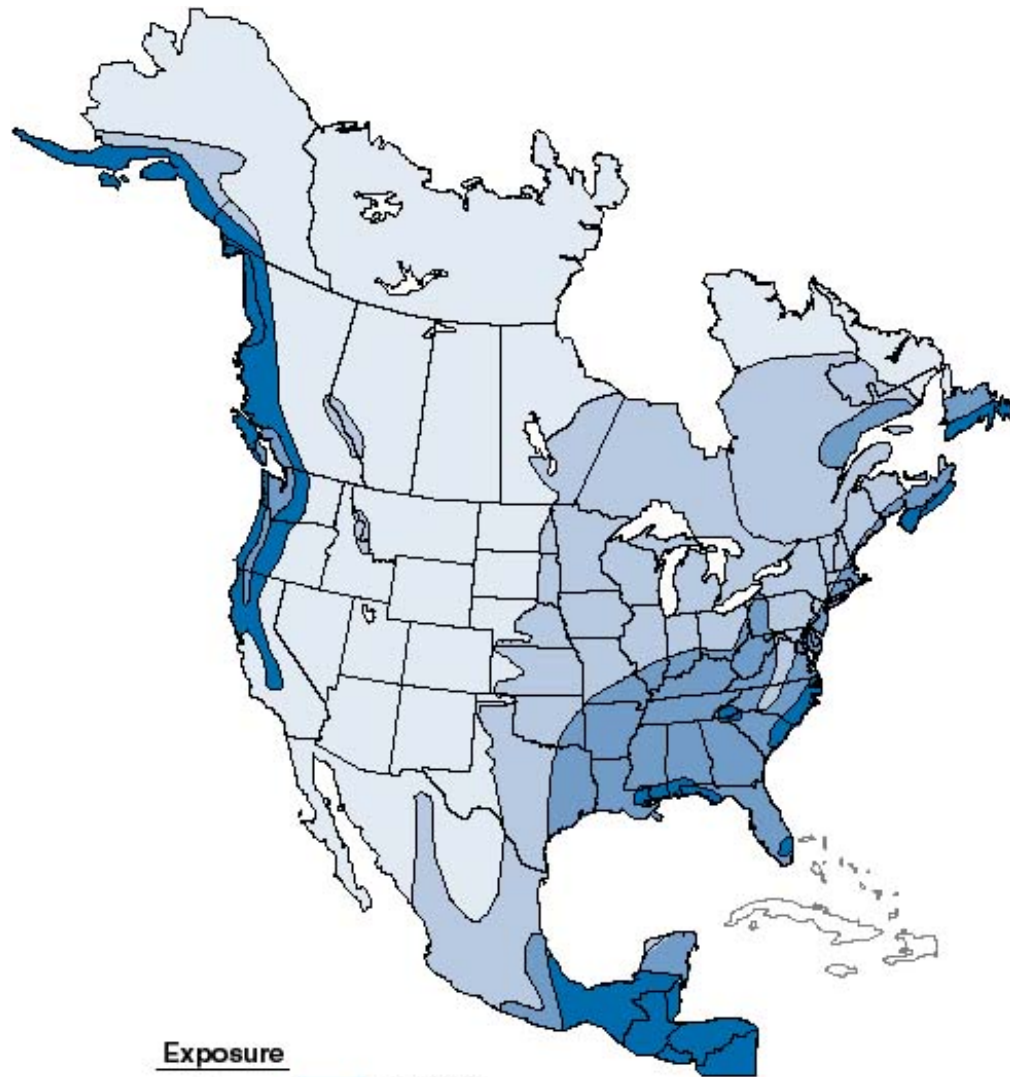
Pascals	mph
50	Pa = 20 mph
100	Pa = 30 mph
150	Pa = 35 mph
250	Pa = 45 mph
500	Pa = 65 mph
1,000	Pa = 90 mph

Wind Speed (mph) vs. Stagnation Pressure (Pa)







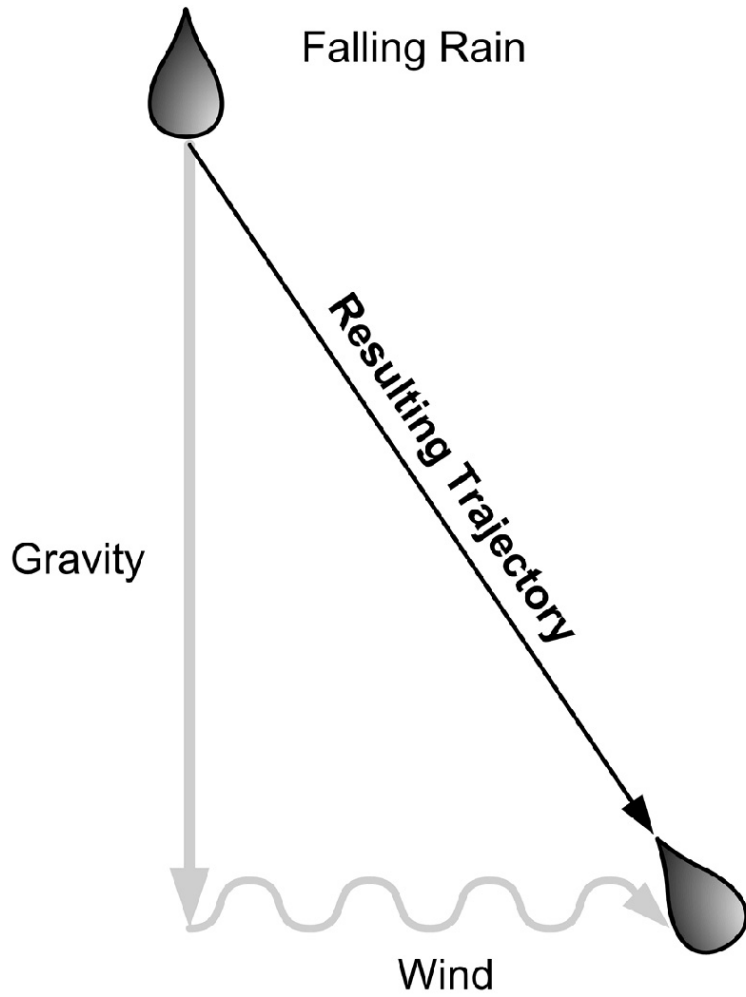
All We Have To Figure Out Is How Much Hits
The Wall

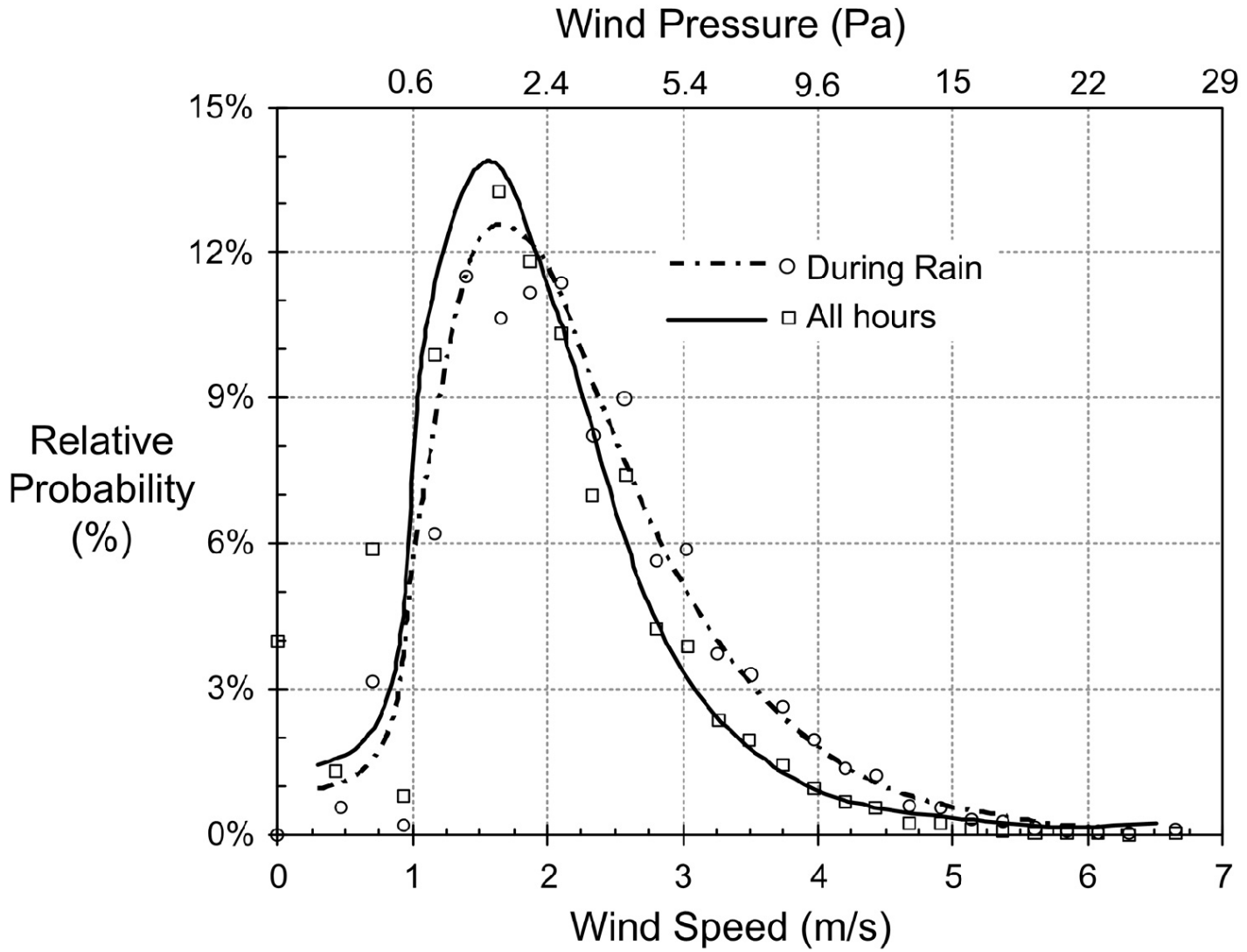
All We Have To Figure Out Is How Much Hits
The Wall
We Need Straube and Kuenzel

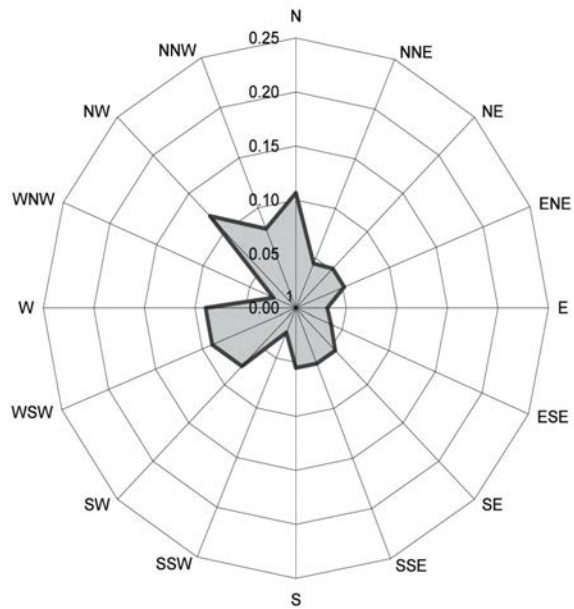
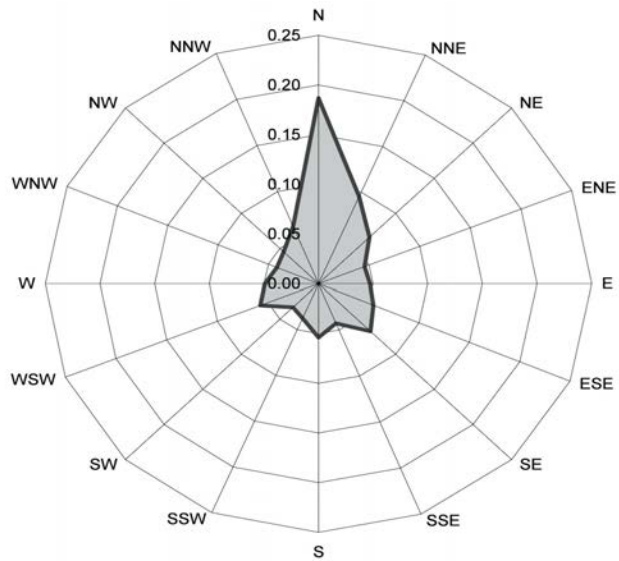


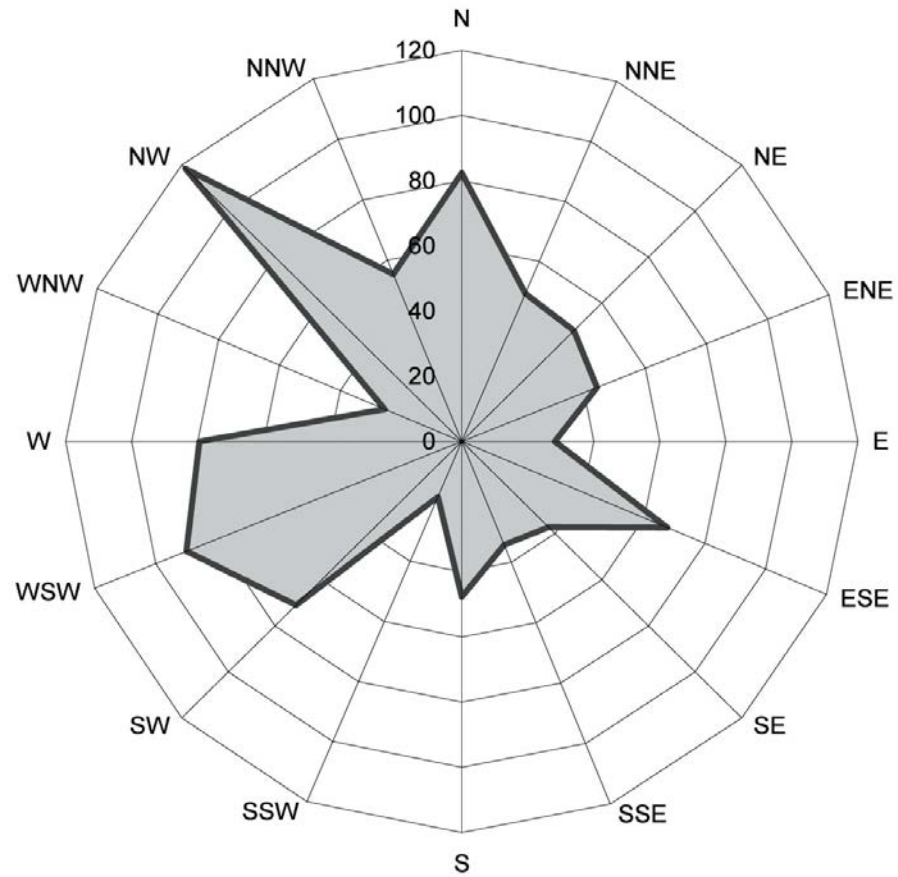
Exposure

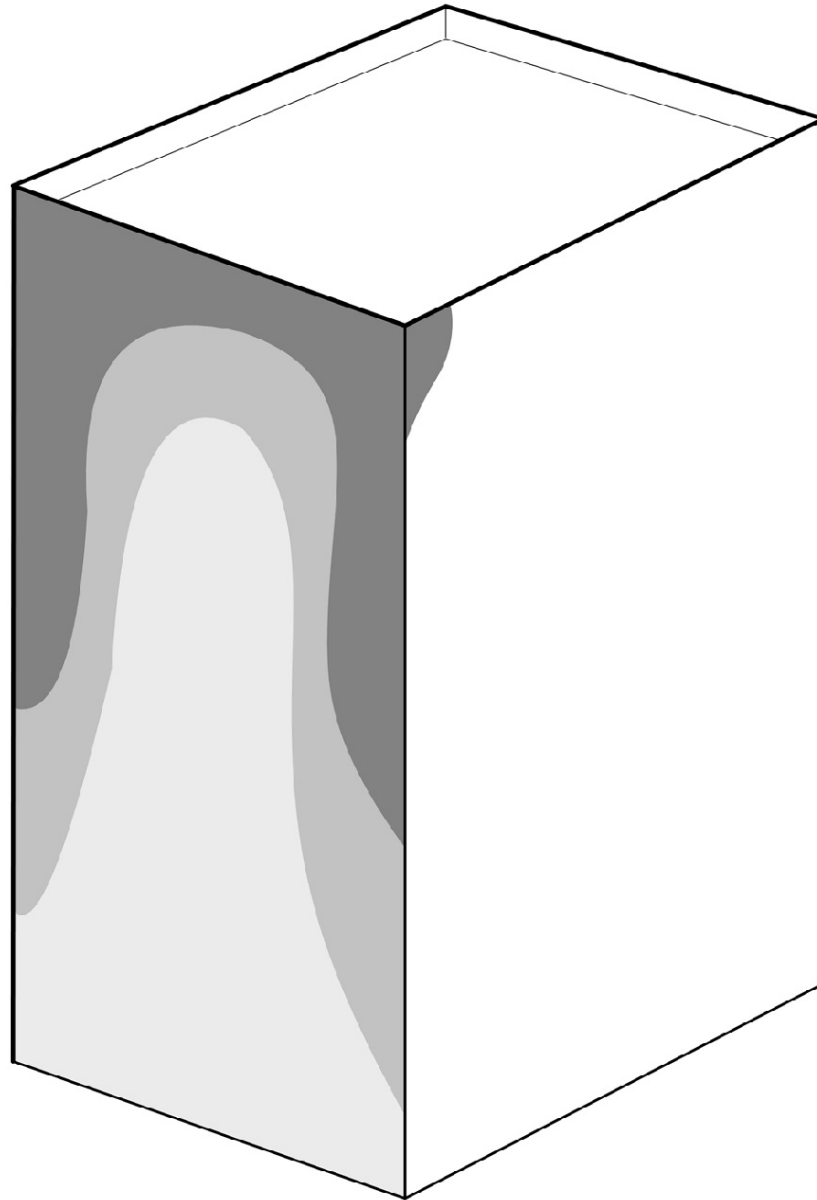
Extreme		Over 60"
High		40" - 60"
Moderate		20" - 40"
Low		Under 20"

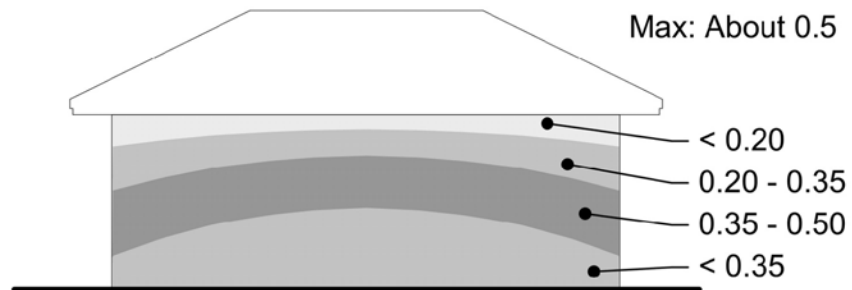
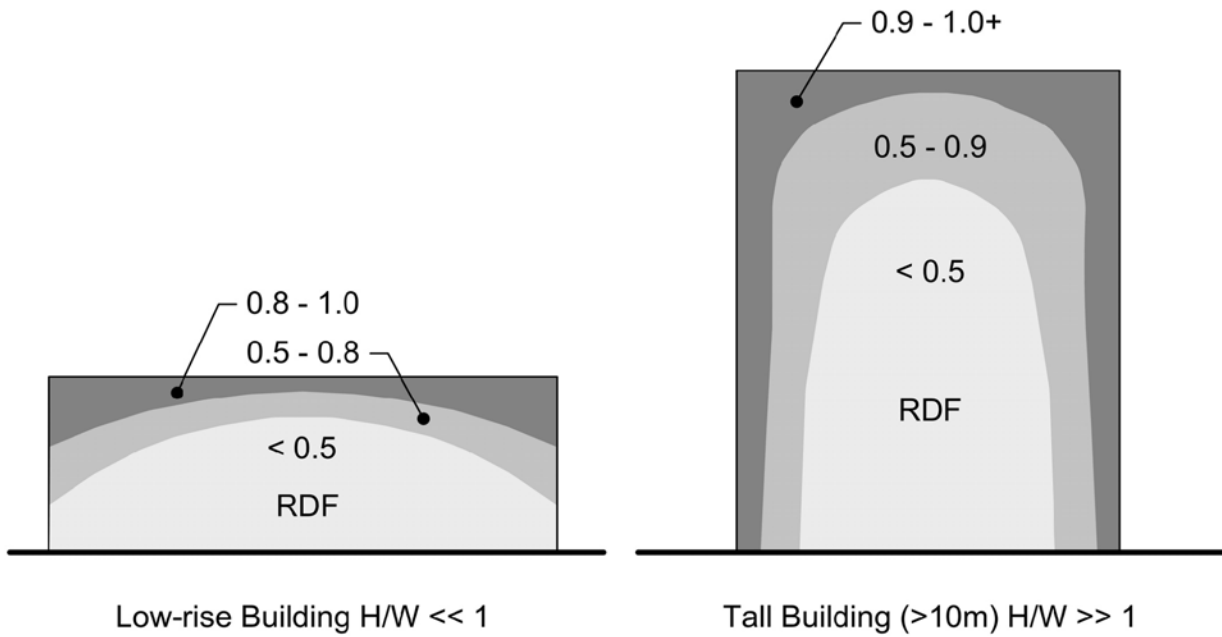












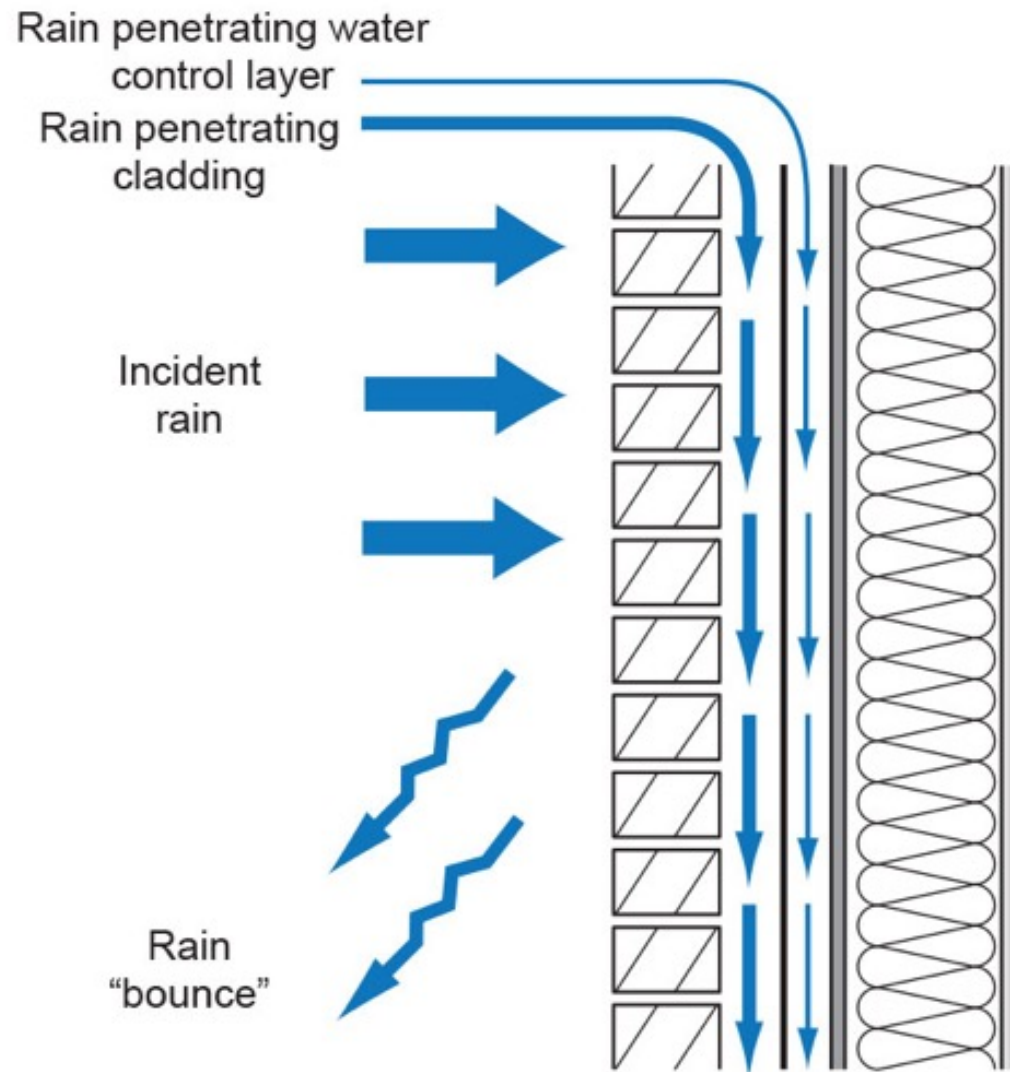
We use Straube/Kuenzel to determine how much rain water impinges on the wall.

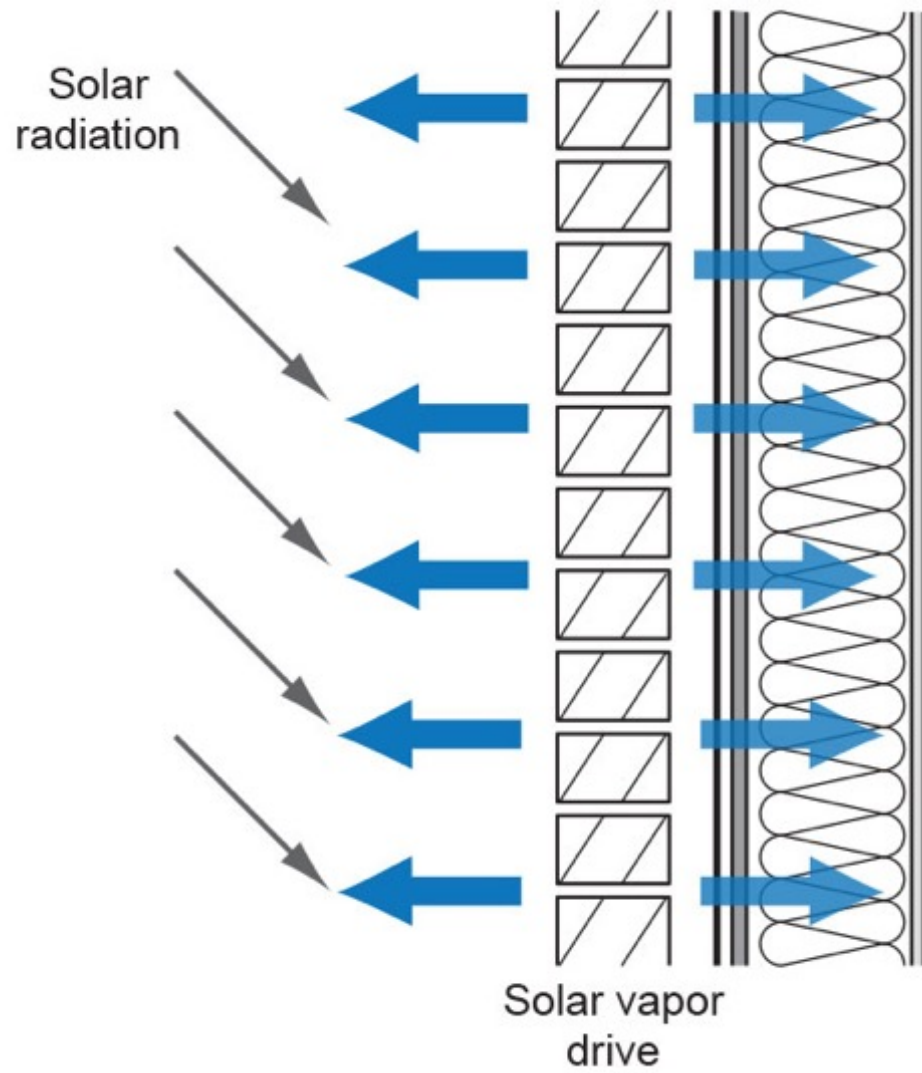
We assume 30% bounces off
70% stays on the wall.

The 70% that stays on the wall is addressed by liquid conductivity (capillary flow) and vapor diffusion.

We assume 1% of the 70% penetrates to the back side of the cladding.

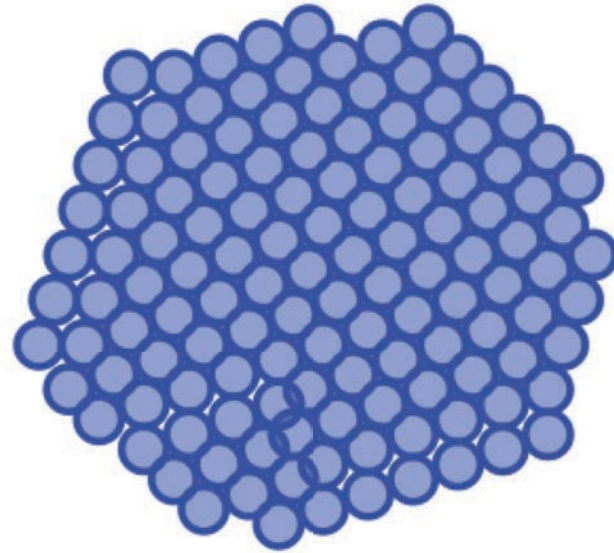
We further assume that 1% of the 1% gets past the water control layer into the sheathing.



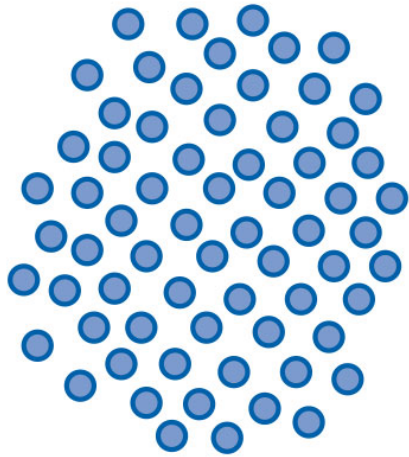




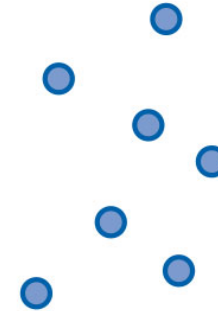
Vapor



Liquid



DIFFUSION

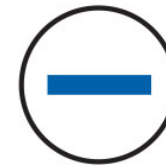


**Higher Dewpoint Temperature
Higher Water Vapor Density
or Concentration
(Higher Vapor Pressure)
on Warm Side of Assembly**

**Low Dewpoint Temperature
Lower Water Vapor Density
or Concentration
(Lower Vapor Pressure)
on Cold Side of Assembly**

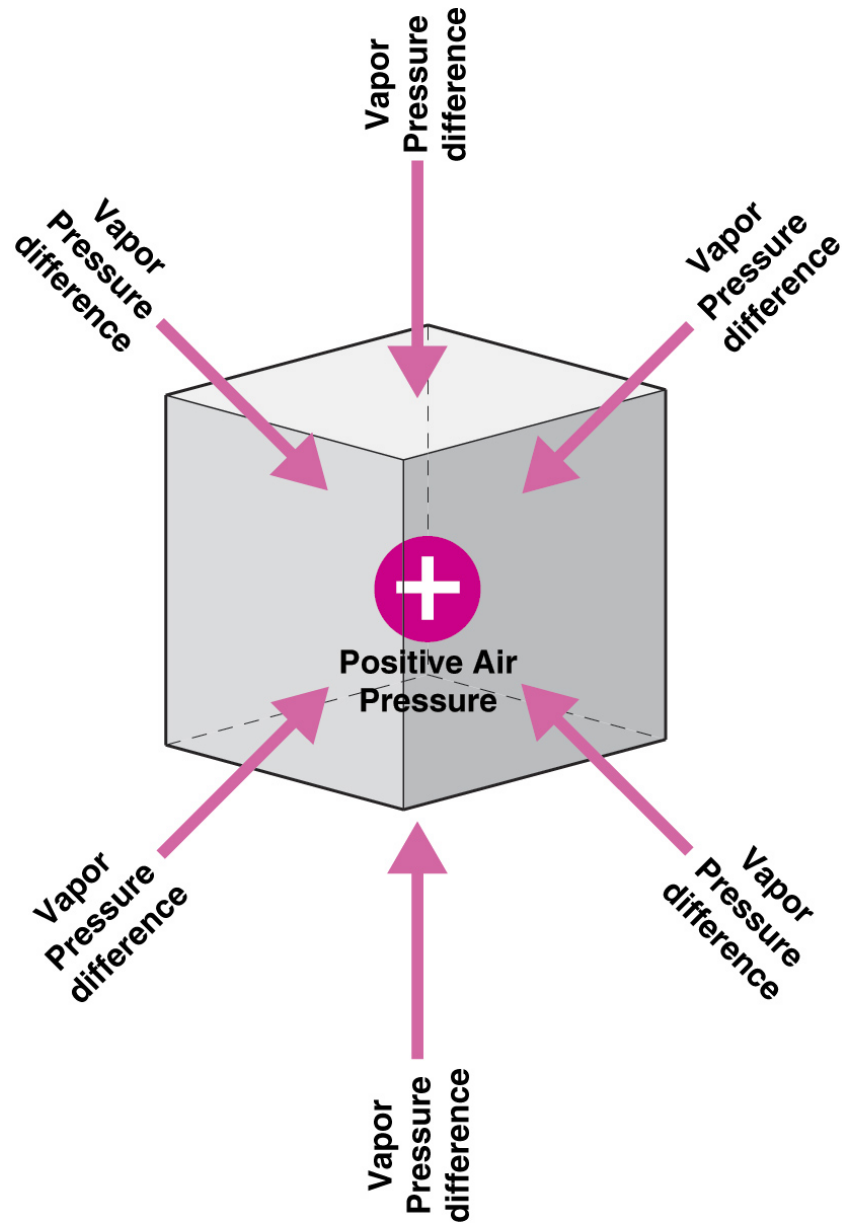


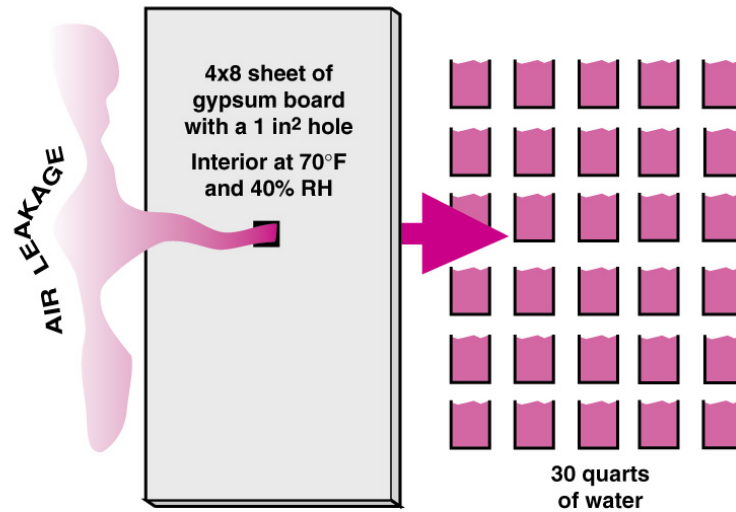
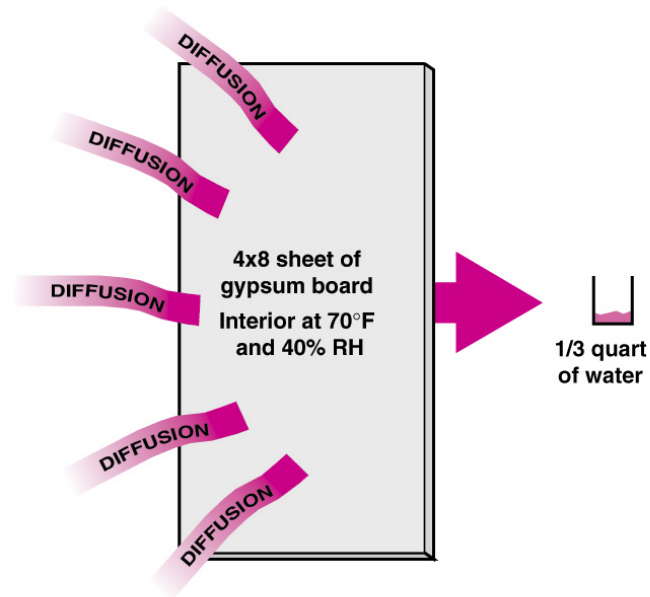
AIR TRANSPORT

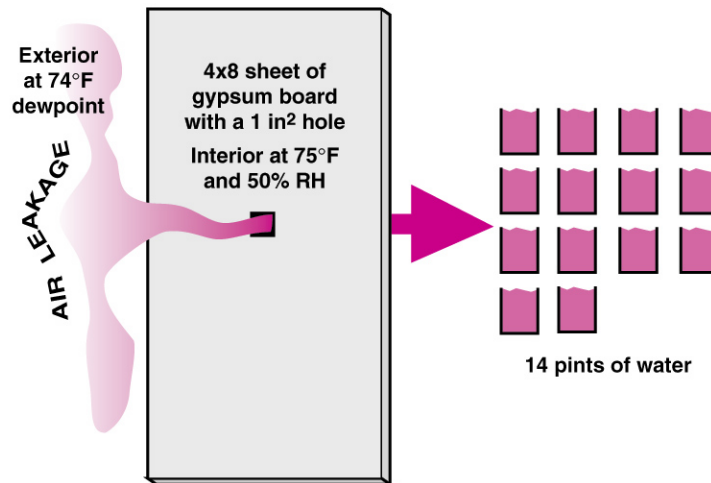
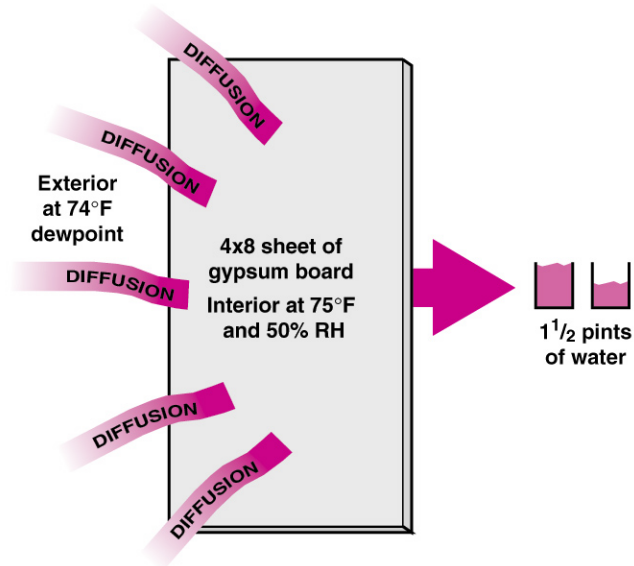


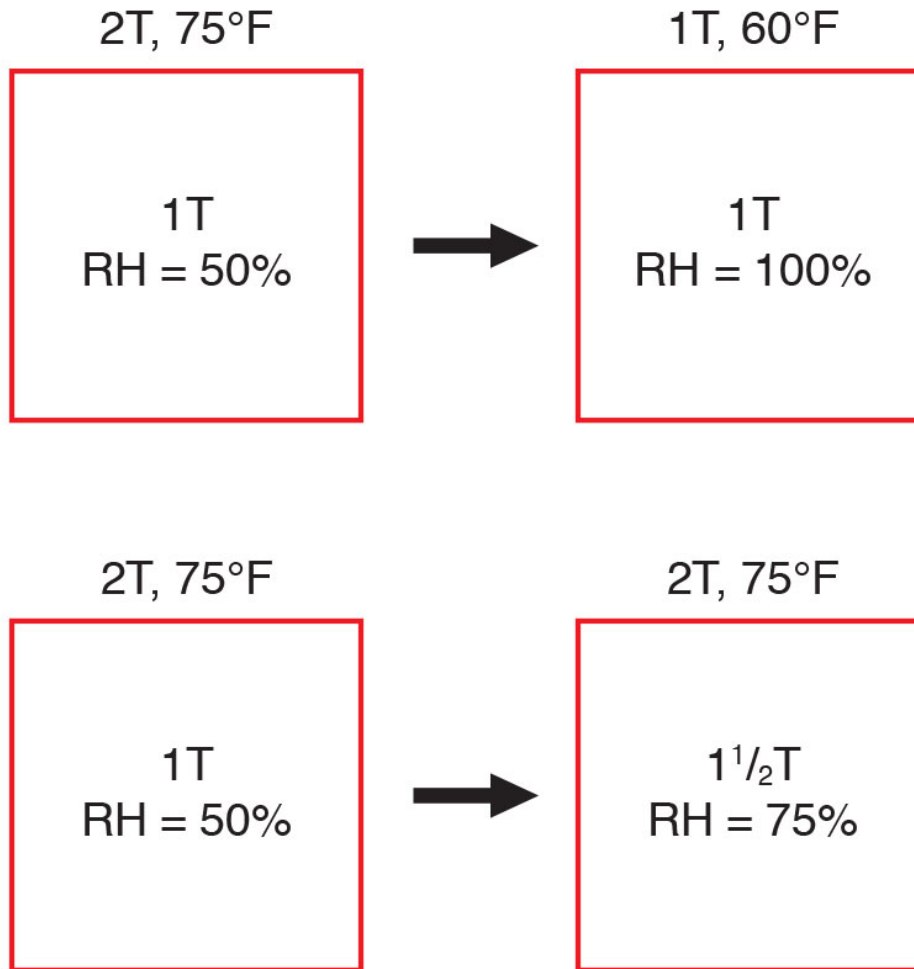
**Higher Air
Pressure**

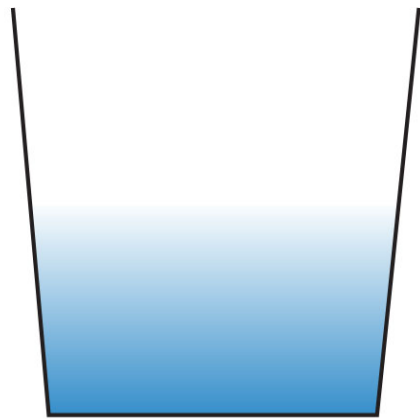
**Lower Air
Pressure**



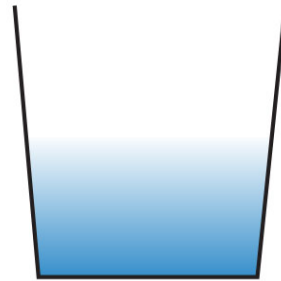




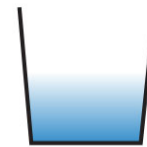




90°F
50% RH



75°F
50% RH



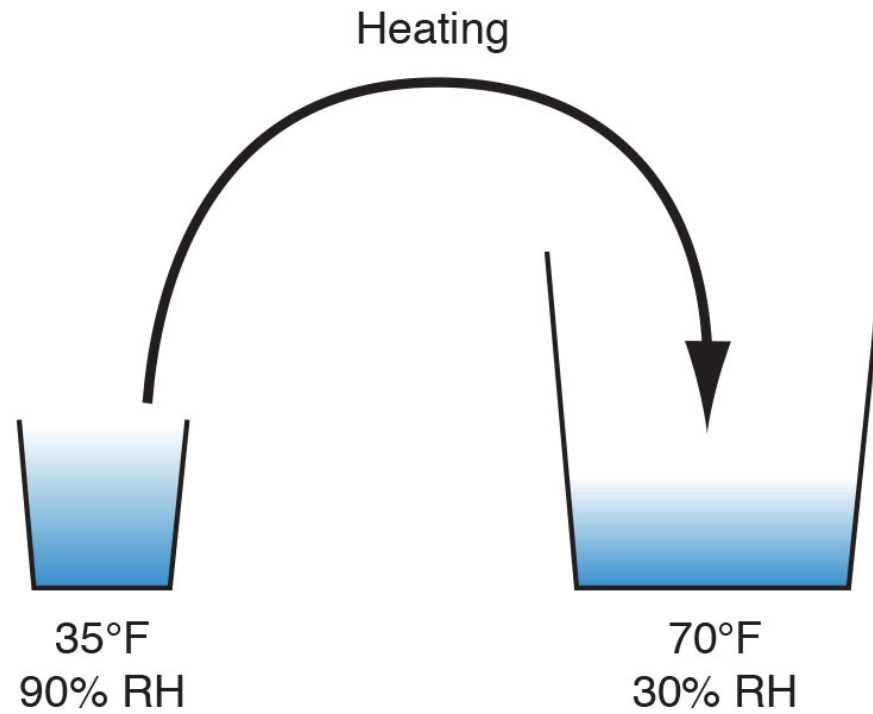
60°F
50% RH

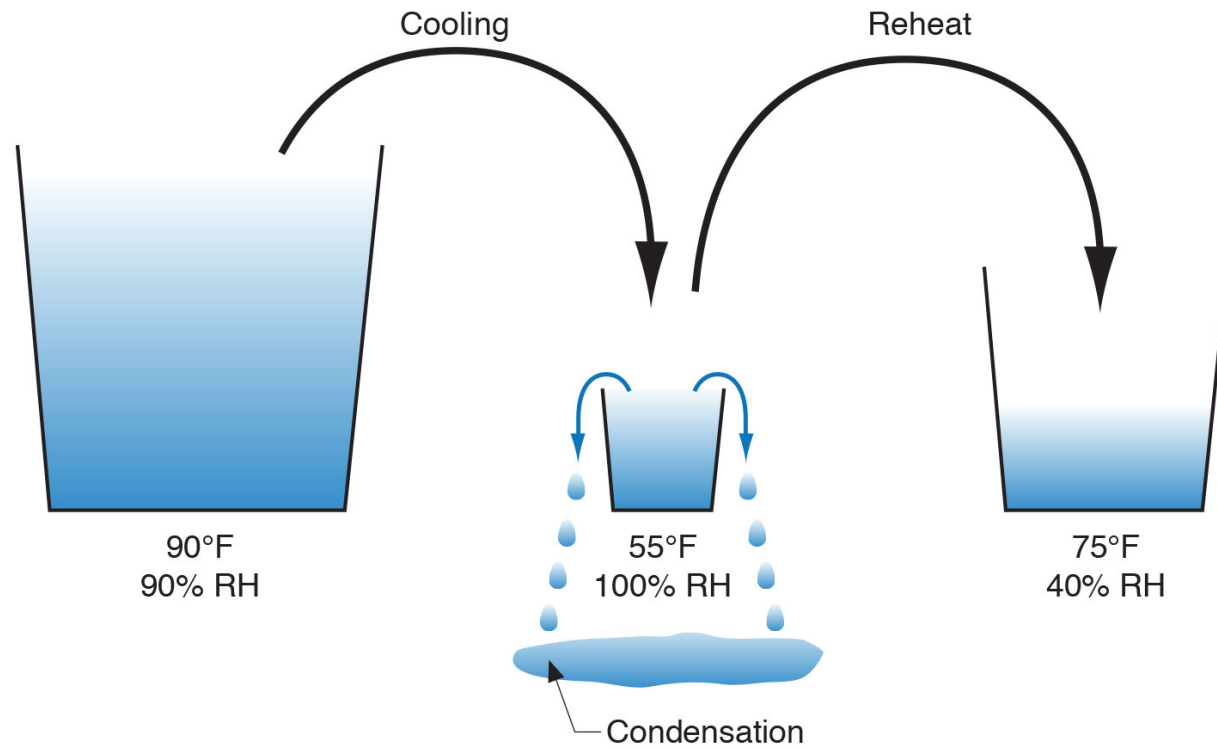


45°F
50% RH



30°F
50% RH







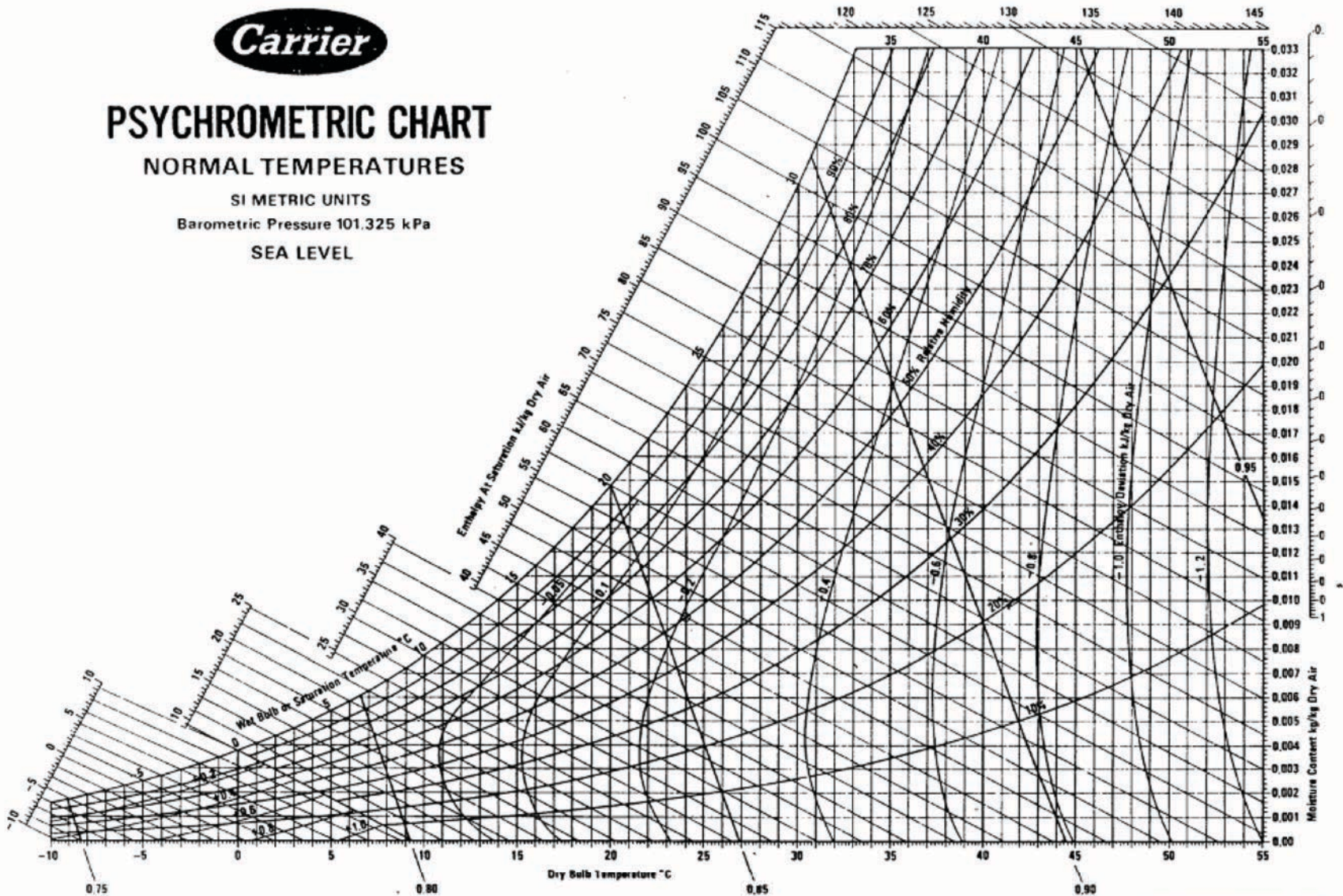
PSYCHROMETRIC CHART

NORMAL TEMPERATURES

SI METRIC UNITS

Barometric Pressure 101.325 kPa

SEA LEVEL



Below 0°C Properties and Enthalpy Deviation Lines Are For Ice

Copyright ©Carrier Corporation 1975
Cat. No. 794 002 Printed in U.S.A.

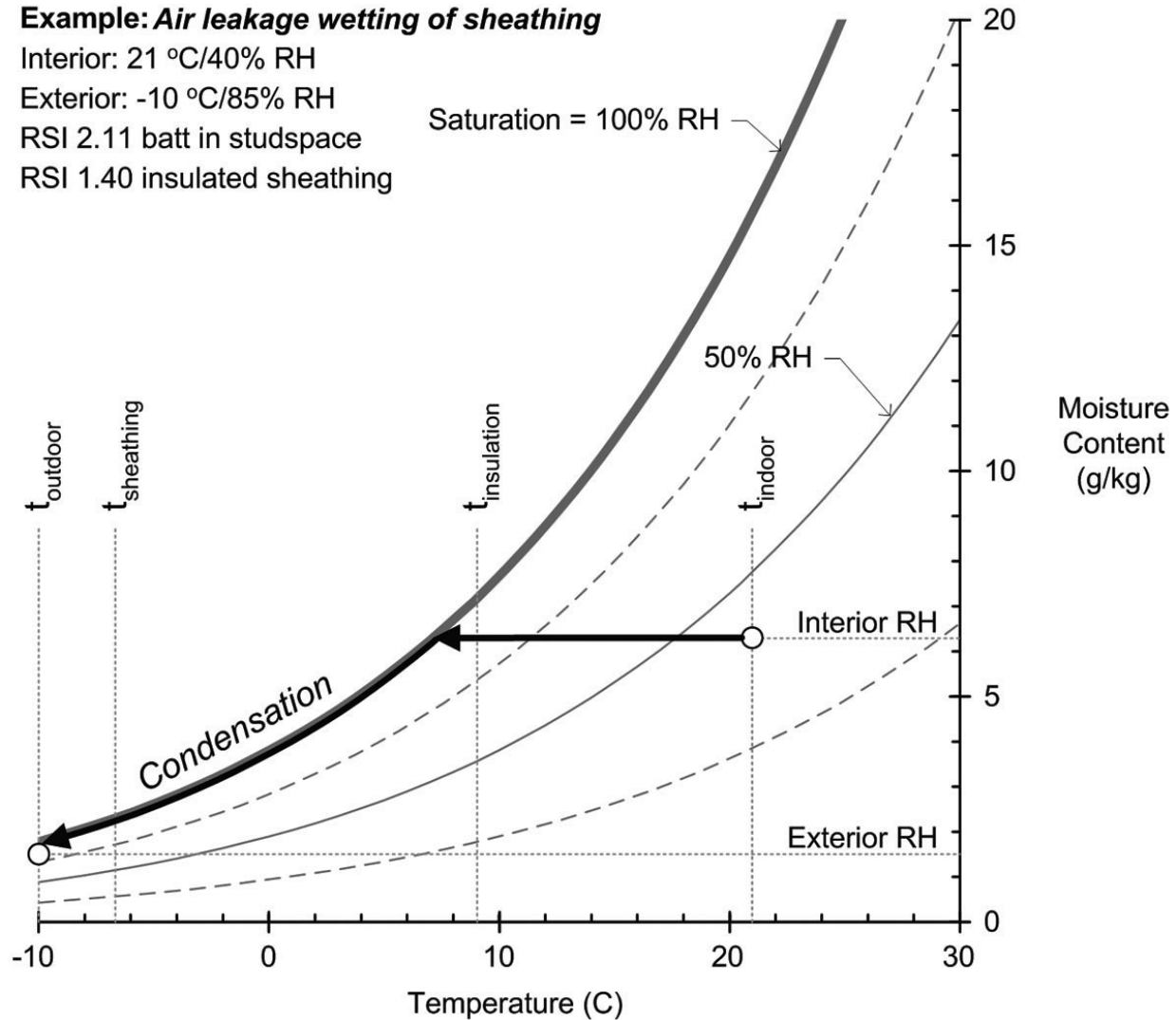
Example: Air leakage wetting of sheathing

Interior: 21 °C/40% RH

Exterior: -10 °C/85% RH

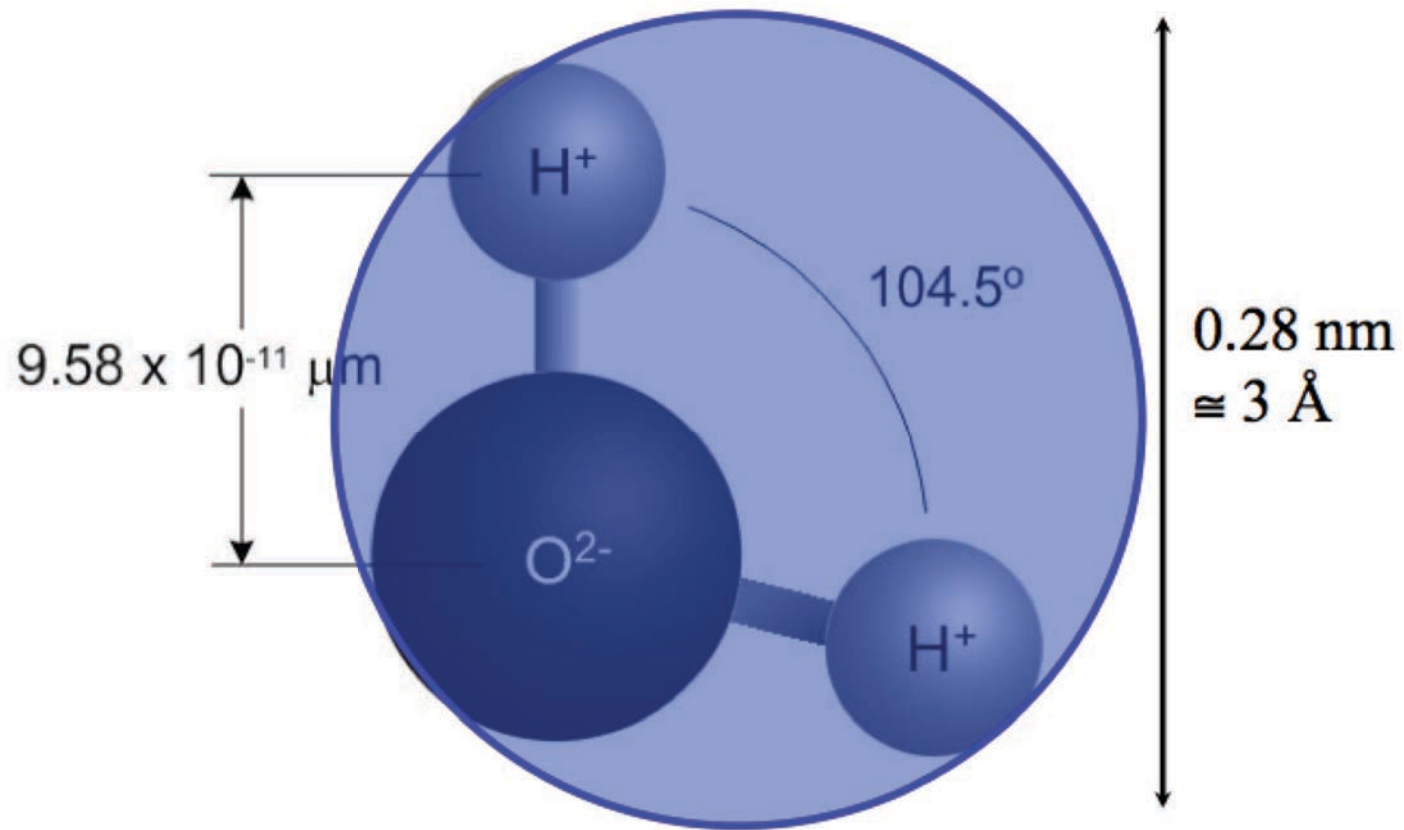
RSI 2.11 batt in studspace

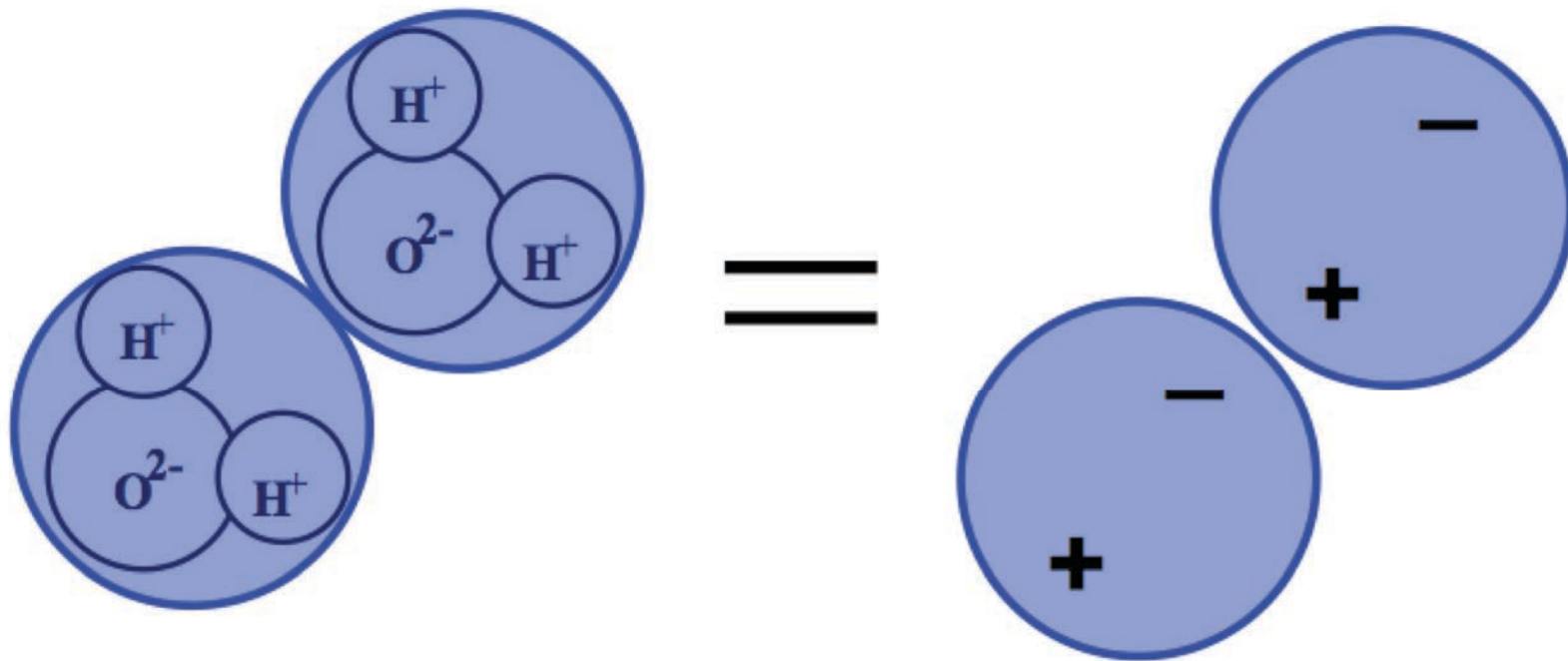
RSI 1.40 insulated sheathing

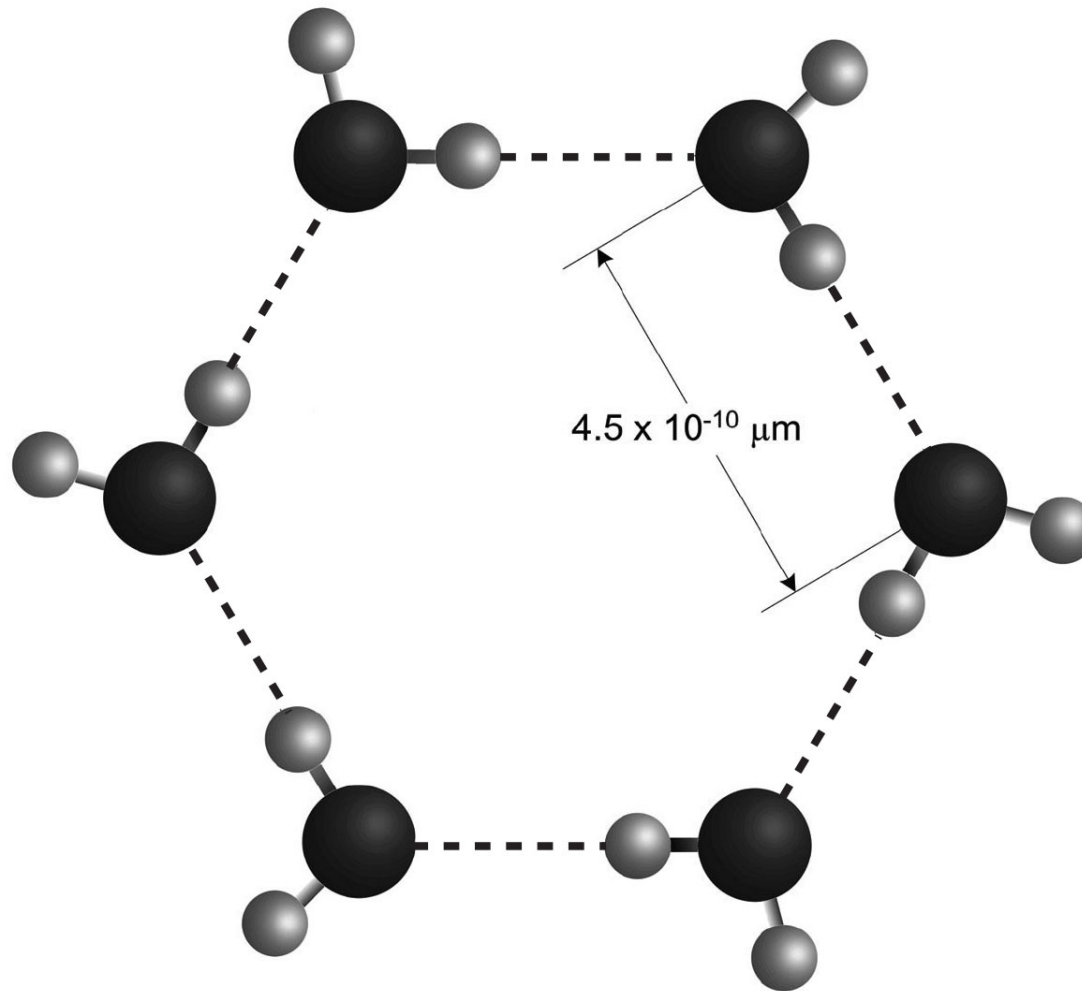


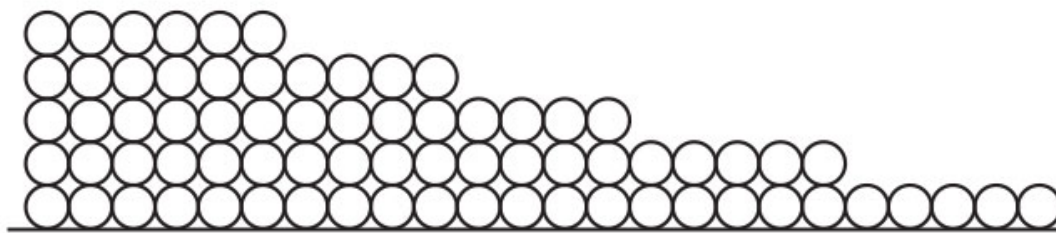
Cooling and condensation

From Straube & Burnett, 2005

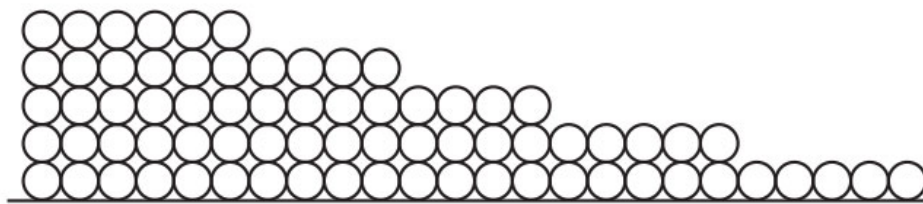








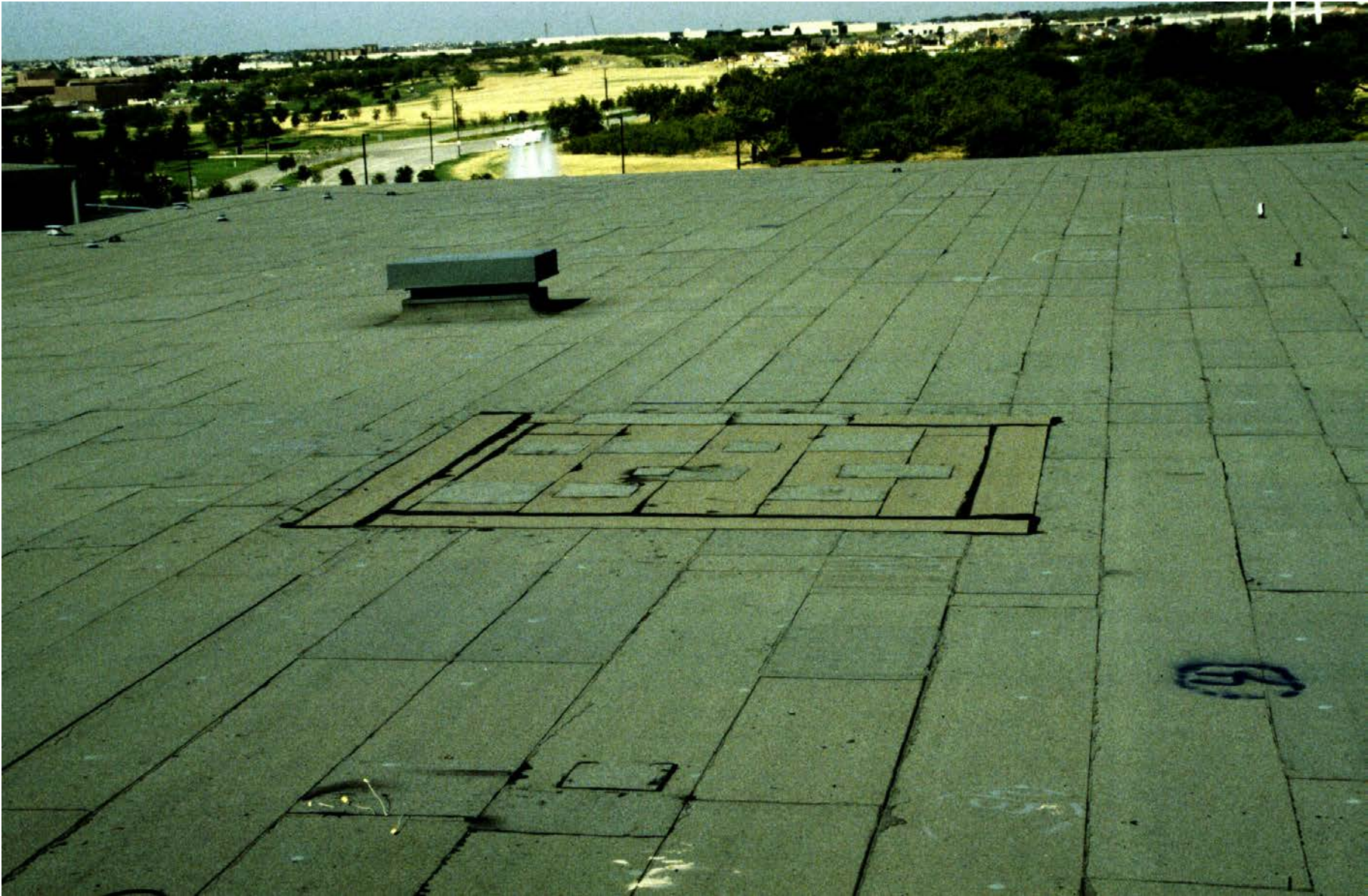
↑
Monolayers of
adsorbed water
increase with
increasing RH



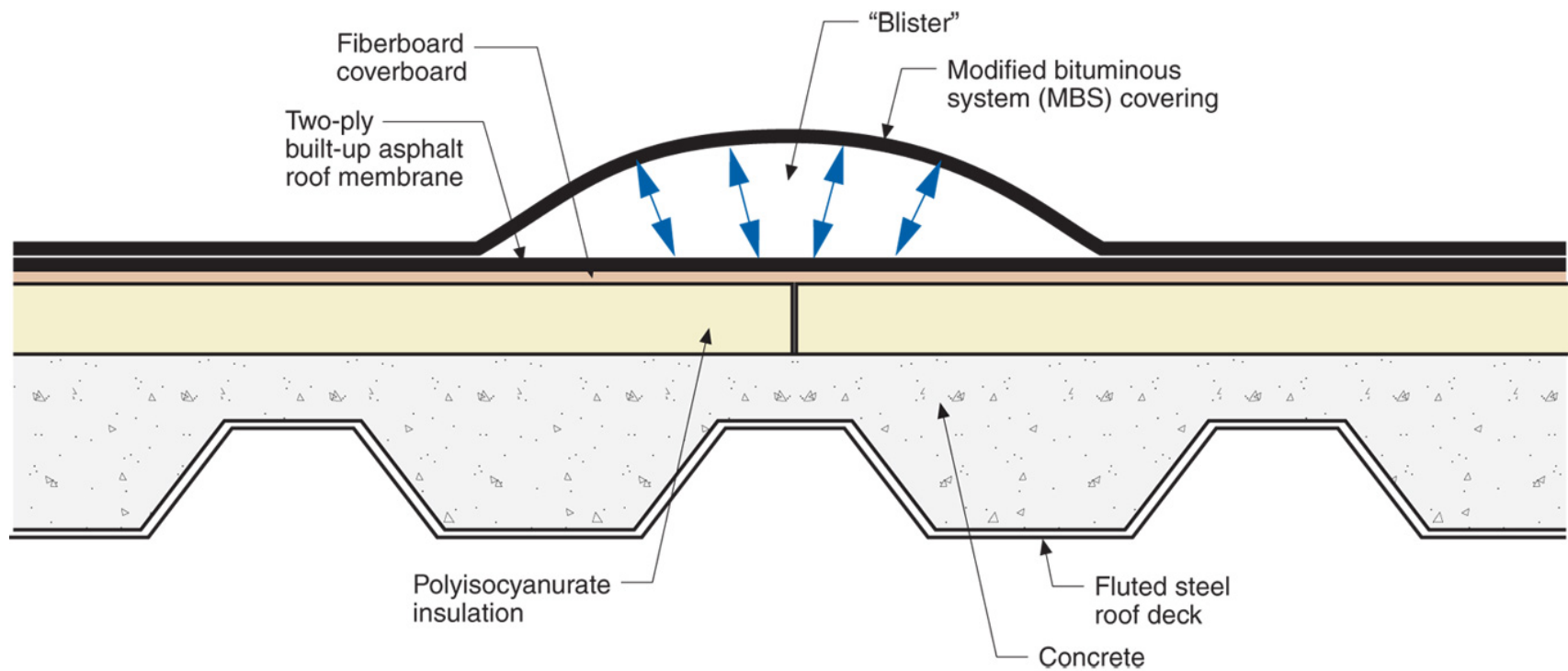
Monolayers
flow along surface
following concentration gradient

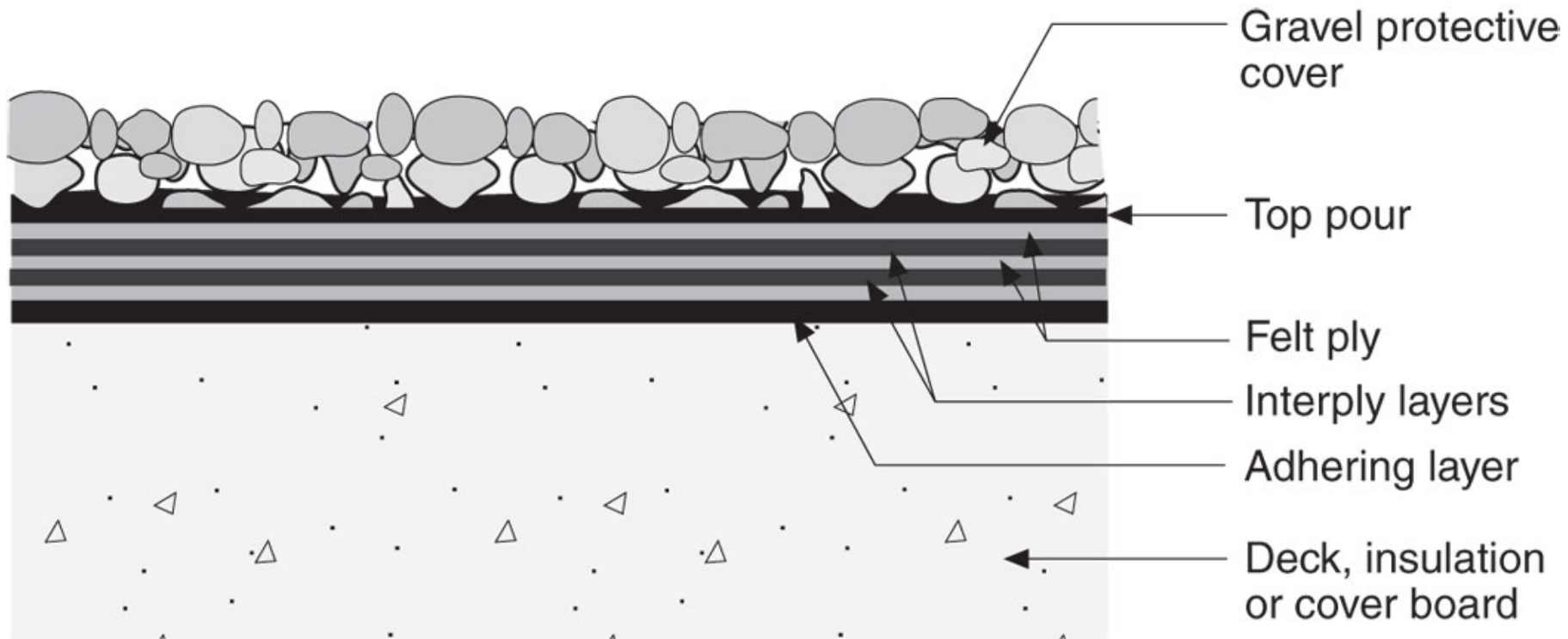




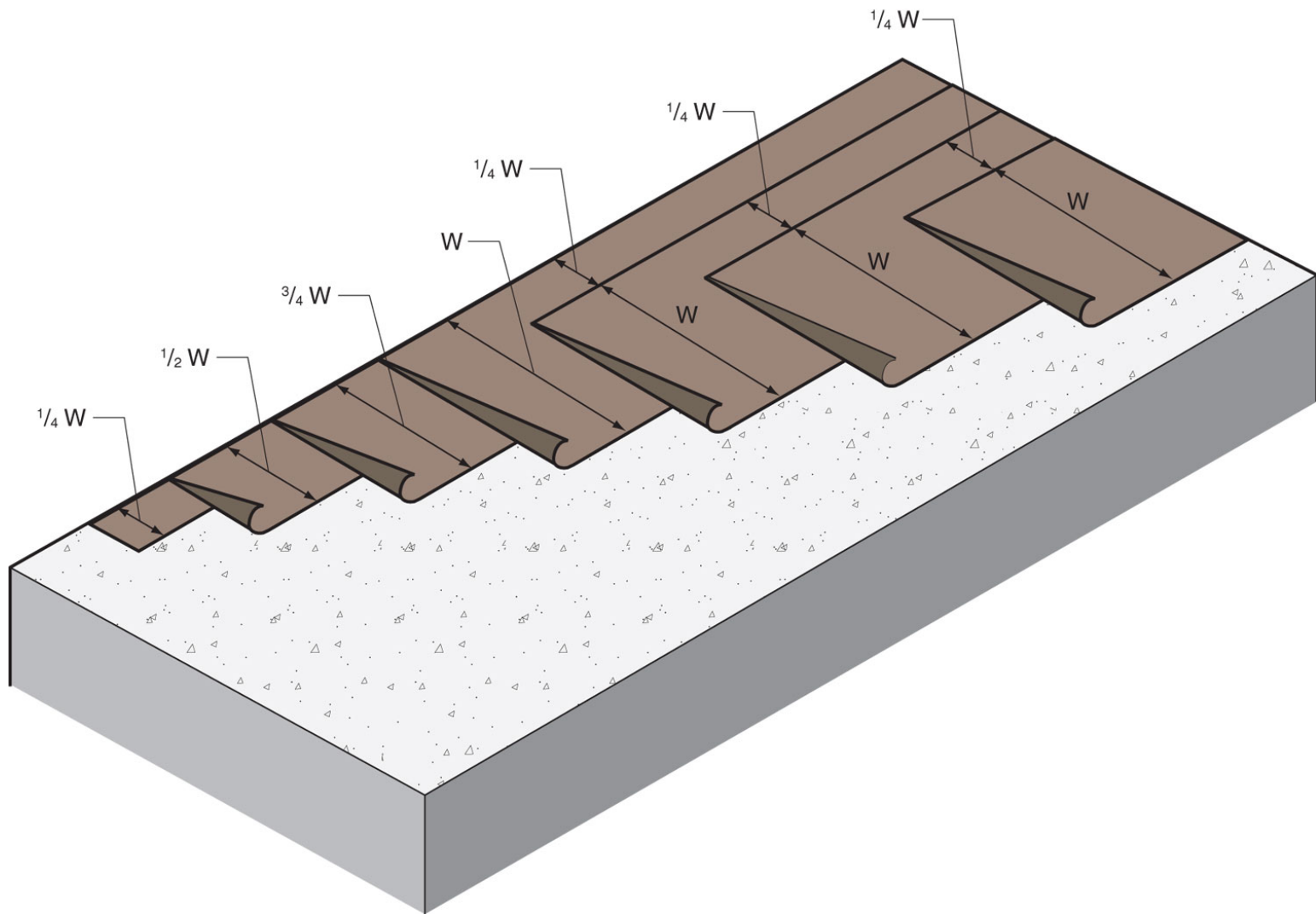


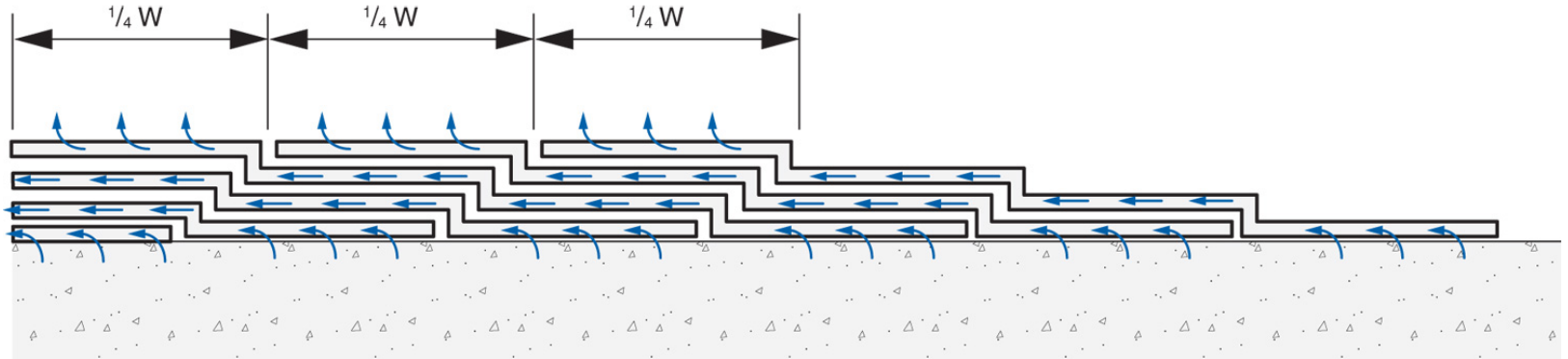


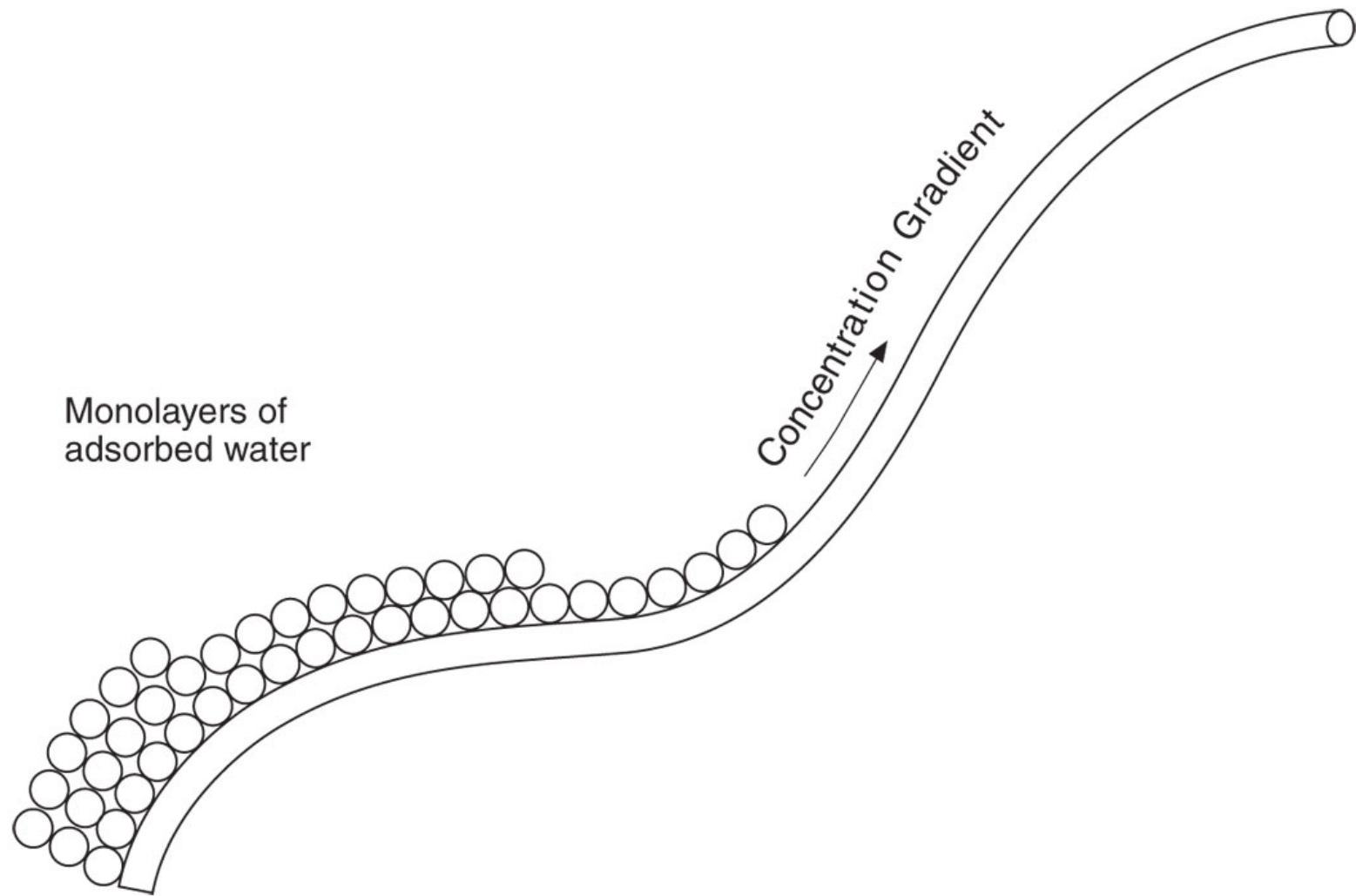


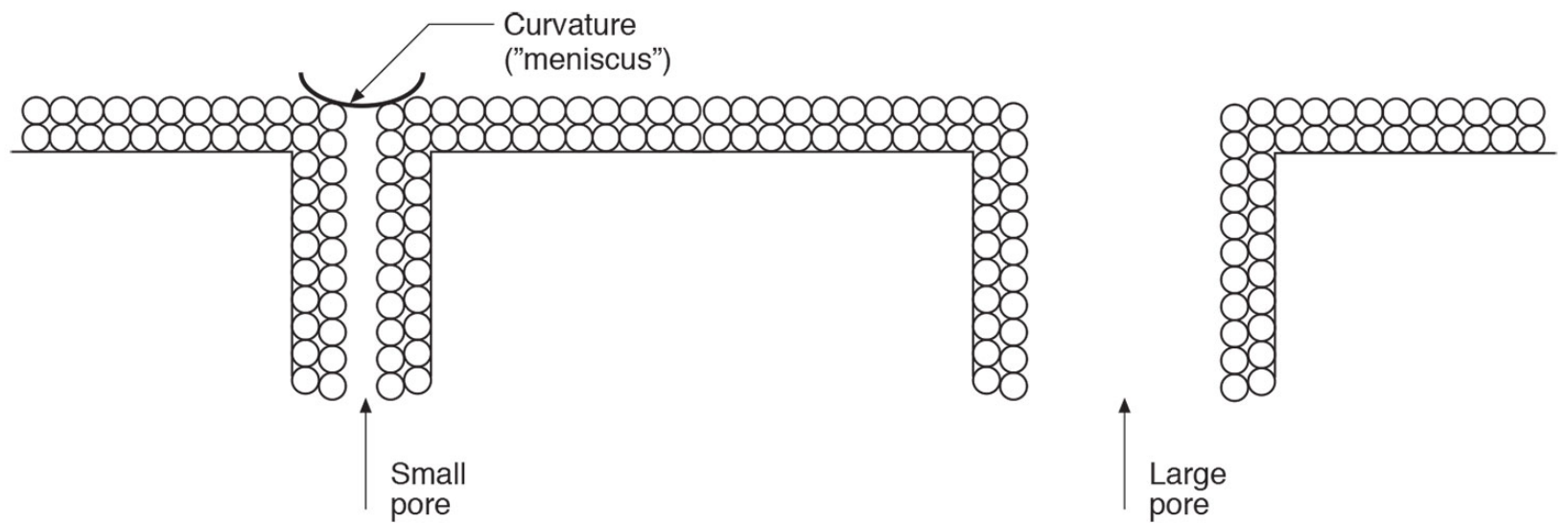


From Baker, M.; Roofs, 1980







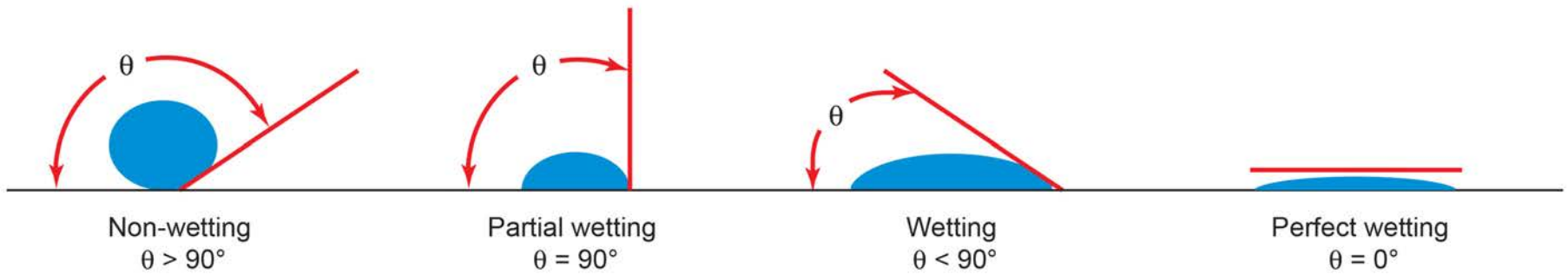




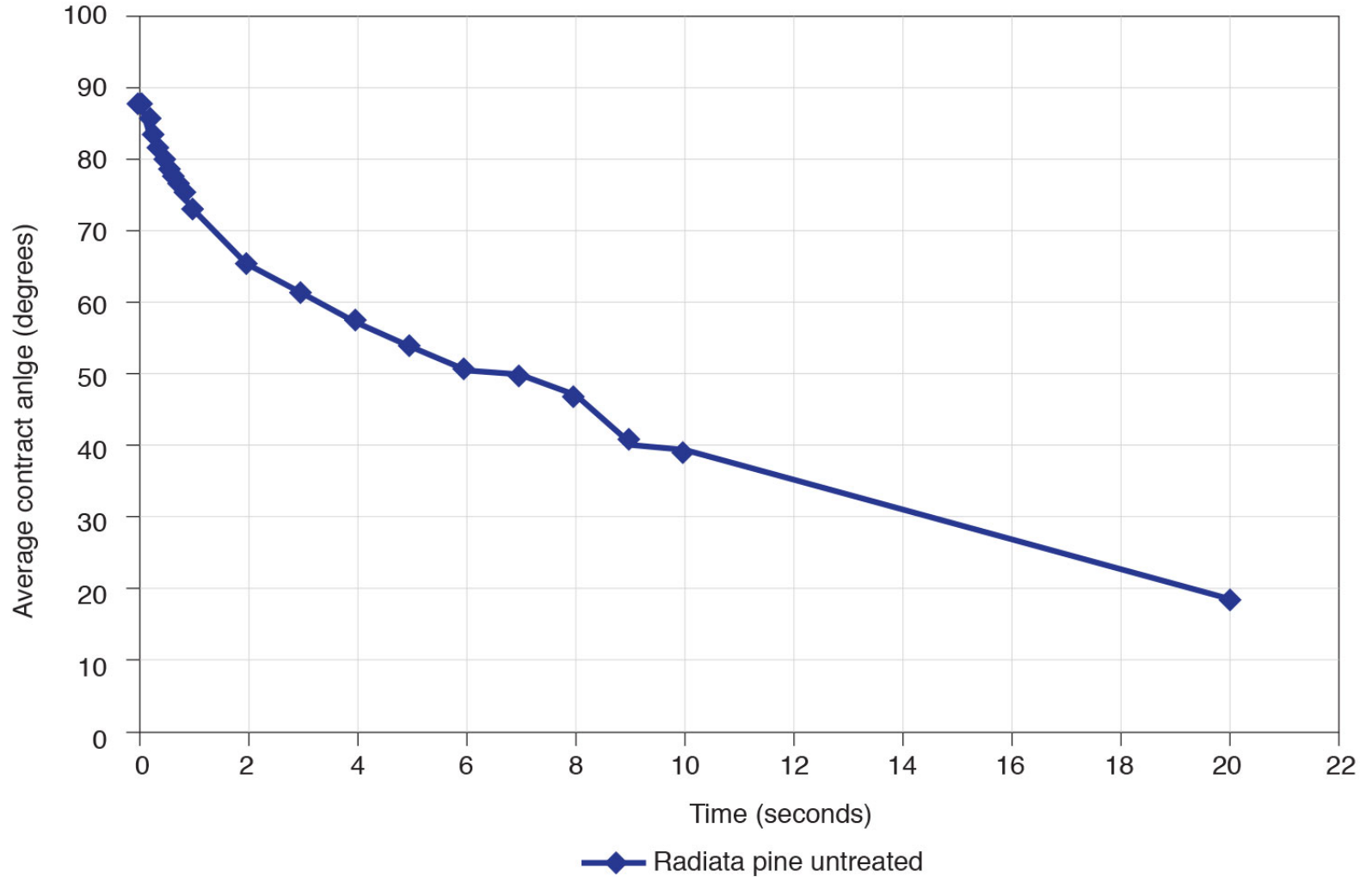


- “non-wetable” surface
- water repellent surface
- hydrophobic surface
- water more attracted to itself than to surface
- surface energy of water greater than surface energy of surface
- water “beads up”
- “greasy” surface
- high contact angle “ θ ”

- “wetable” surface
- non-water repellent surface
- hydrophilic surface
- water more attracted to surface than itself
- surface energy of surface greater than surface energy of water
- water “spreads out”
- “non-greasy” surface
- low contact angle “ θ ”



Contact Angle vs. Time for Pine

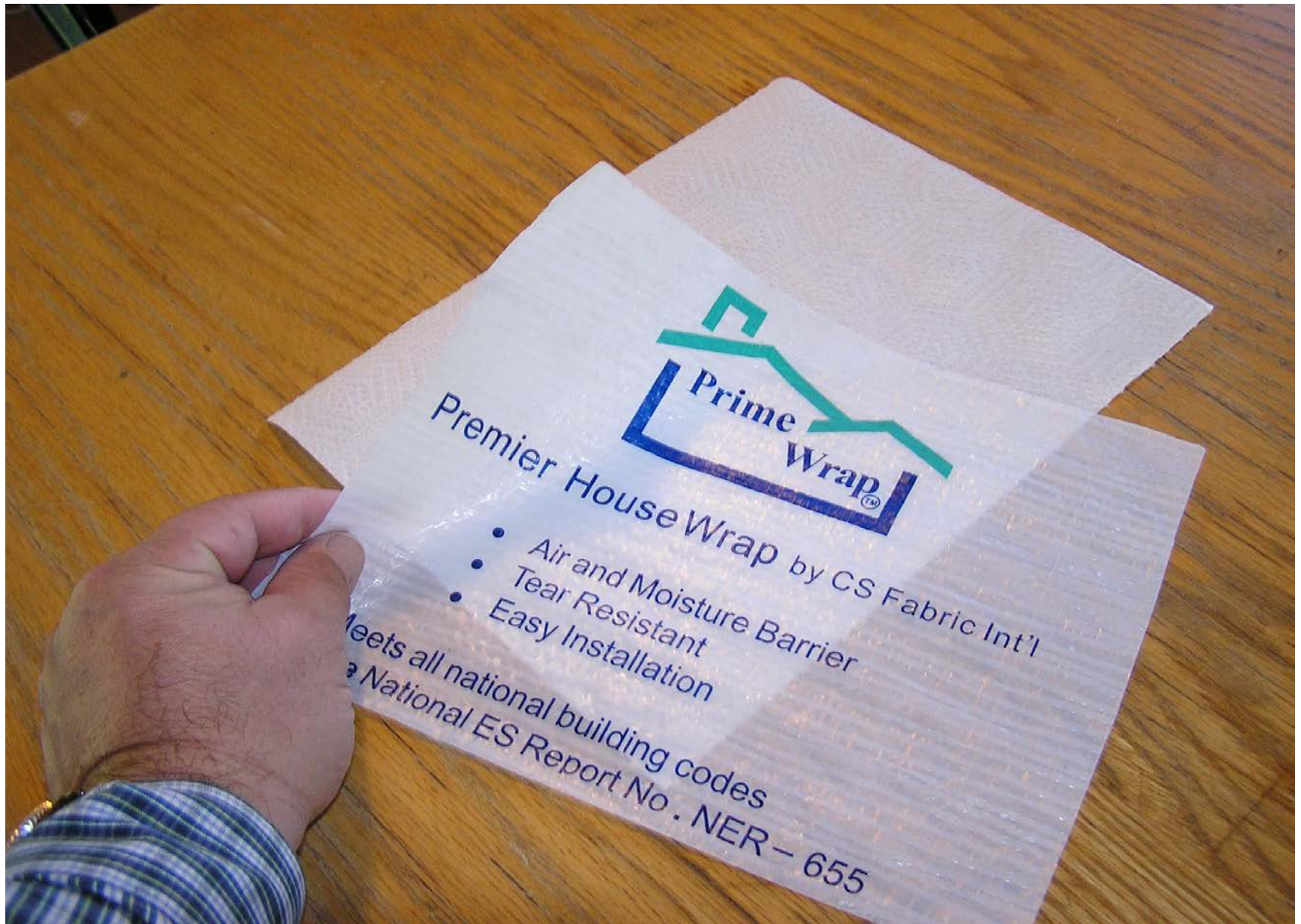


Adapted from the Forest Products Laboratory













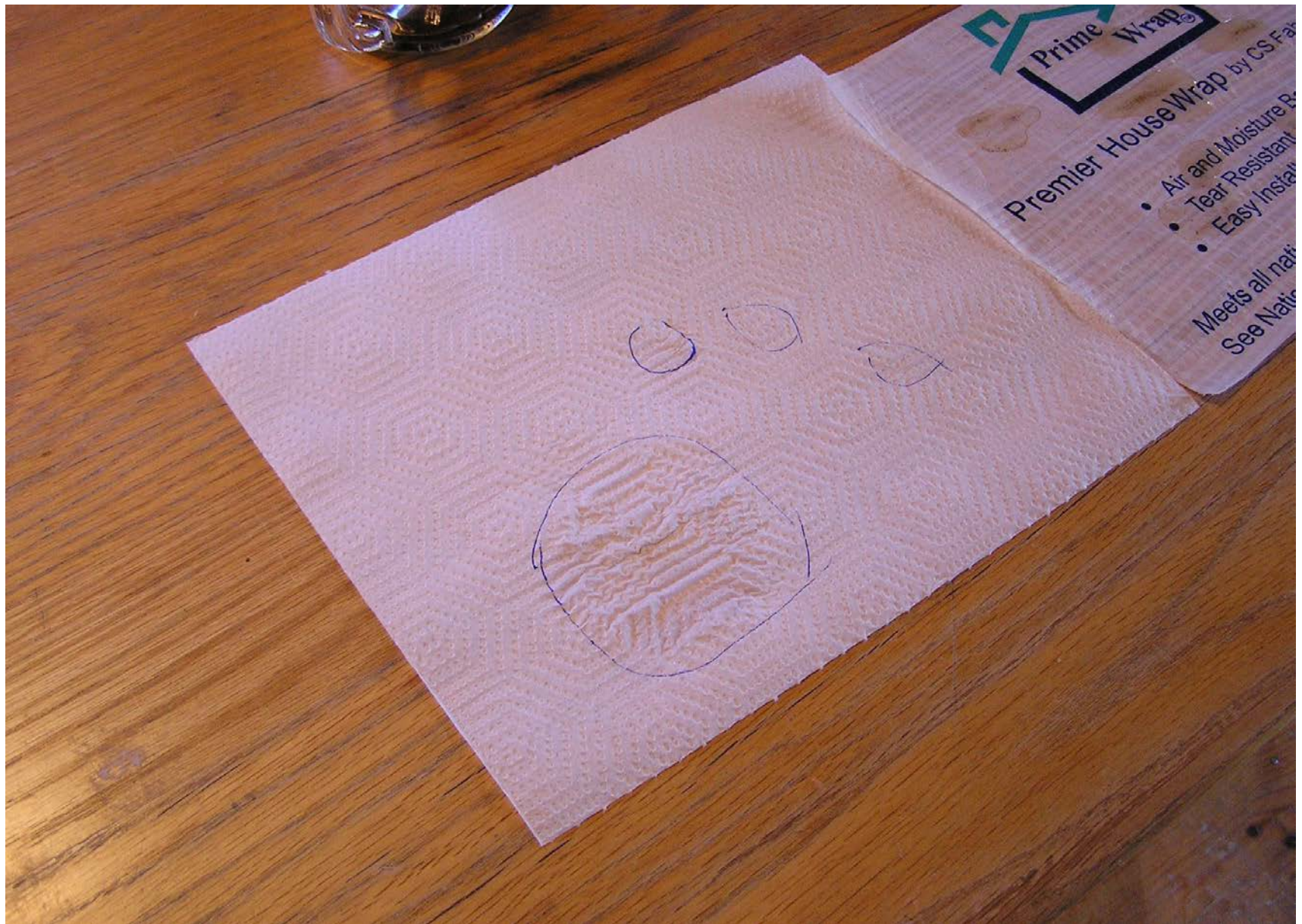


use v...
Fabric Int'l
and Moisture Barrier
Resistant

...ing codes
Report No. NER - 655









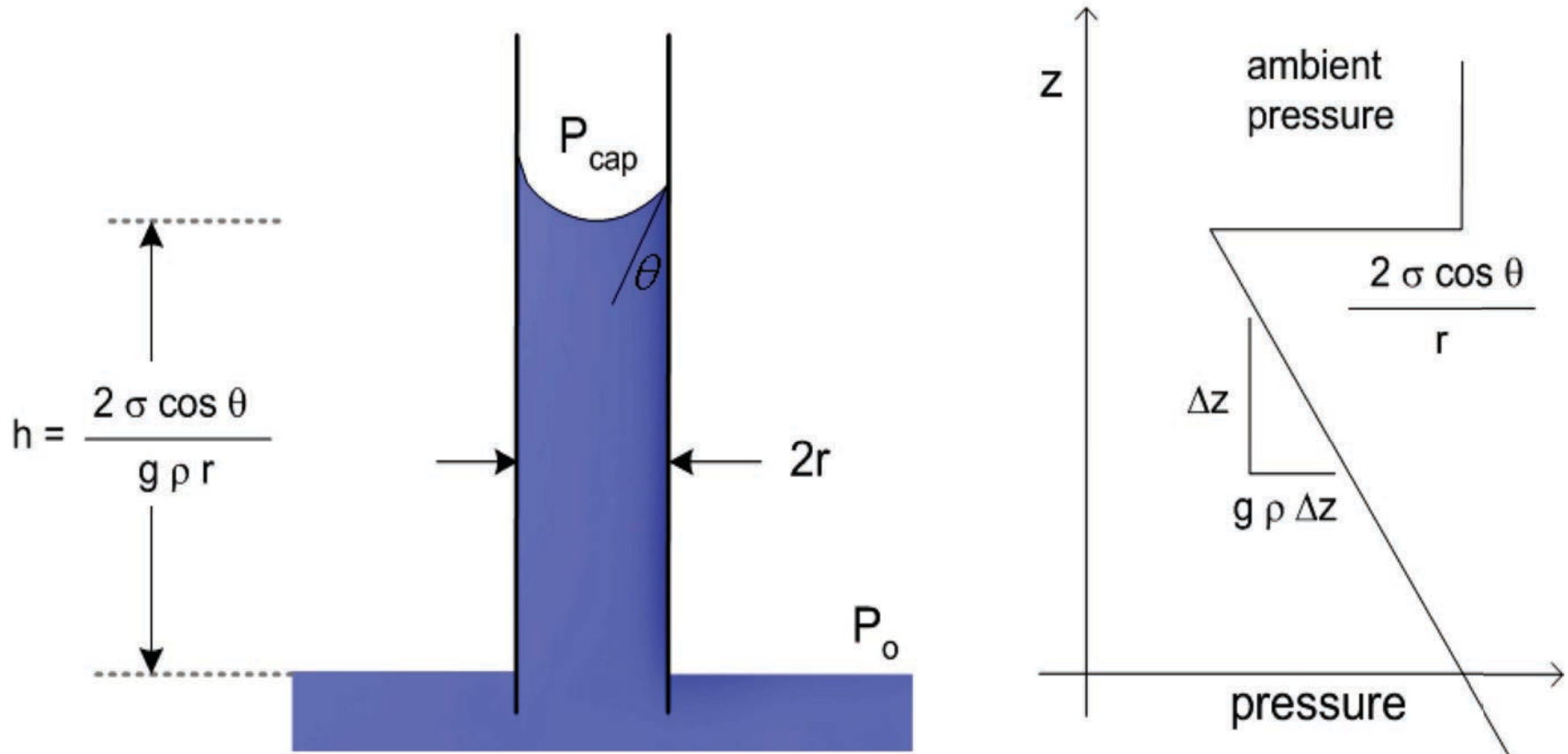




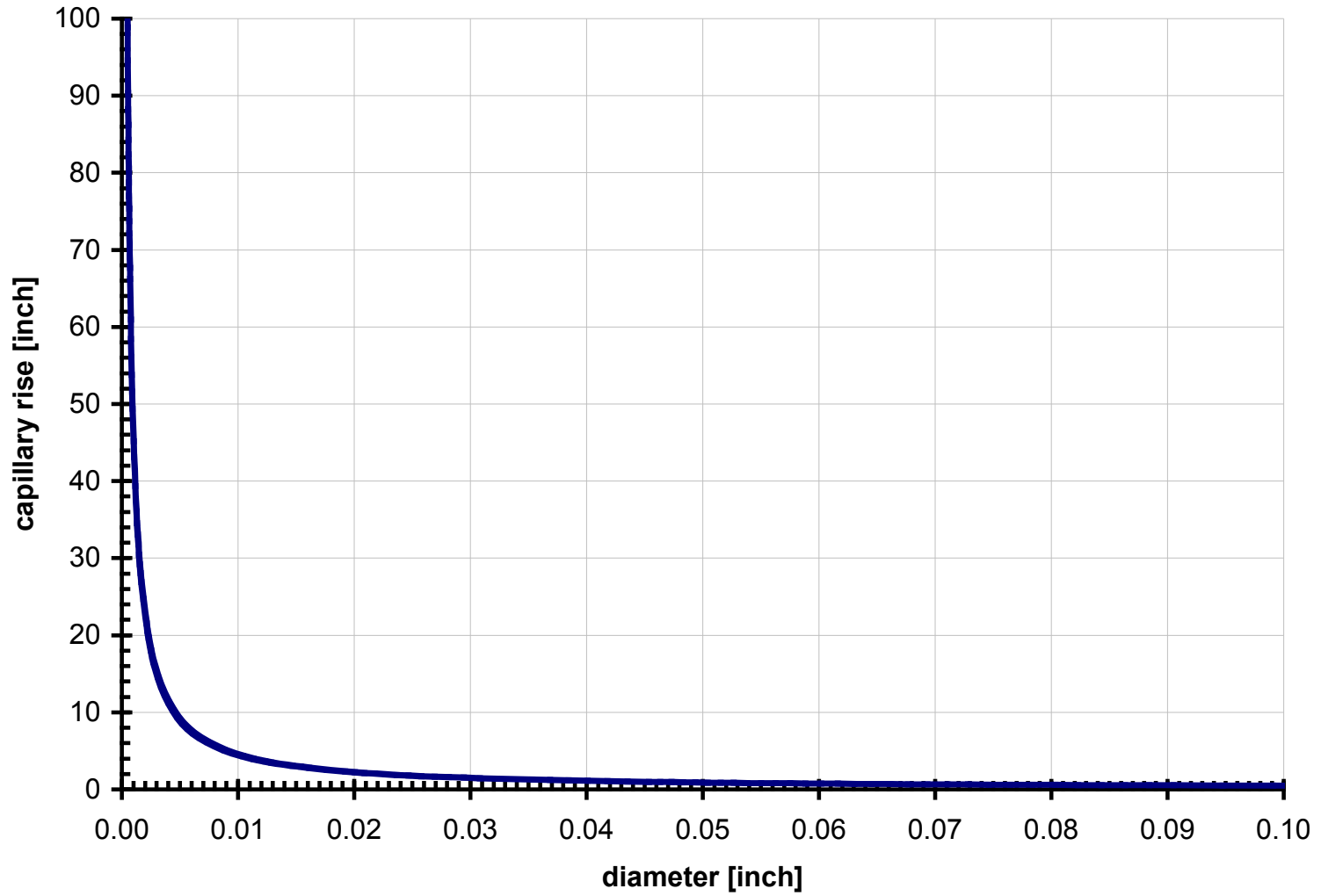
Surface Energy

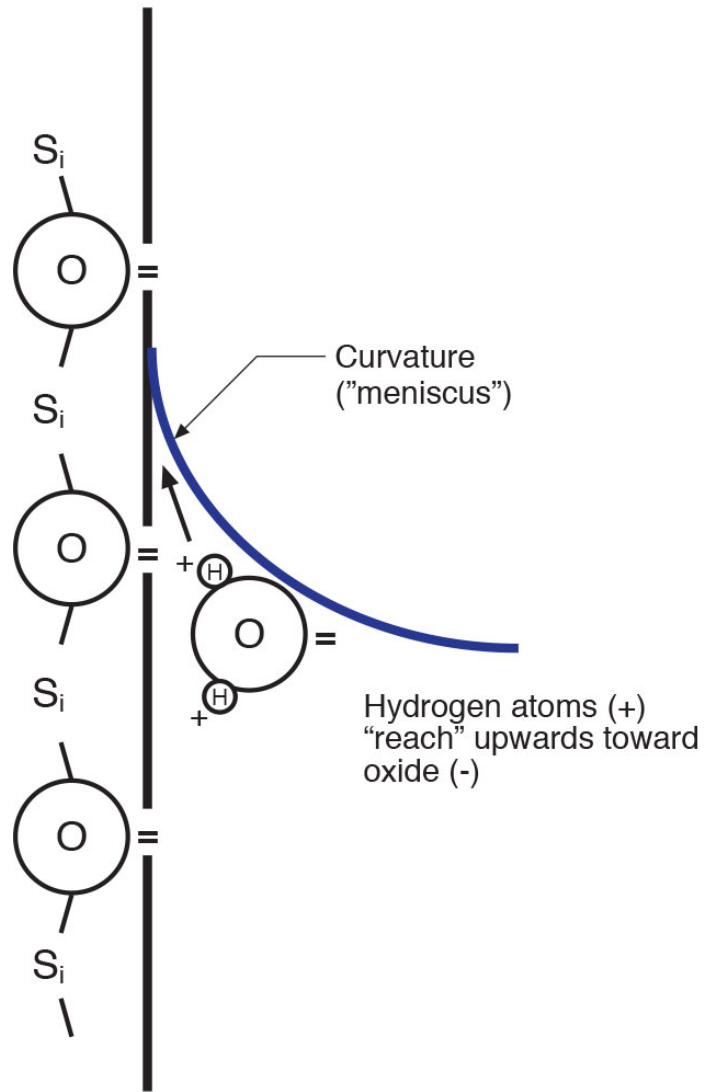
Water (20 C)	73 dynes/cm
Water (100 C)	59 dynes/cm
Epoxy	46 dynes/cm
Polyethylene	31 dynes/cm
Soapy water	30 dynes/cm
Paraffin wax	25 dynes/cm
Silicone	24 dynes/cm
Teflon	18 dynes/cm

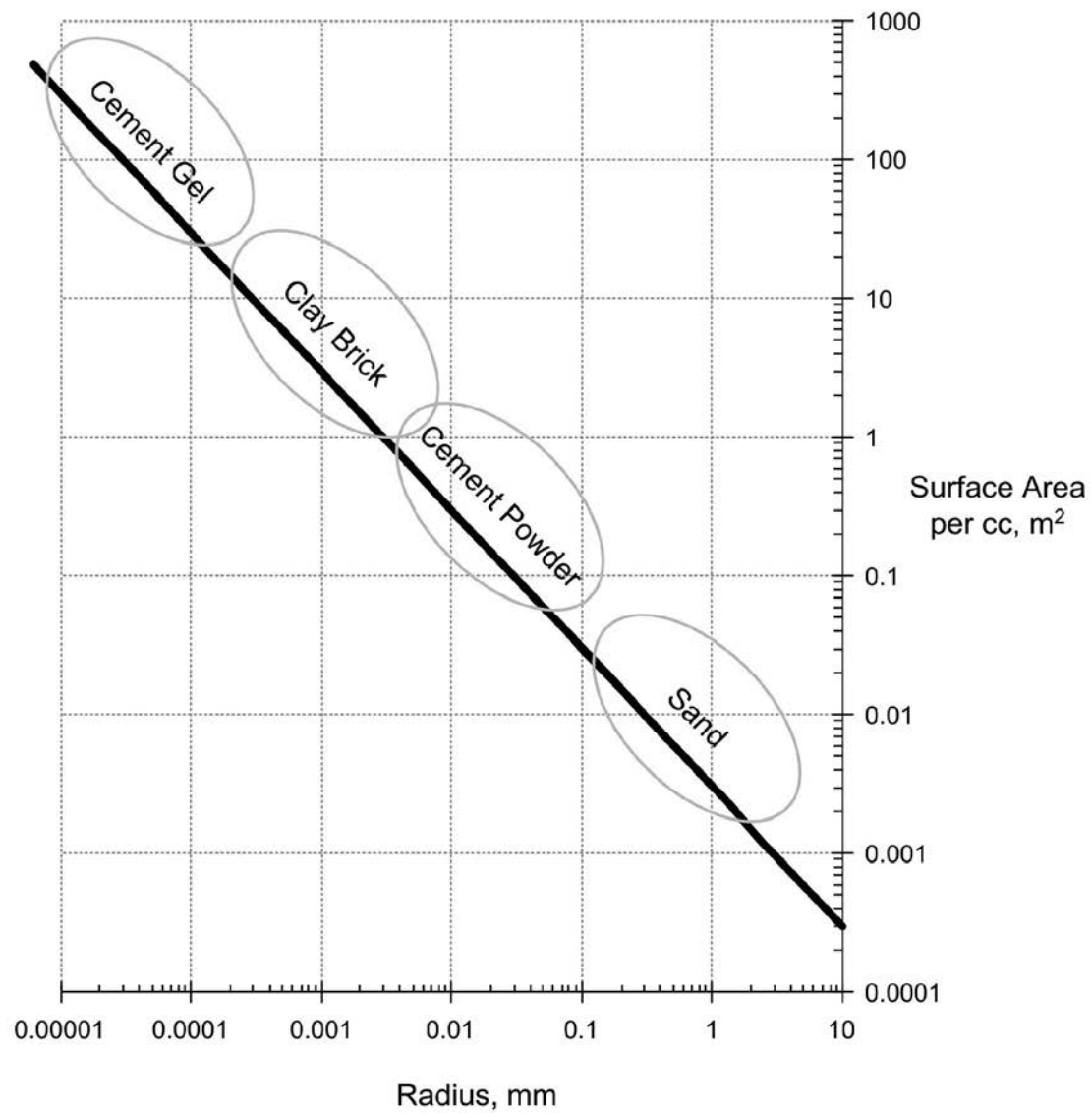
Calculating capillary rise



Capillary rise versus diameter







Surface area vs. particle size
From Straube & Burnett, 2005

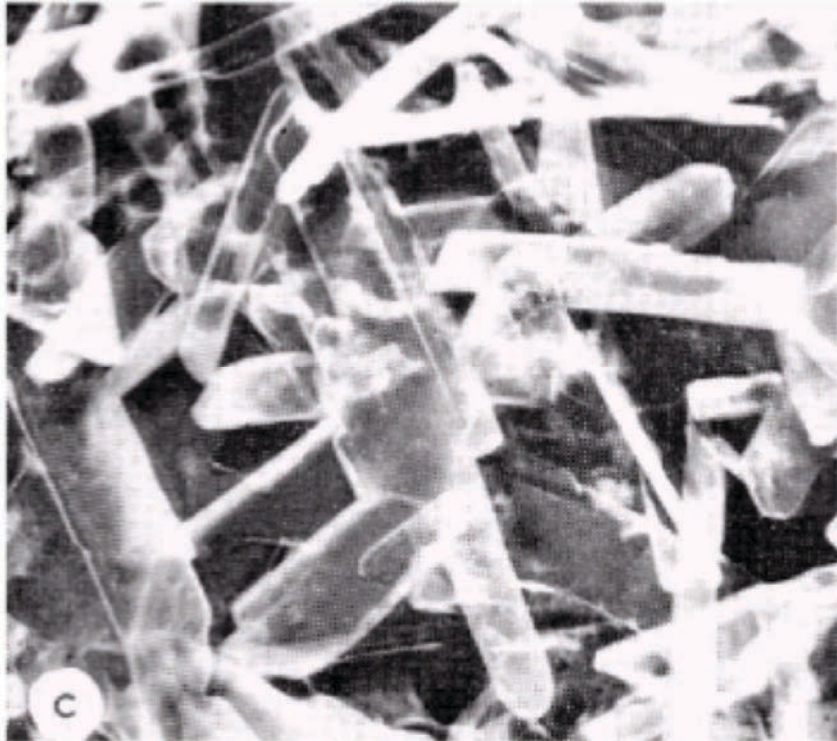


Figure 1c. Gypsum, hydrated from plaster of paris and water, porosity 30 per cent.

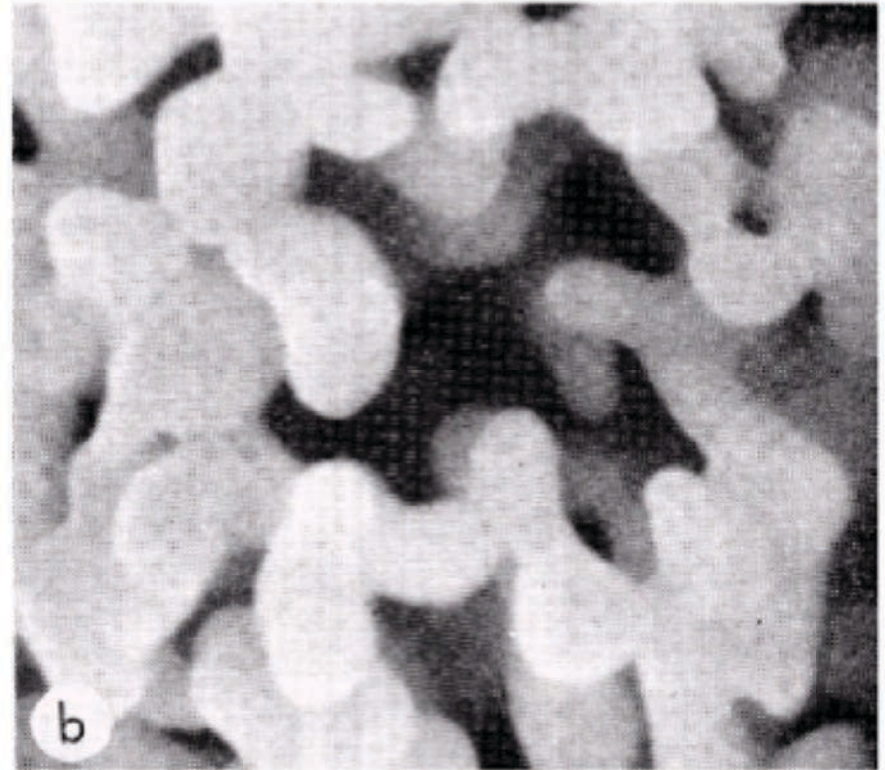
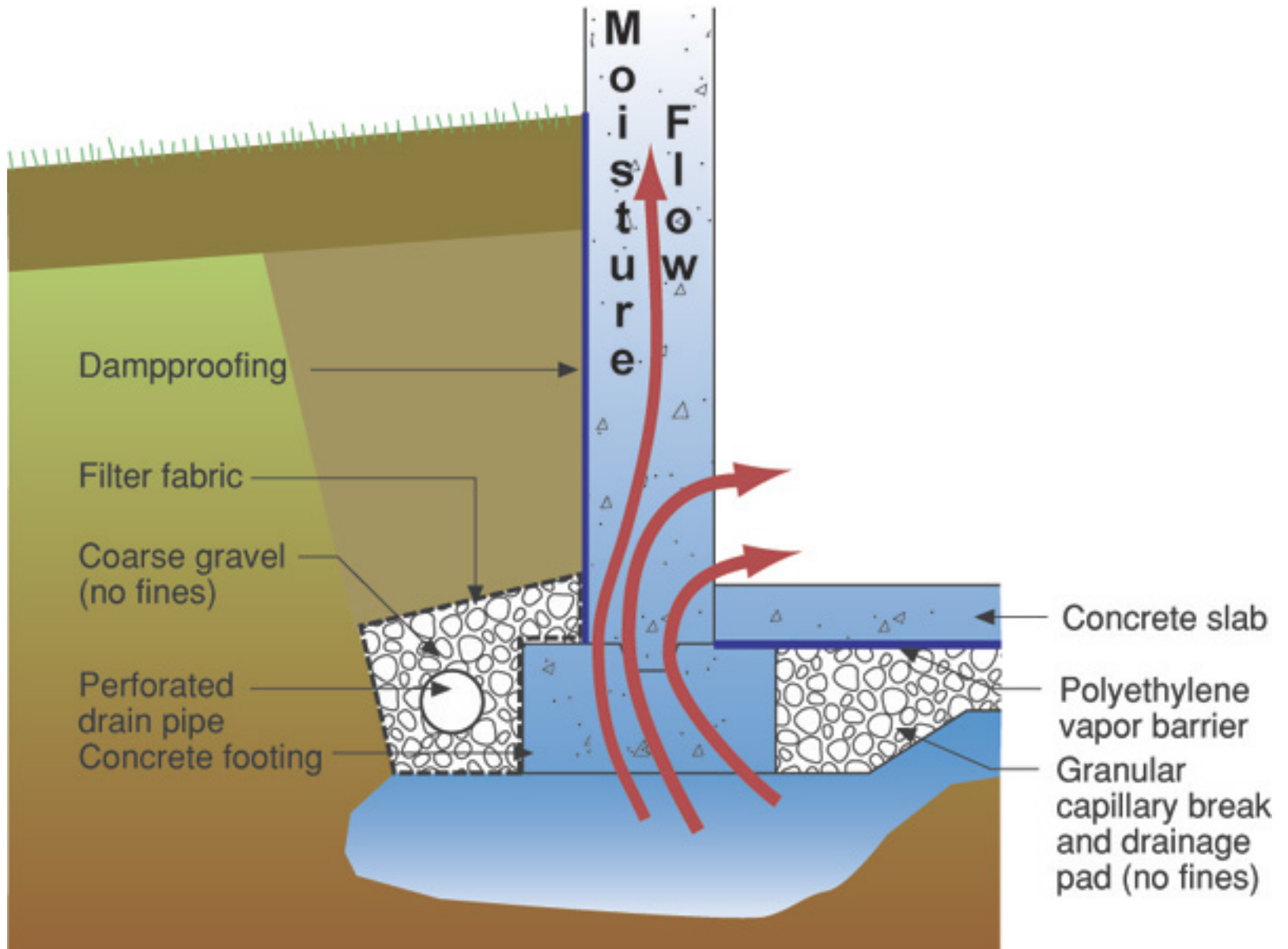
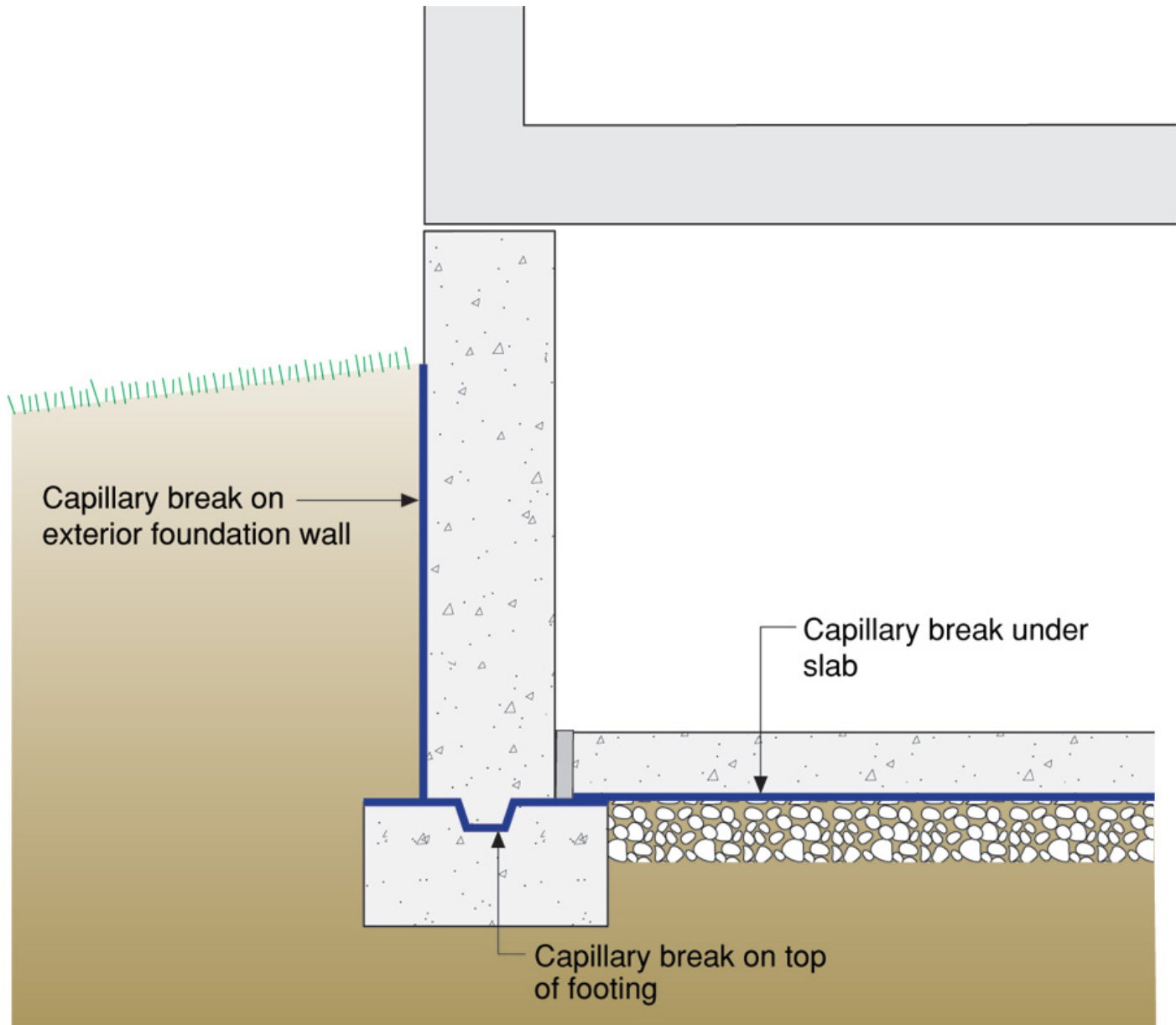
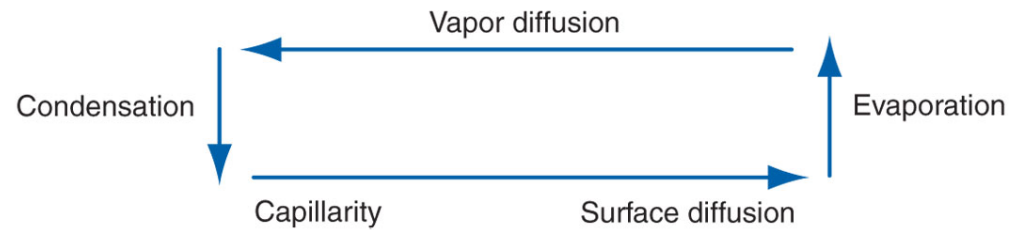
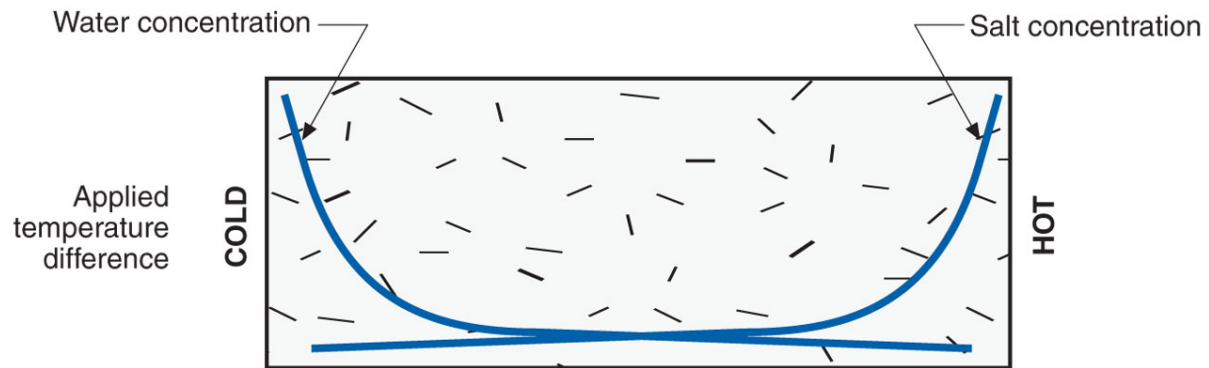
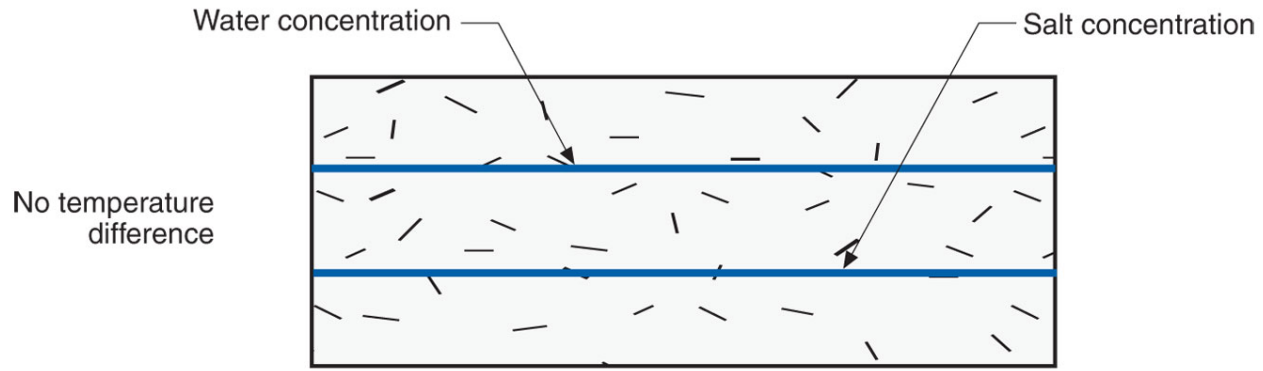


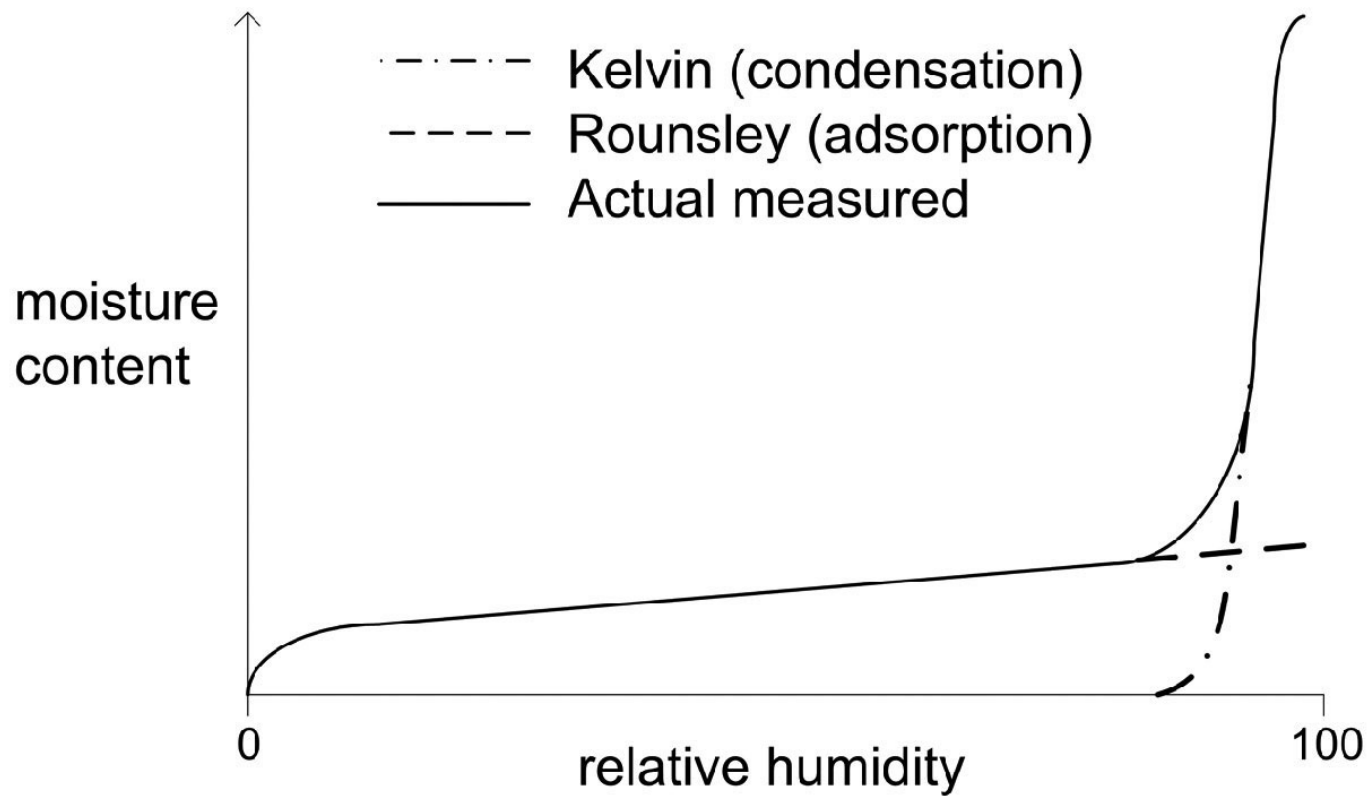
Figure 1b. Brick, sintered clay, porosity 40 per cent.



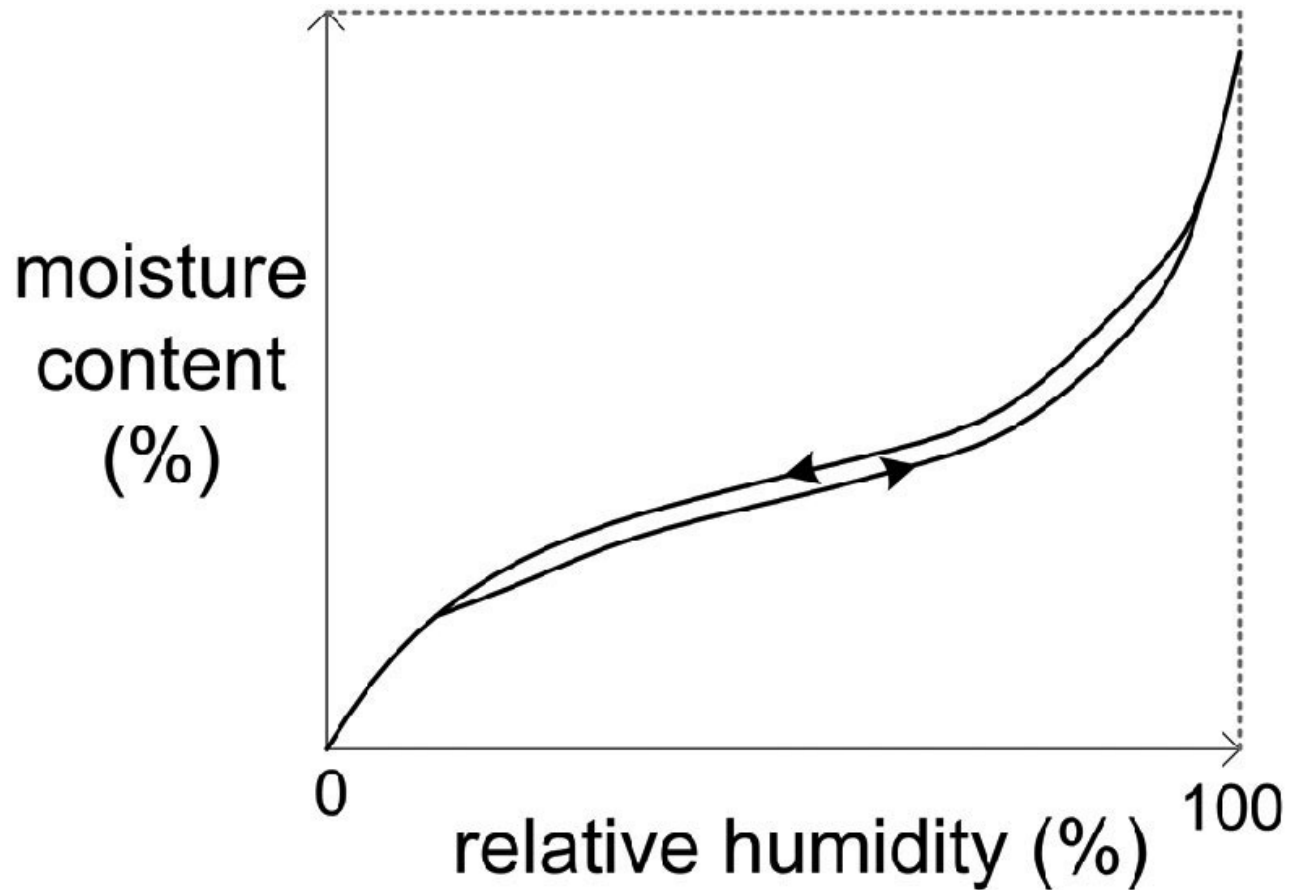


Hutcheon-Paxton Experiment



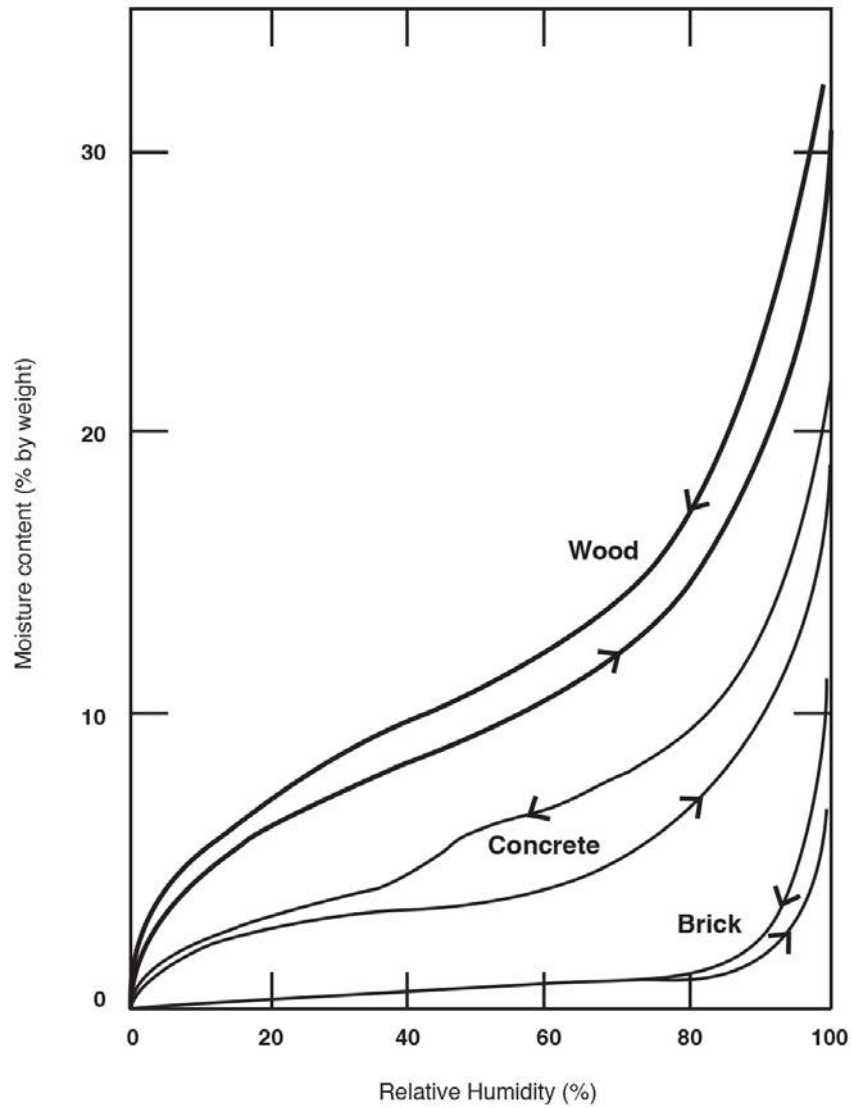


**Typical predicted sorption isotherm according to Kelvin equation
and modified BET theory**
From Straube & Burnett, 2005

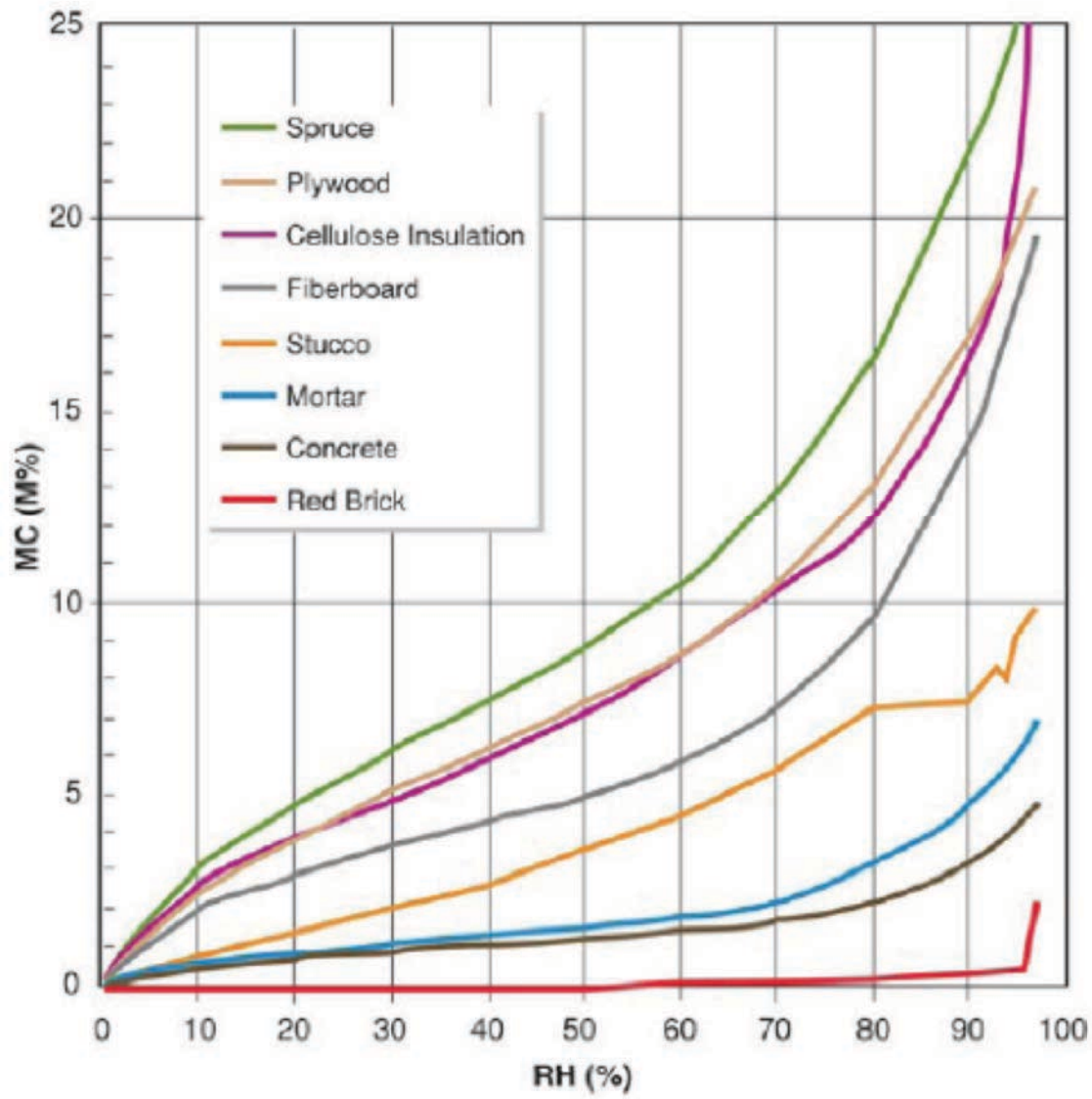


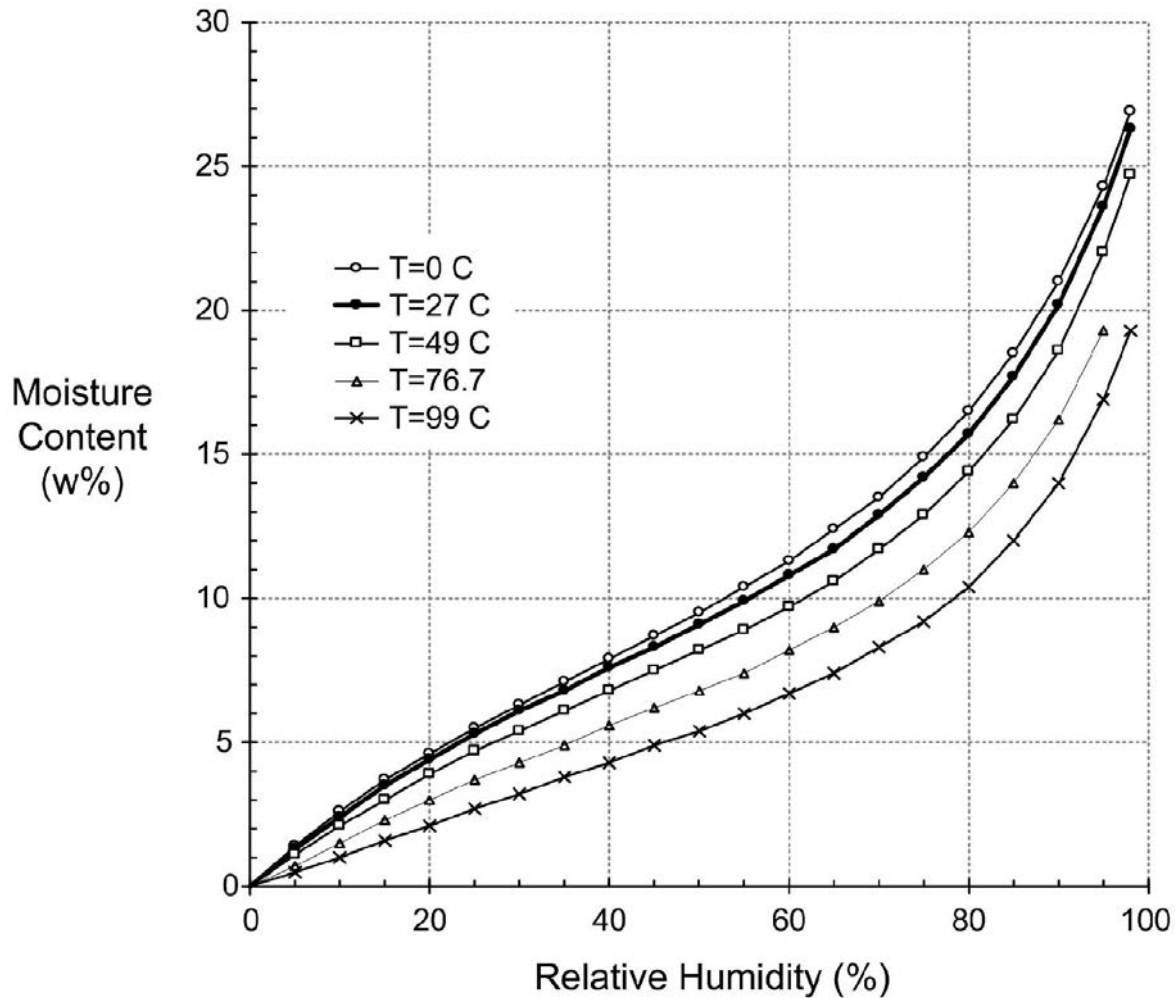
**Typical sorption isotherm of a
hygroscopic material**

From Straube & Burnett, 2005



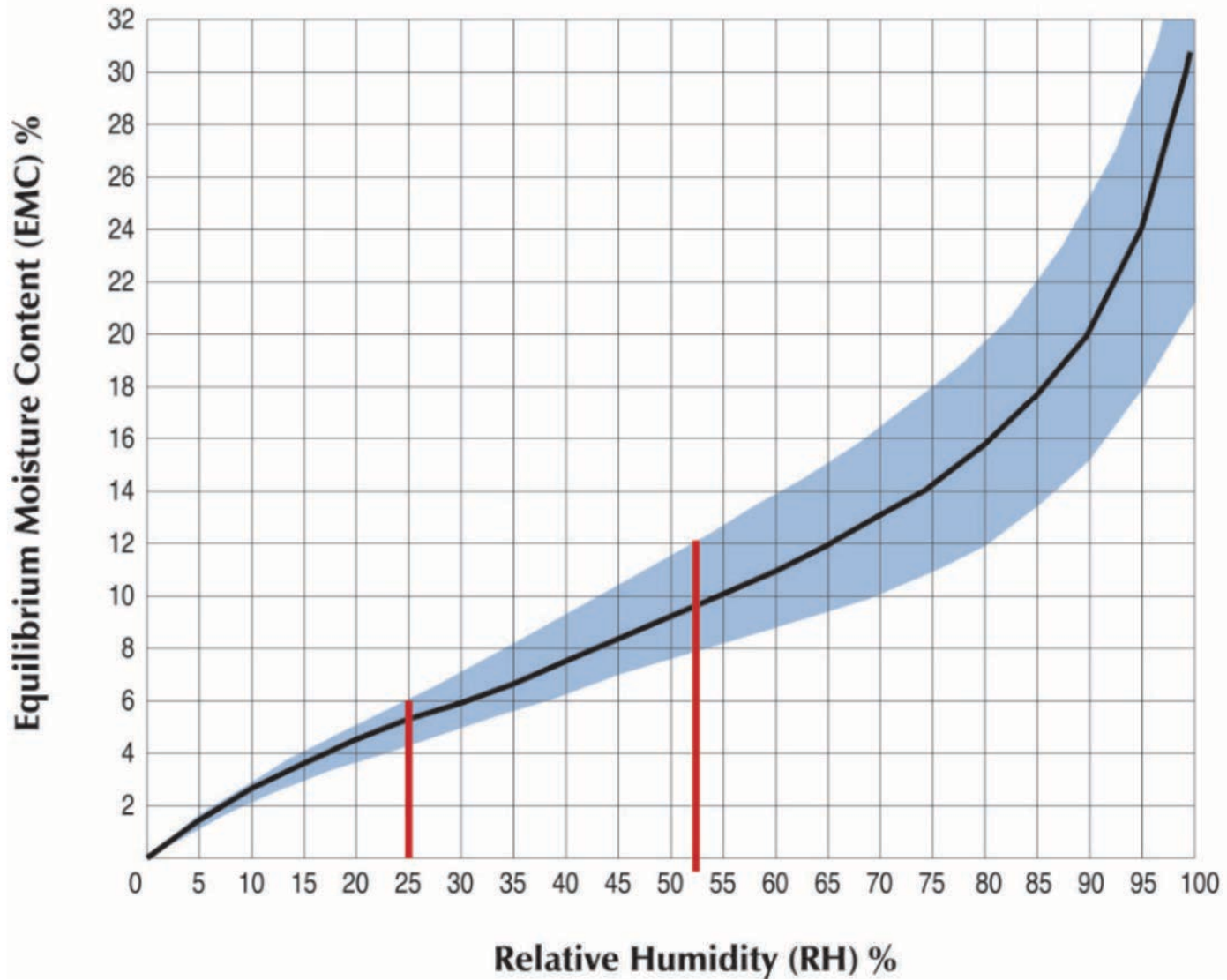
Water held in porous materials at various relative humidities
 From Hutcheon & Handegord, 1983





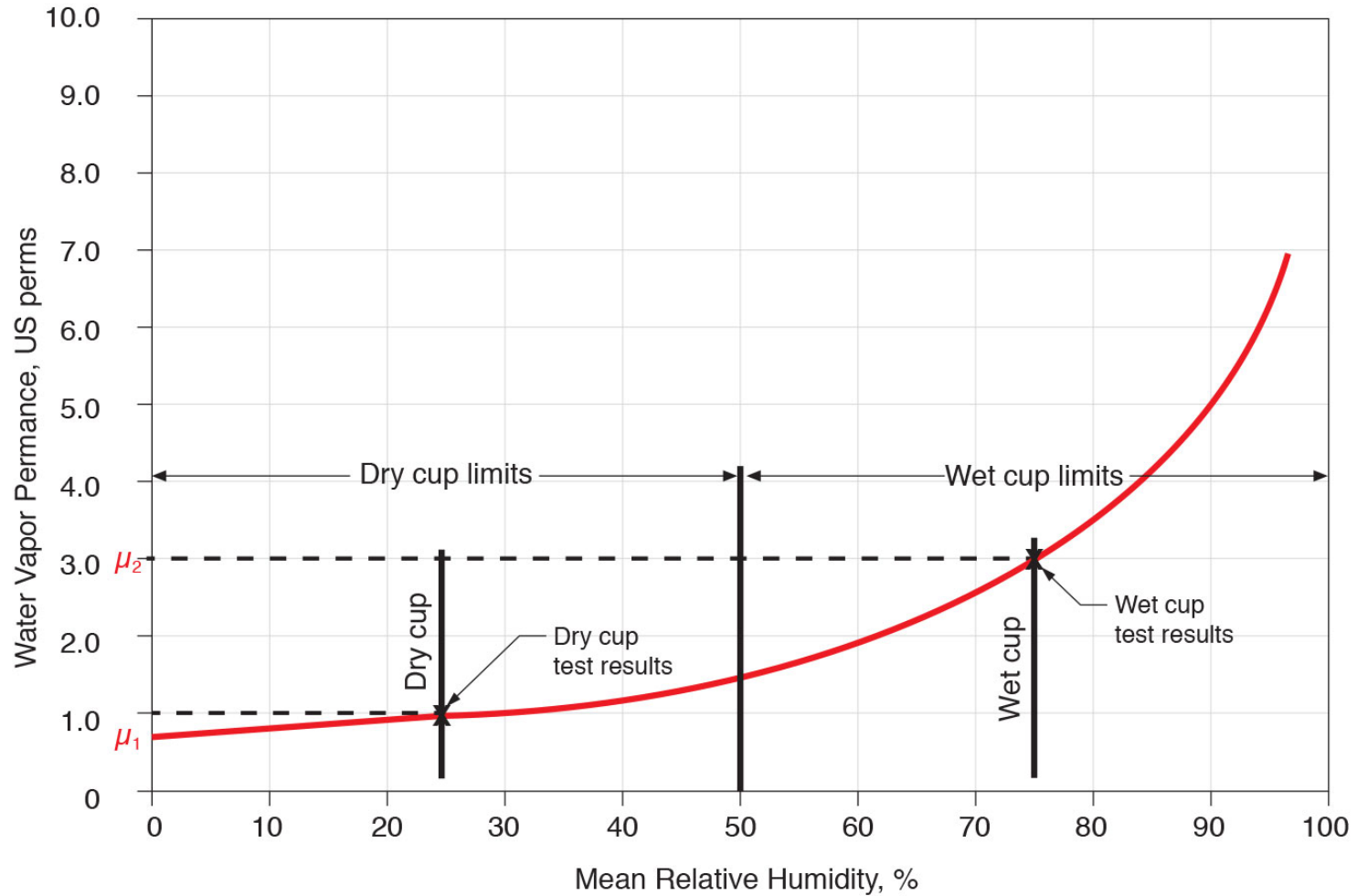
Average sorption isotherm for wood as a function of temperature
 From Straube & Burnett, 2005

Moisture Content vs. Relative Humidity





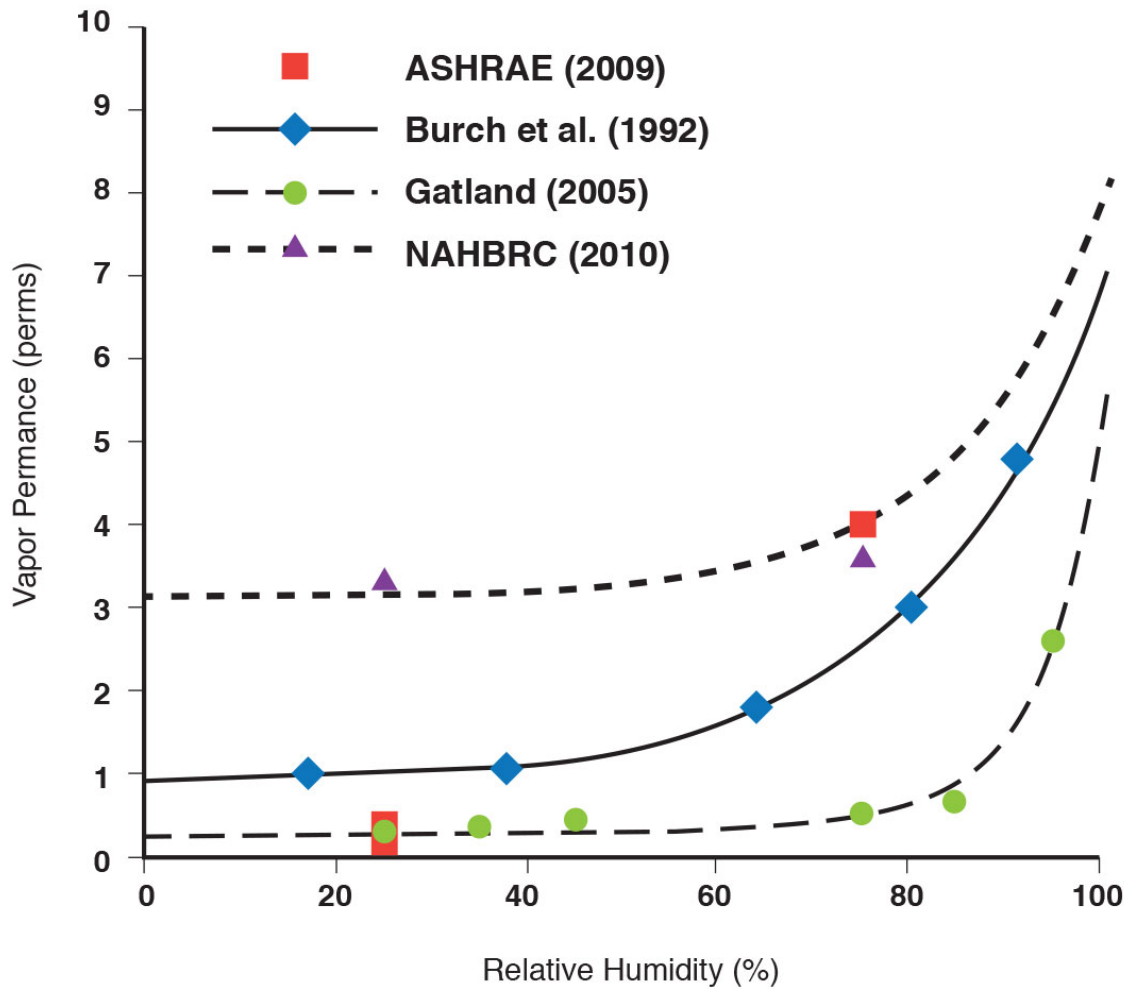
Water Vapor Permeance vs. Relative Humidity



μ_1 = Dry cup permeance

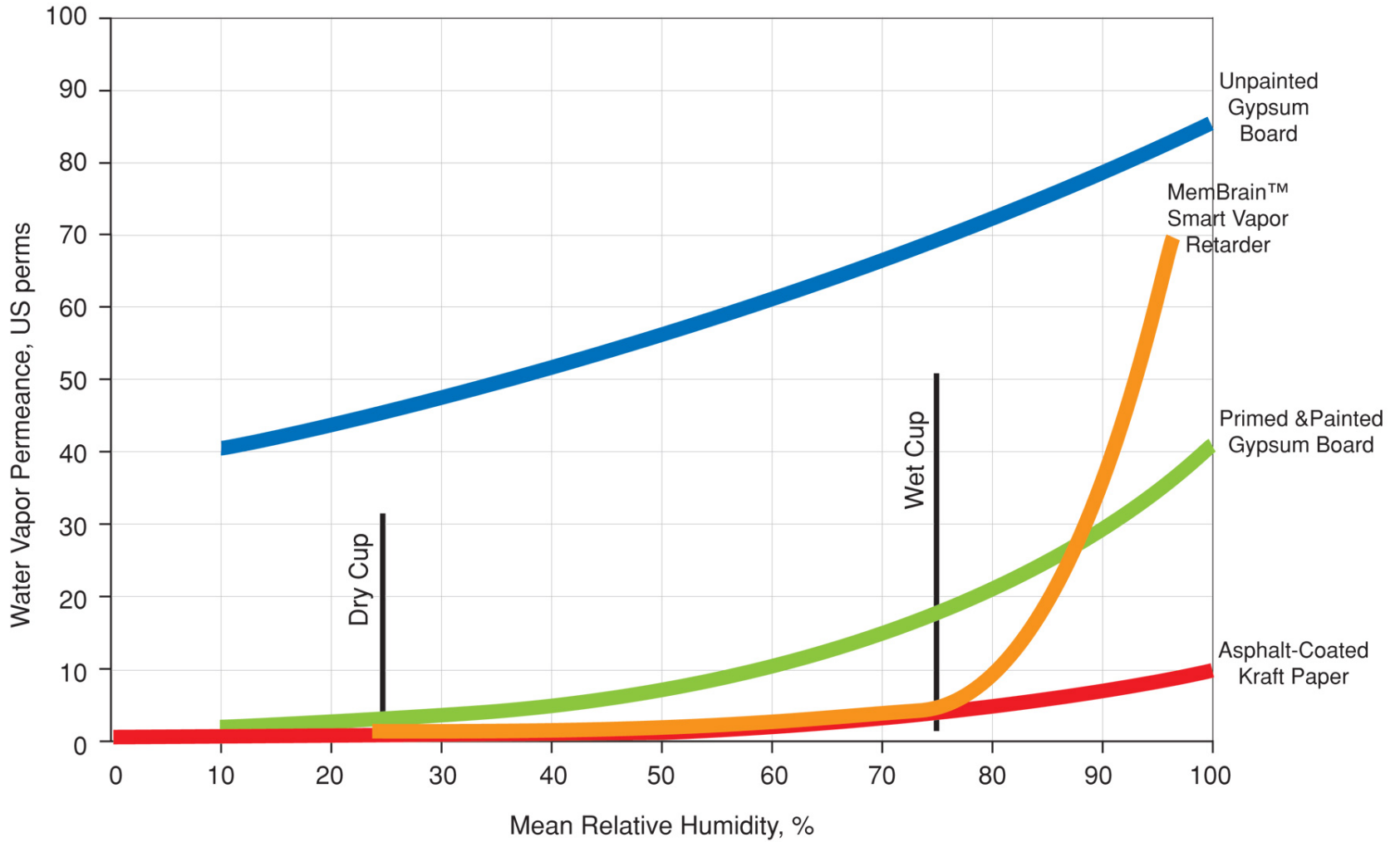
μ_2 = Wet cup permeance



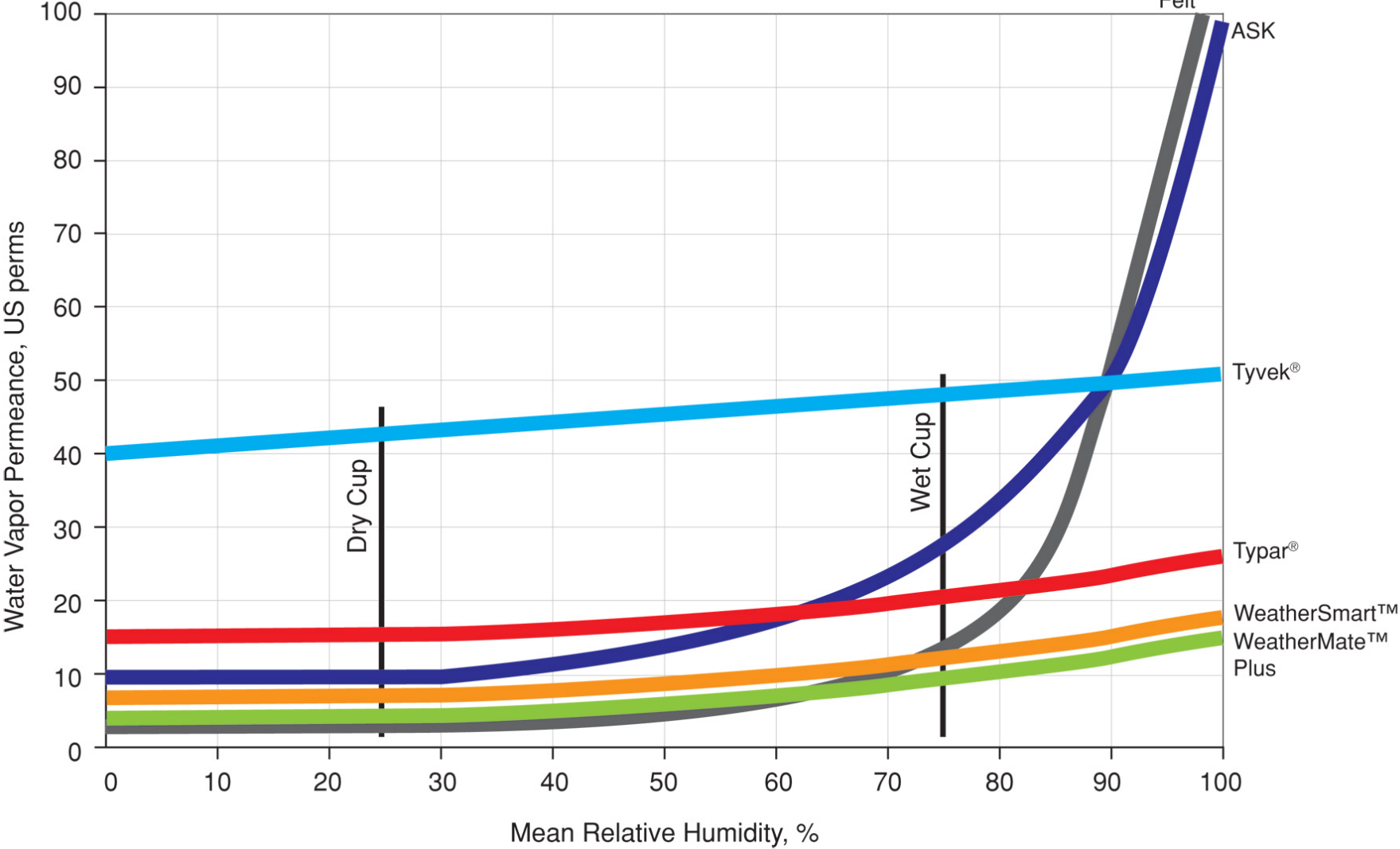


Kraft facing permeance as a function of humidity (Glass 2013)

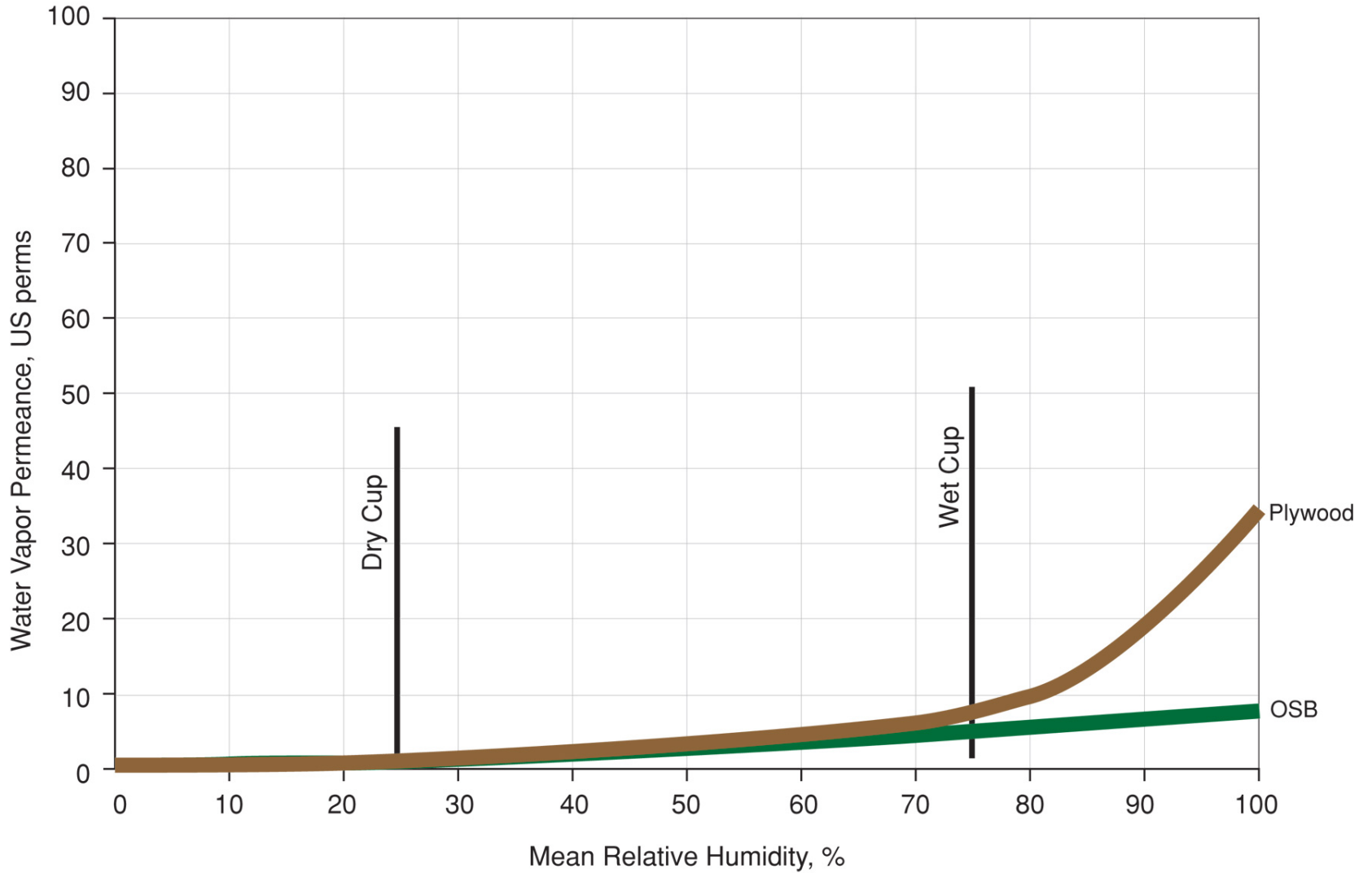
Water Vapor Permeance of MemBrain™ Smart Vapor Retarder, Primed and Painted Gypsum Board, Unpainted Gypsum Board and Asphalt-Coated Kraft Paper

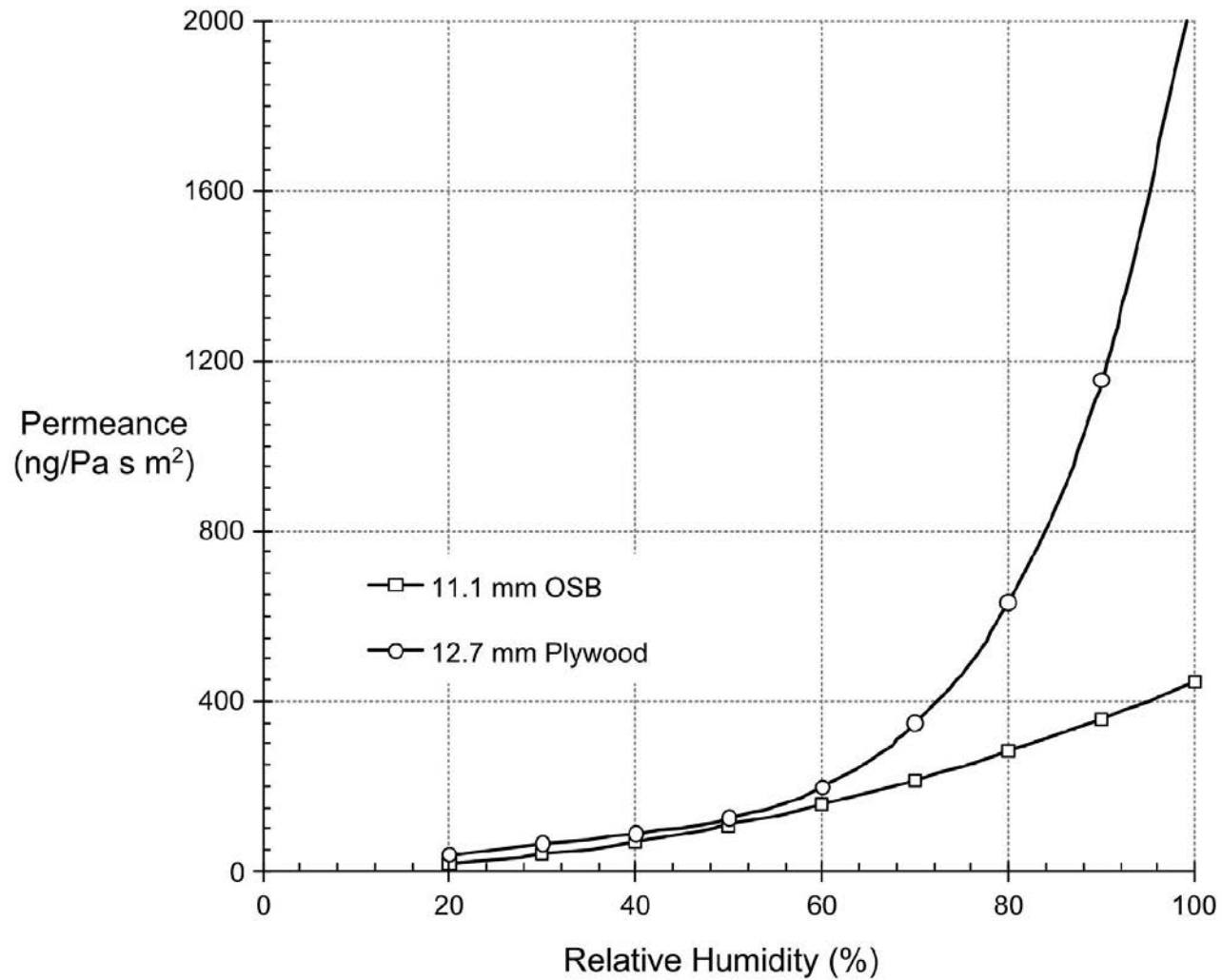


Water Vapor Permeance of WRB's

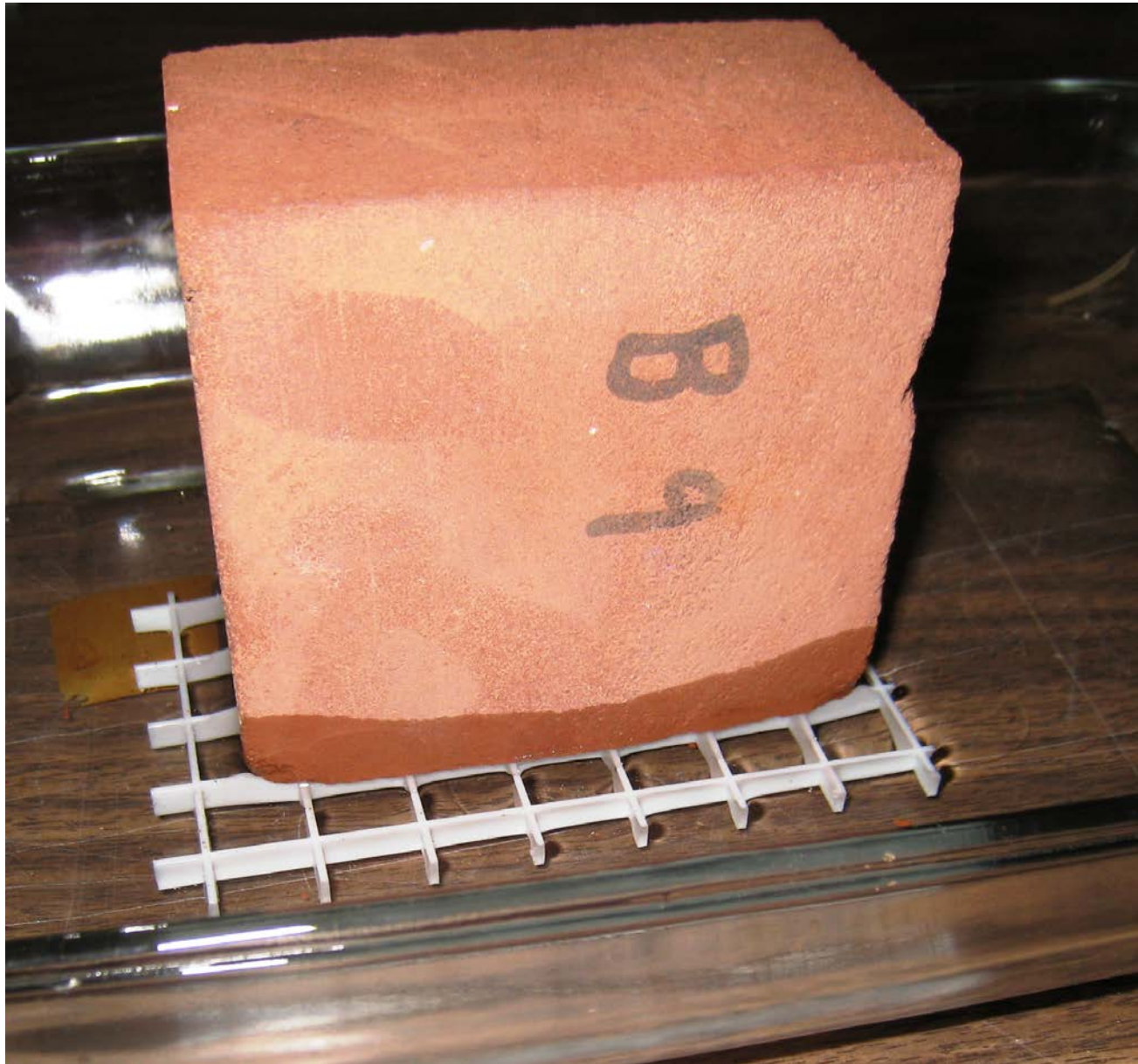


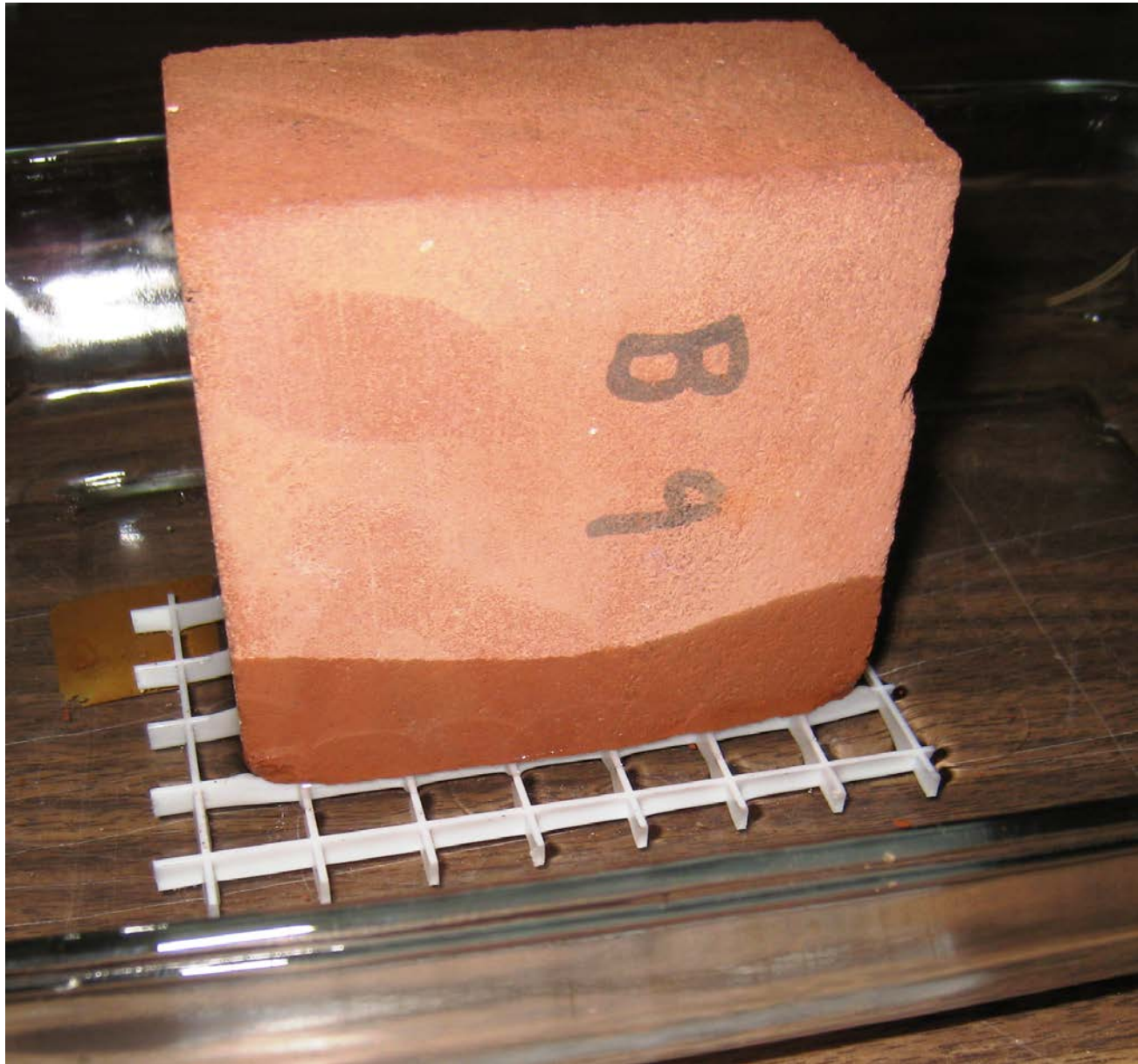
Water Vapor Permeance of Sheathing Materials

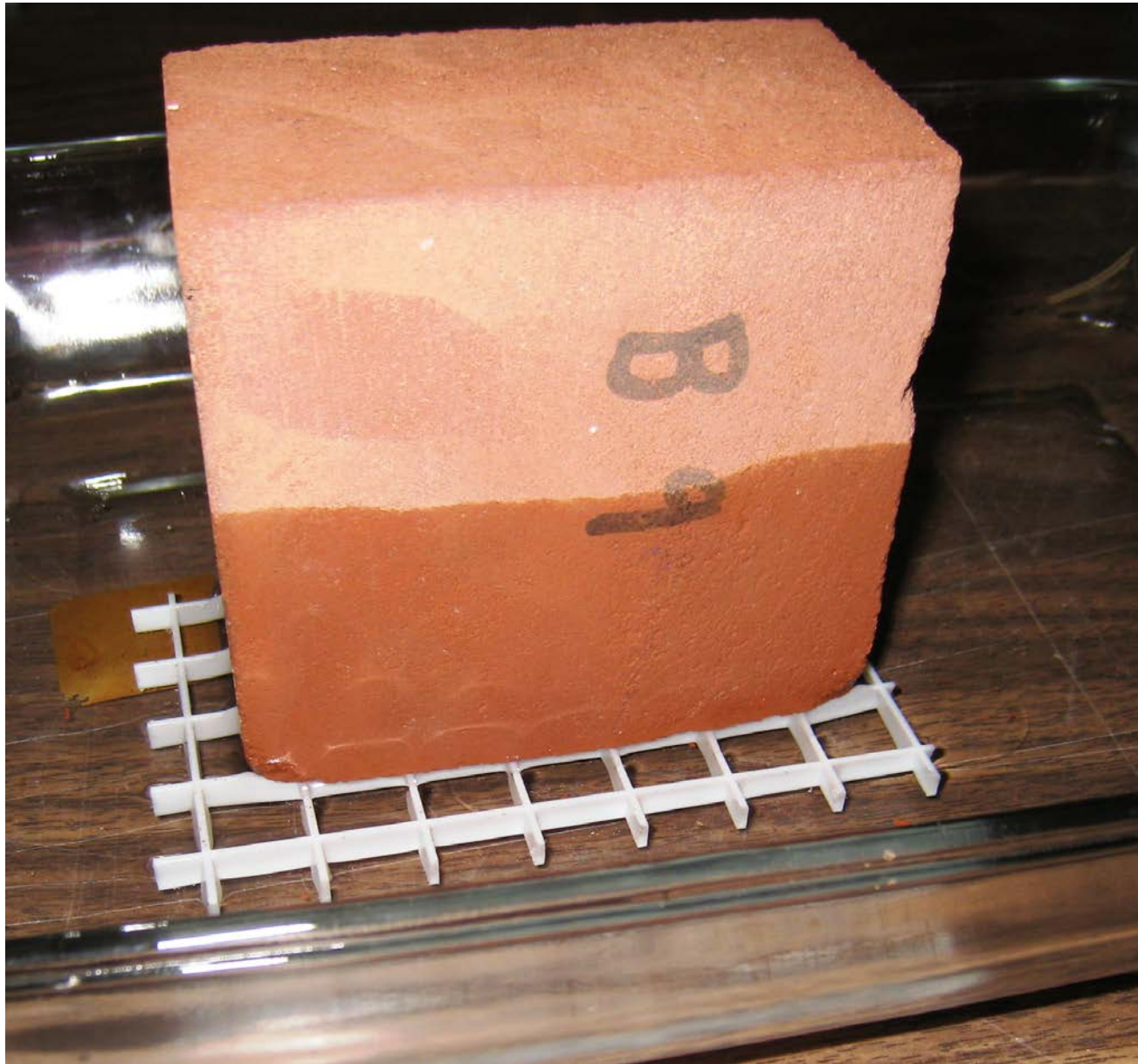


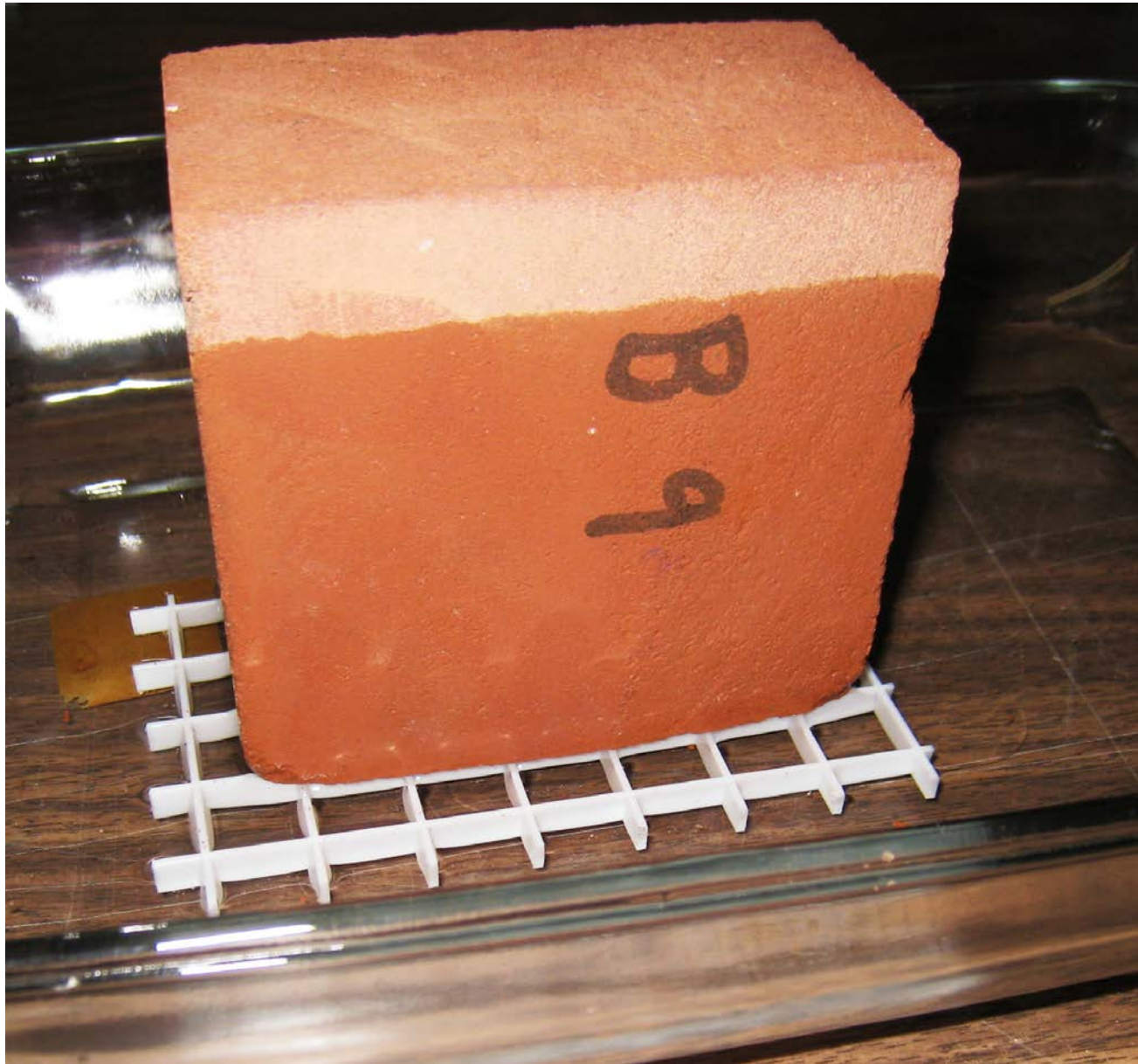


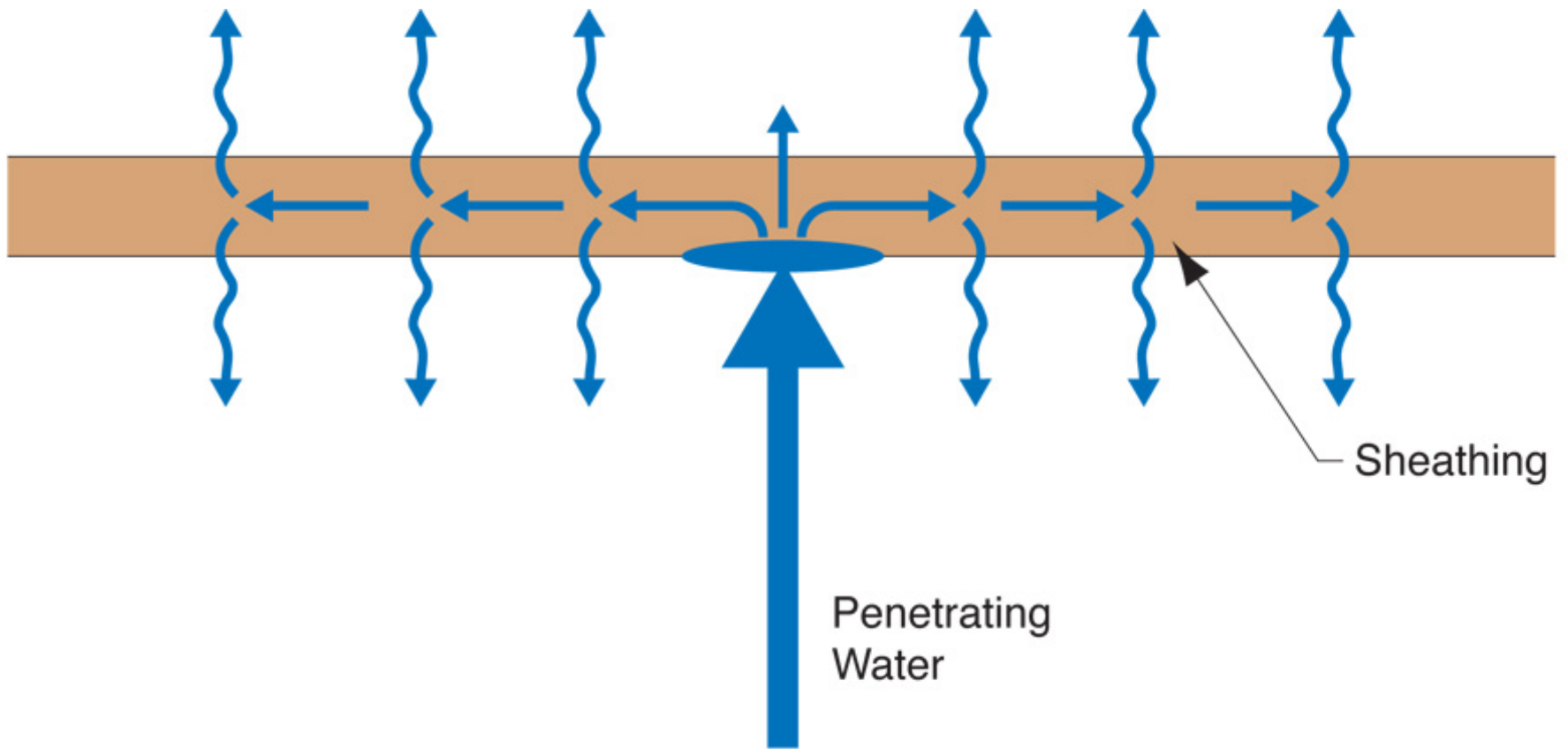
Vapor permeability test results for wood-based products as a function of RH
 [Kumaran *et al* 2002]
 From Straube & Burnett, 2005

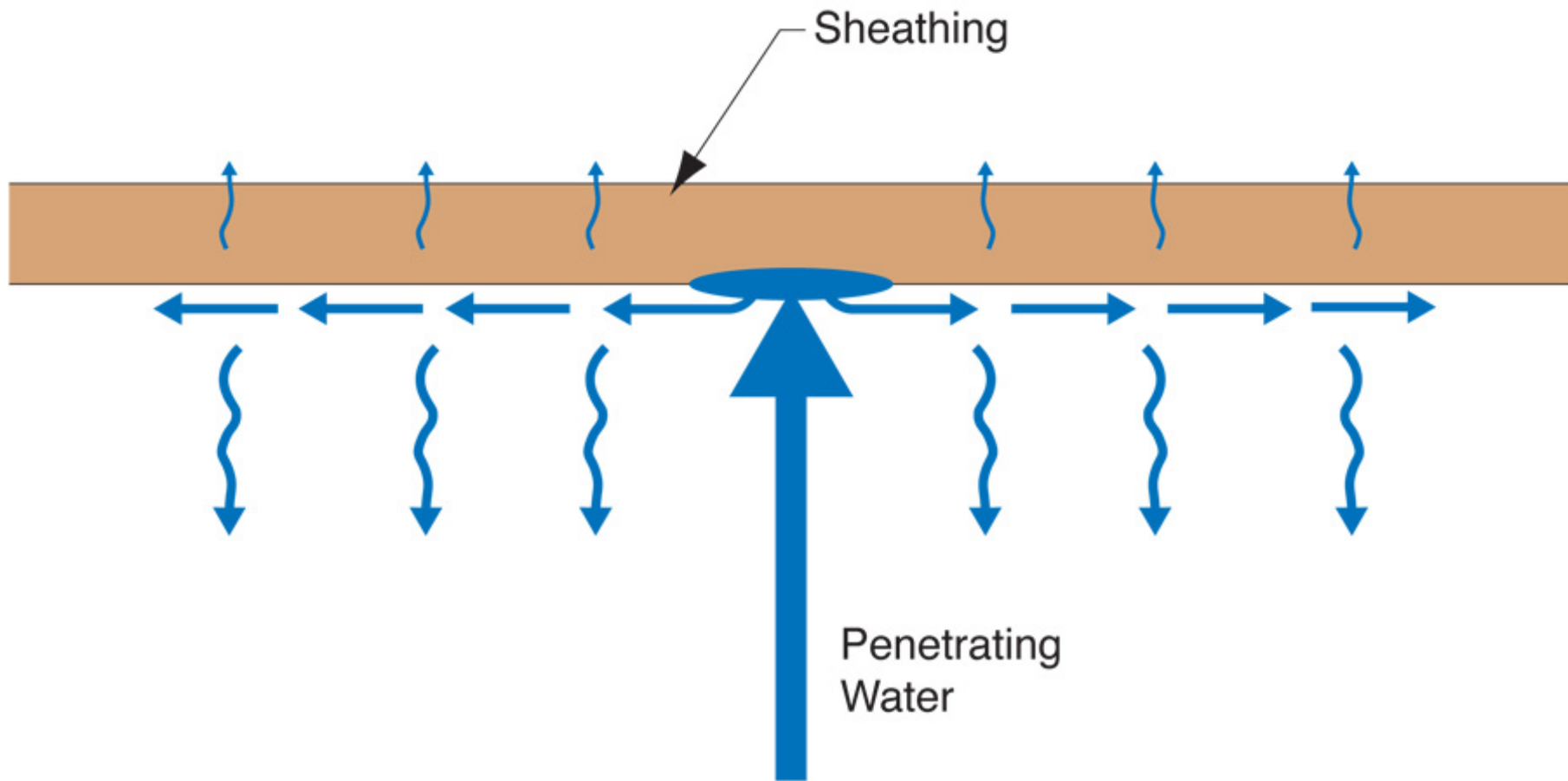




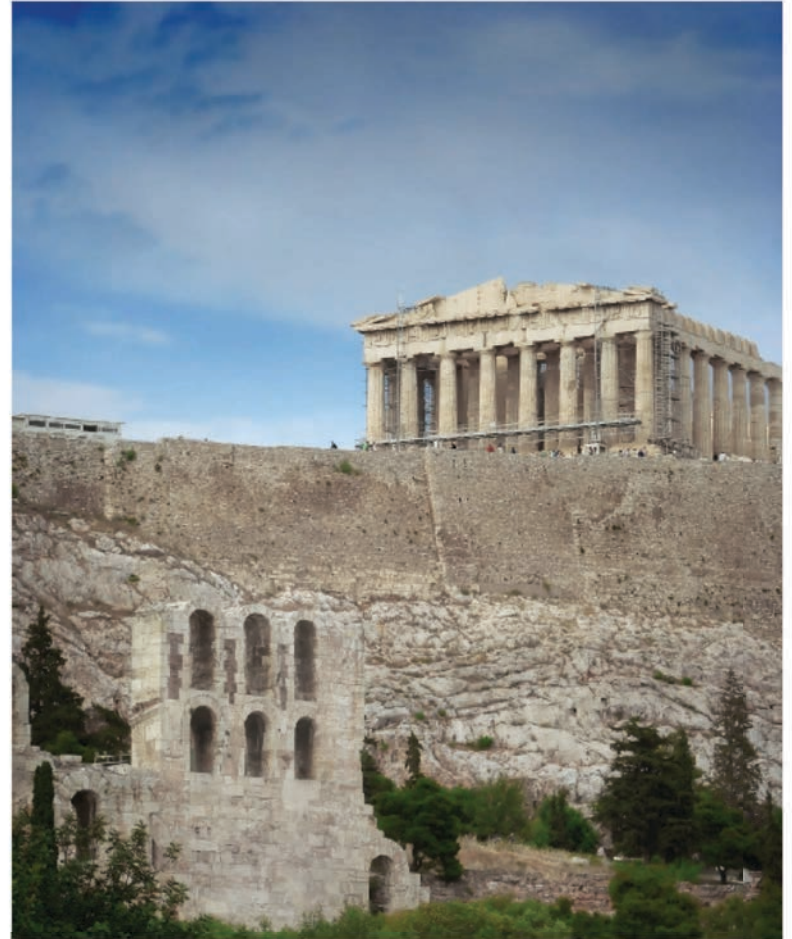
















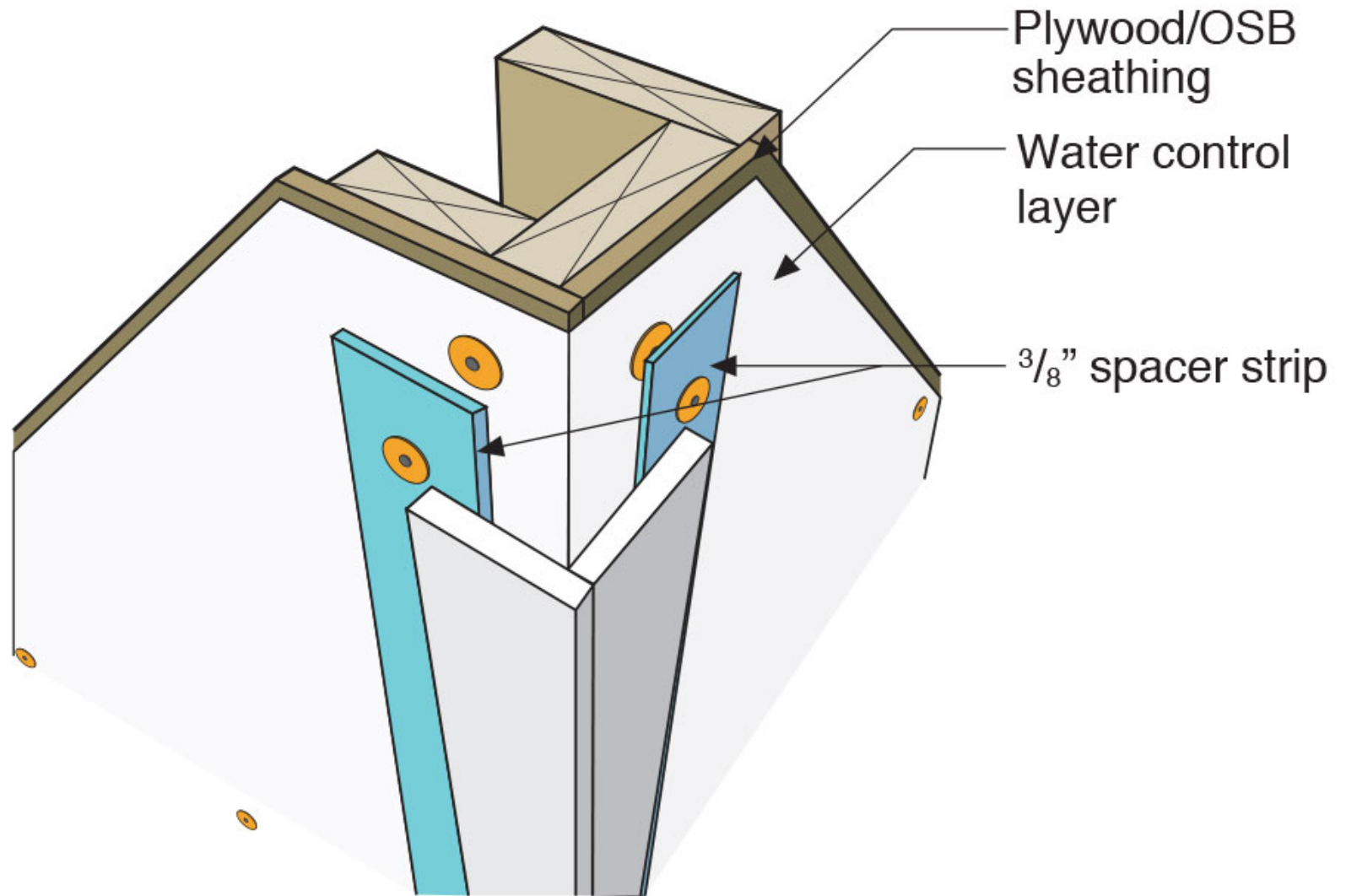


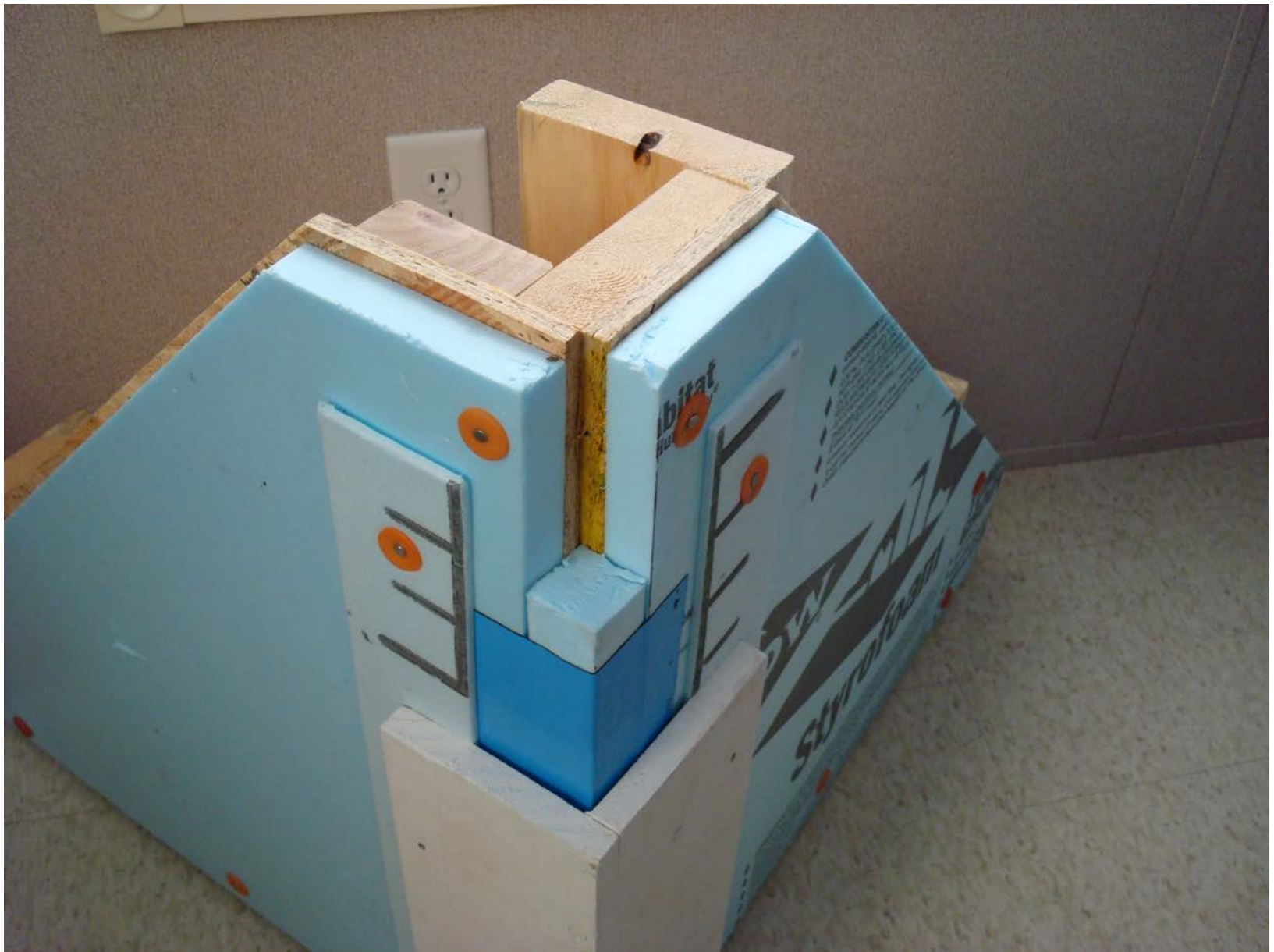




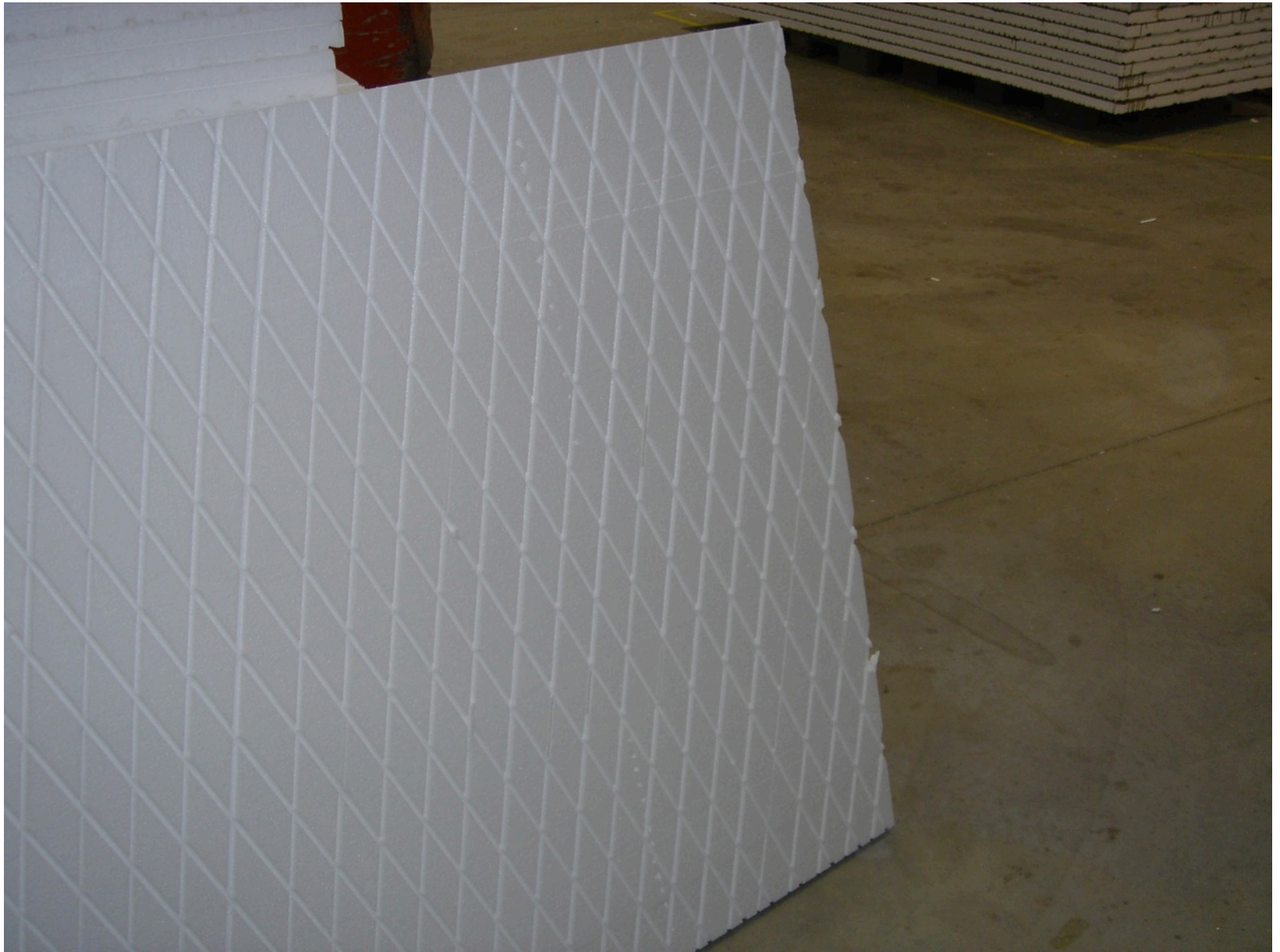




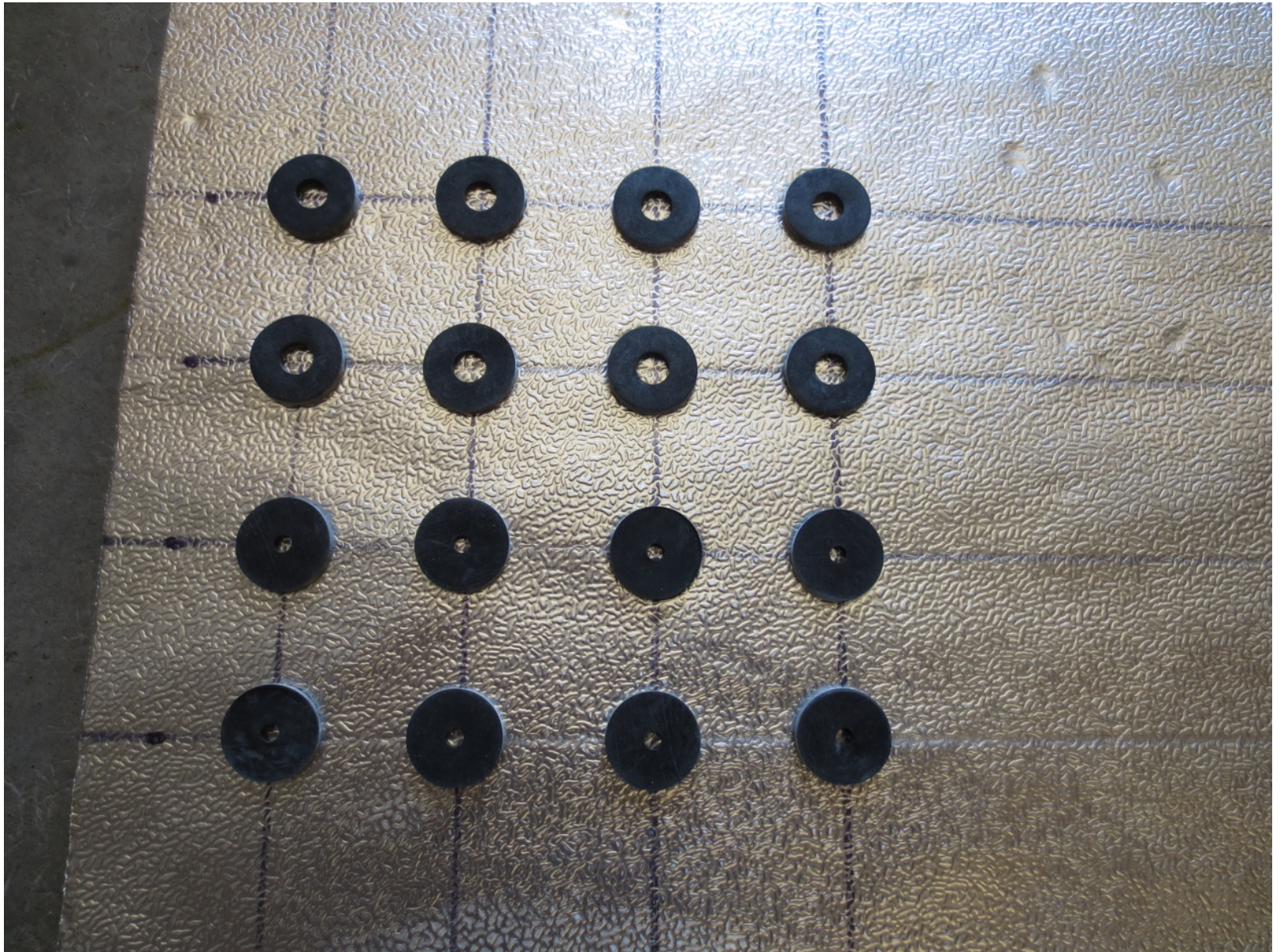




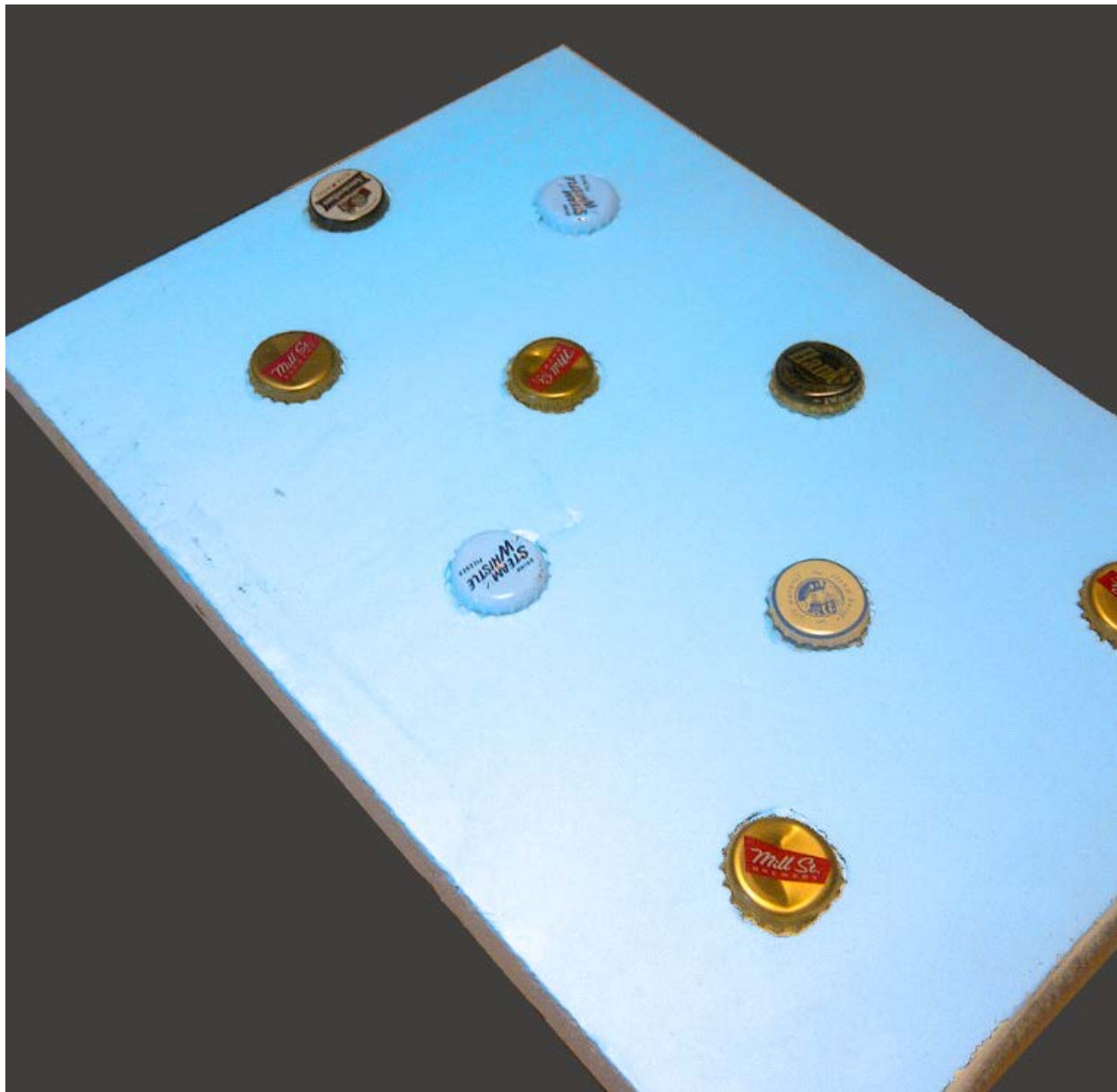


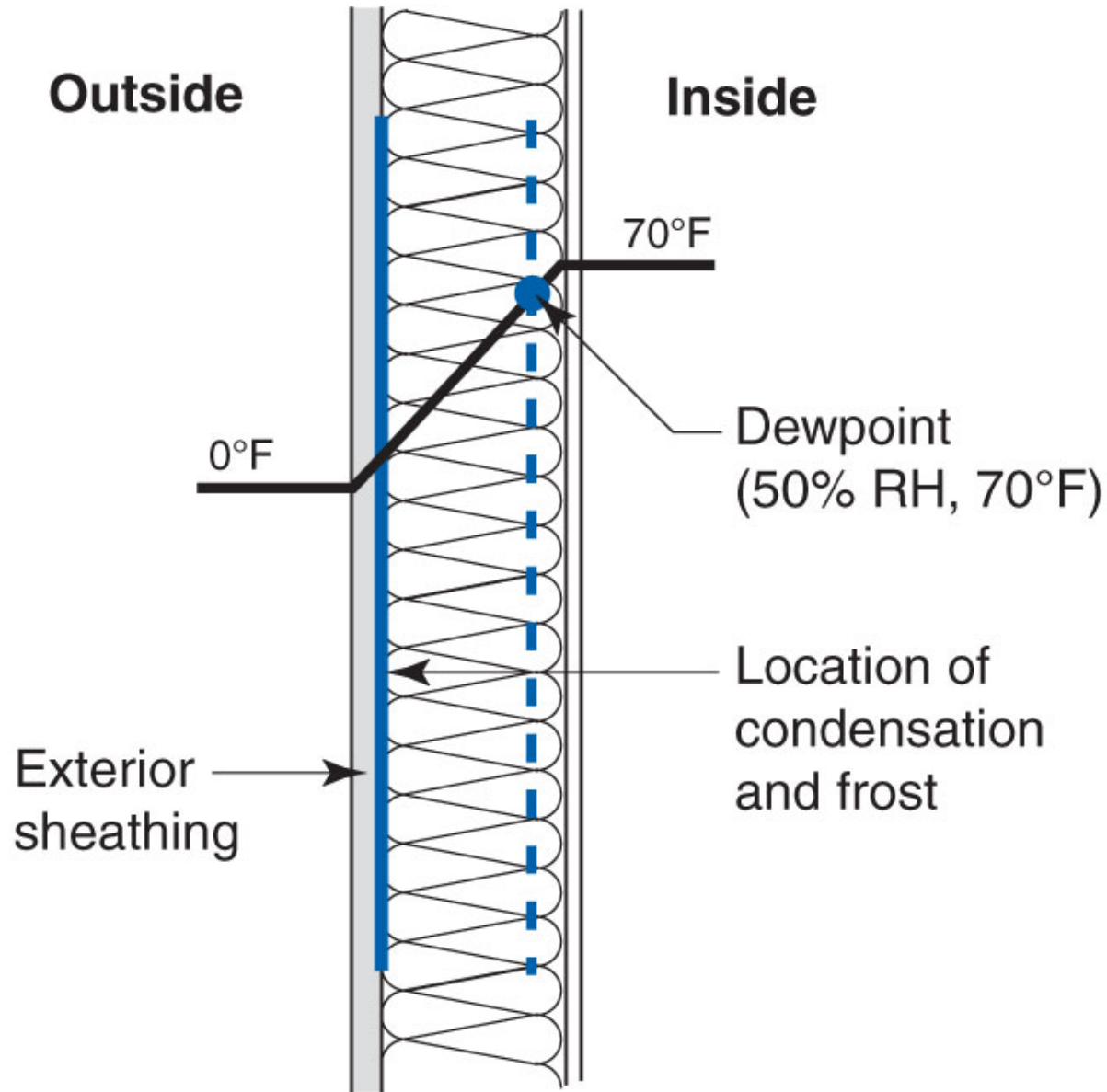


Rain Screen

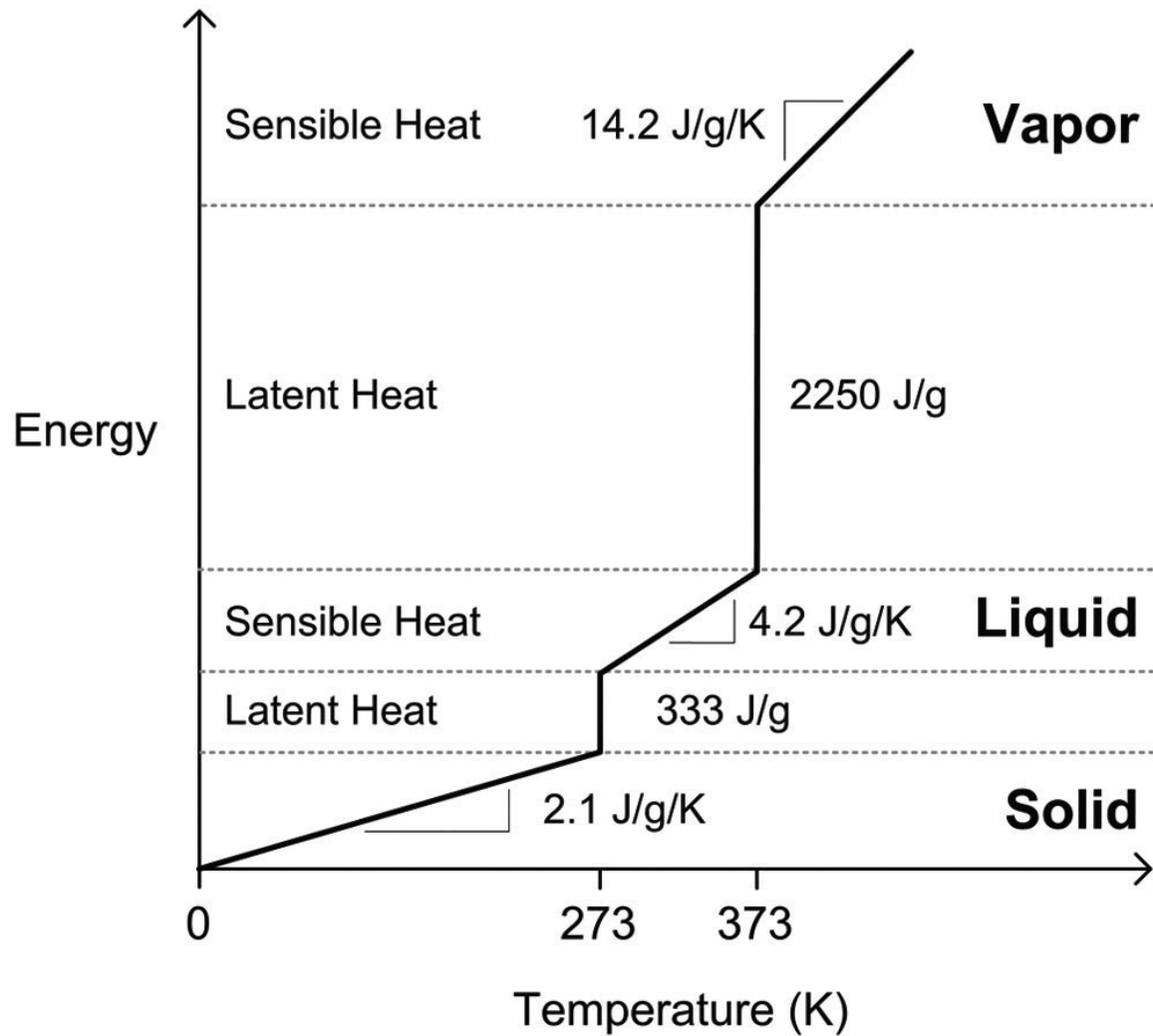


Beer Screen?





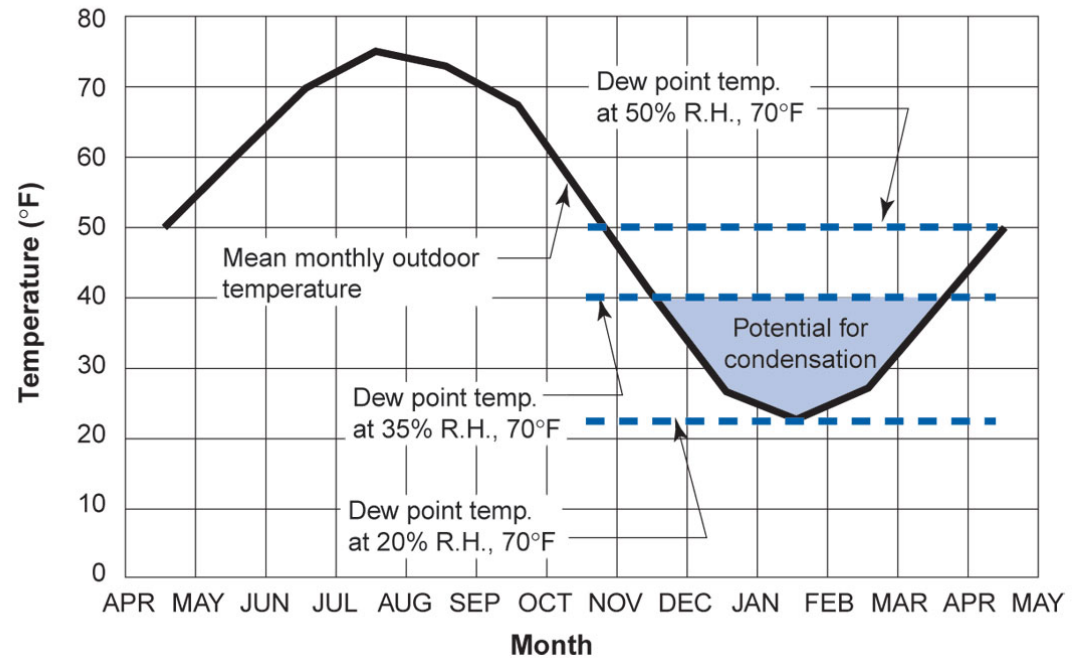
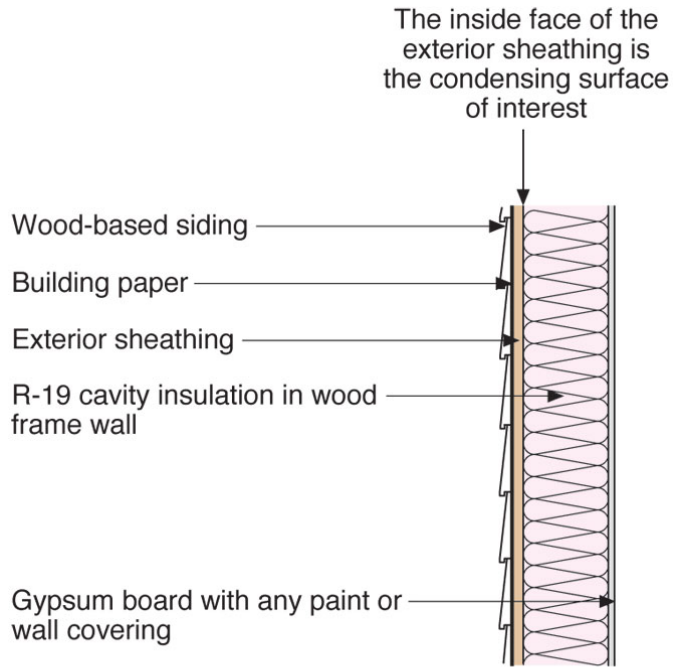


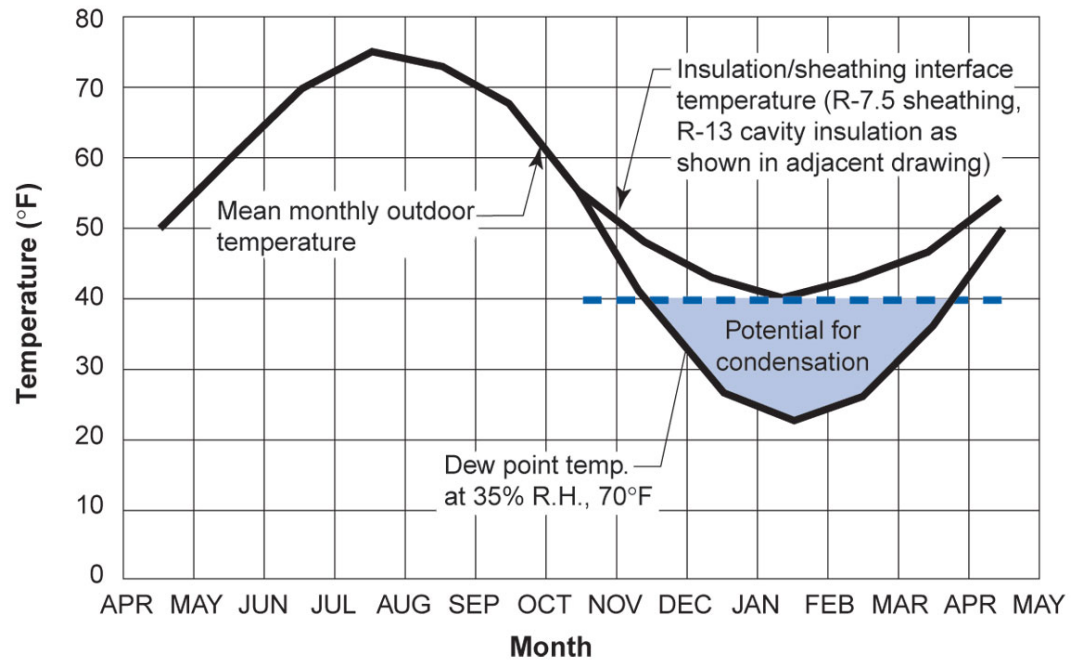
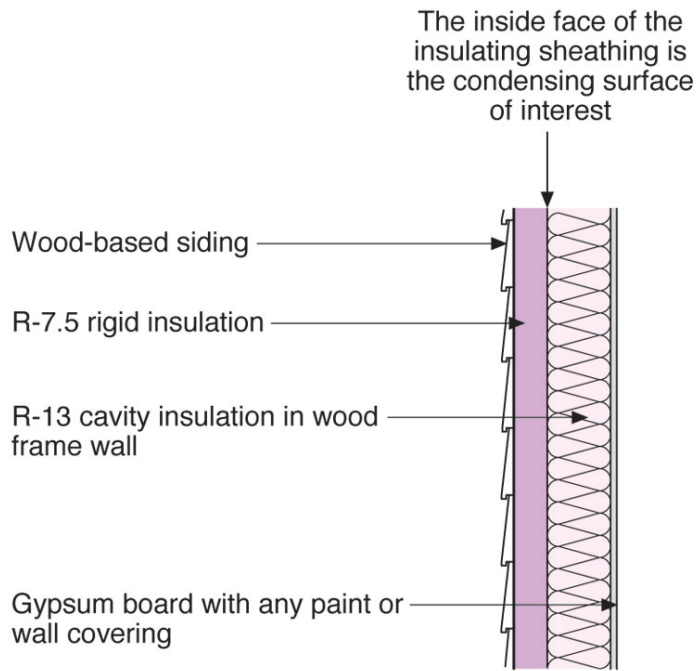


Simple linearized energy-temperature relation for water

From Straube & Burnett, 2005







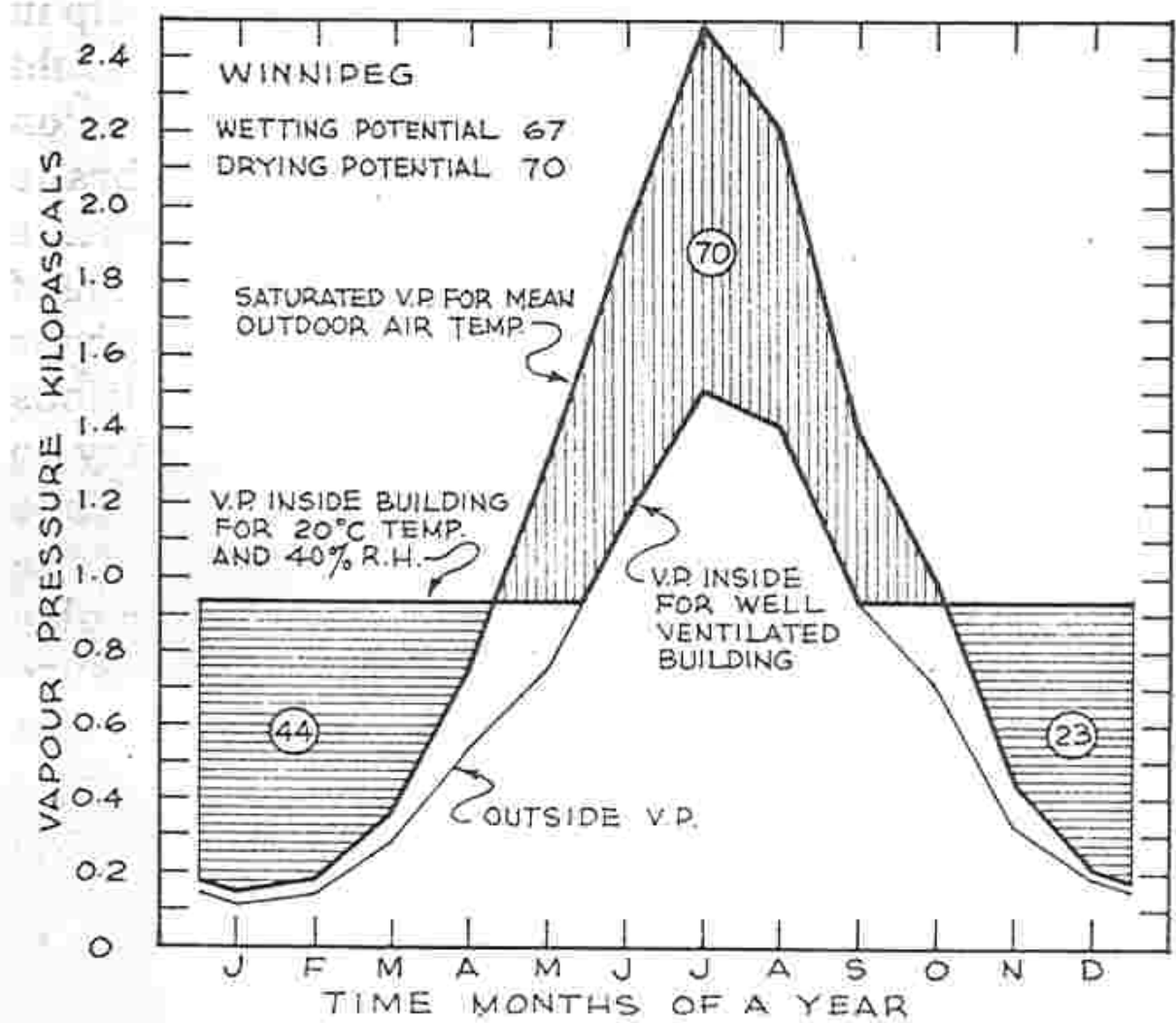
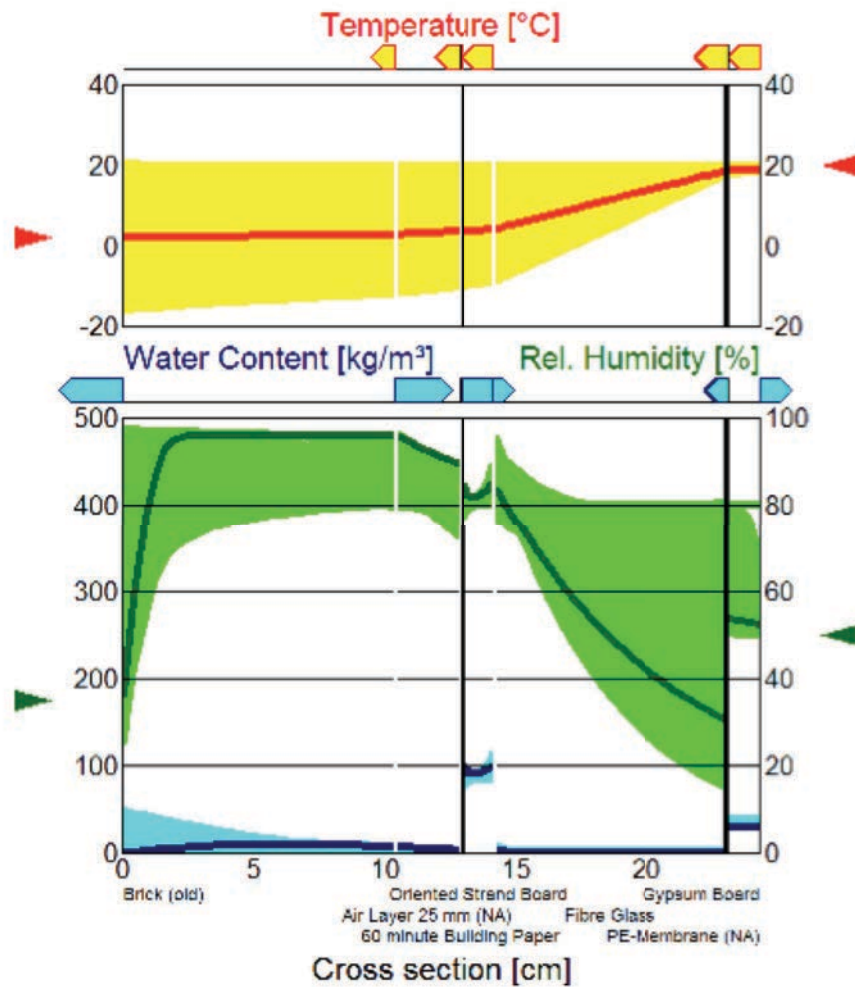


Figure 8-7. Outside vapour pressure, saturated vapour pressure and inside vapour pressure for Winnipeg.



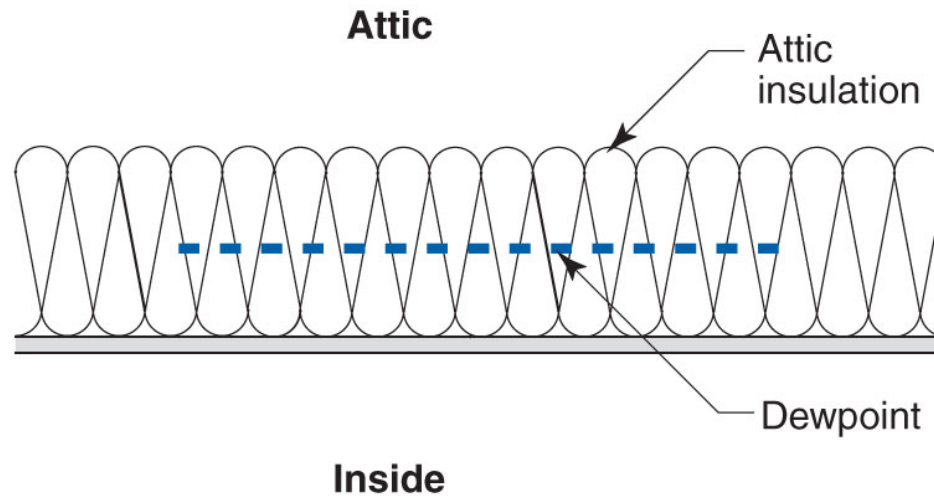
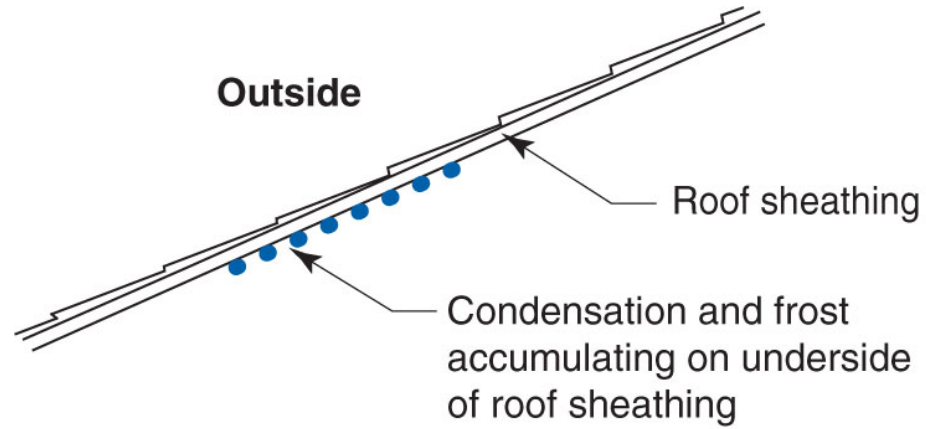
WUFI® 3.3 Pro. IBP
Run

16 Feb
2001

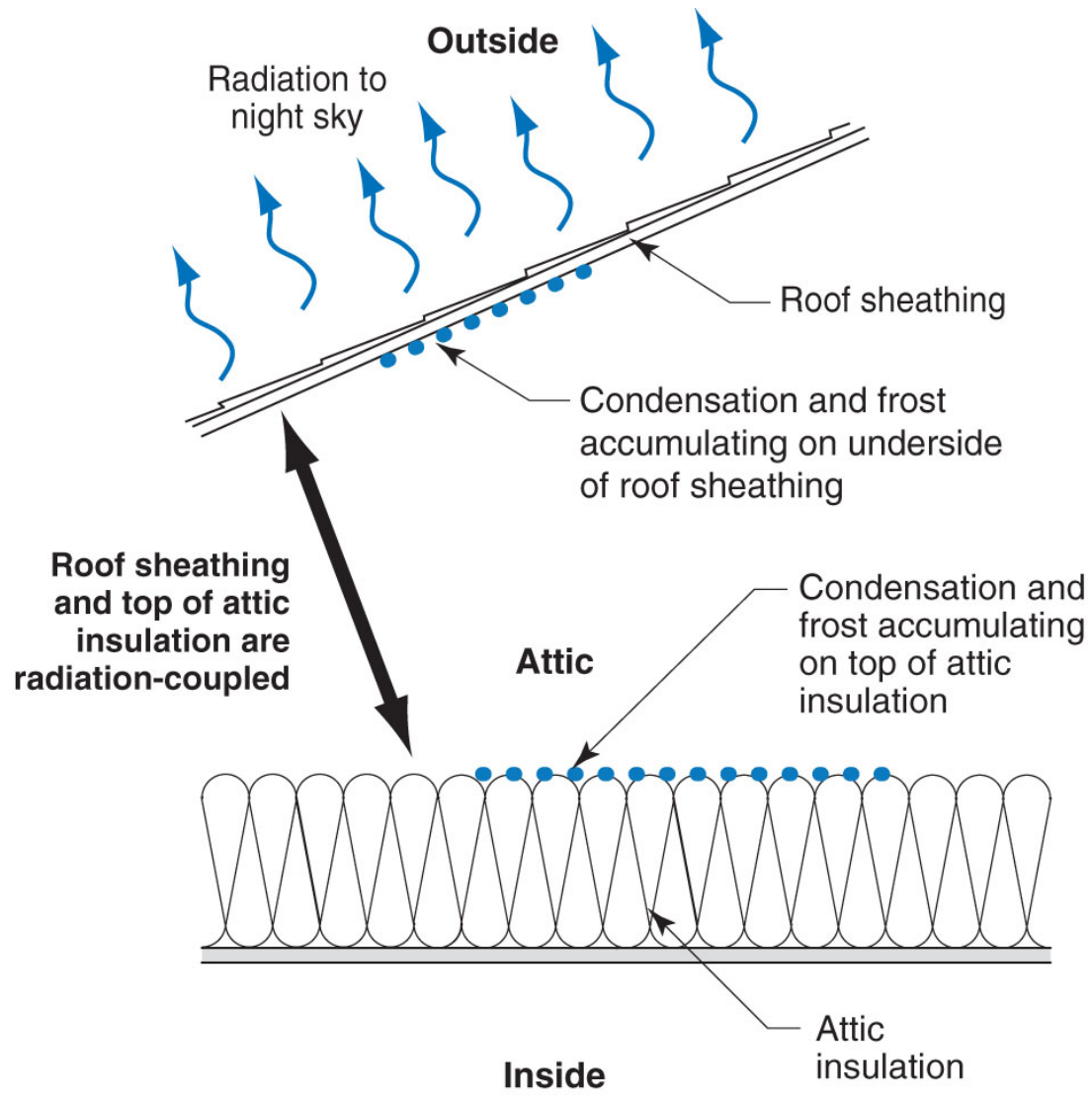
0% 100%

0% 100%

? <- > - > >

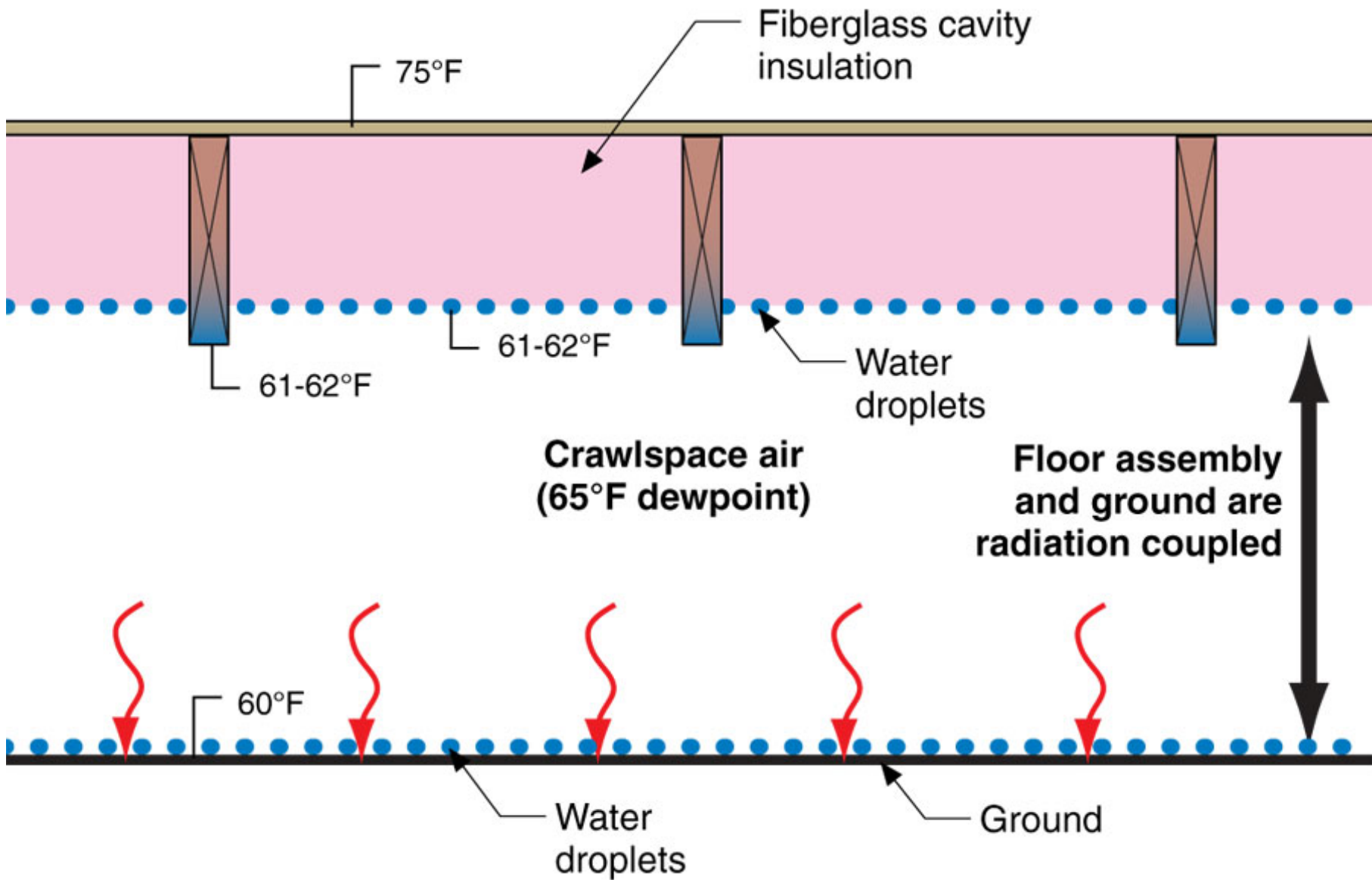


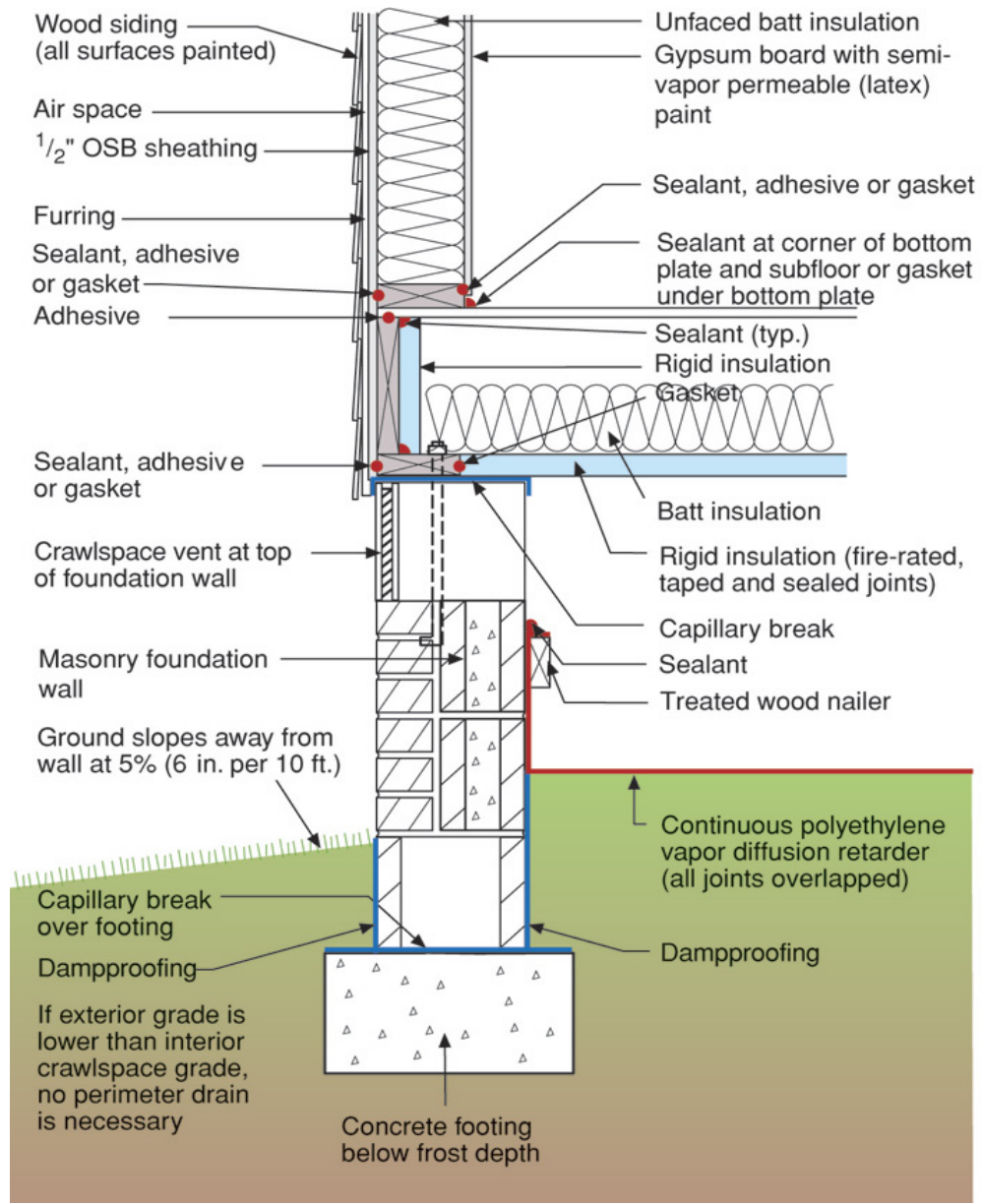


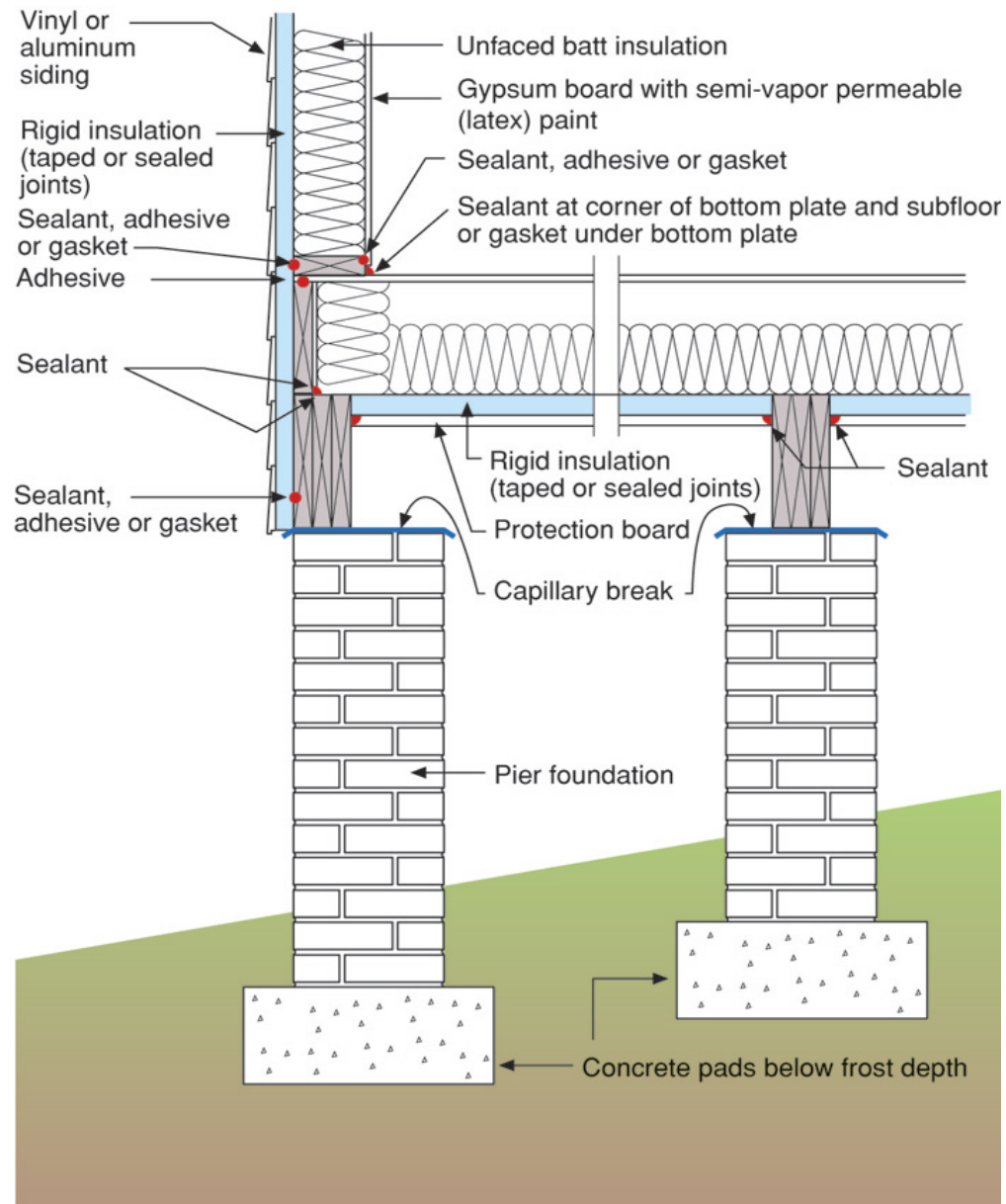


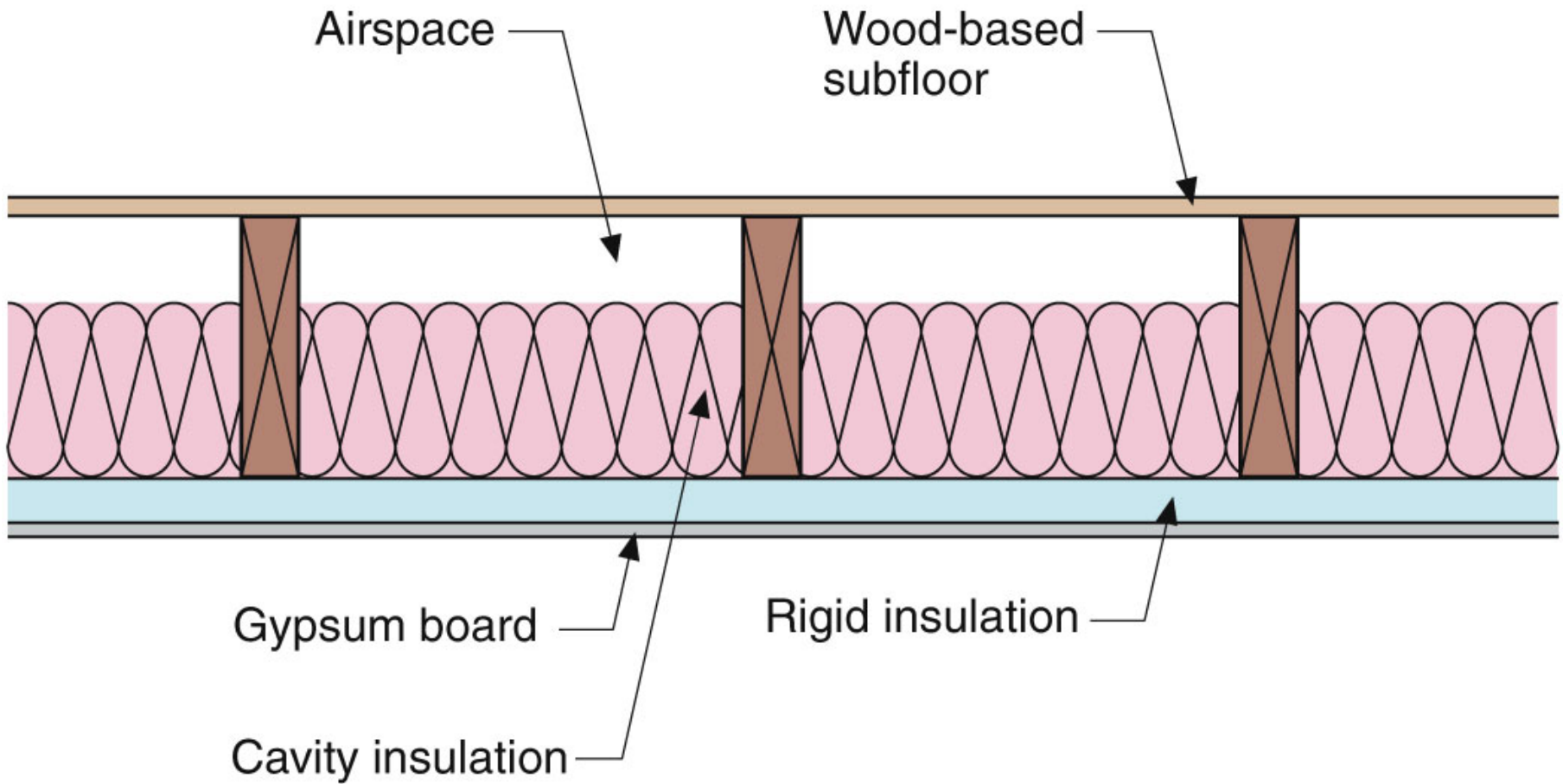


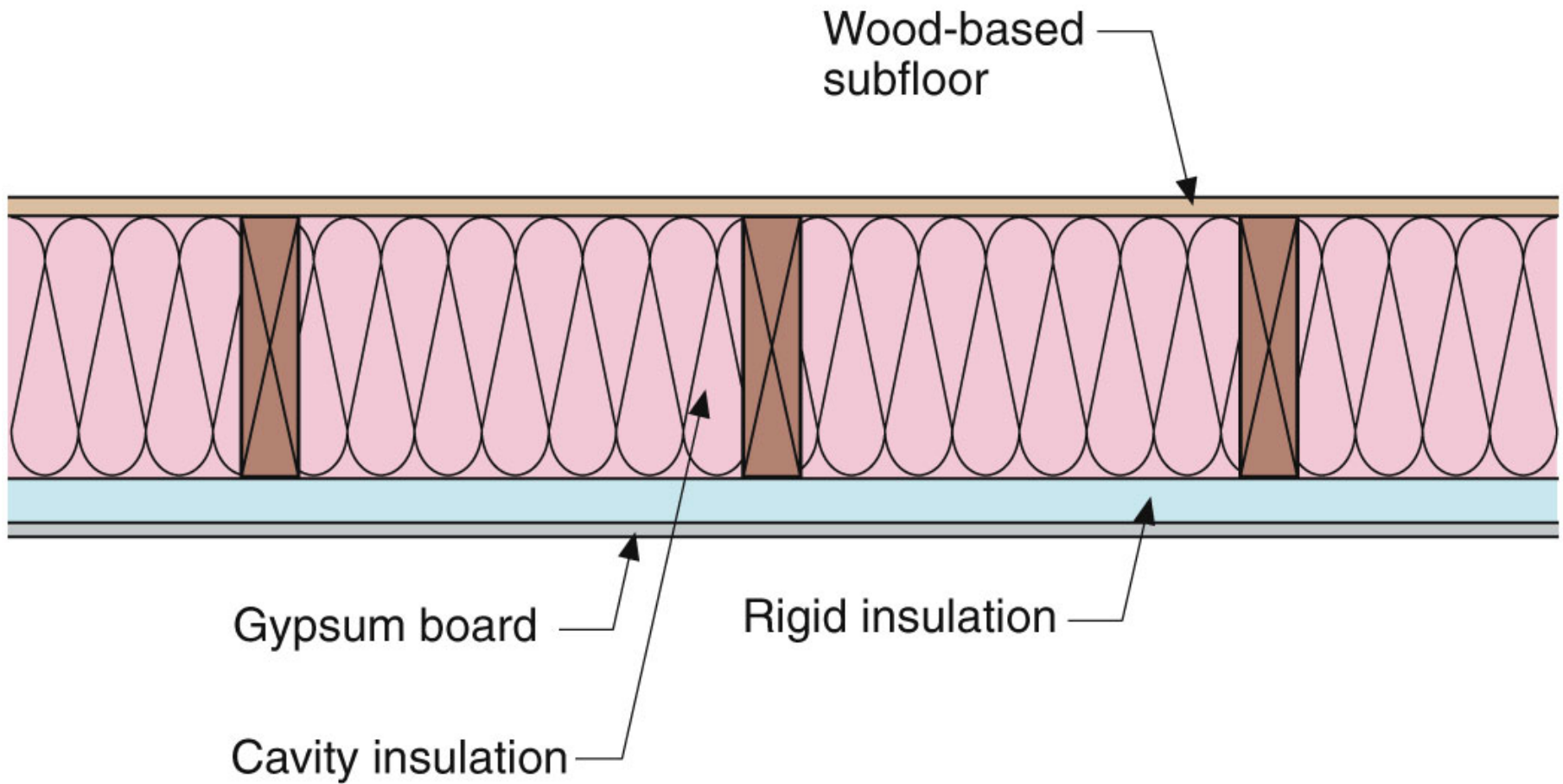


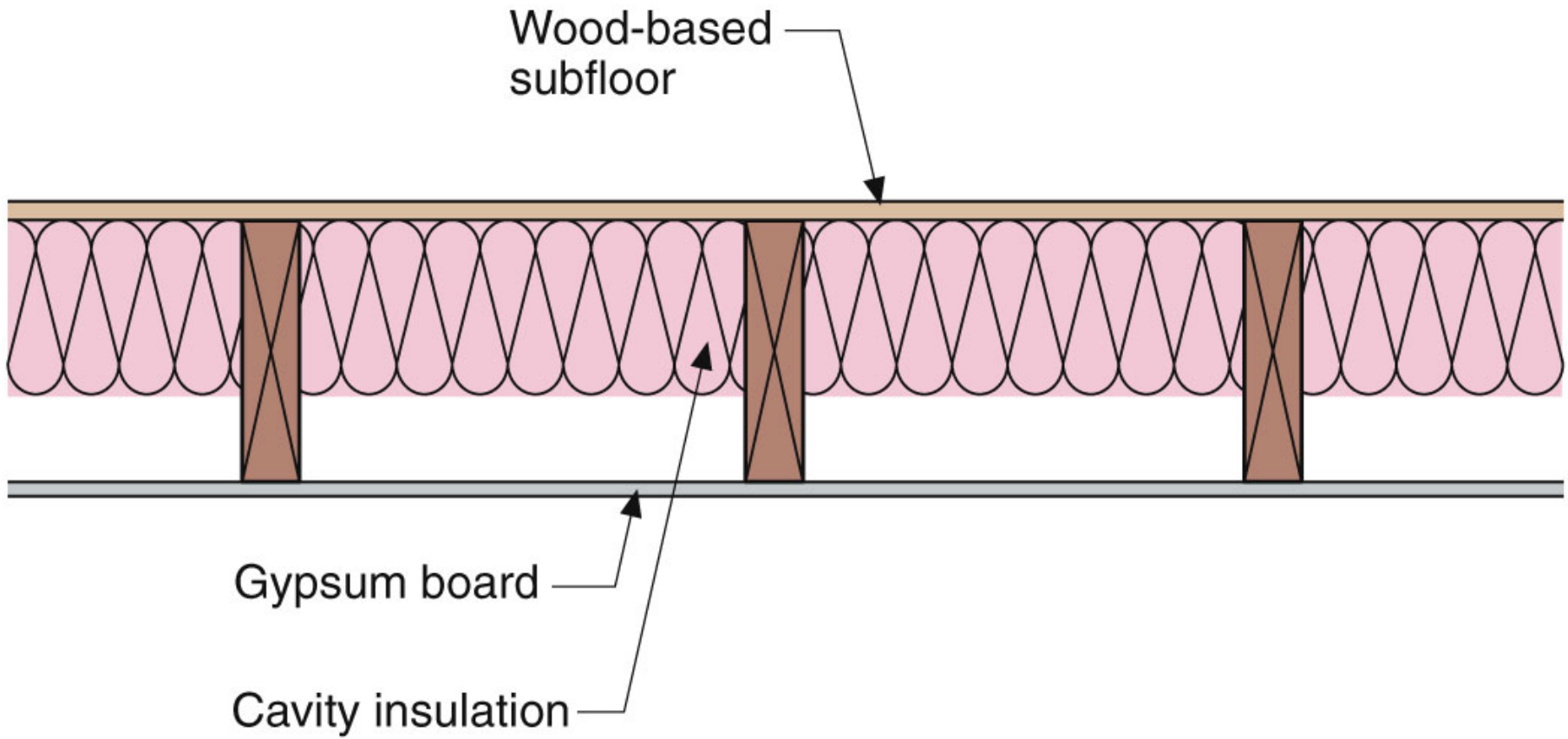


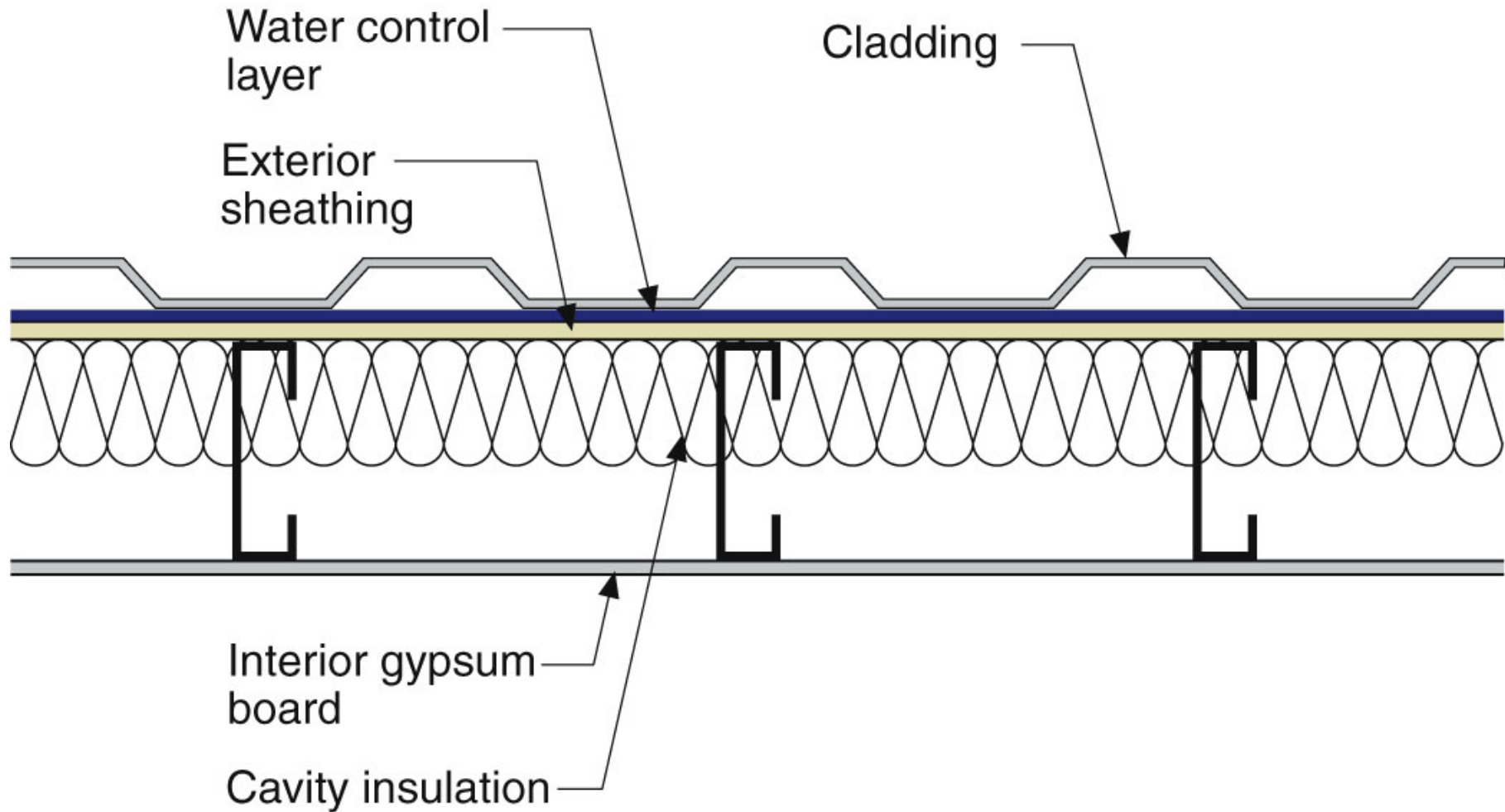


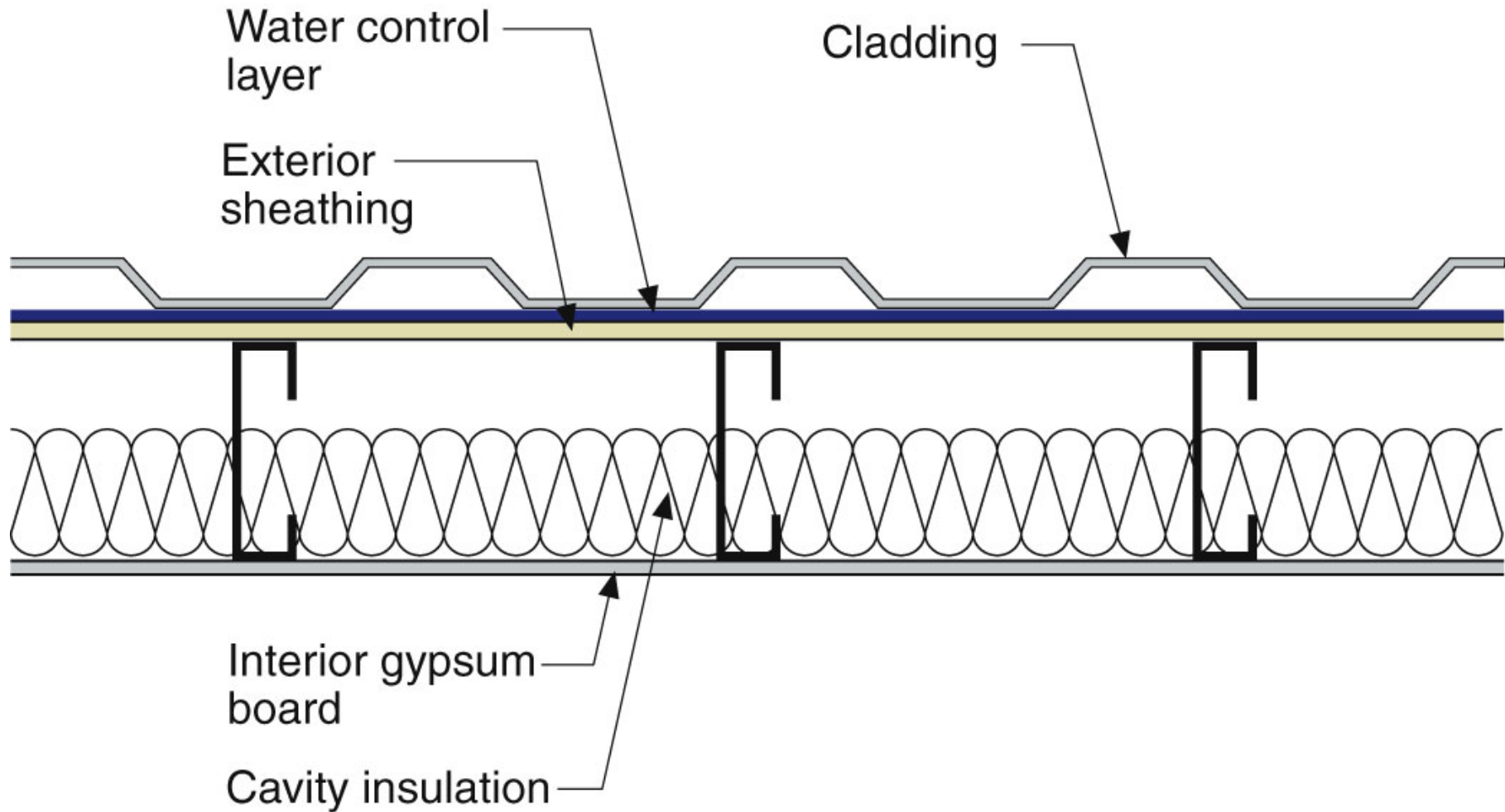


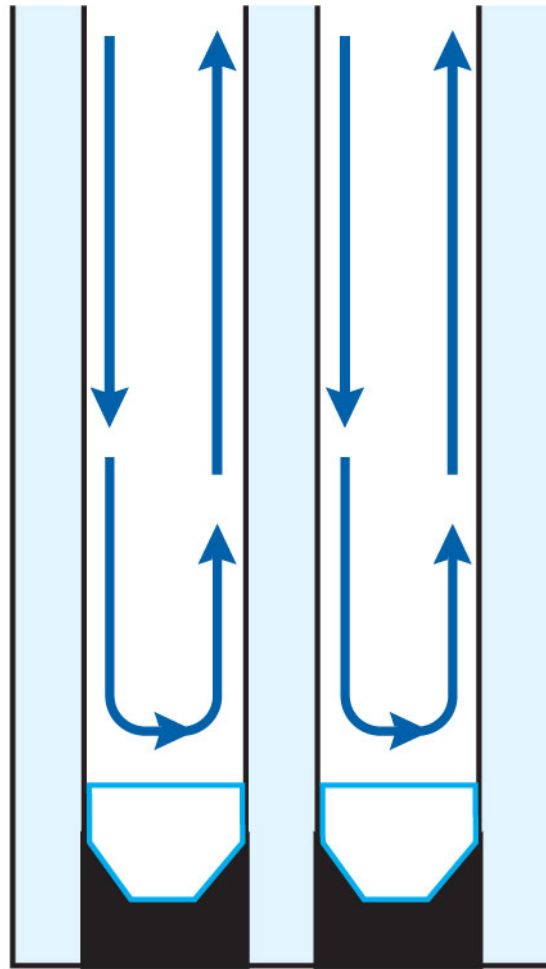




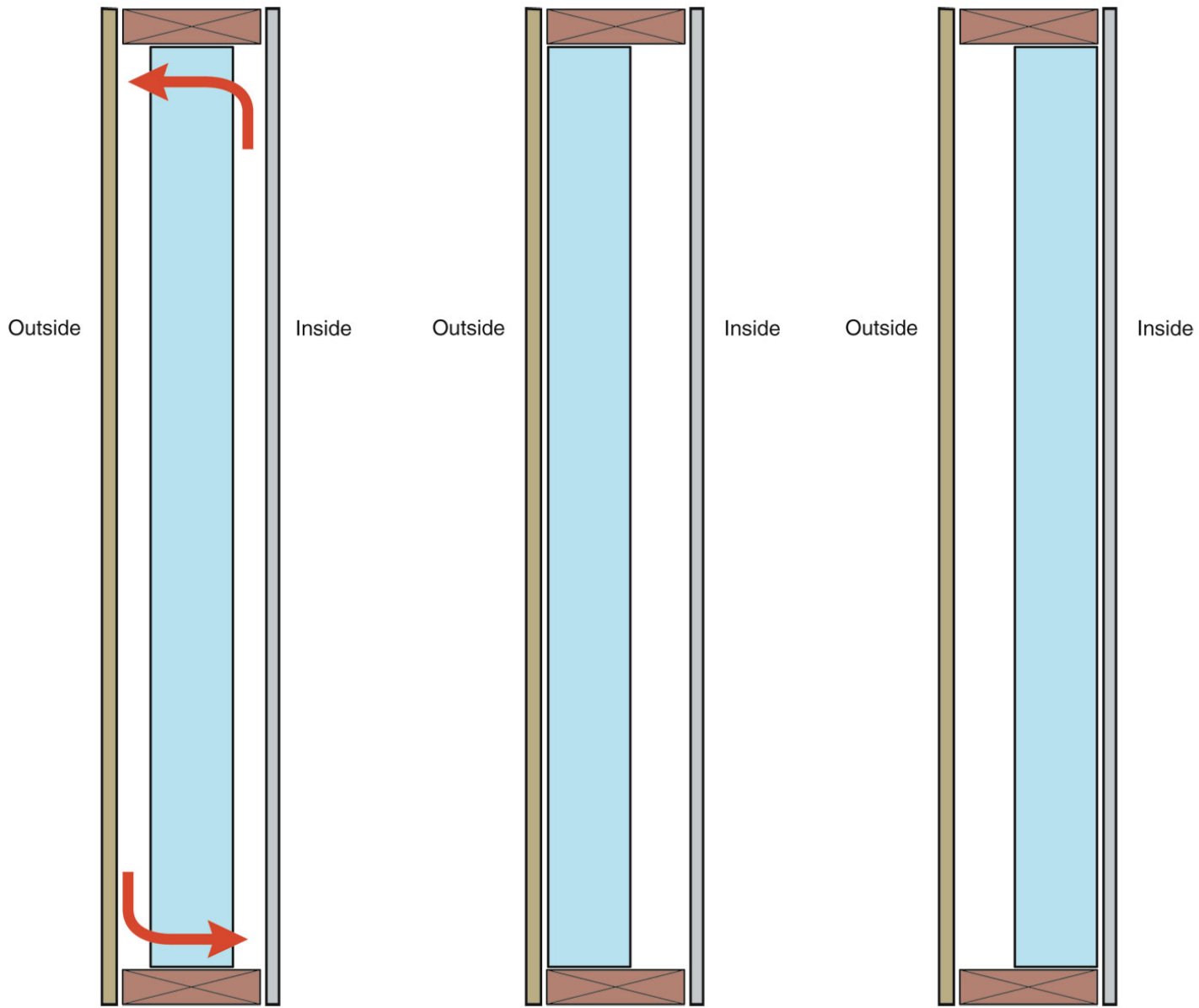


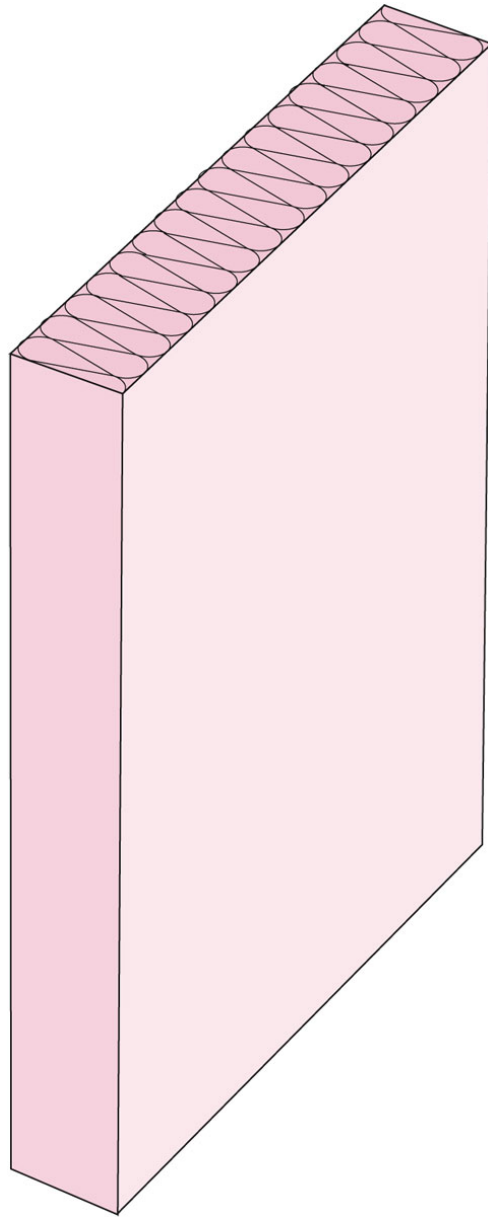


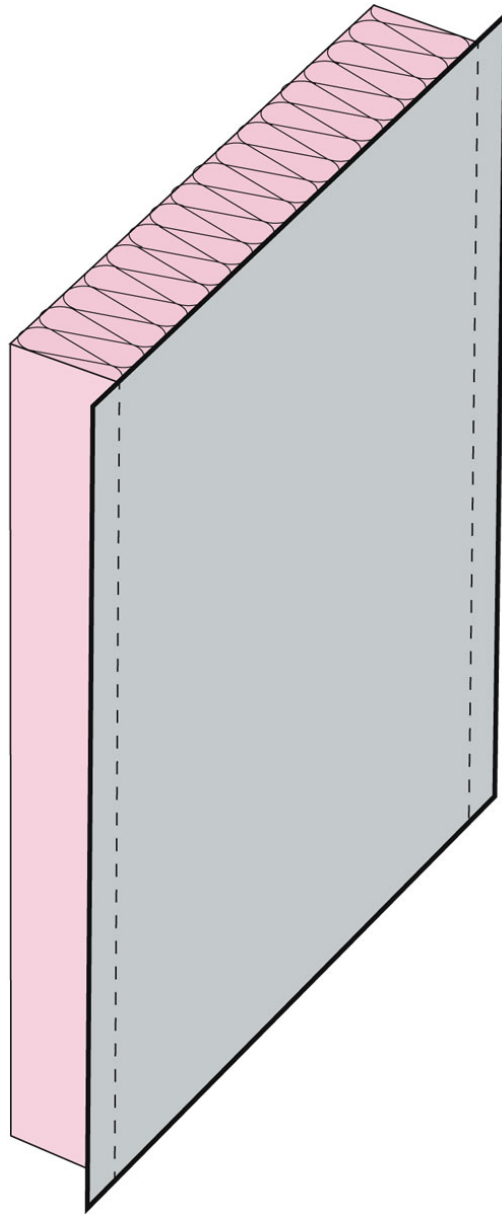


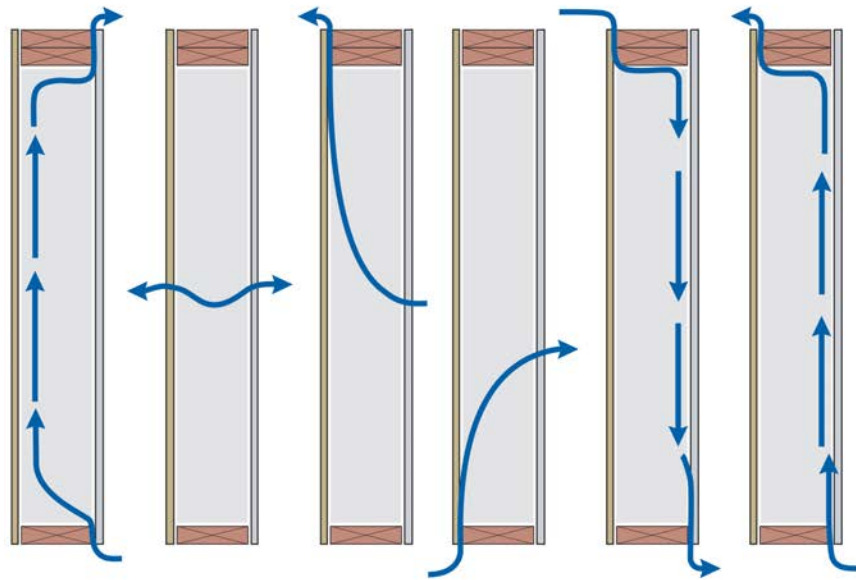
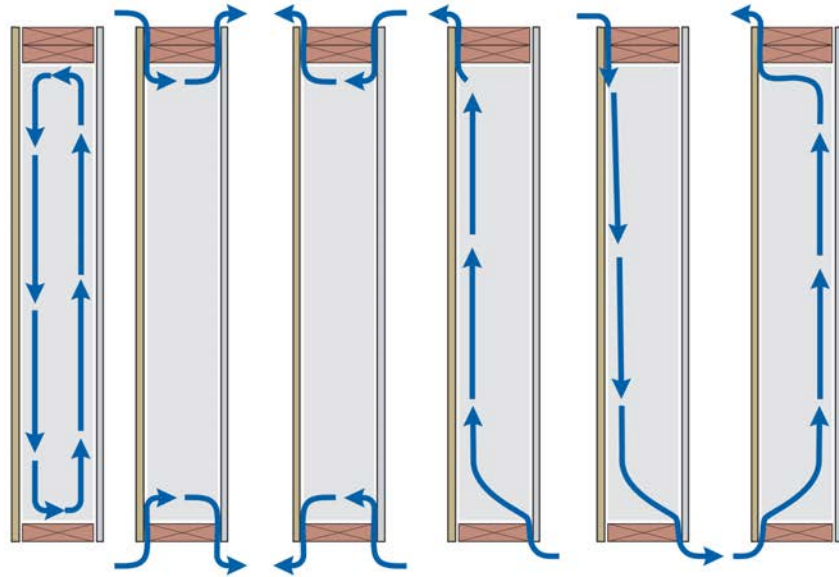


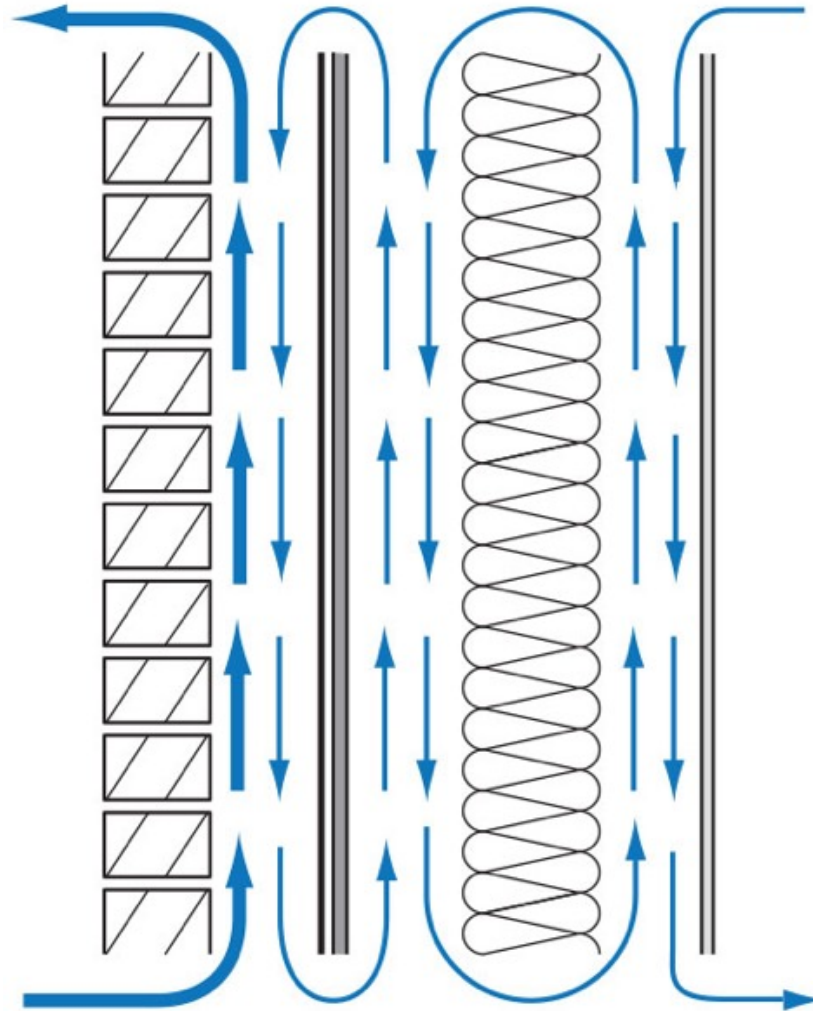
Insulated
glazing unit

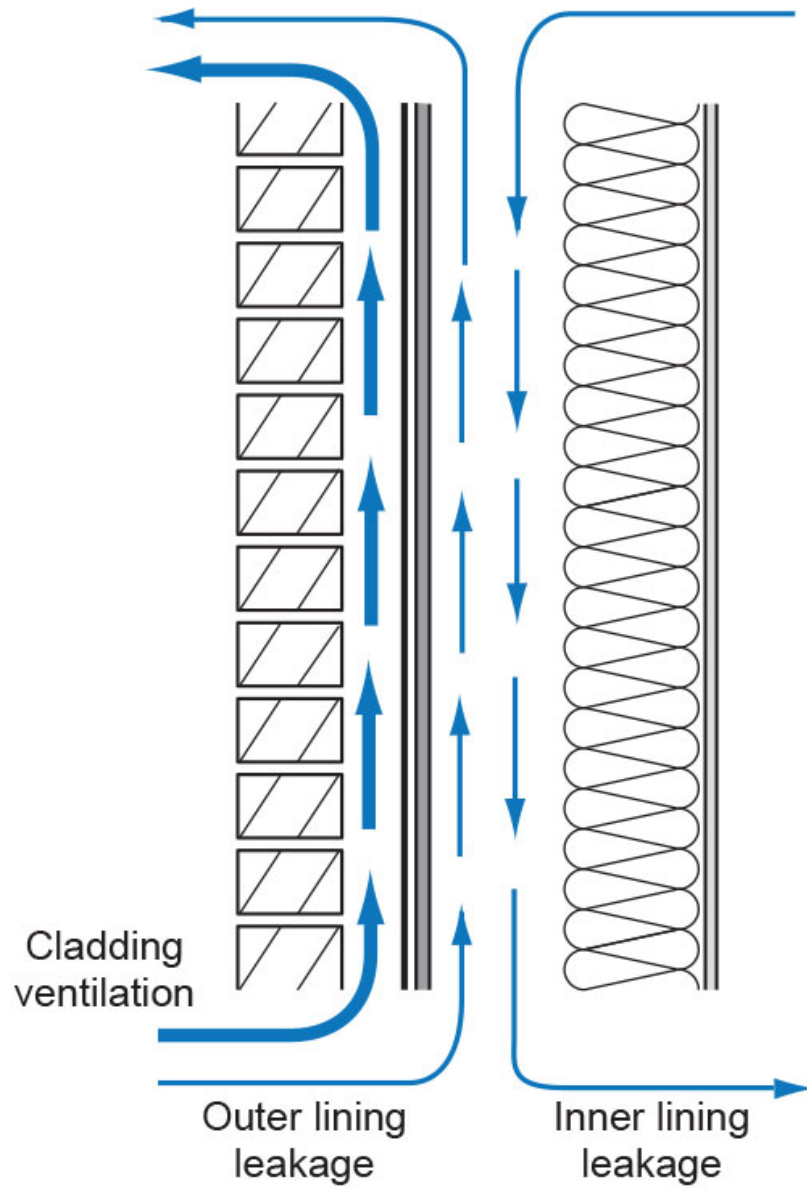


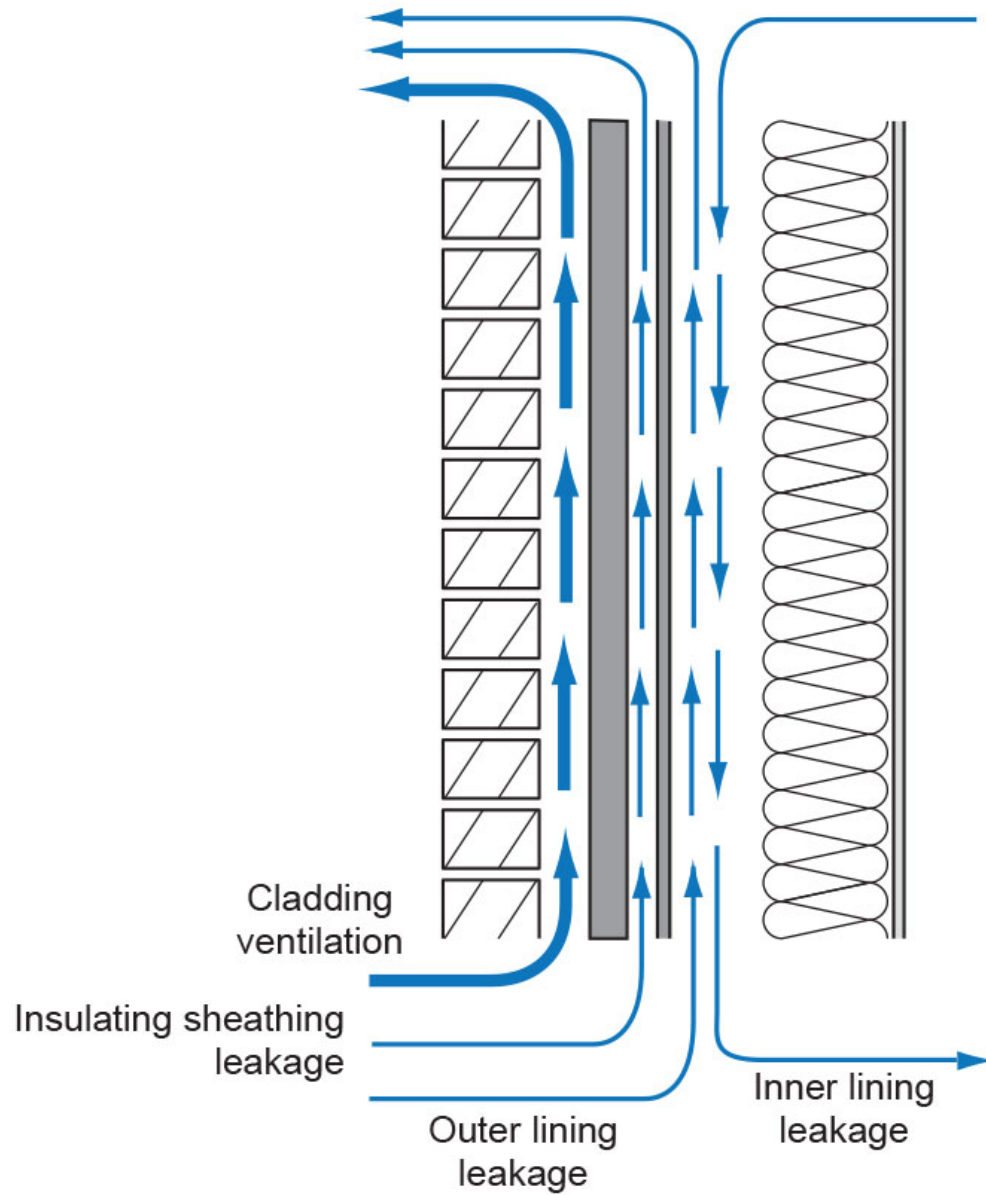






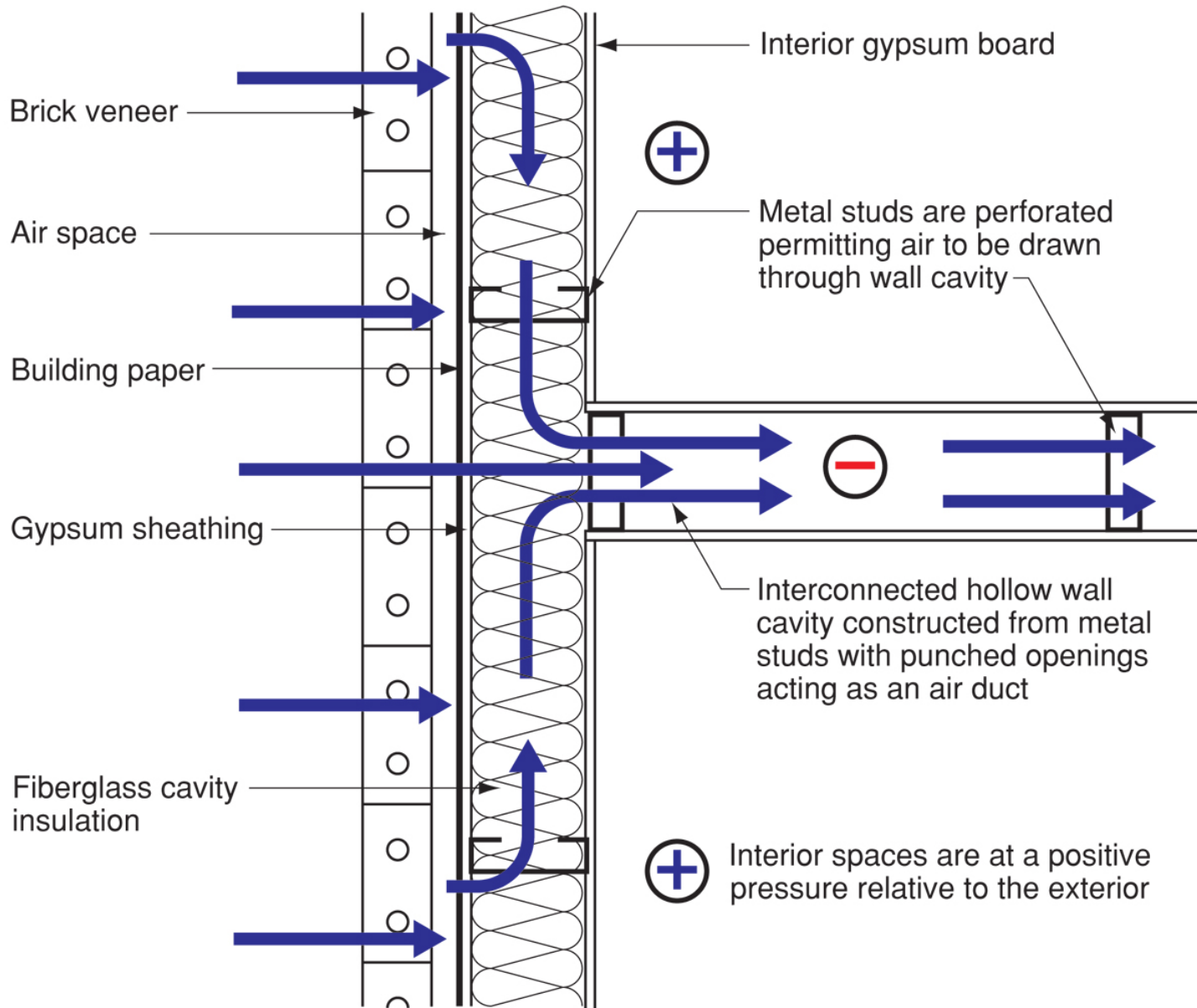


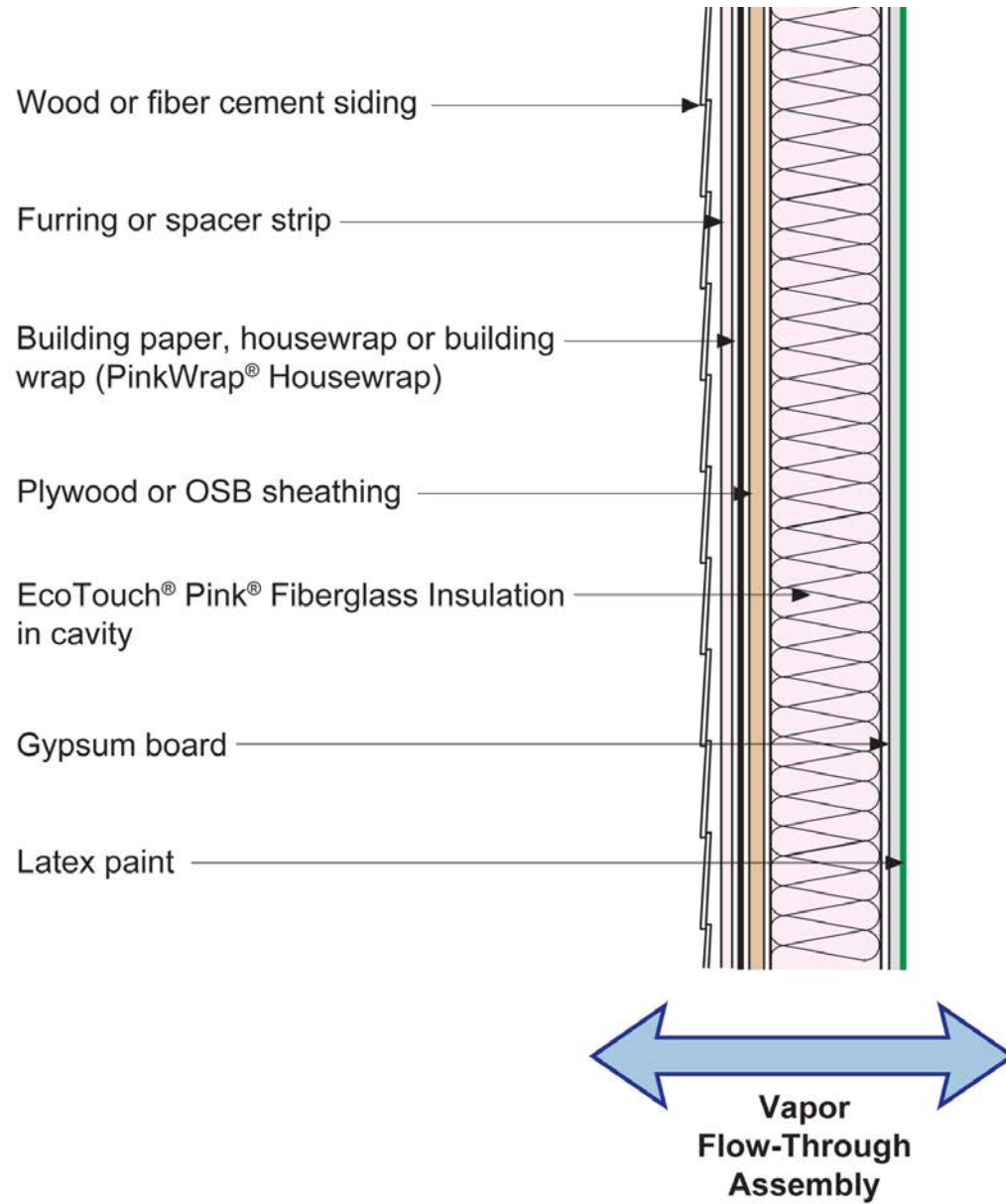


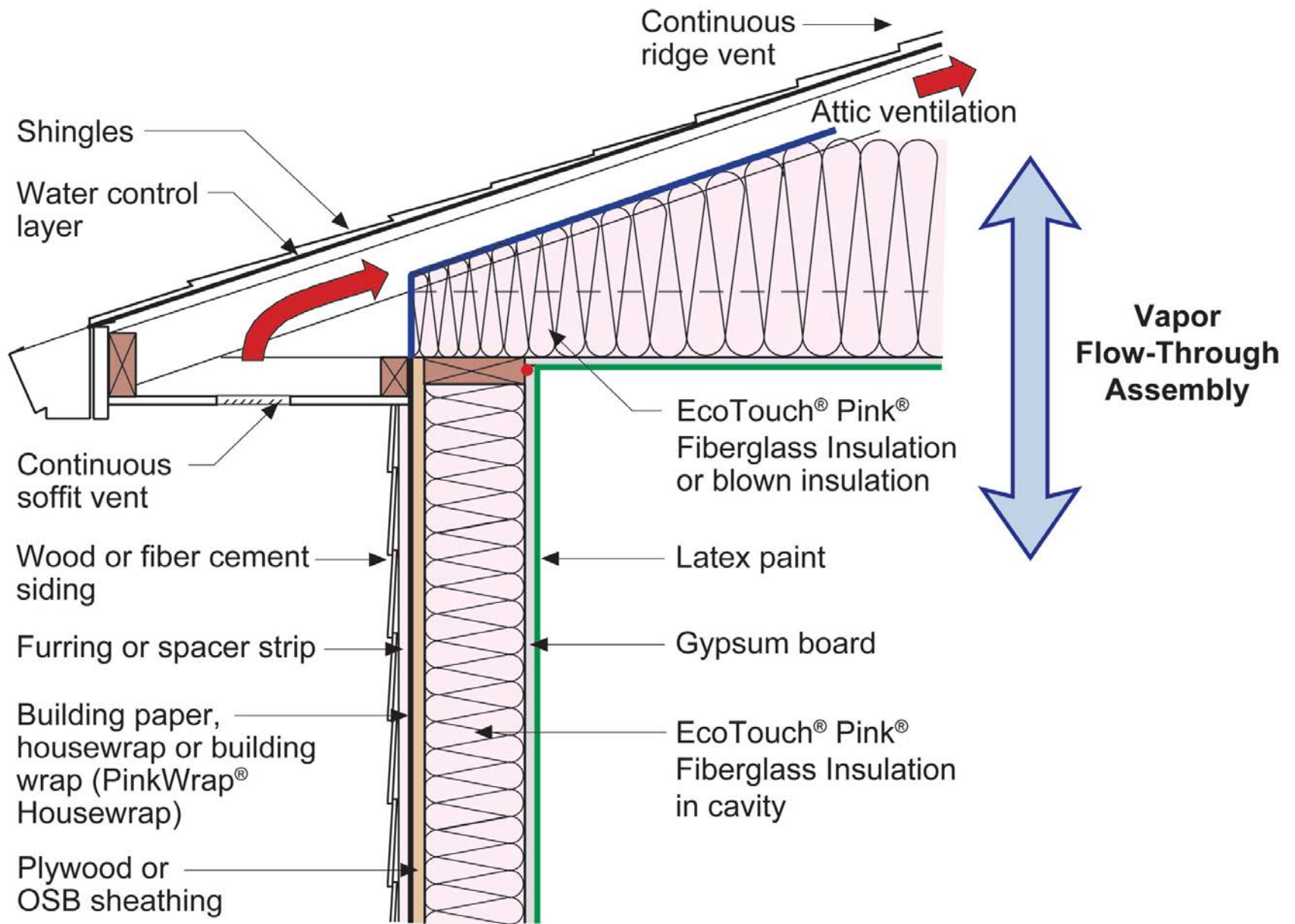


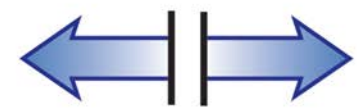
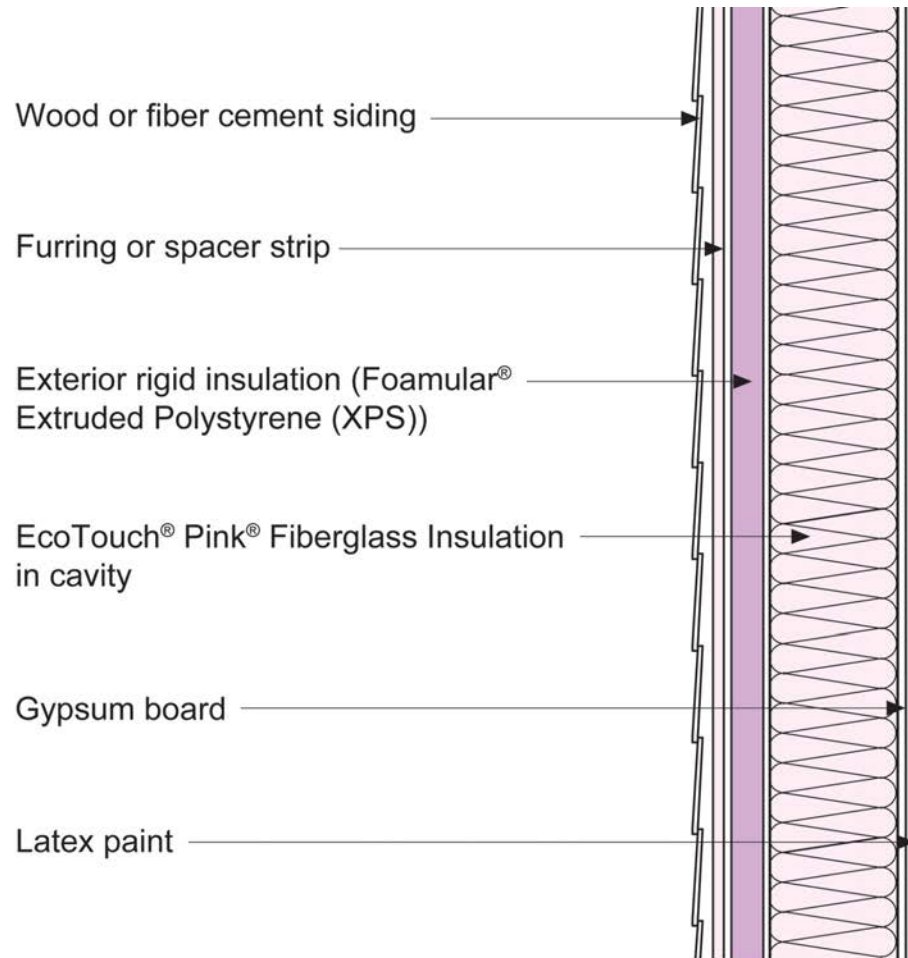
Cladding Ventilation/ Sheathing Ventilation

	Flow Rate	Gap	ACH
Wood Siding	0.1 cfm/sf	3/16"	20
Vinyl Siding	0.5 cfm/sf	3/16"	200
Brick Veneer	0.15 cfm/sf	1"	10
Stucco (vented)	0.1 cfm/sf	3/8"	10
Stucco (direct applied)	none	none	0
Sheathing flanking flow	0.05 cfm/sf	3/16"	10



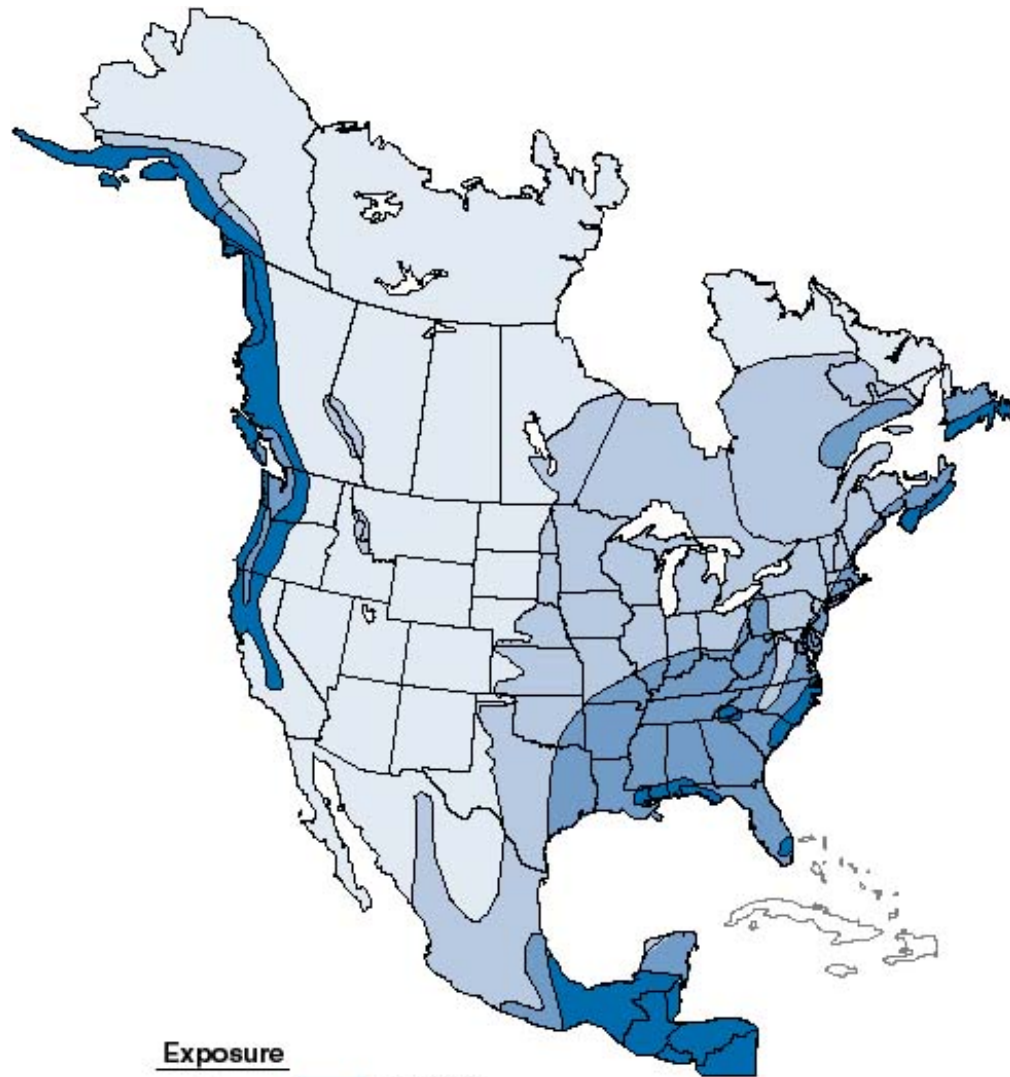






**Control of Condensing
Surface Temperature
Assembly**

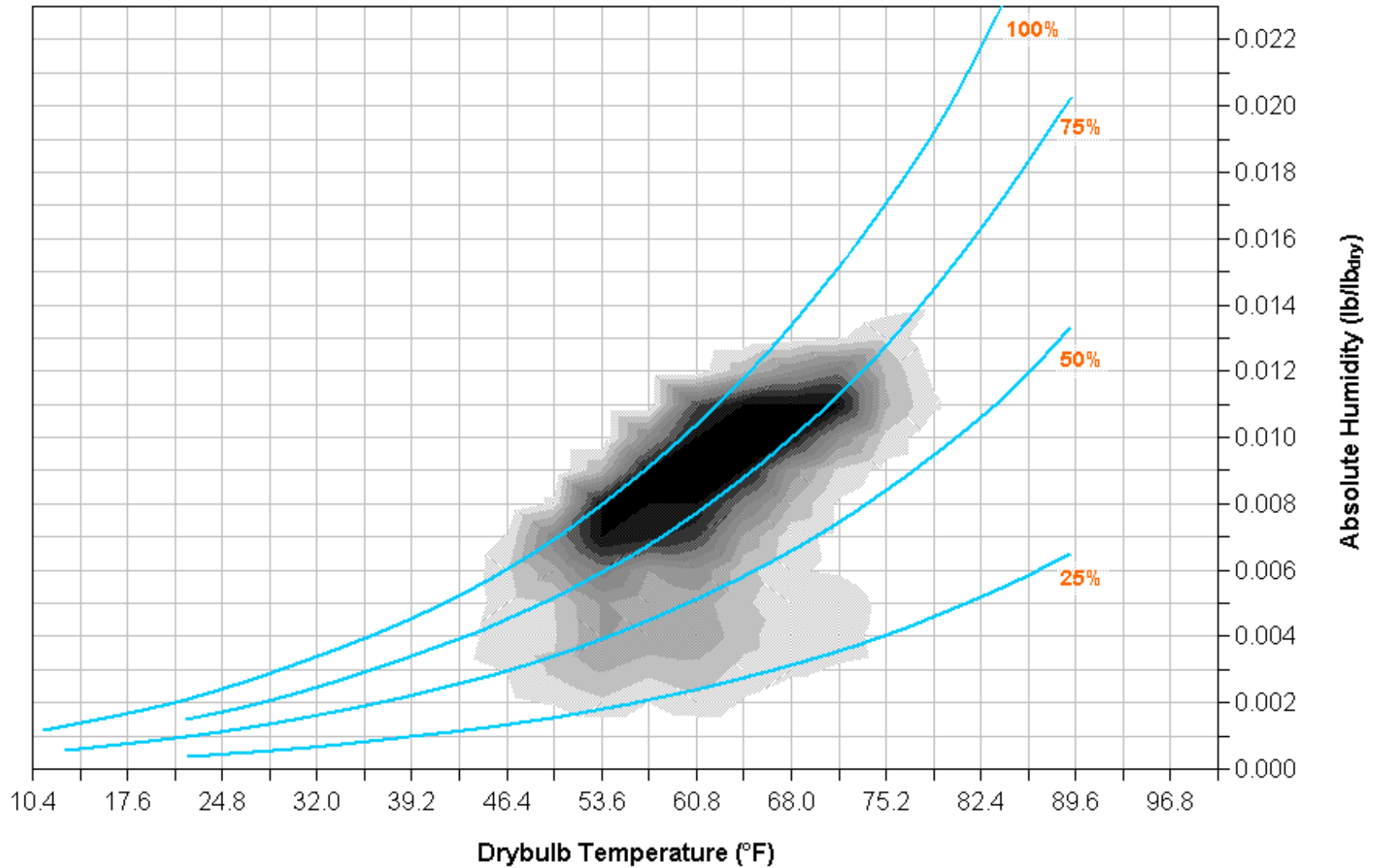




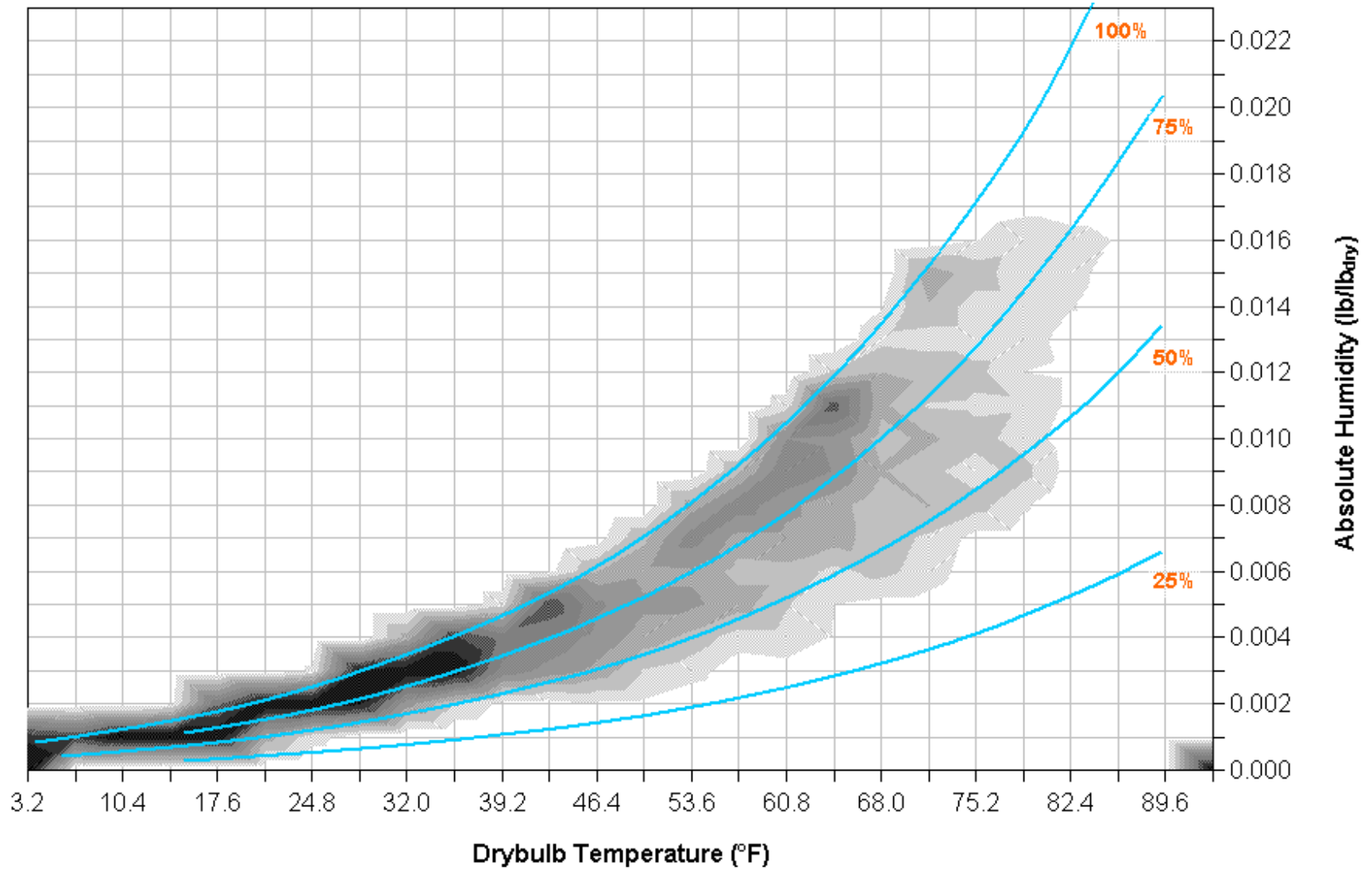
Exposure

Extreme	Over 60'
High	40' - 60'
Moderate	20' - 40'
Low	Under 20'

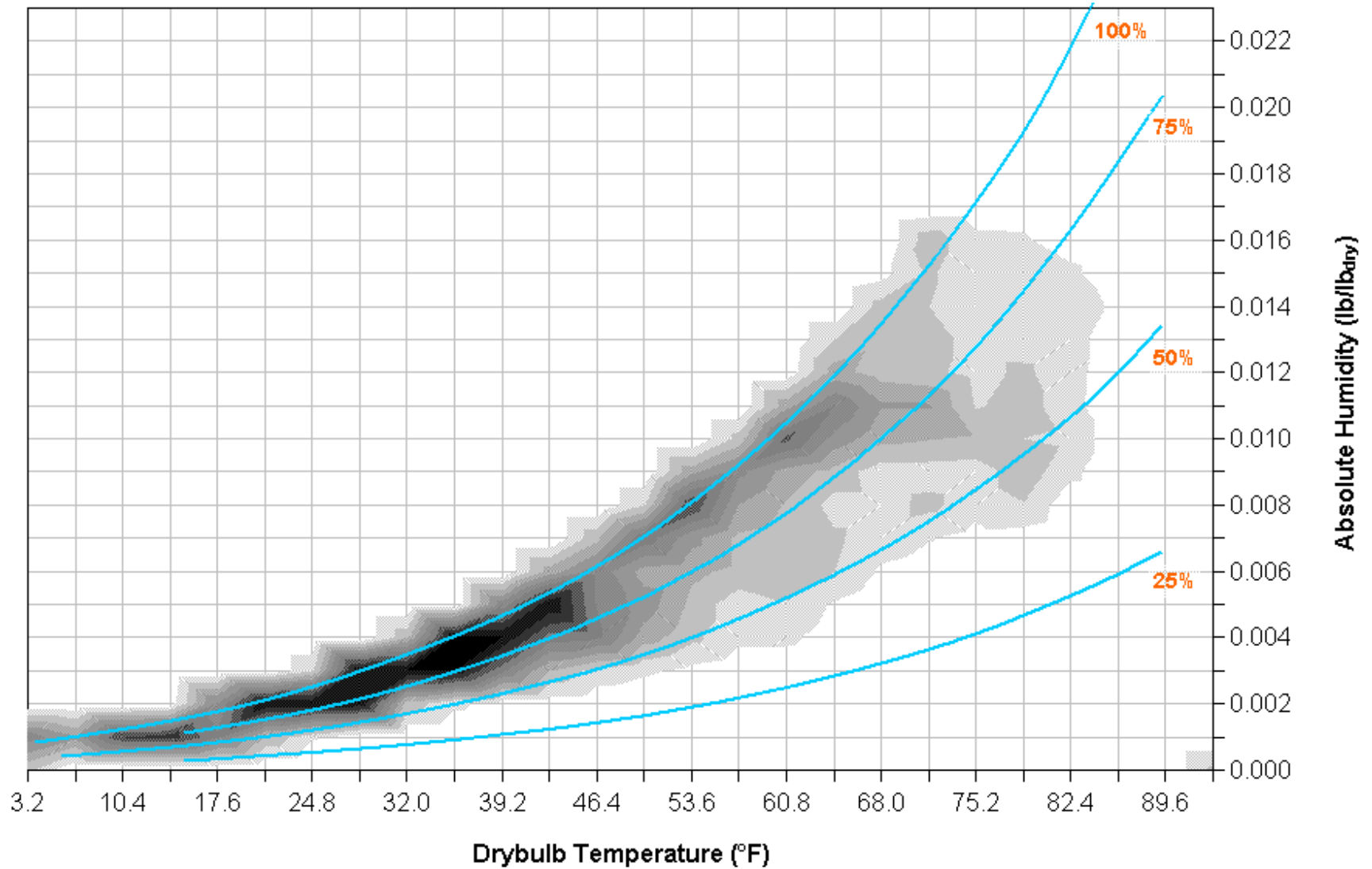
Los Angeles, CA



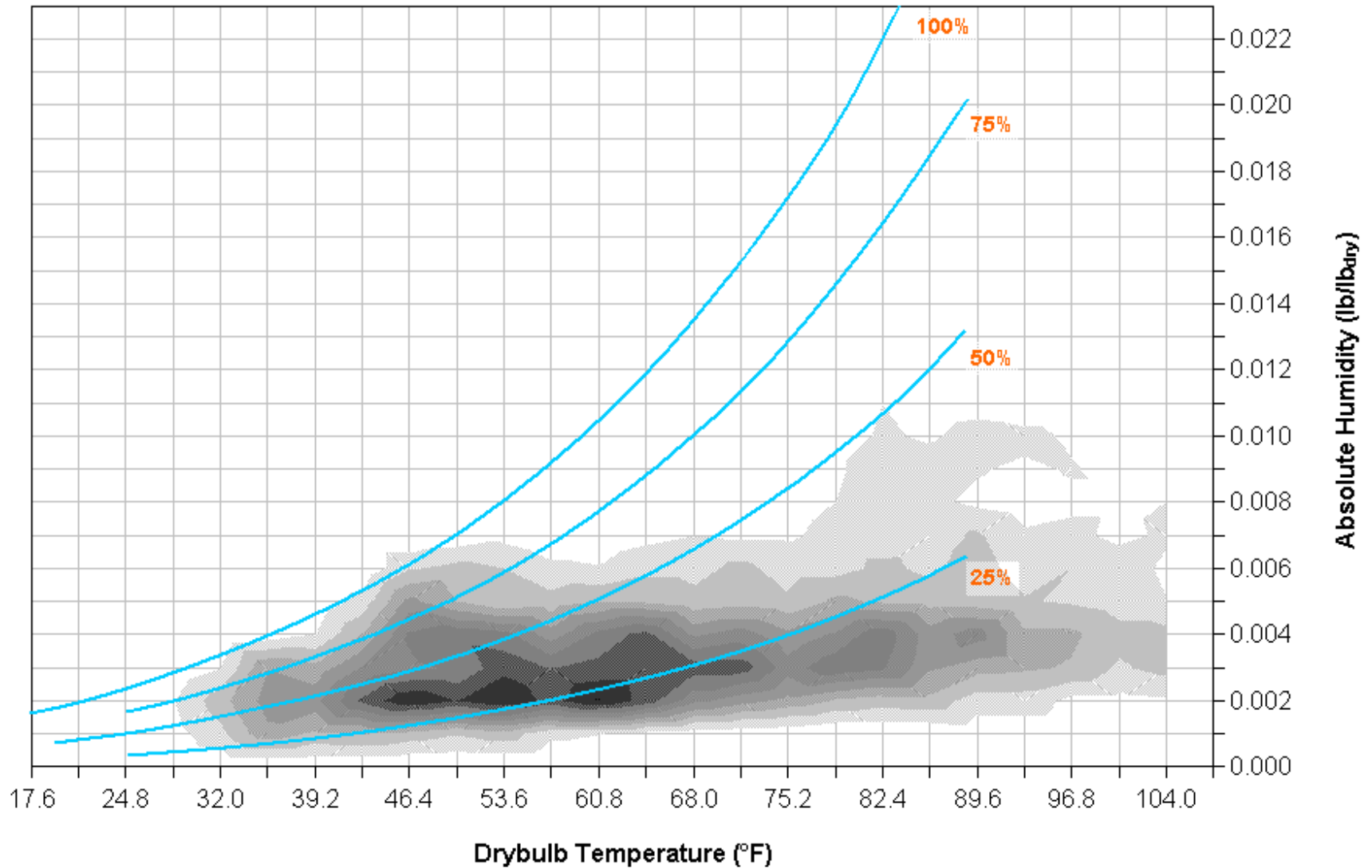
Minneapolis, MN



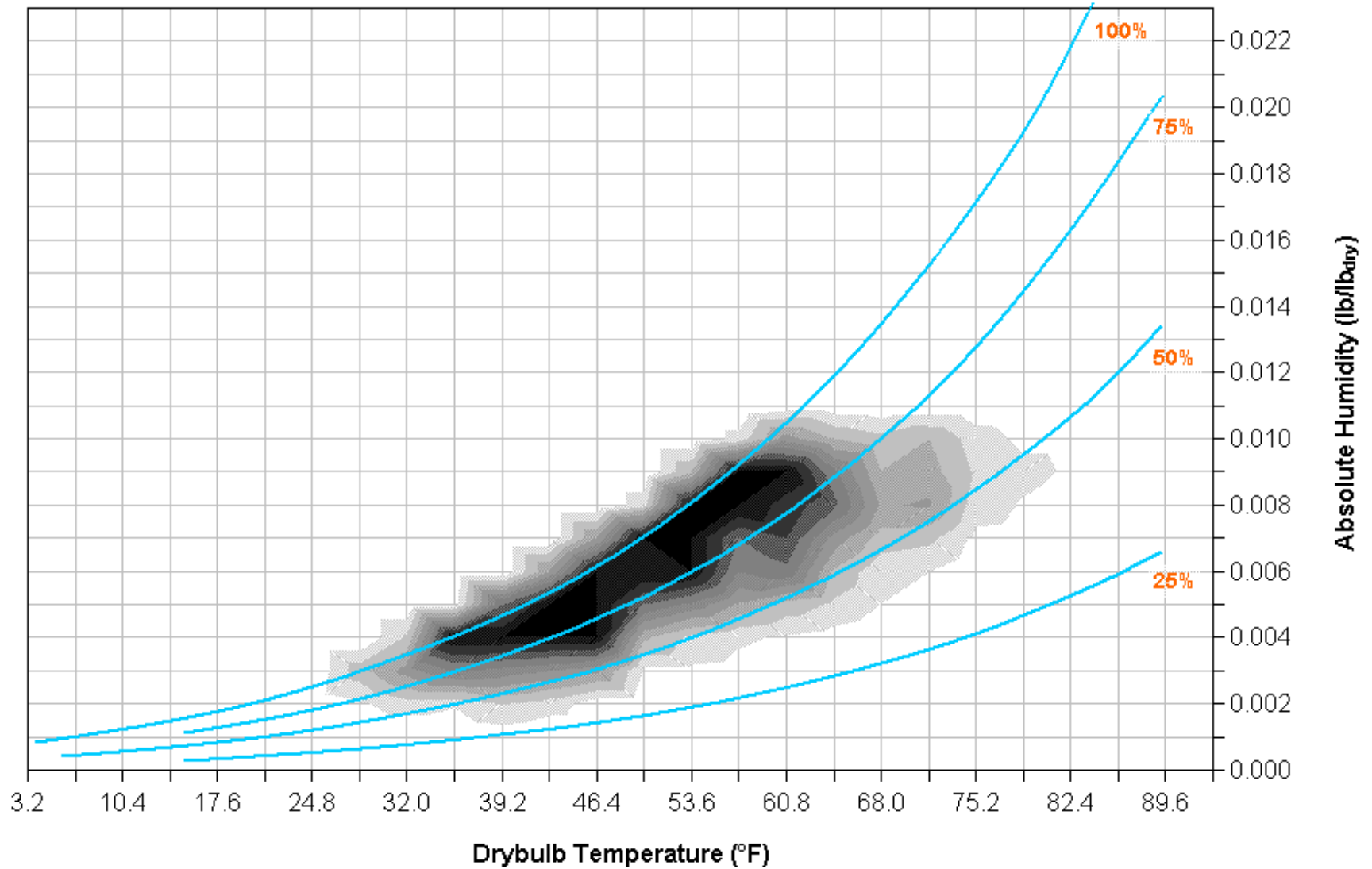
Lansing, MI



Las Vegas, NV



Seattle, WA



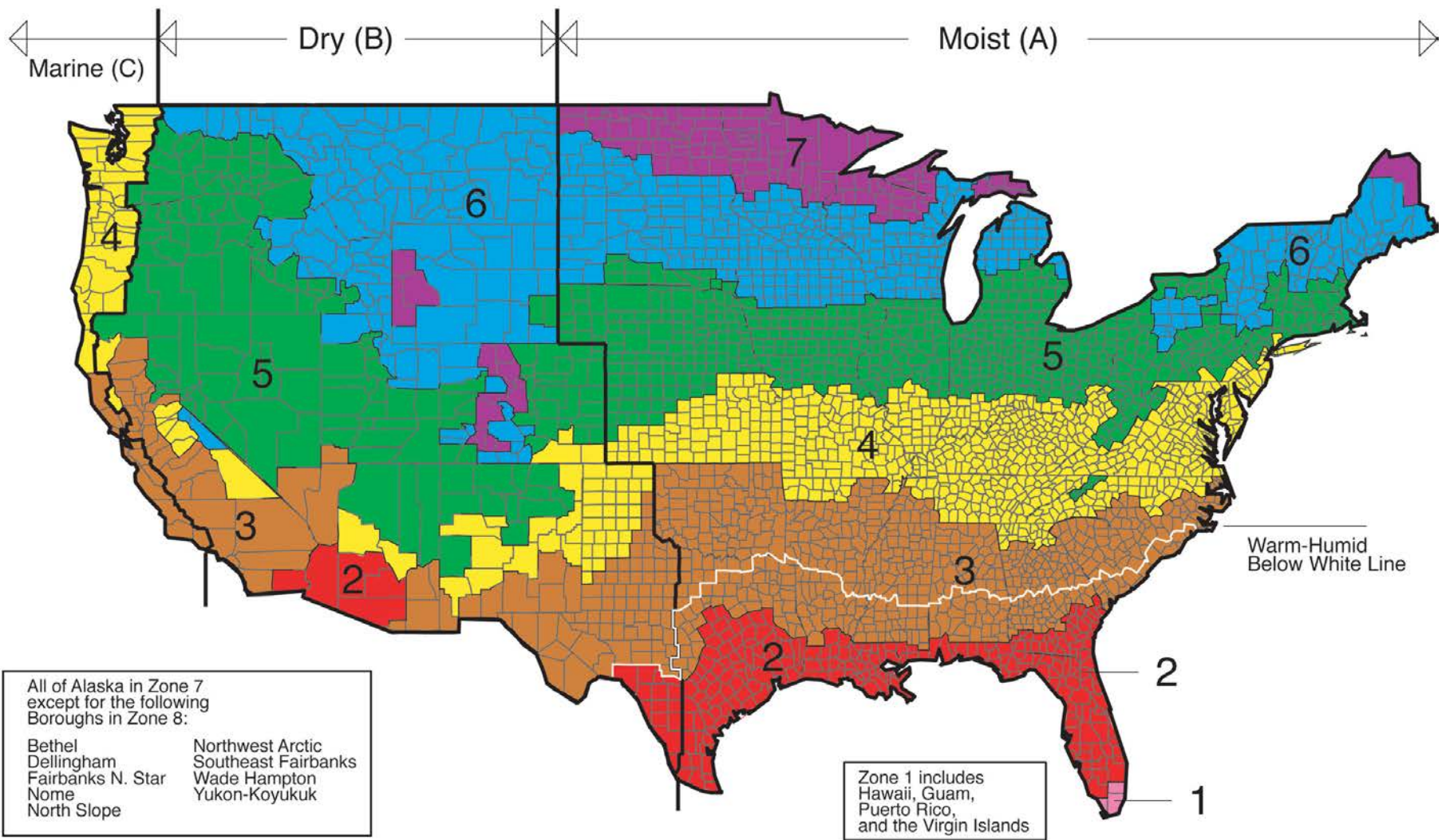
Don't Do Stupid Things







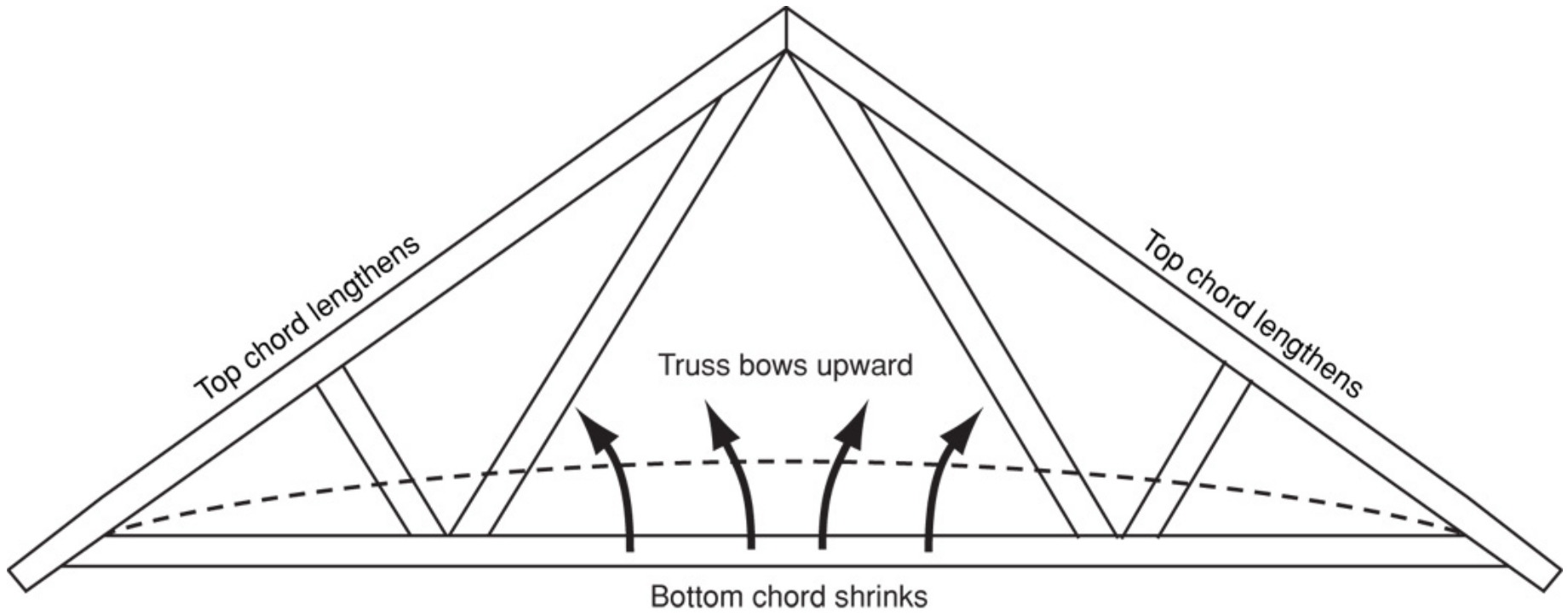


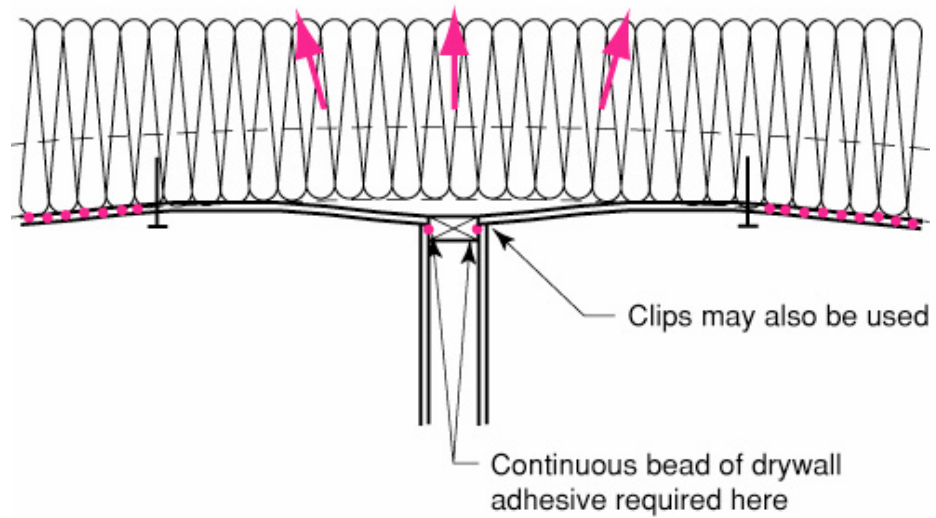
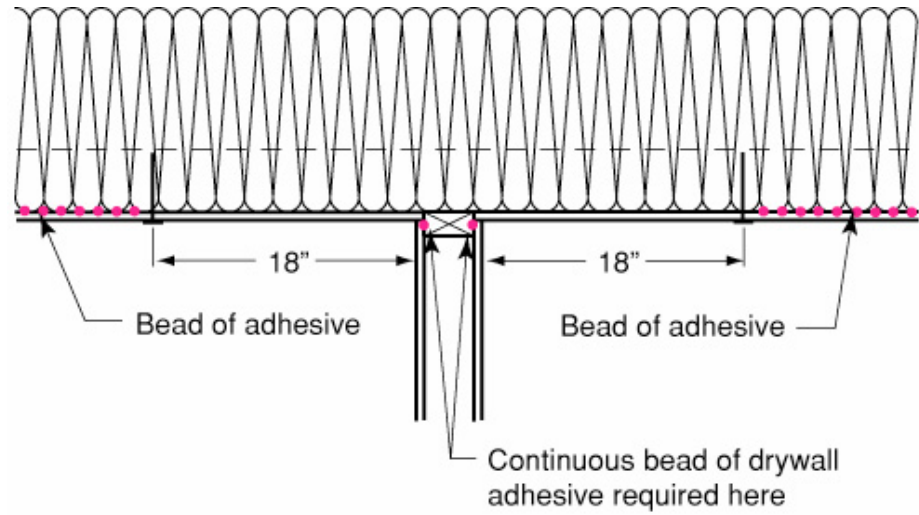


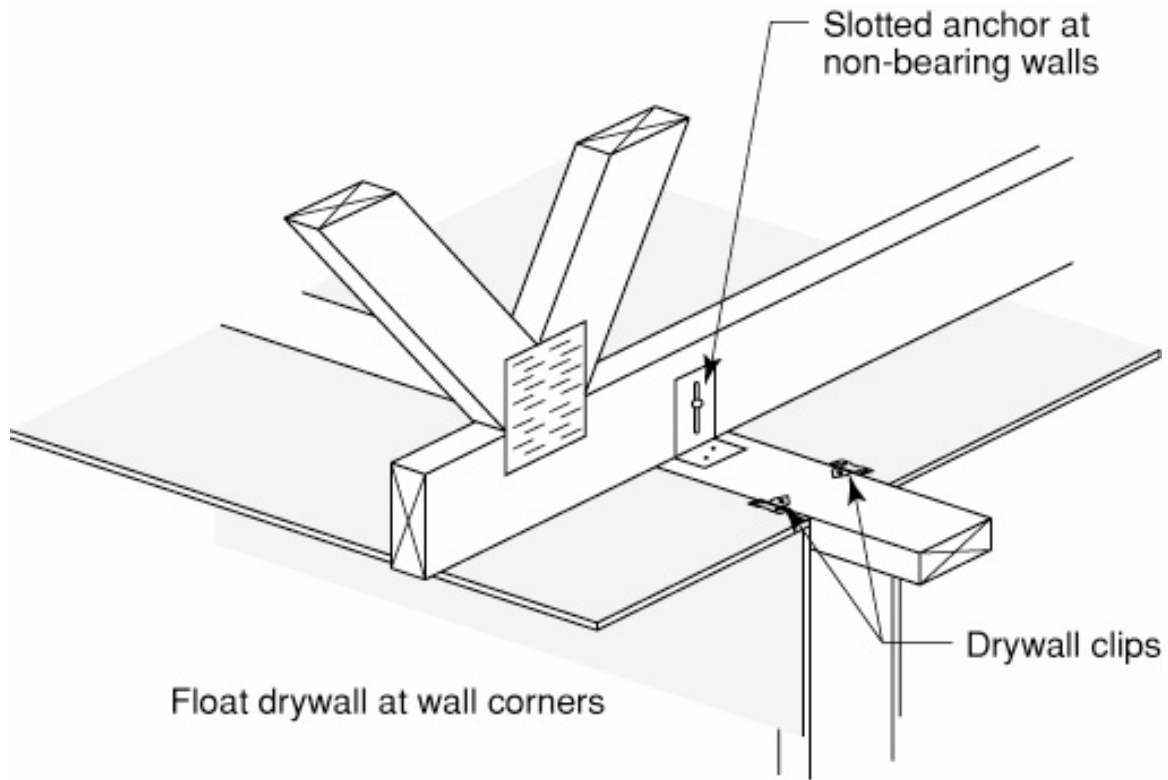
















Exterior Conditions

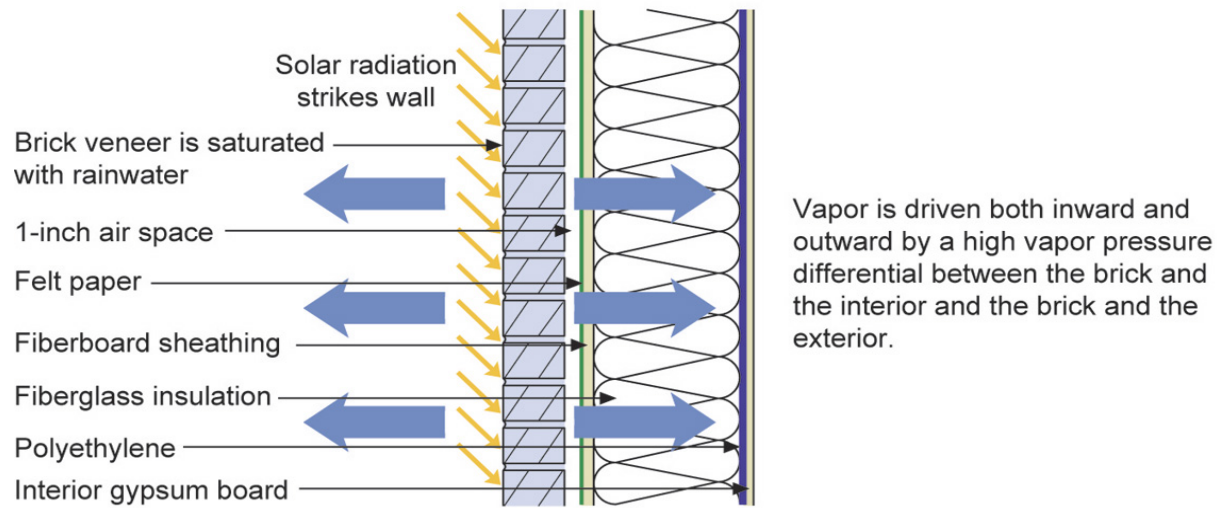
Temperature: 80°F
Relative humidity: 75%
Vapor pressure: 2.49 kPa

Conditions within Cavity:

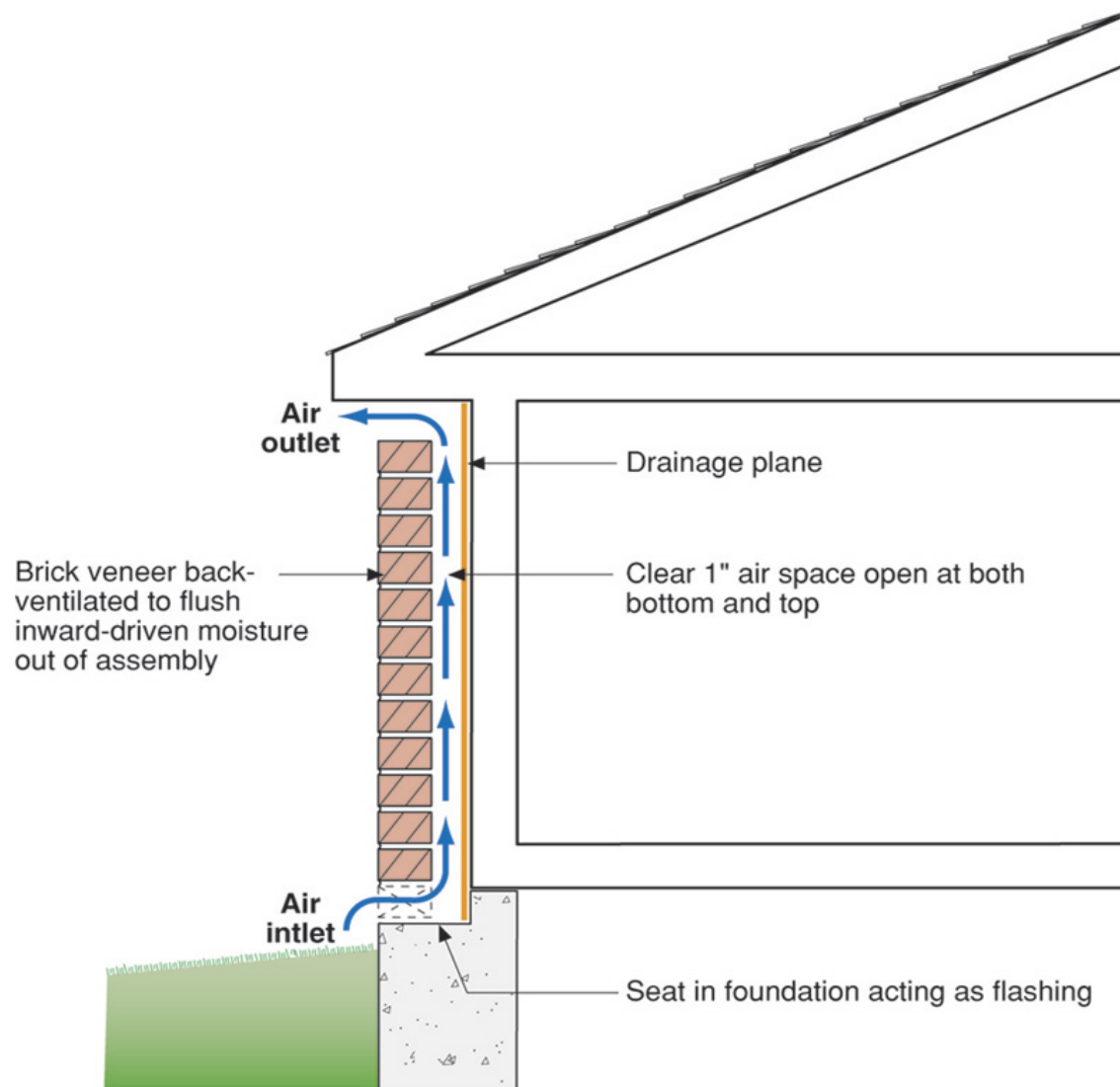
Temperature: 100°F
Relative humidity: 100%
Vapor pressure: 6.45 kPa

Interior Conditions

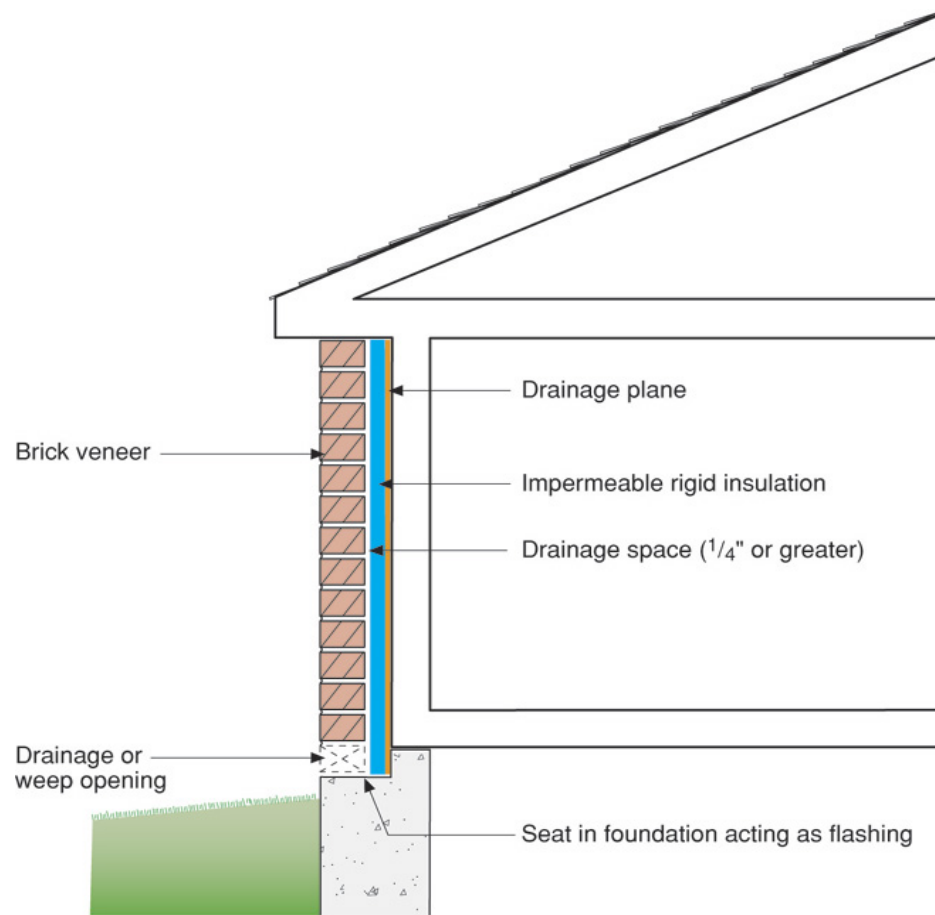
Temperature: 75°F
Relative humidity: 60%
Vapor pressure: 1.82 kPa



- It is not a good idea to install a vapor barrier (polyethylene) on the inside of an air conditioned assembly. Vinyl wall coverings and foil-backed batt cavity insulation should also be avoided.
- Vapor permeable exterior sheathings, housewraps or building papers should not be used with absorptive claddings such as brick veneers unless a ventilated cavity is provided in conjunction with high inward drying potentials (i.e. no interior polyethylene vapor barriers).
- Failure will occur when brick is installed over a frame wall constructed with felt paper, fiberboard sheathing and an interior polyethylene vapor barrier. Kraft-faced fiberglass batts should be used in place of unfaced batts and a polyethylene vapor barrier. OSB, plywood or foam sheathing should be used in place of the fiberboard sheathing.
- Similar problems occur with stucco.



- To effectively uncouple a brick veneer from a wall system by using back ventilation, a clear cavity must be provided along with both air inlets at the bottom and air outlets at the top

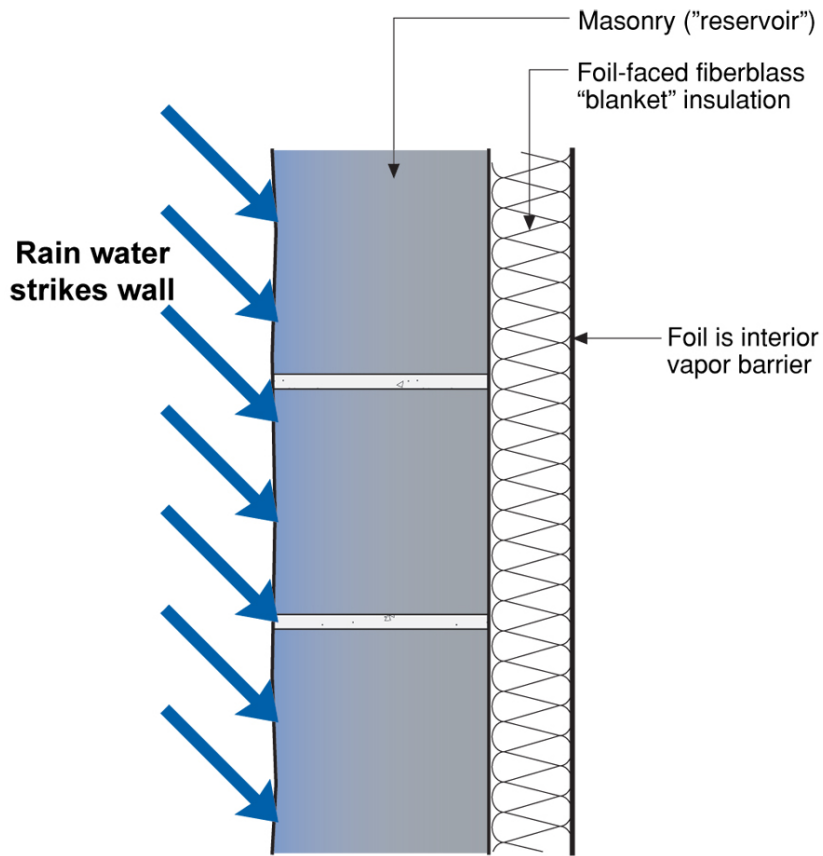


- To effectively uncouple a brick veneer from a wall system by using a condensing surface, the drainage plane must also be a vapor barrier or a vapor impermeable layer (i.e. rigid insulation) must be installed between the drainage plane and the brick veneer. Alternatively, the rigid insulation can be configured to act as both the drainage plane and vapor impermeable layer.
- When a condensing surface is used to uncouple a brick veneer from a wall system, a ventilated air space is no longer necessary — i.e. the presence of mortar droppings is no longer an issue. Additionally, the width of the drainage space is almost irrelevant.



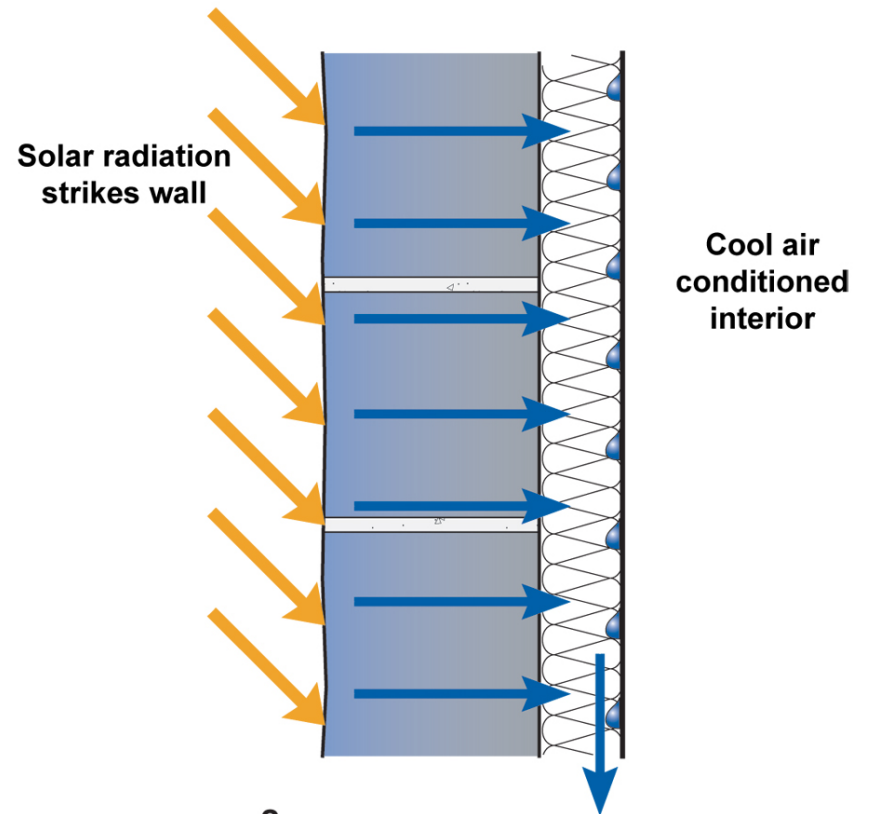






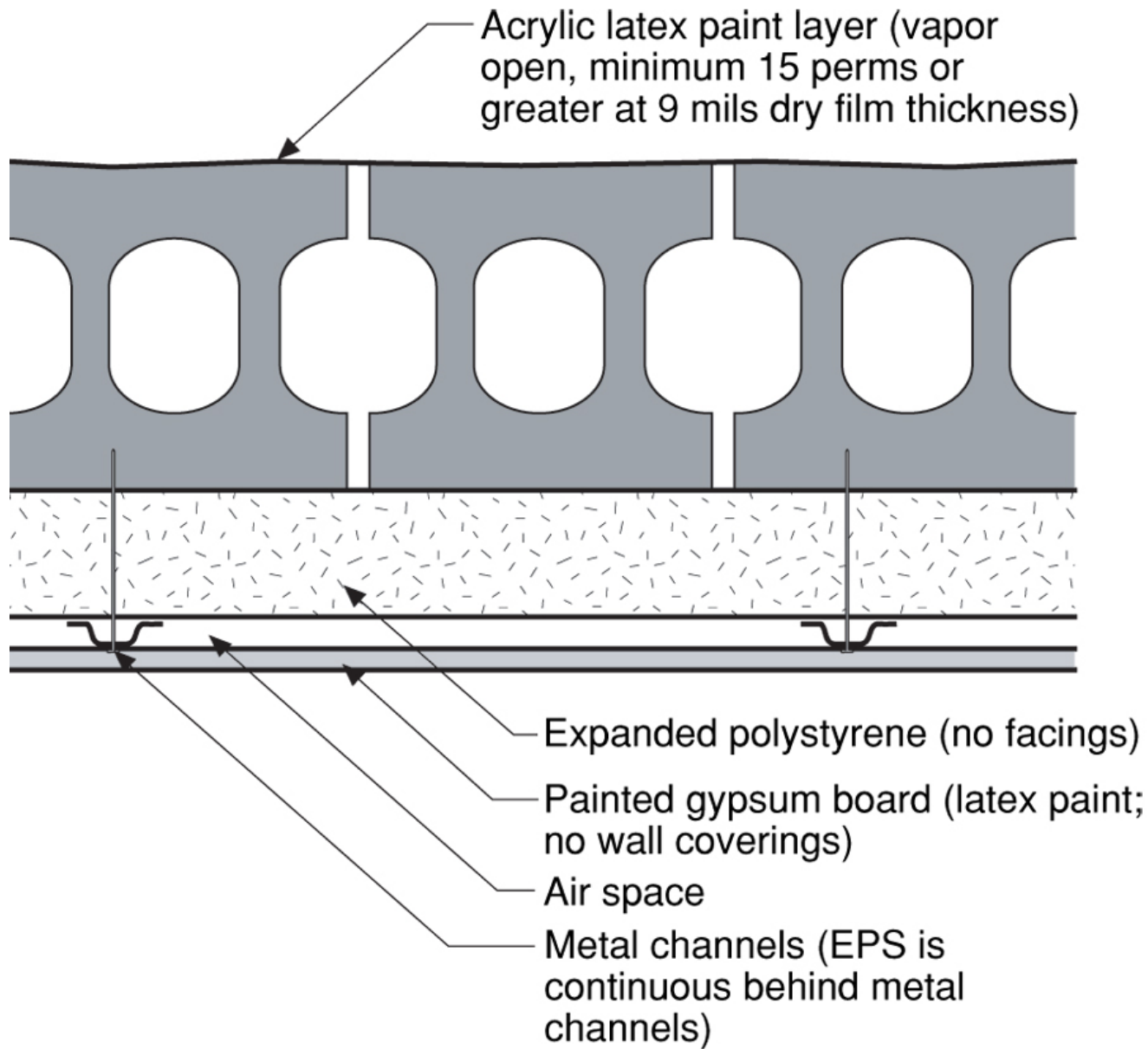
1.

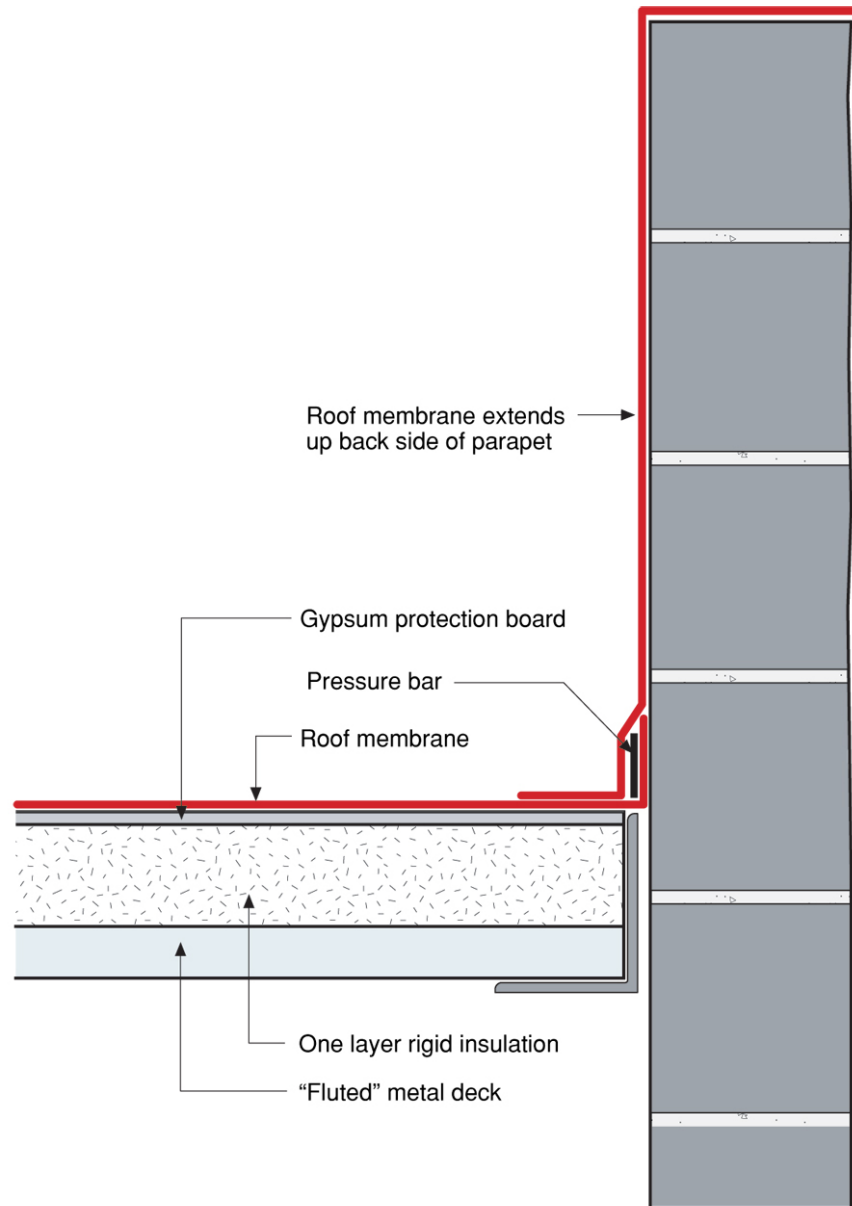
- Rain water is deposited on exterior face of masonry
- Rain water enters masonry through paint layer

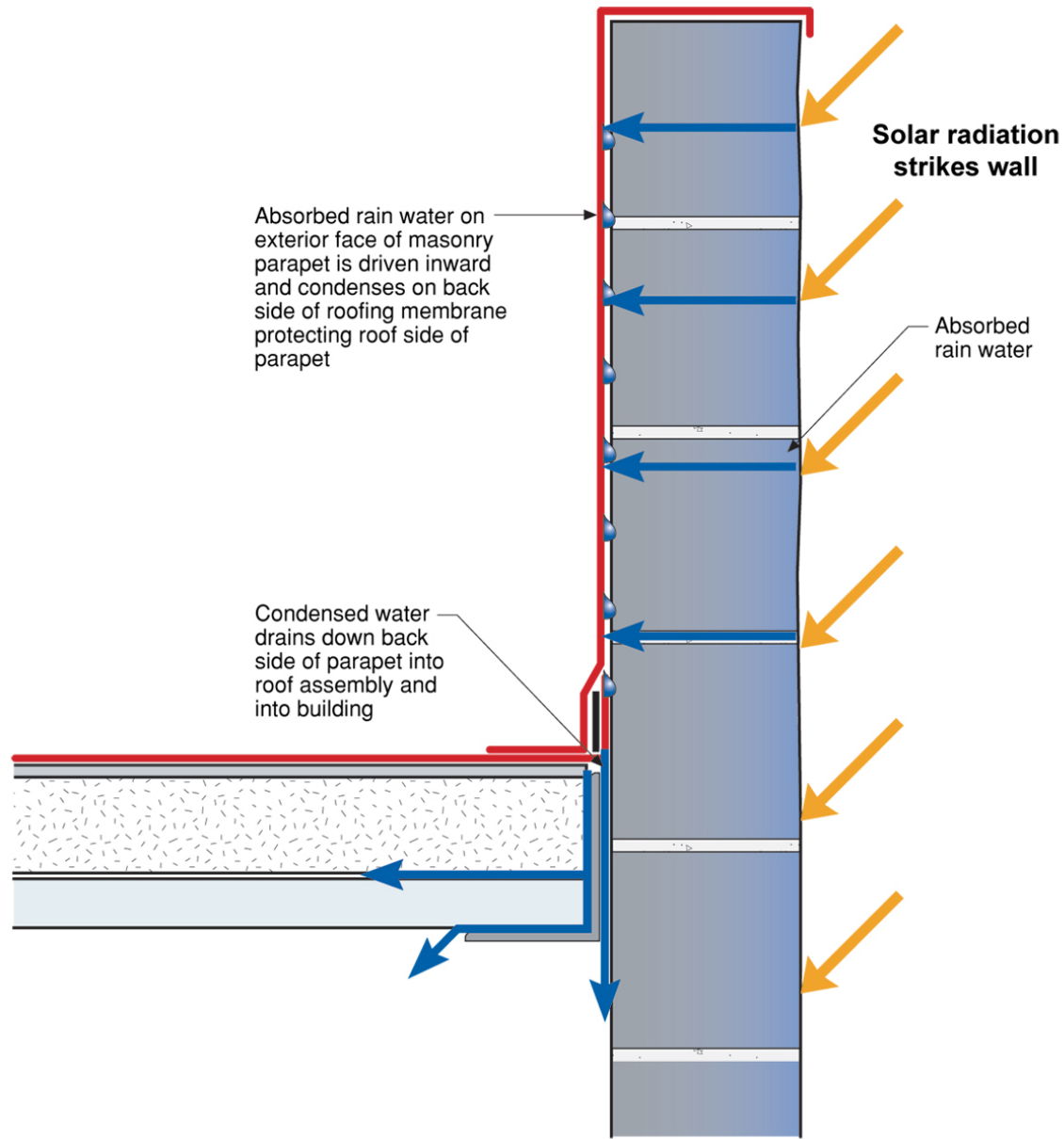


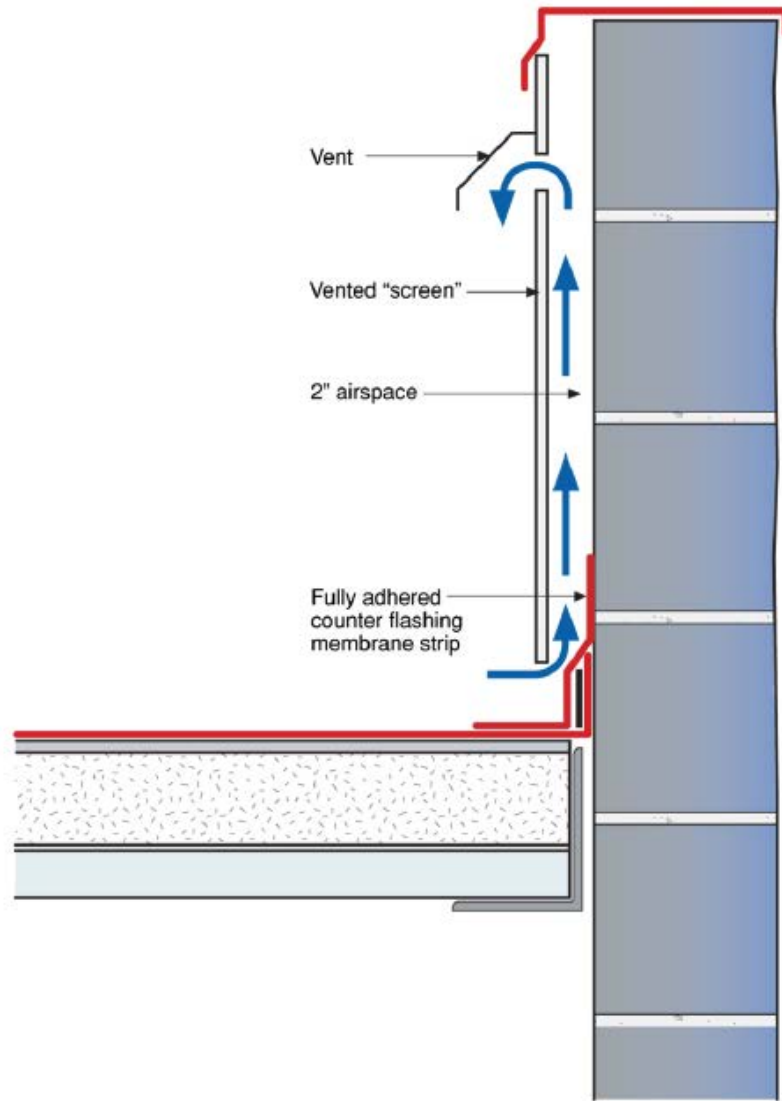
2.

- Solar radiation heats exterior while A/C cools interior
- Moisture is driven inward, condenses on foil vapor barrier and runs down wall

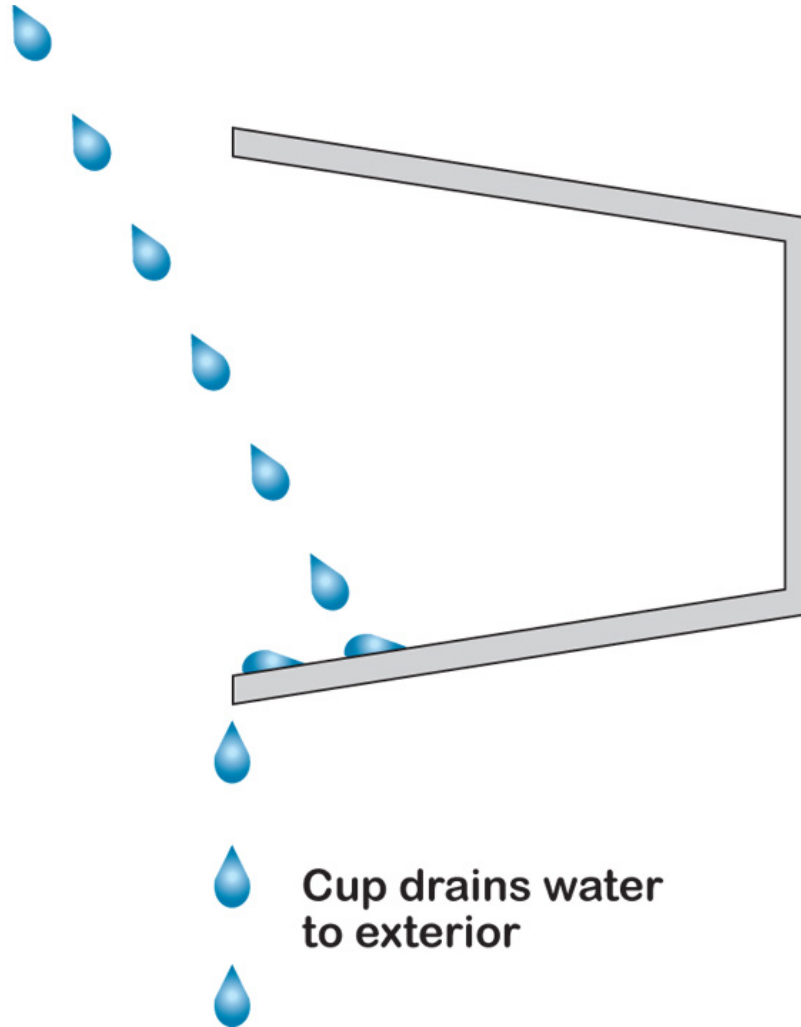








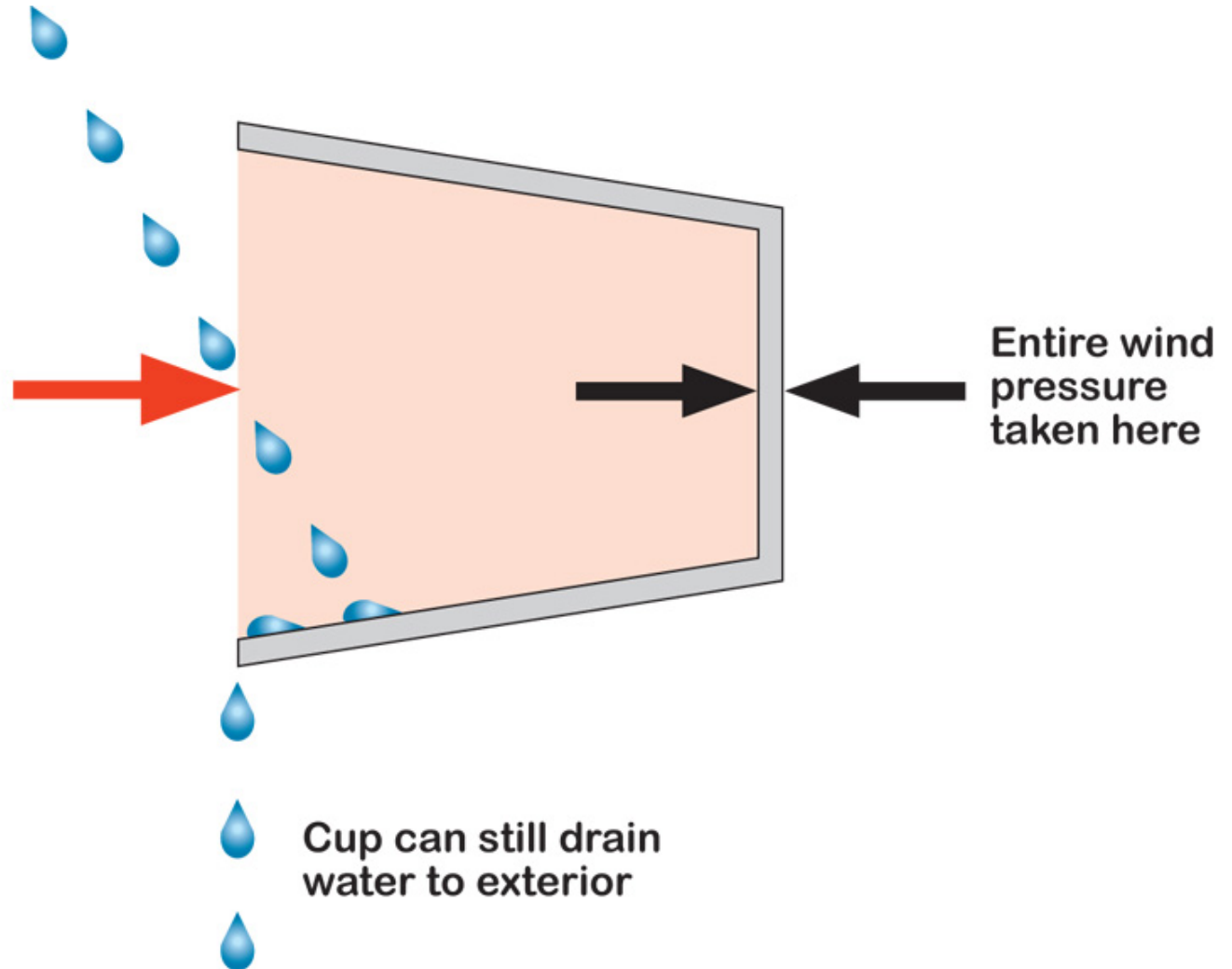
**Rain enters cup
due to momentum
("kinetic energy")**



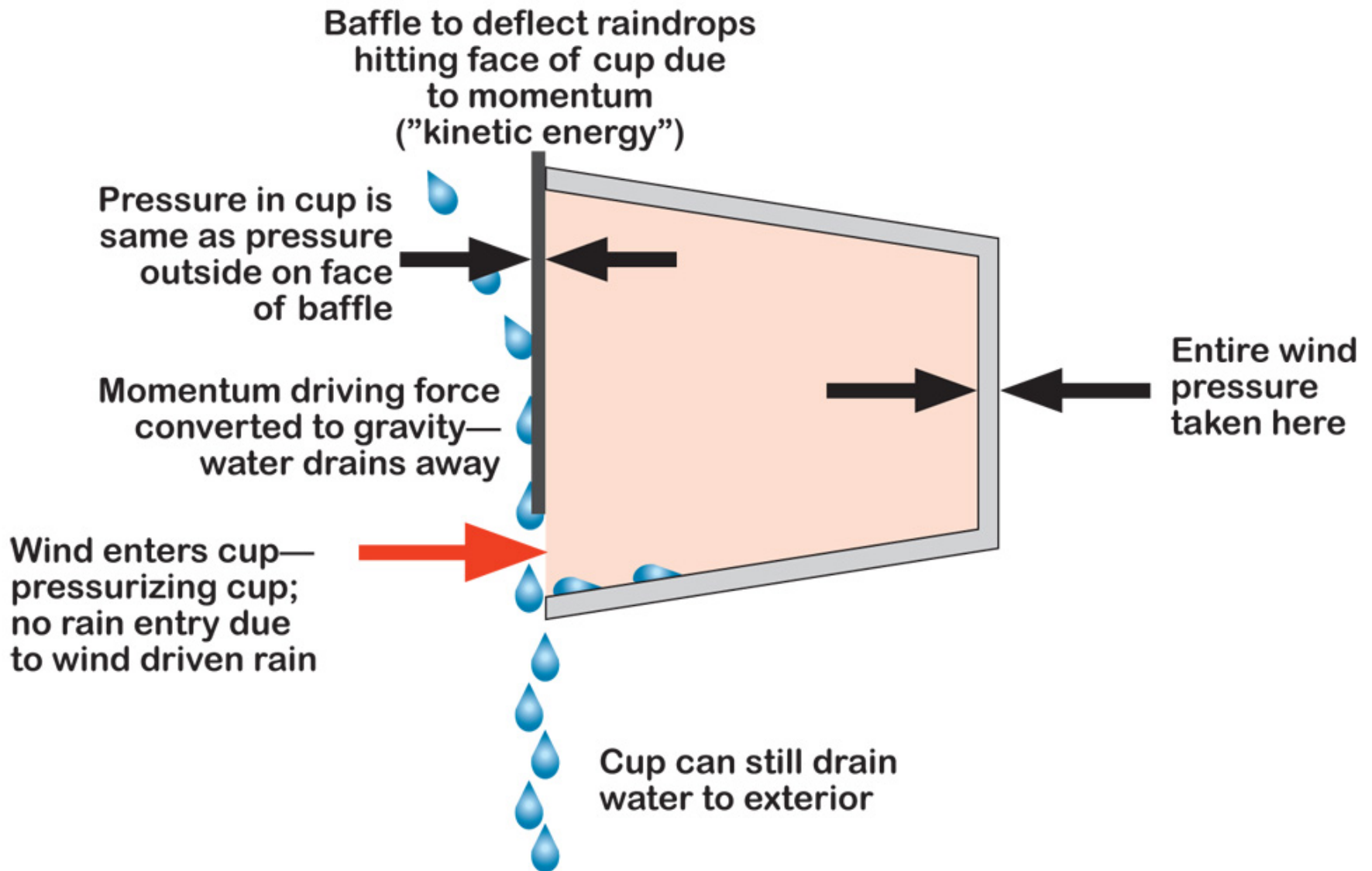
**Cup drains water
to exterior**

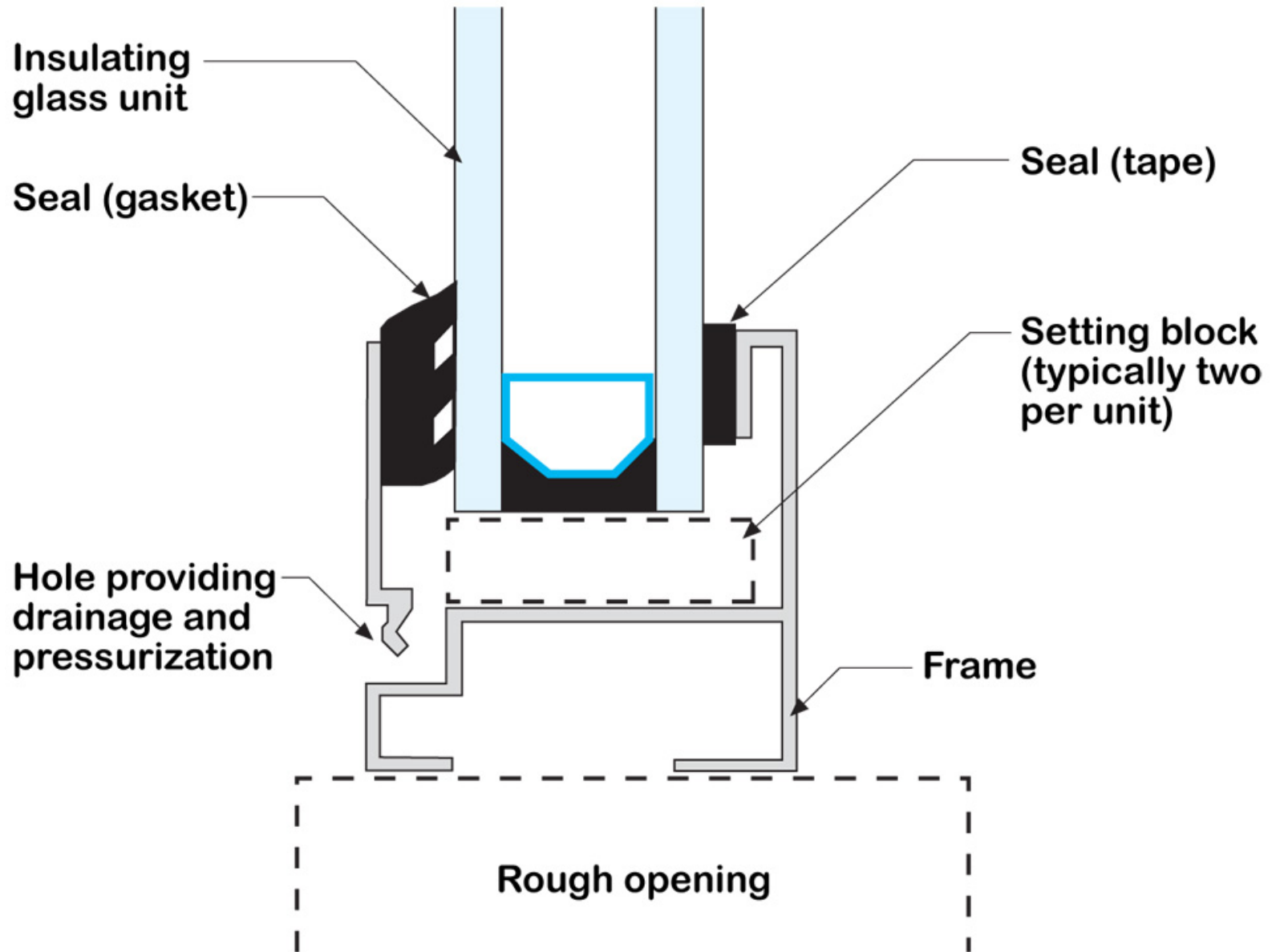
Rain enters cup due to momentum ("kinetic energy")

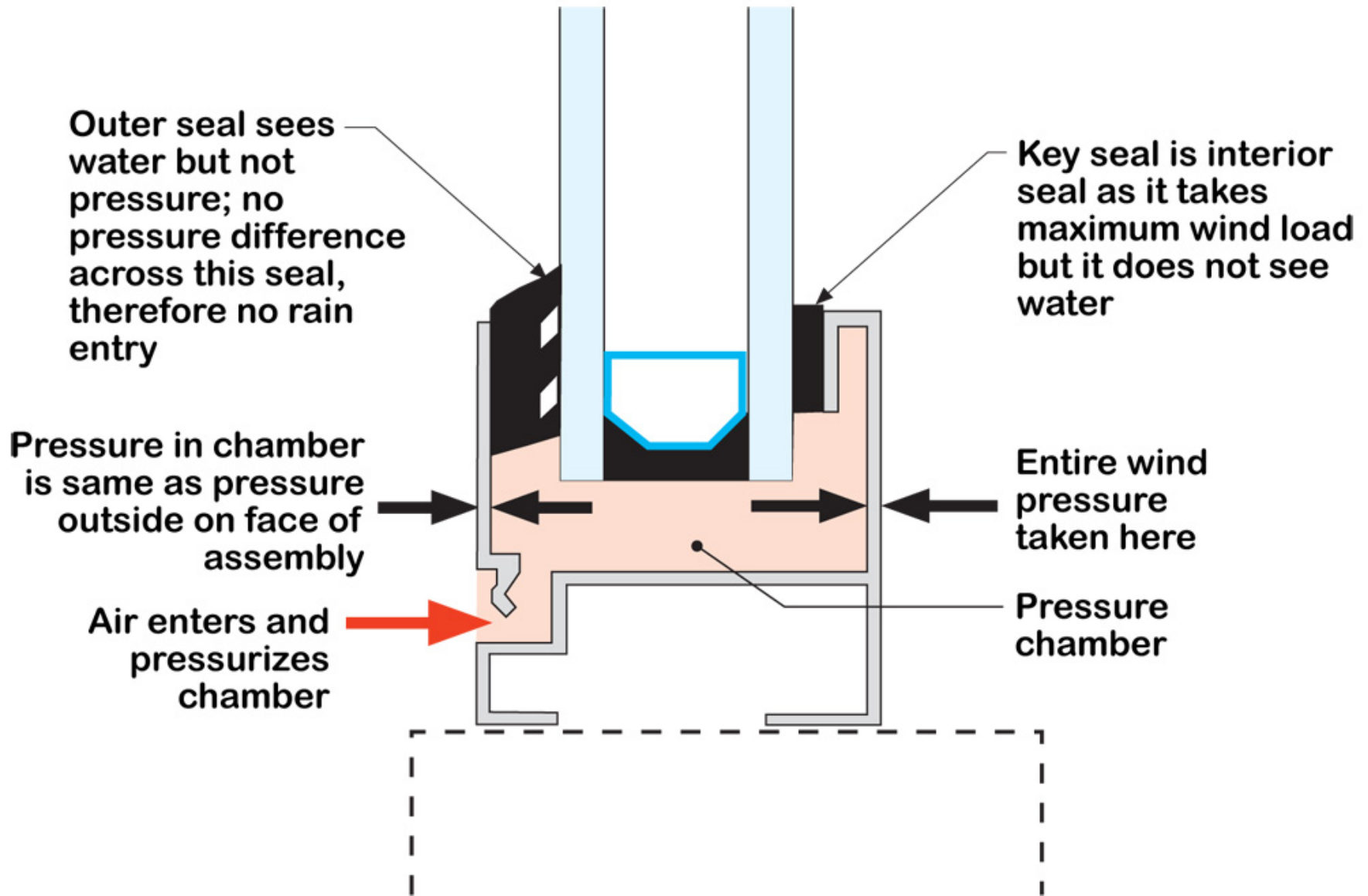
Wind enters cup—pressurizing cup; no rain entry due to wind driven rain

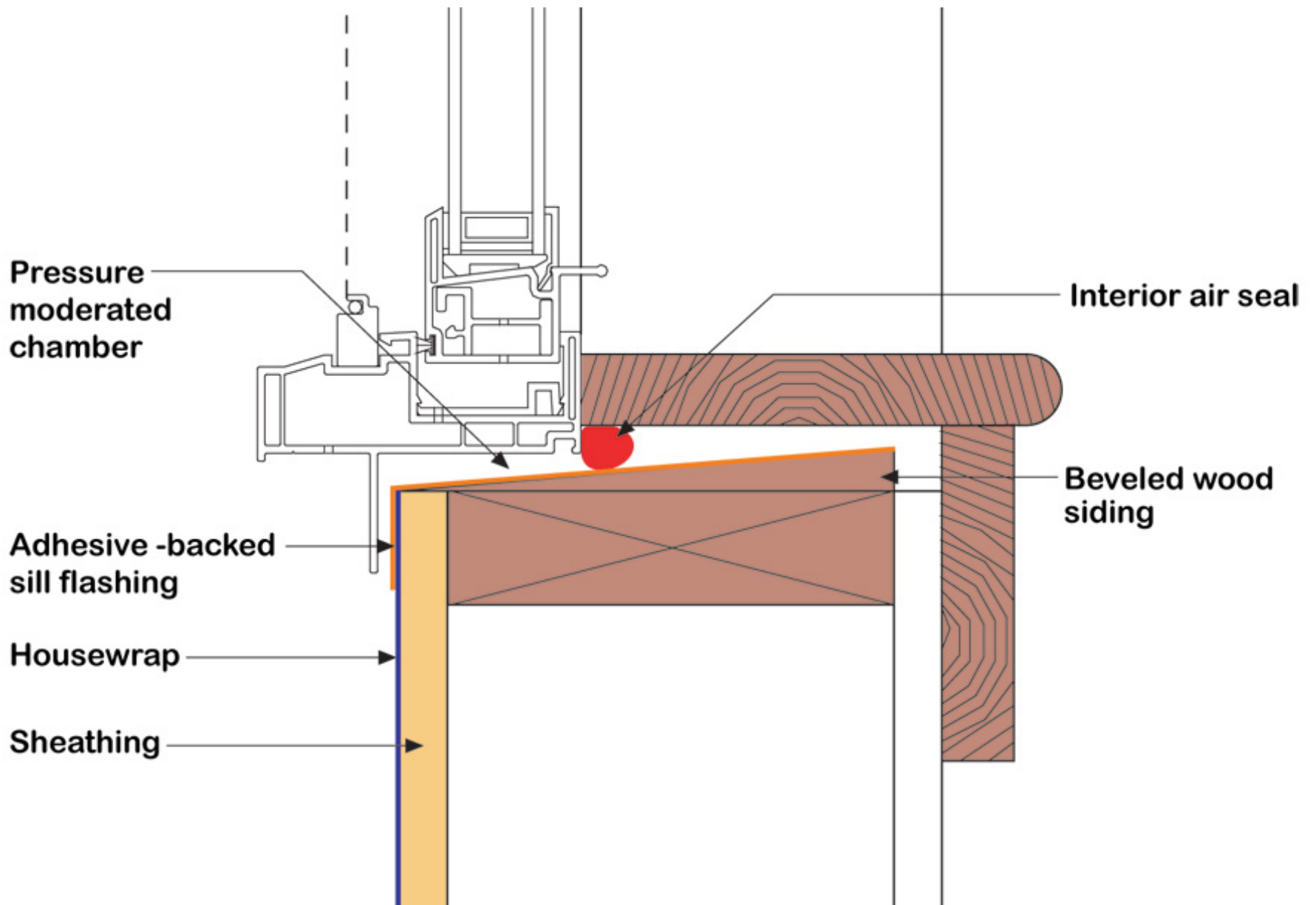


Cup can still drain water to exterior







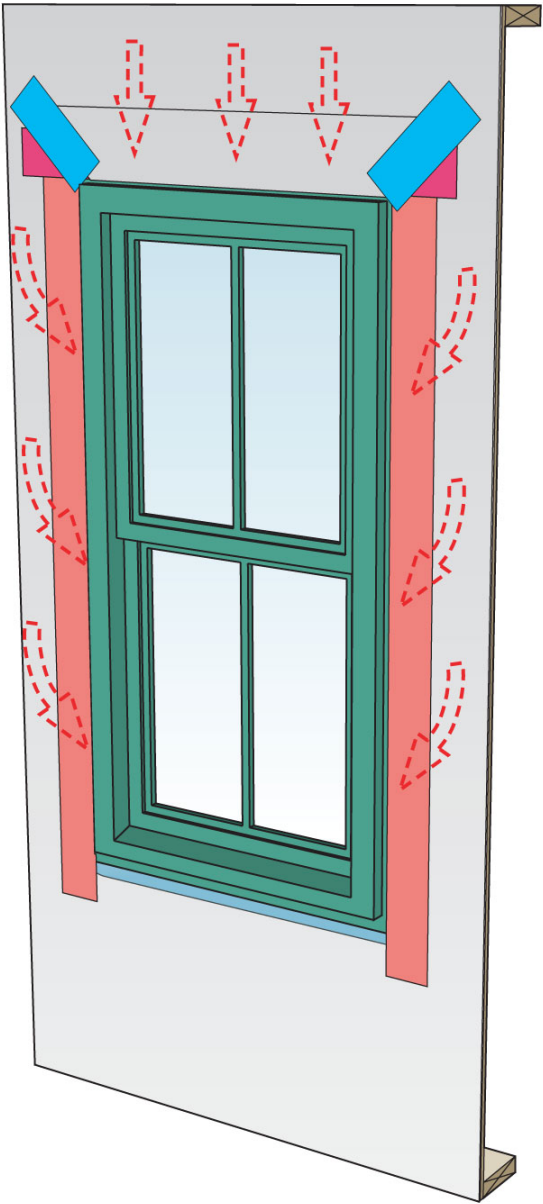


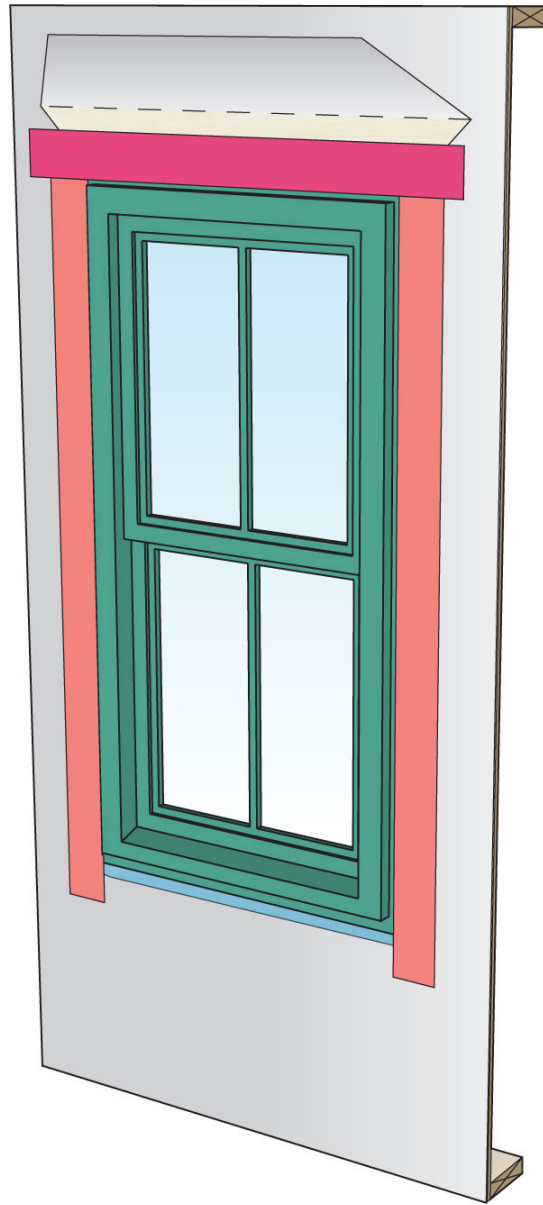












Intent of sealant is to limit this lateral flow of water between sheathing and building wrap

