

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)

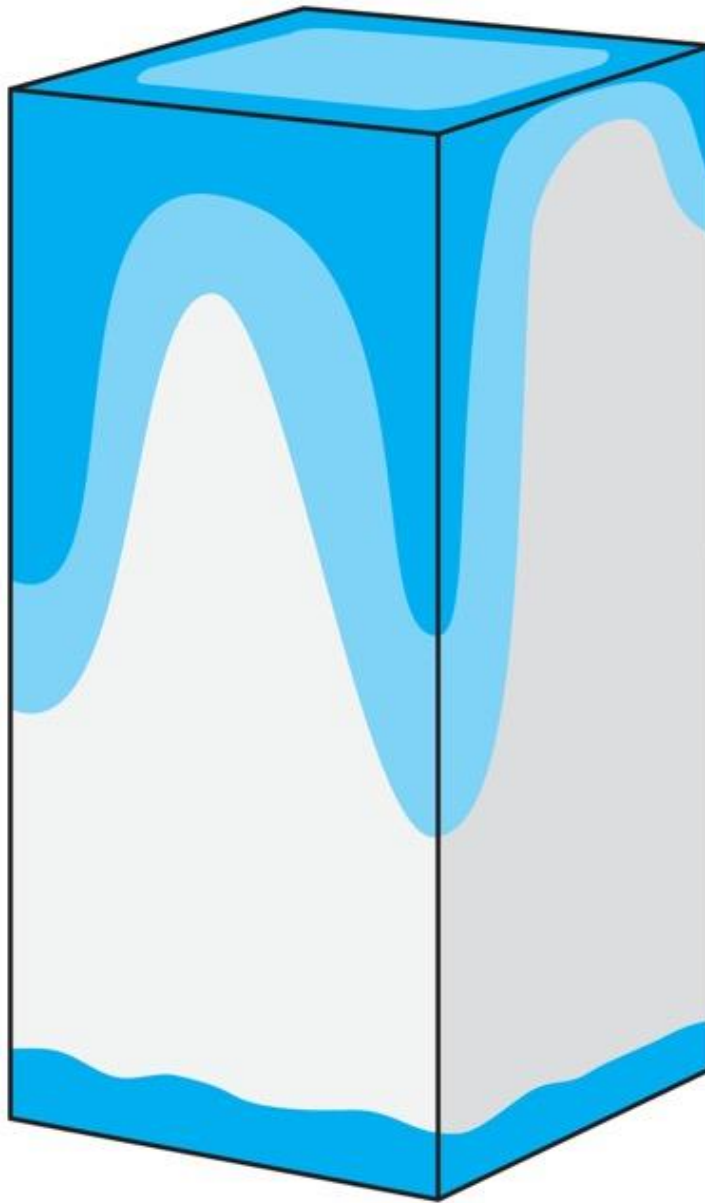
# Context

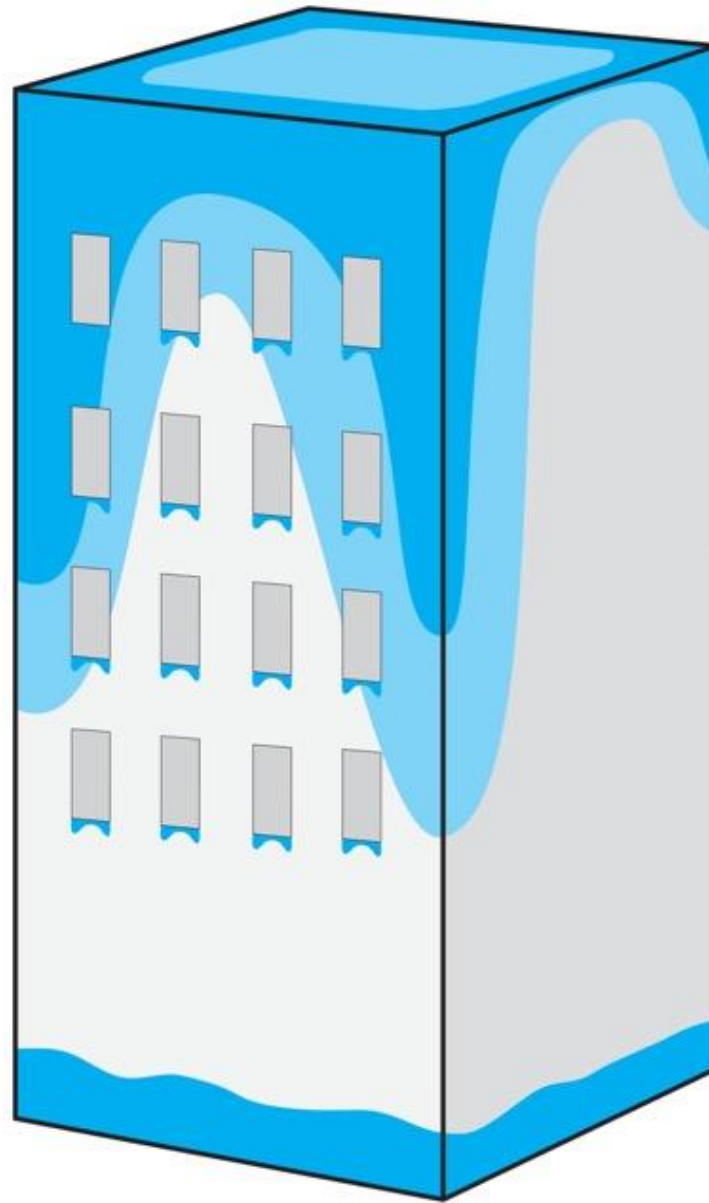
# Stucco Evolved As A Barrier System

# Mass Wall Evolution





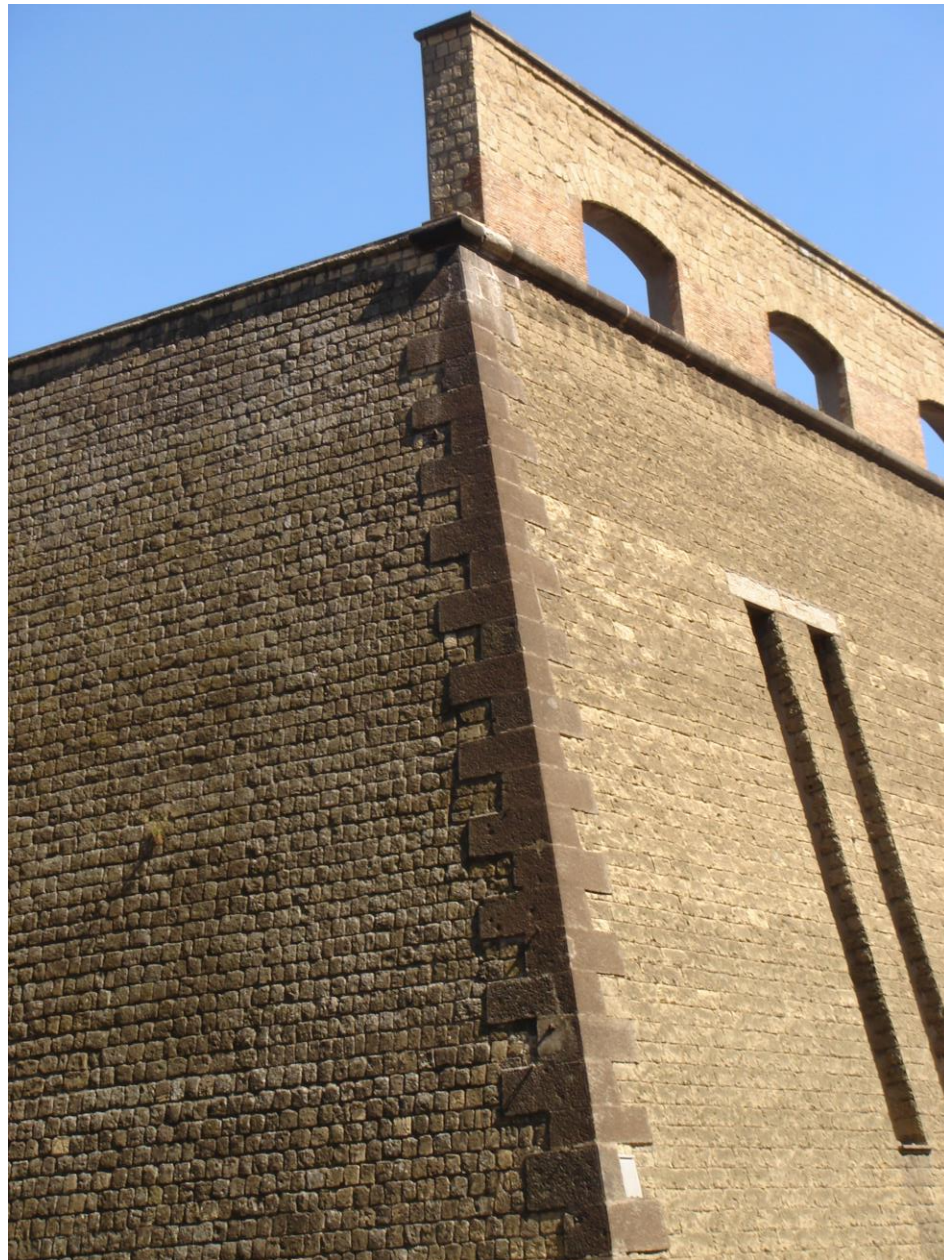




















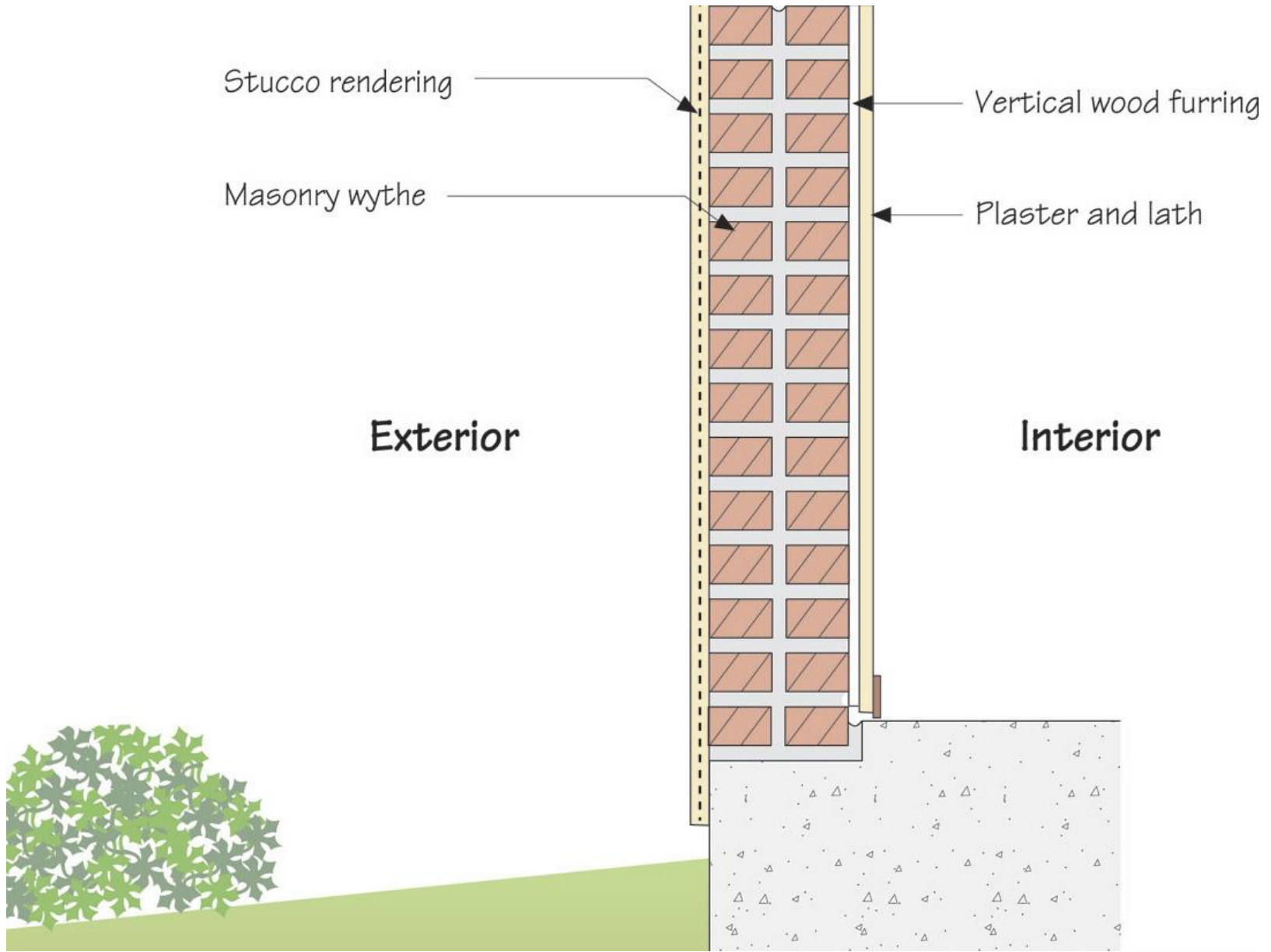


















































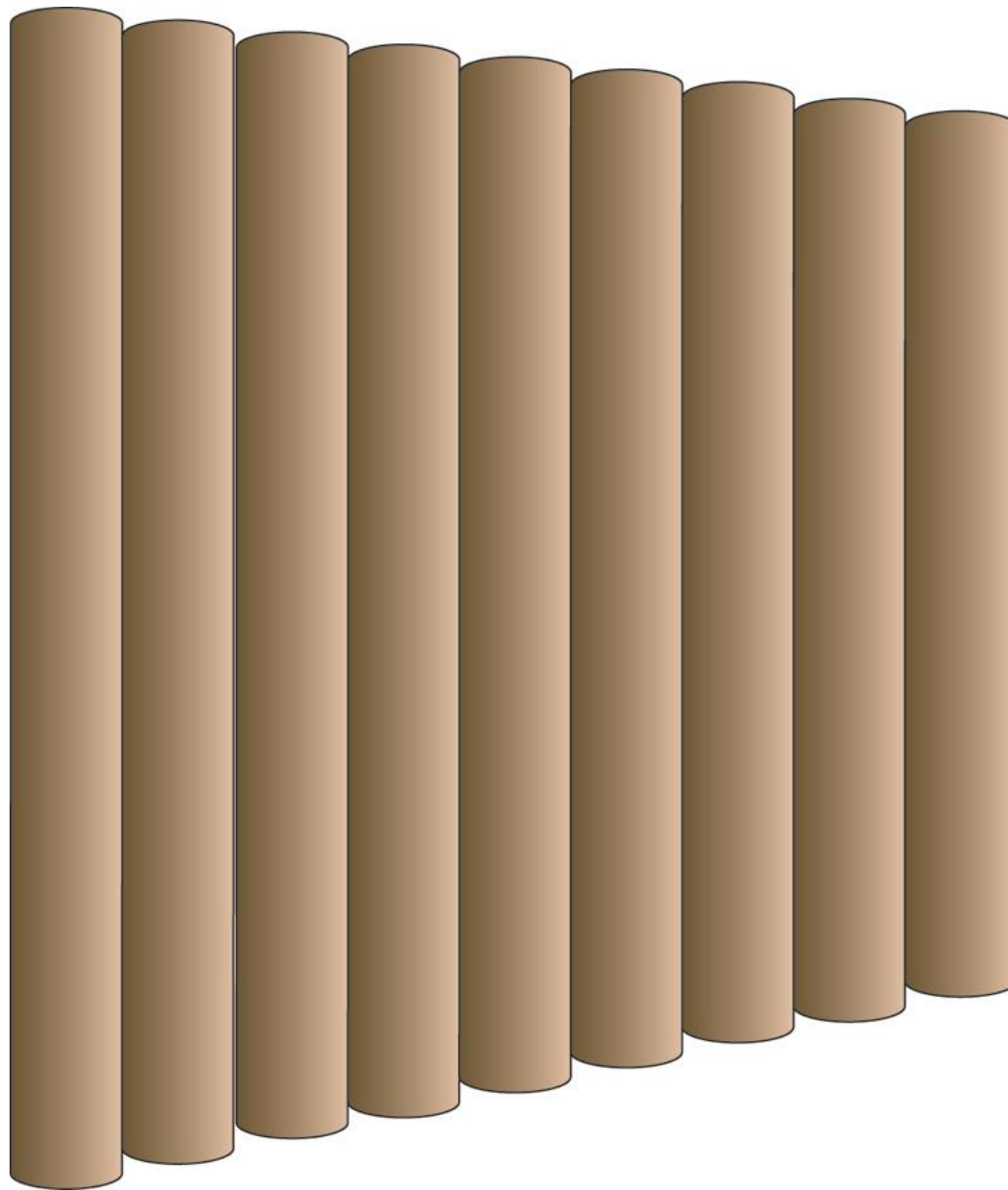


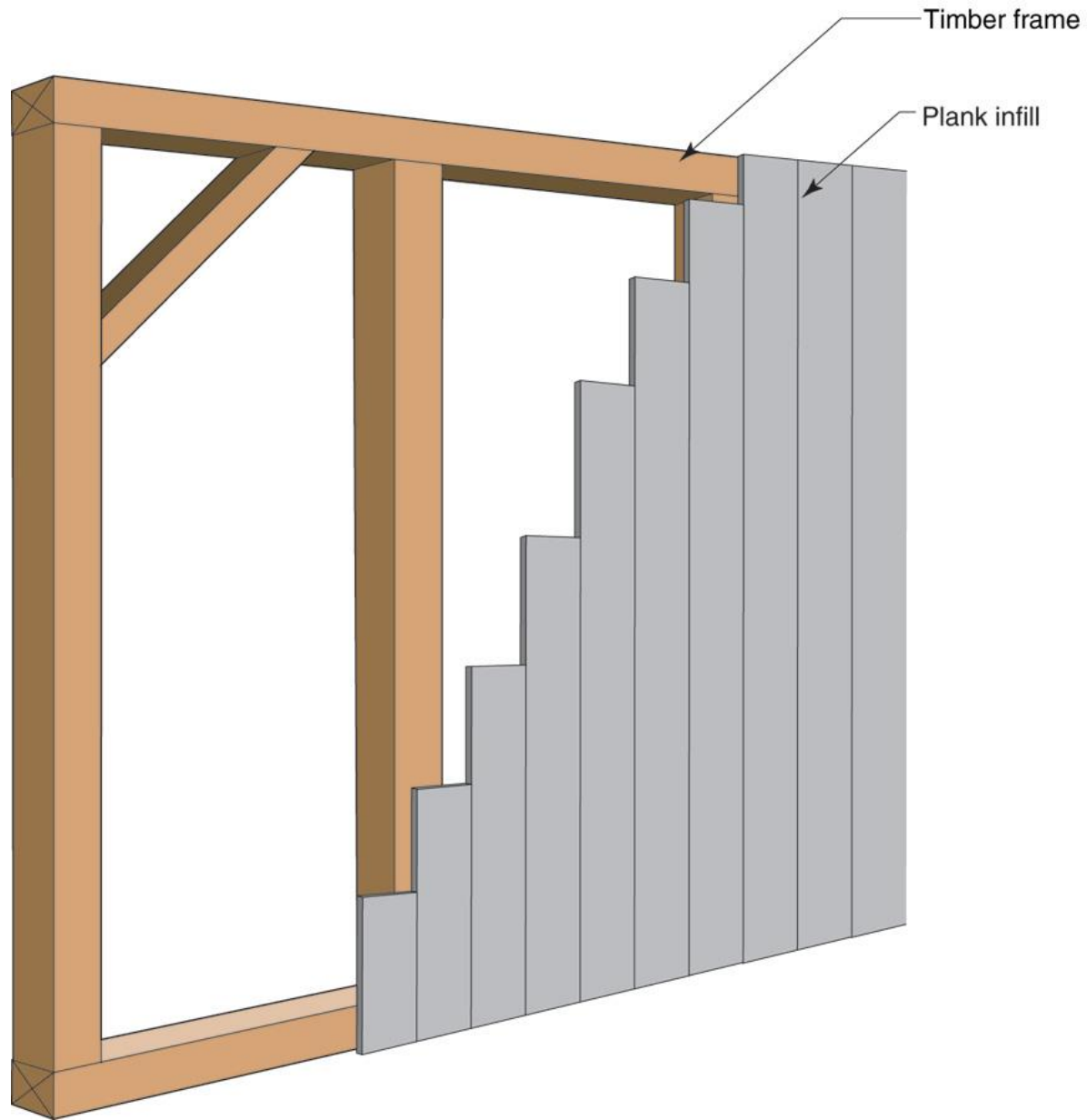


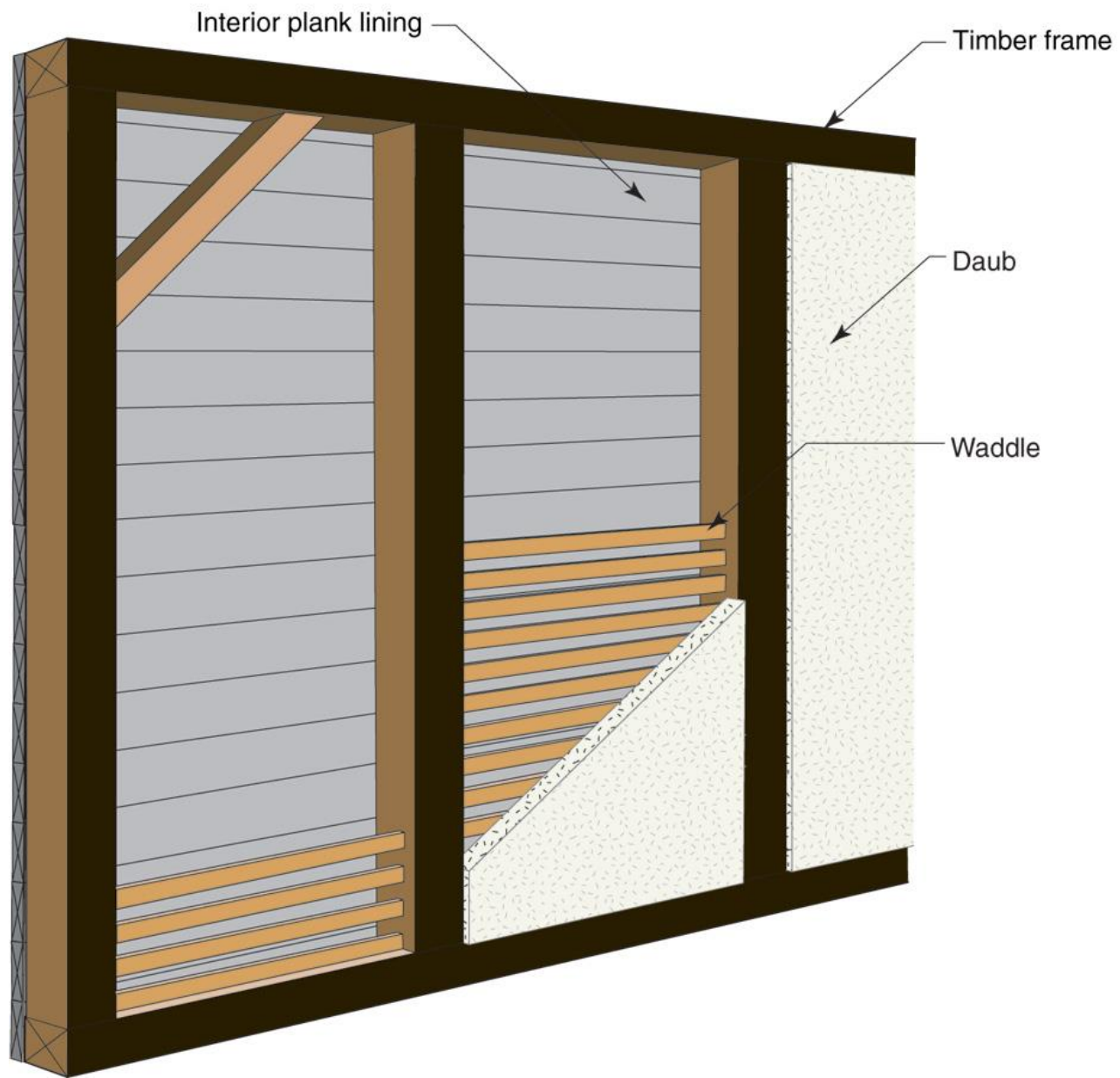


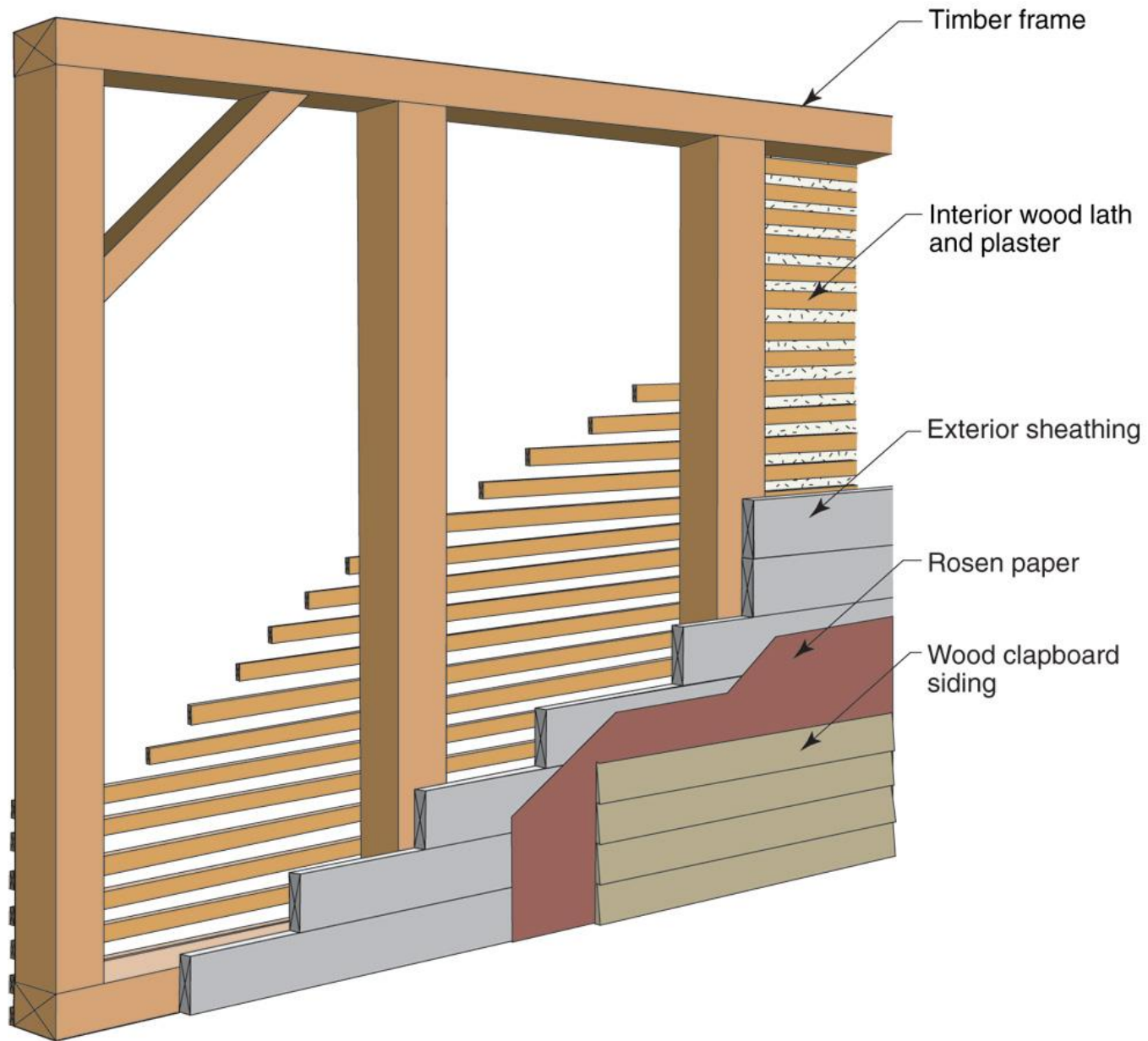


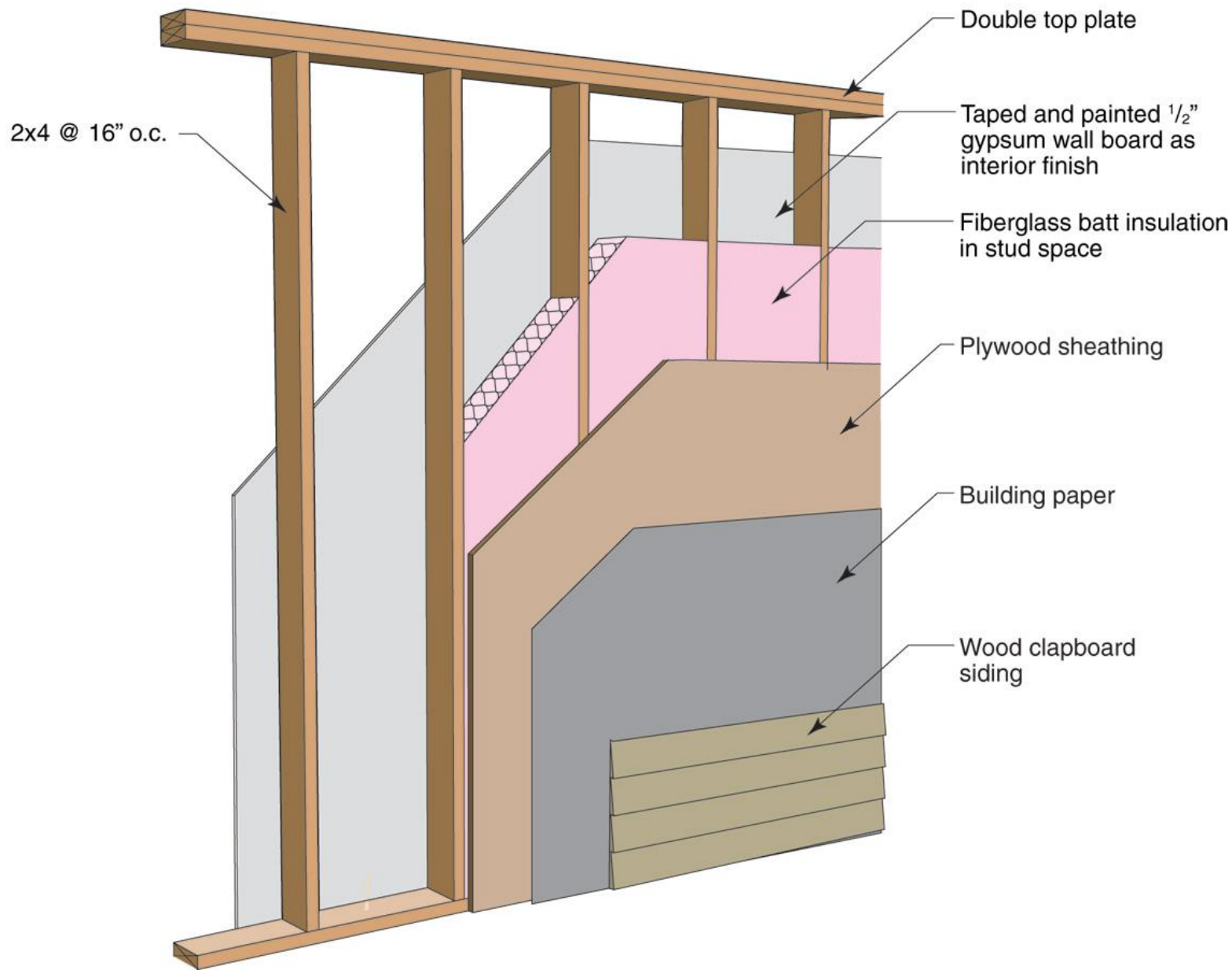
# Frame Wall Evolution

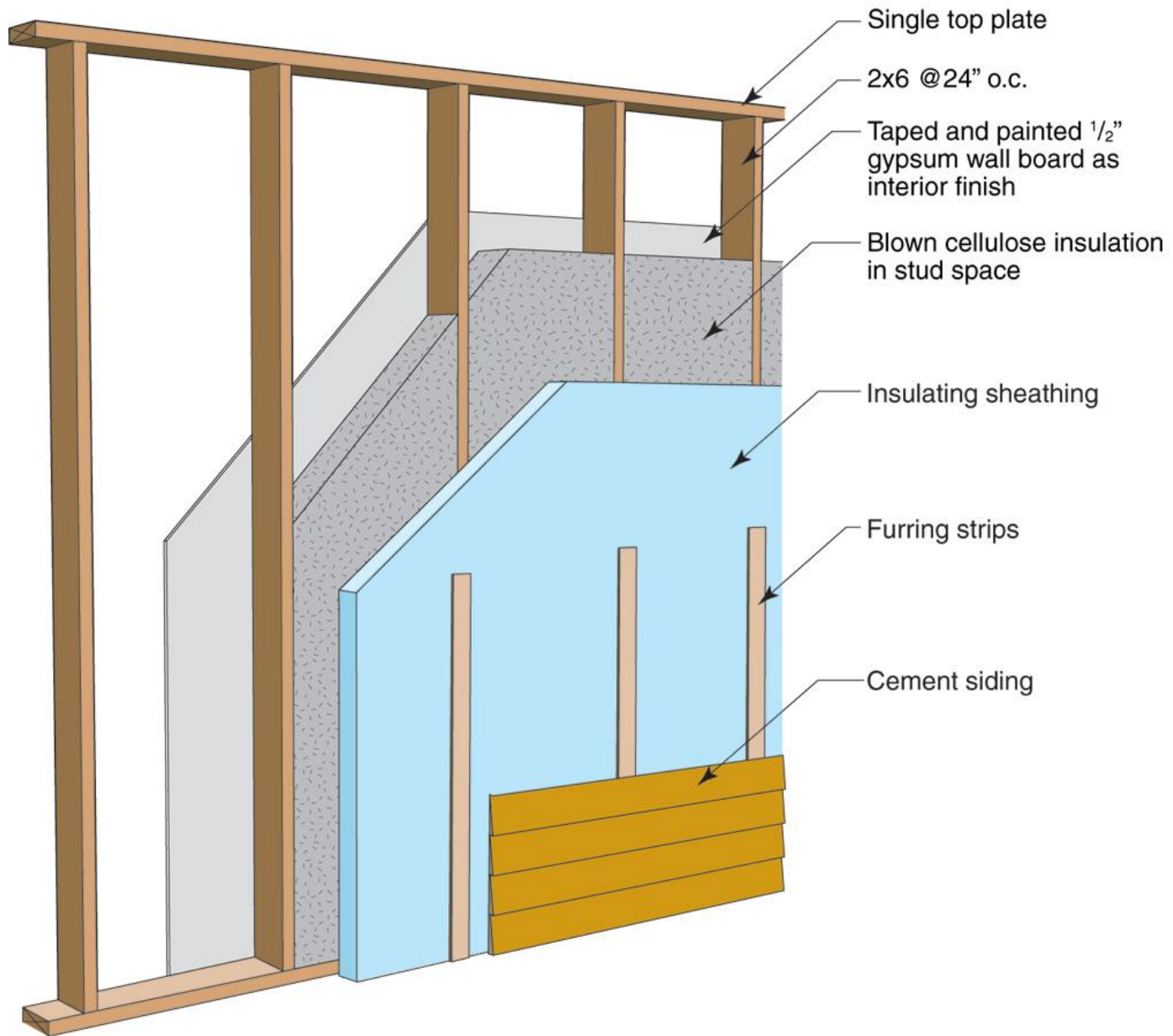




















































# Recent History

# Exterior Insulation Finish Systems EIFS





# Exterior Insulation Finish Systems

EIFS

Barrier System

Face-Sealed Not Water Managed

















Life Is Hard Enough As It Is

It's Harder When You Are Stupid



# Don't Do Stupid Things











# Side Trip To Vancouver....

Side Trip To Vancouver....

Vancouver Condo Crisis....

Should Have Put Everyone on Notice



























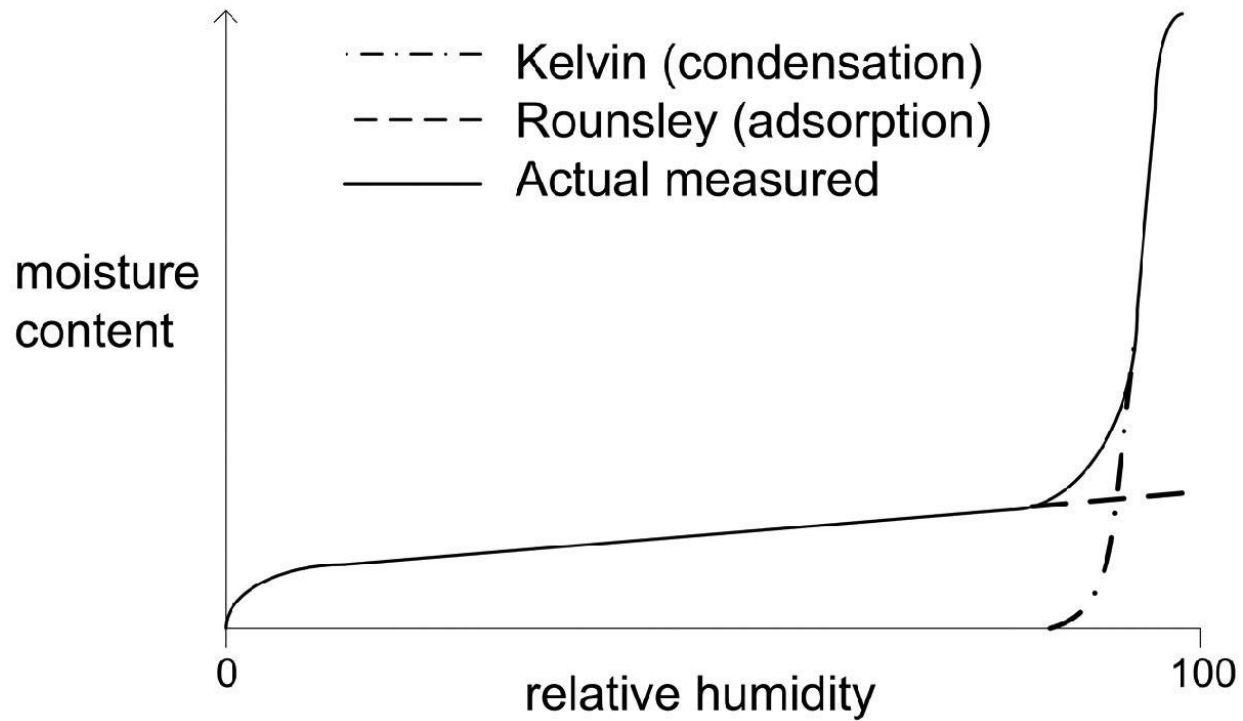






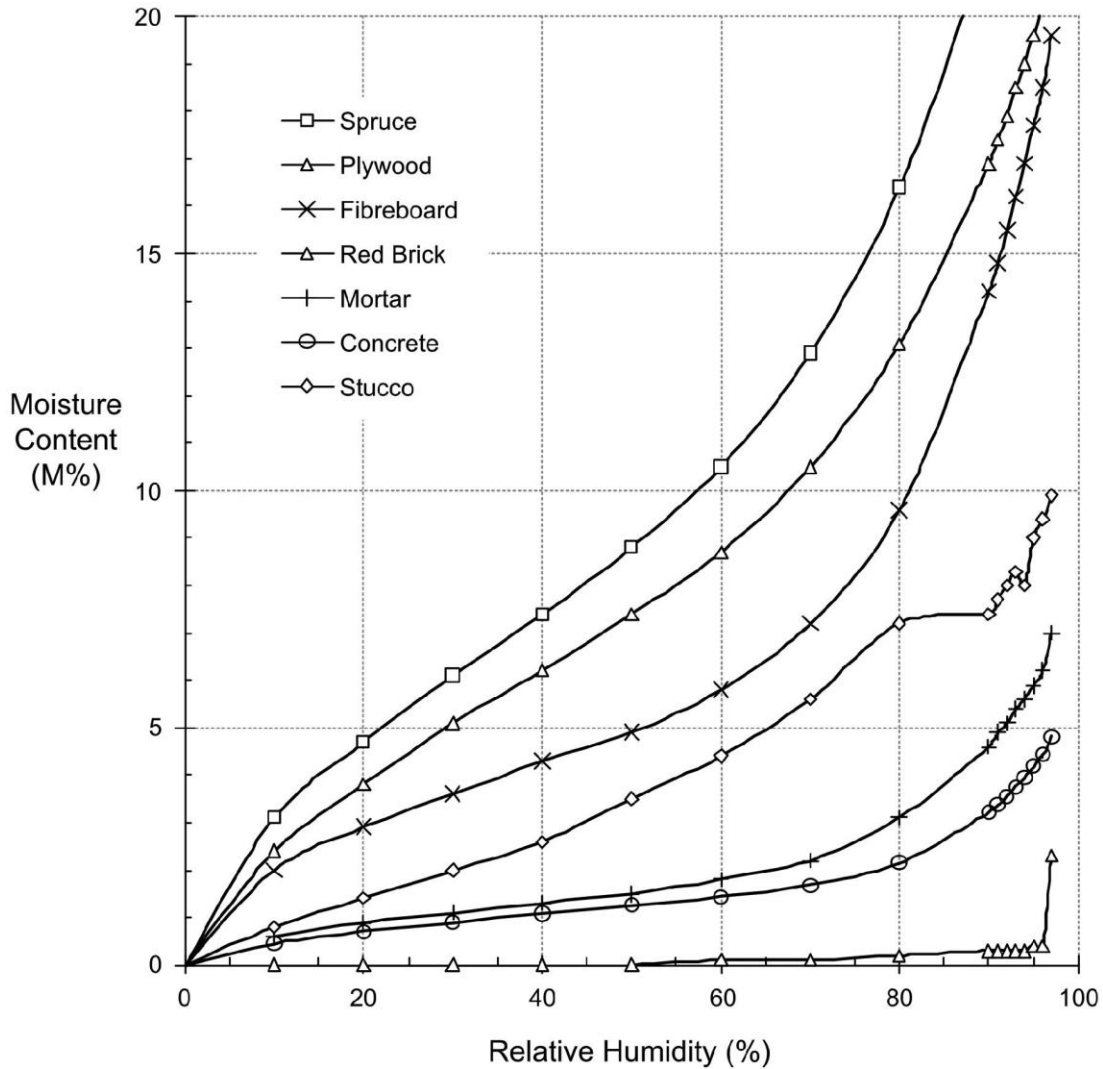
What Happened In Vancouver?  
OSB Instead of Plywood  
Non Traditional Building Wraps  
Interior Vapor Barriers  
Increased Thermal Resistance  
Portland Cement Instead of Lime

# Materials Inward Drive Energy



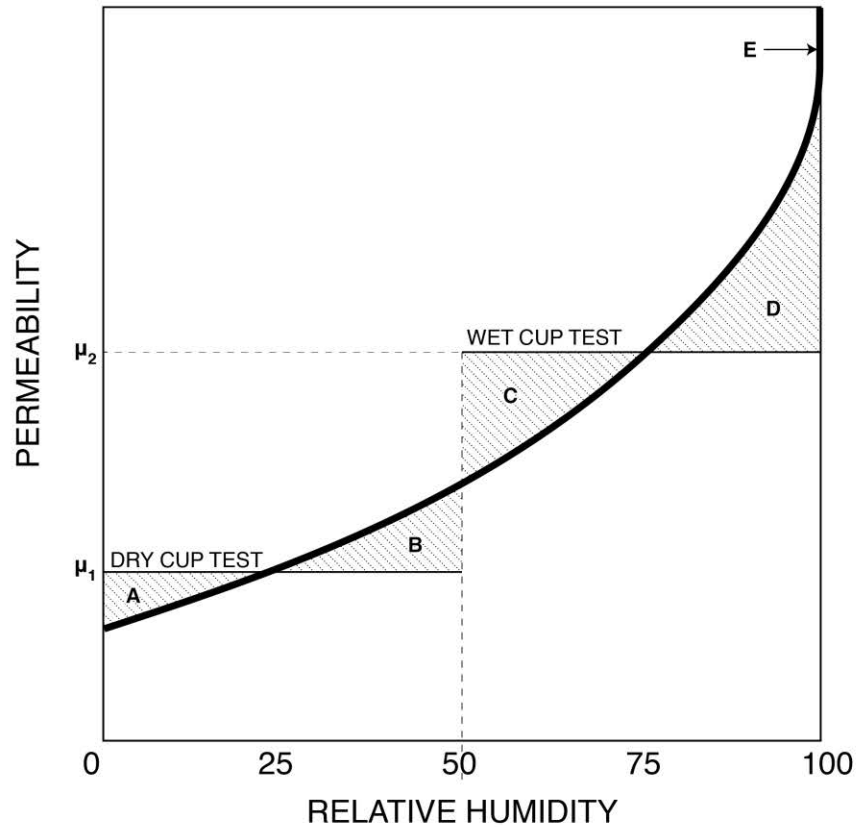
**Typical predicted sorption isotherm according to Kelvin equation  
and modified BET theory**  
From Straube & Burnett, 2005





Sorption isotherm for several building materials [Kumaran 2002]

From Straube & Burnett, 2005



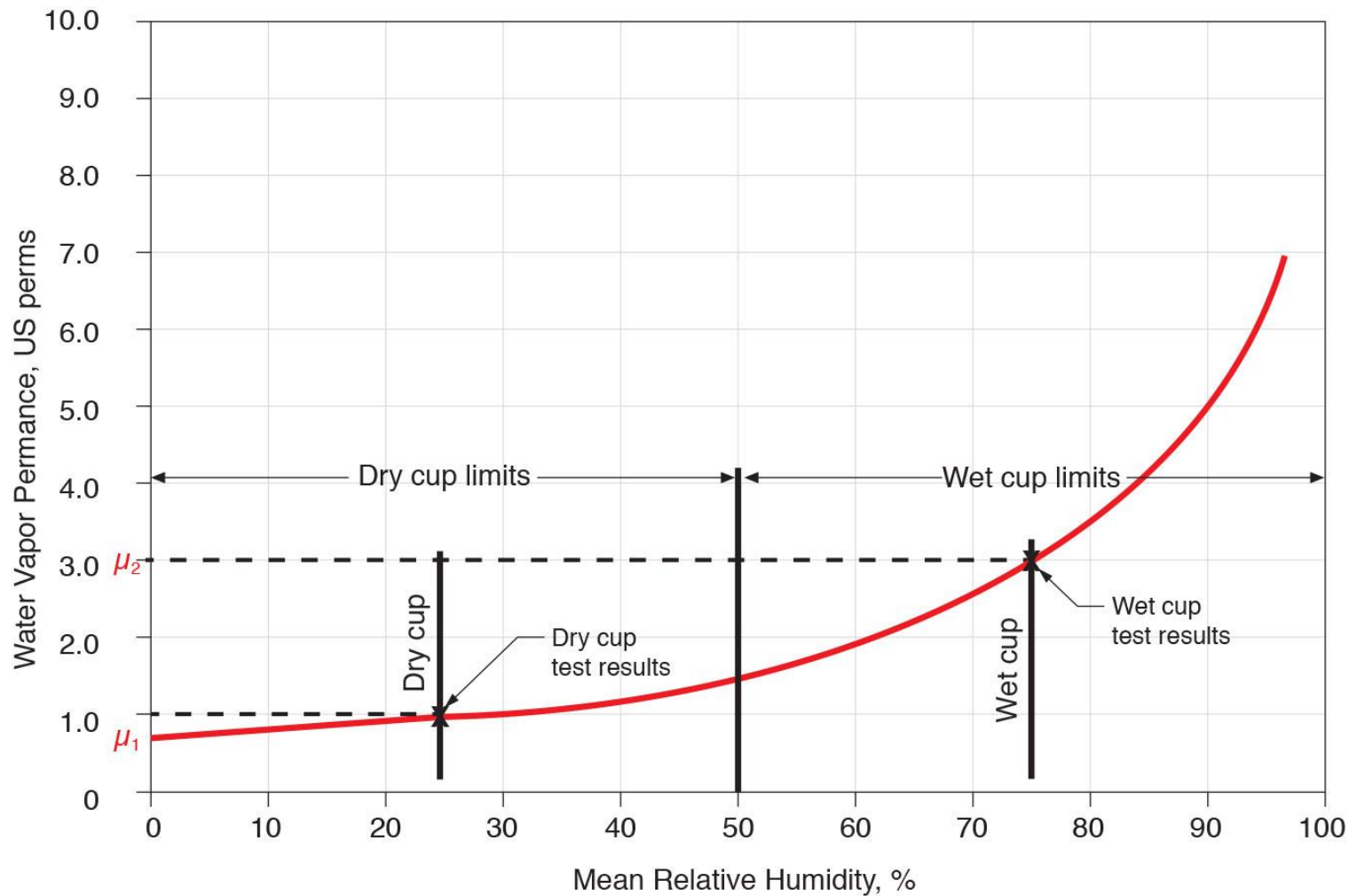
- A - Single-layer of absorbed molecules
- B - Multiple layers of absorbed molecules
- C - Interconnected layers (internal capillary condensation)
- D - Free water in pores, capillary suction
- E - Supersaturated regime

Relationship between Dry Cup and Wet Cup  
Adapted from Joy & Wilson, 1963





# Water Vapor Permeance vs. Relative Humidity



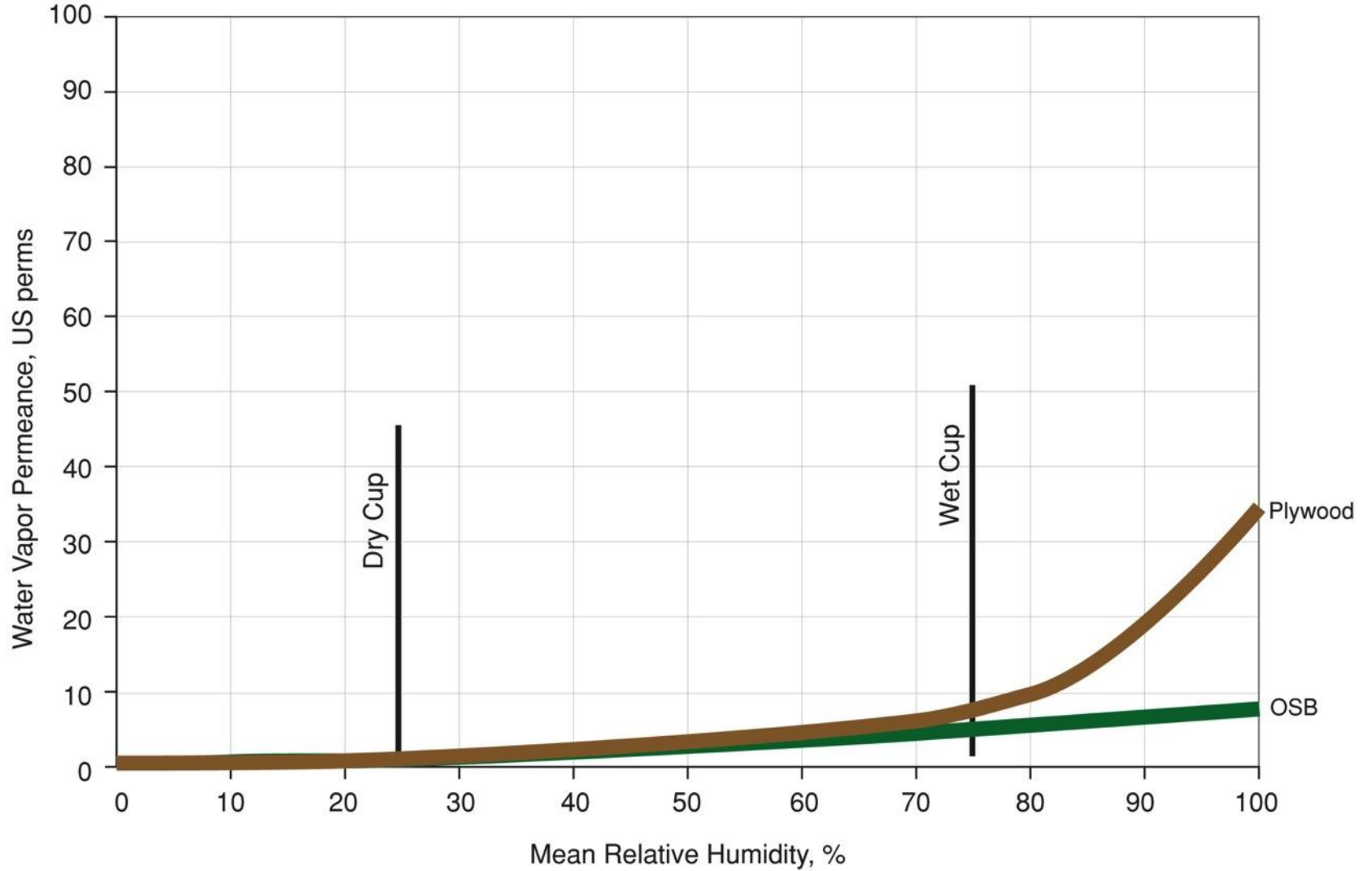
$\mu_1$  = Dry cup permeance  
 $\mu_2$  = Wet cup permeance



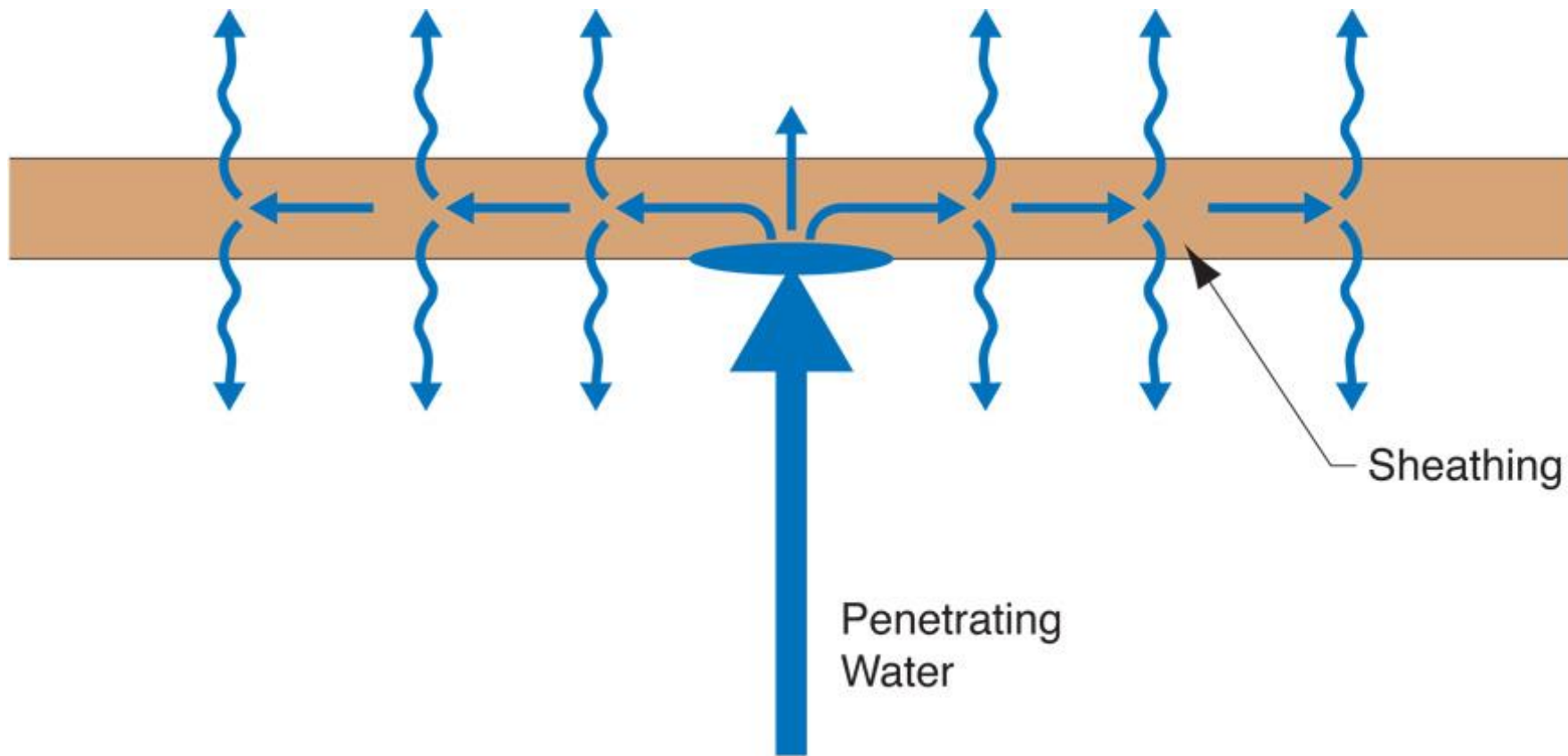




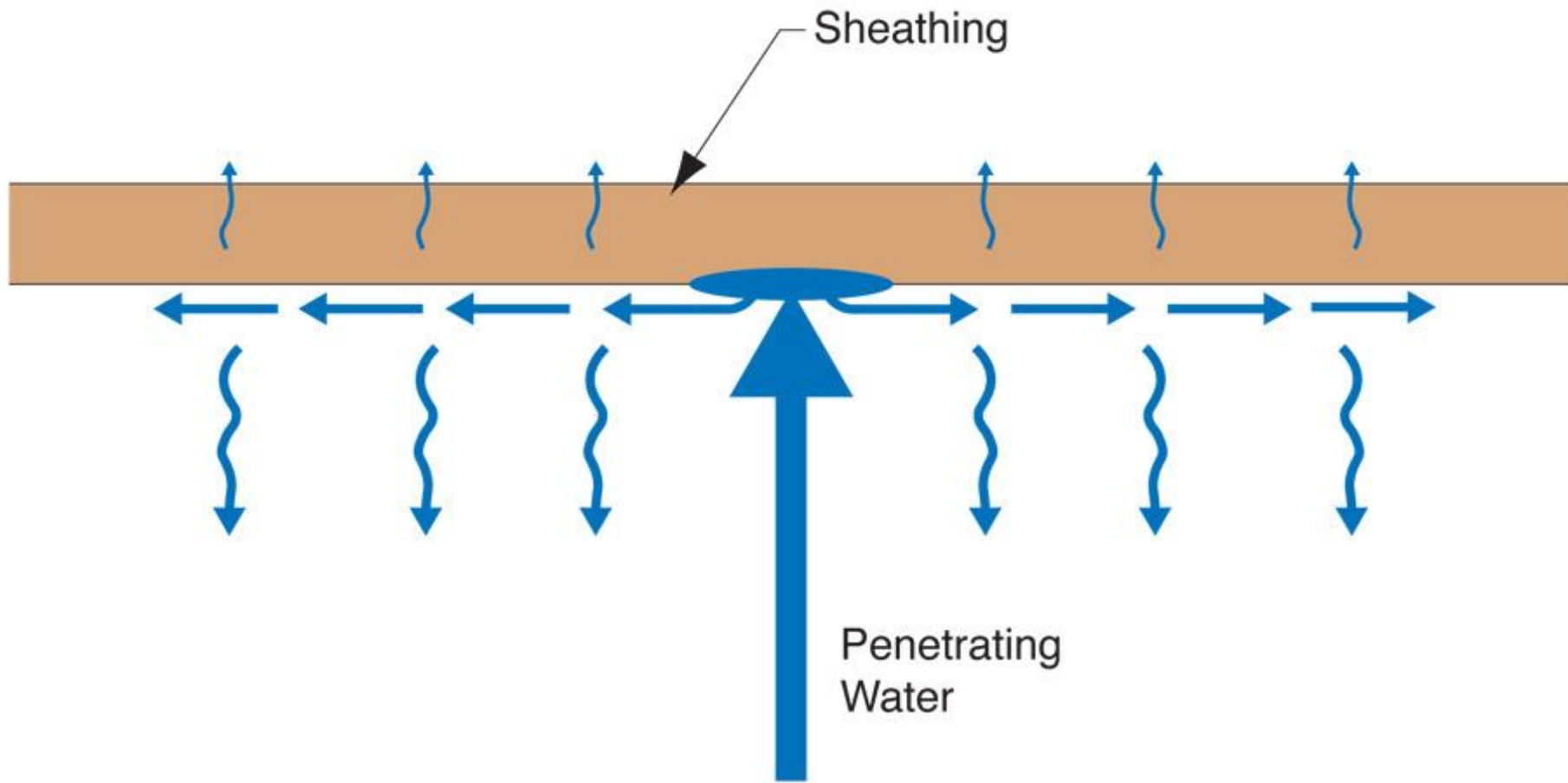
## Water Vapor Permeance of Sheathing Materials



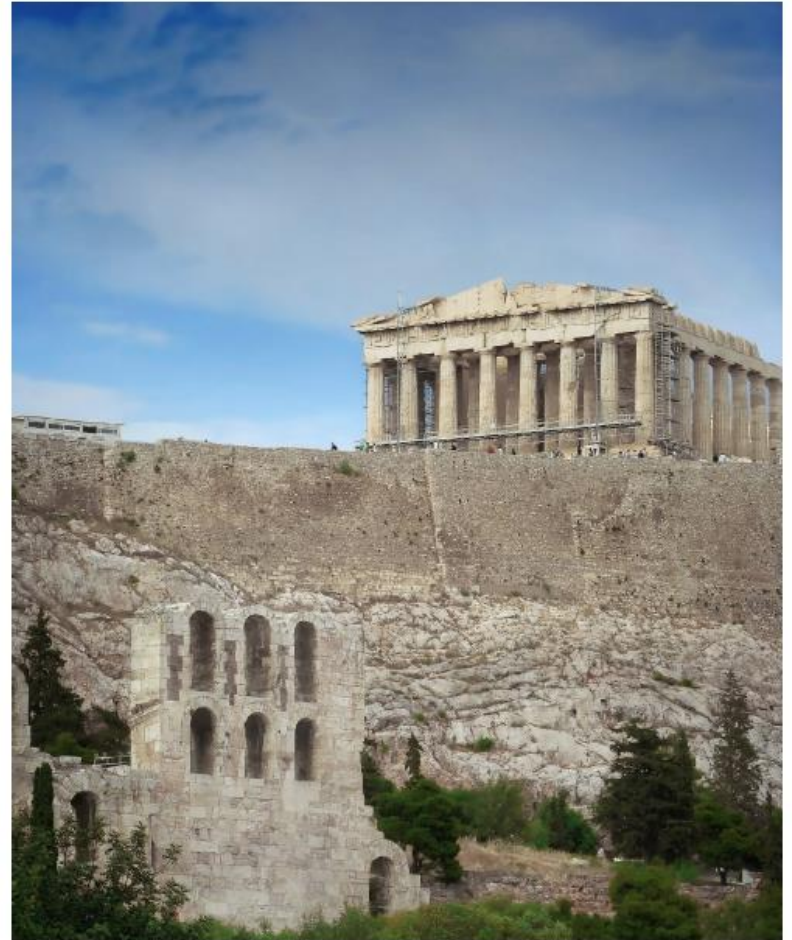




















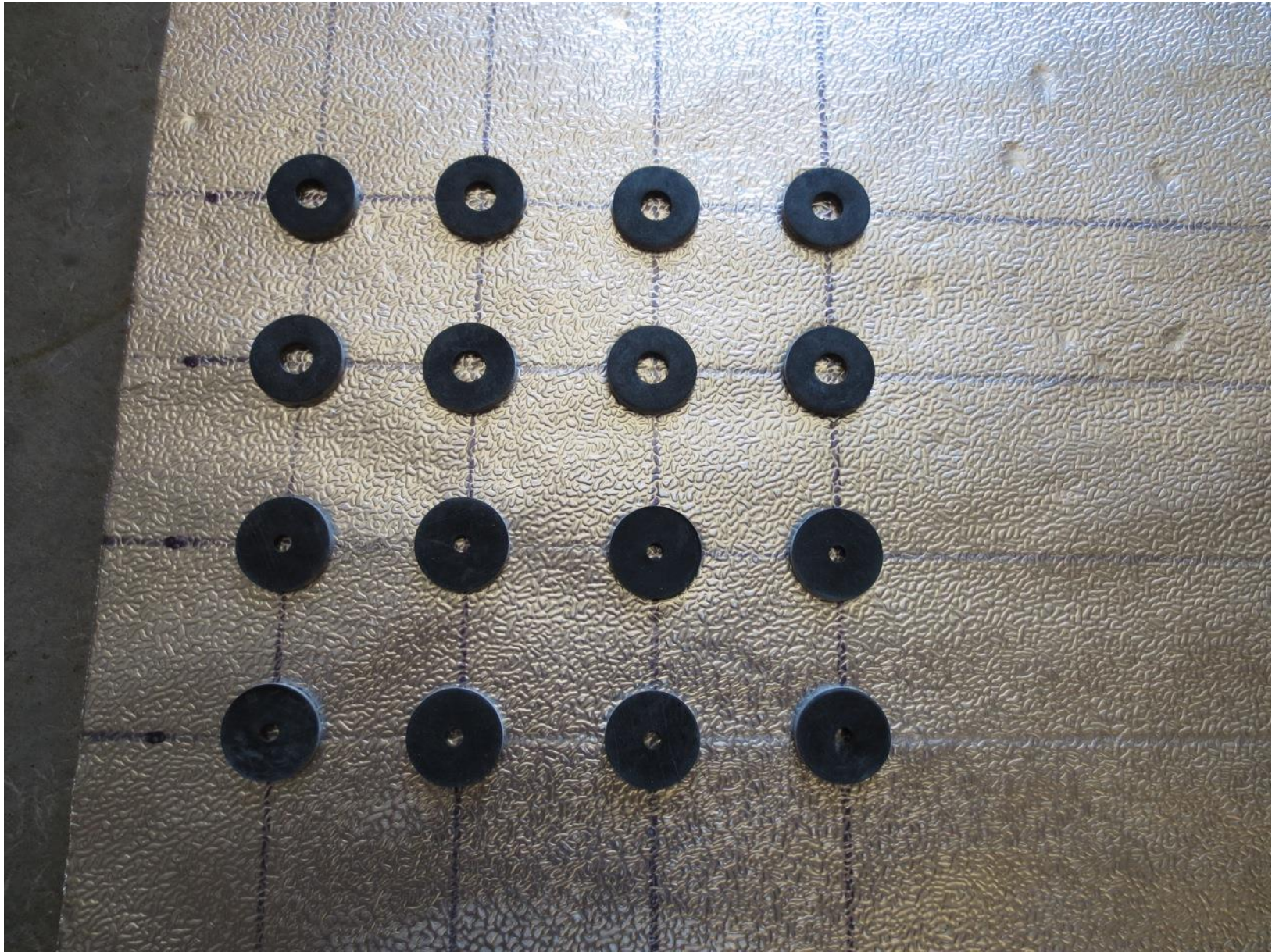






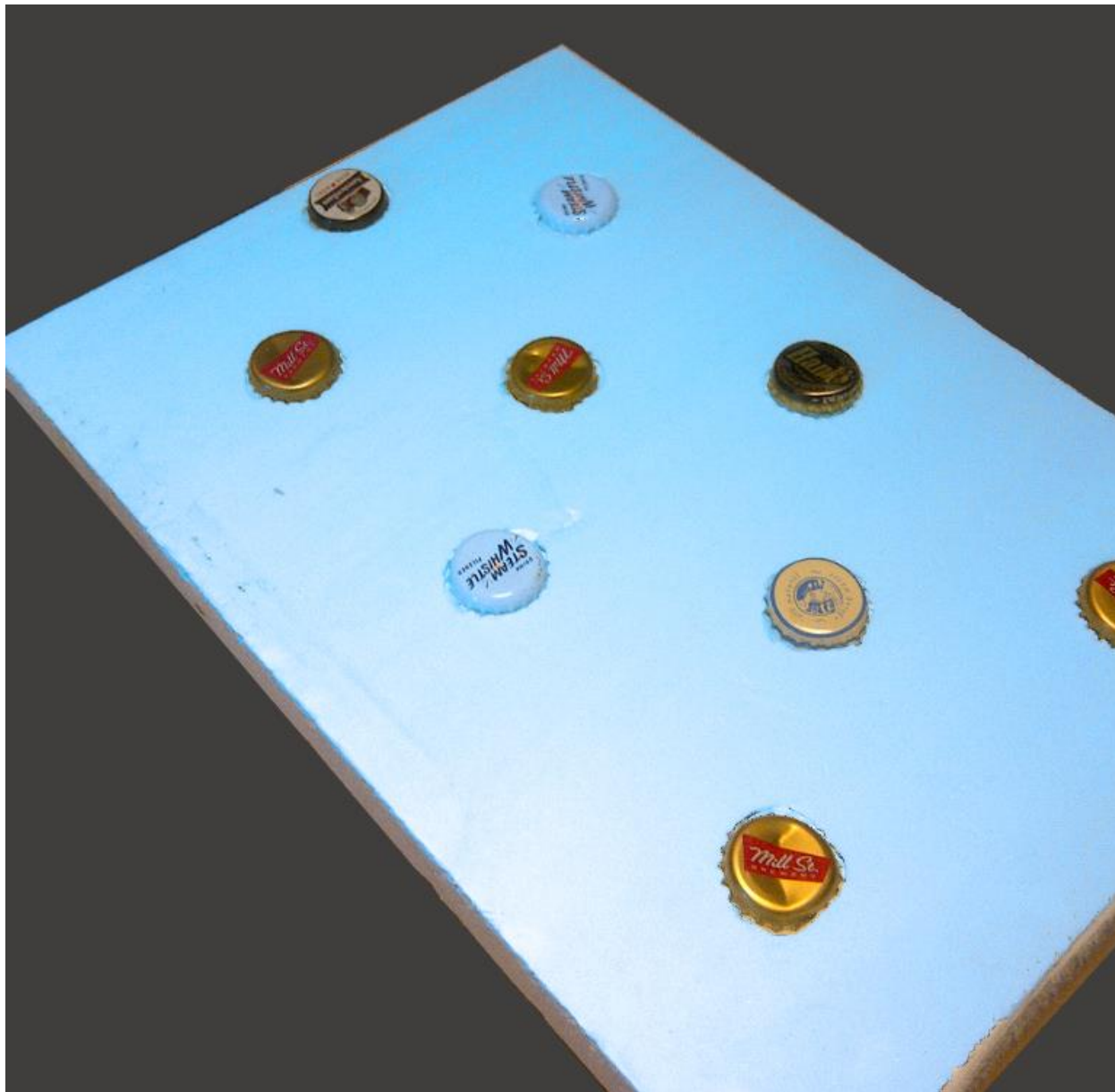
# Rain Screen

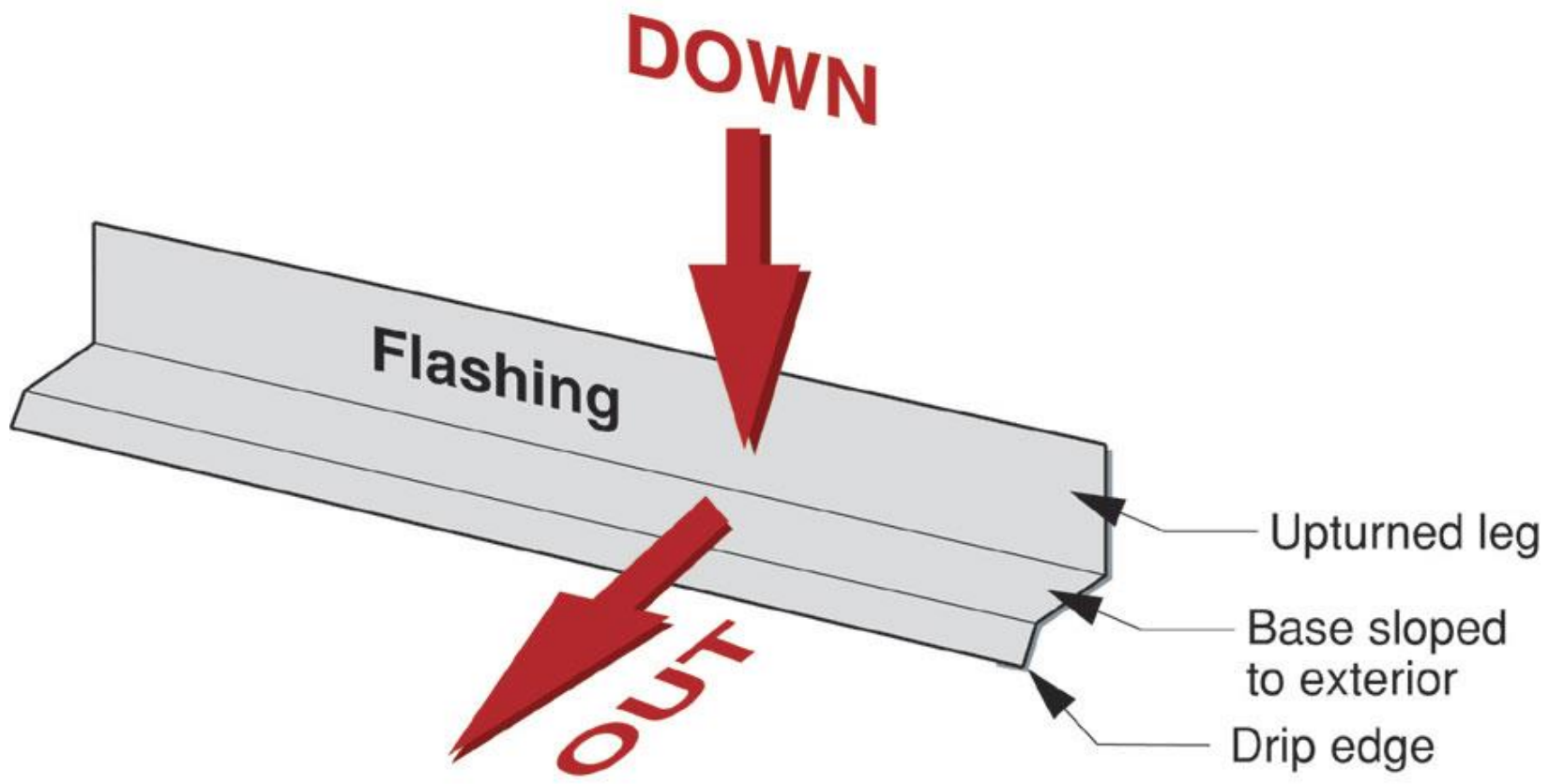




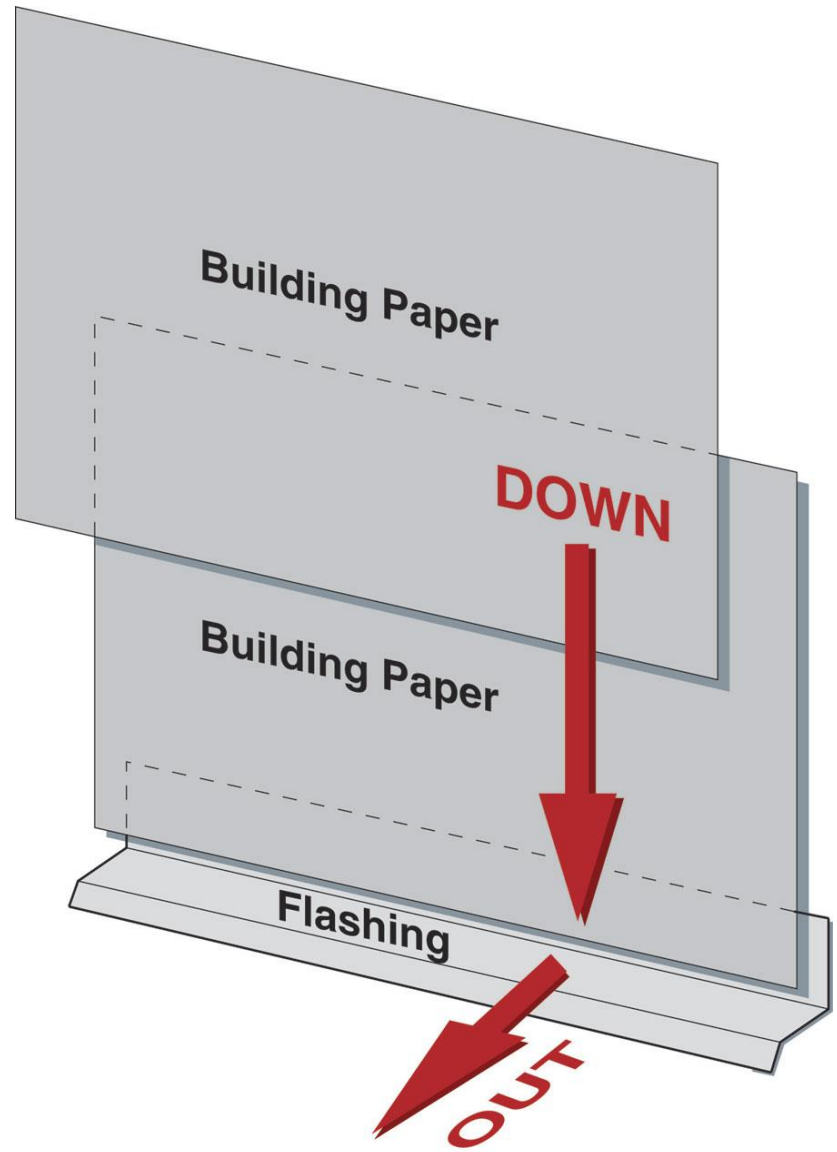


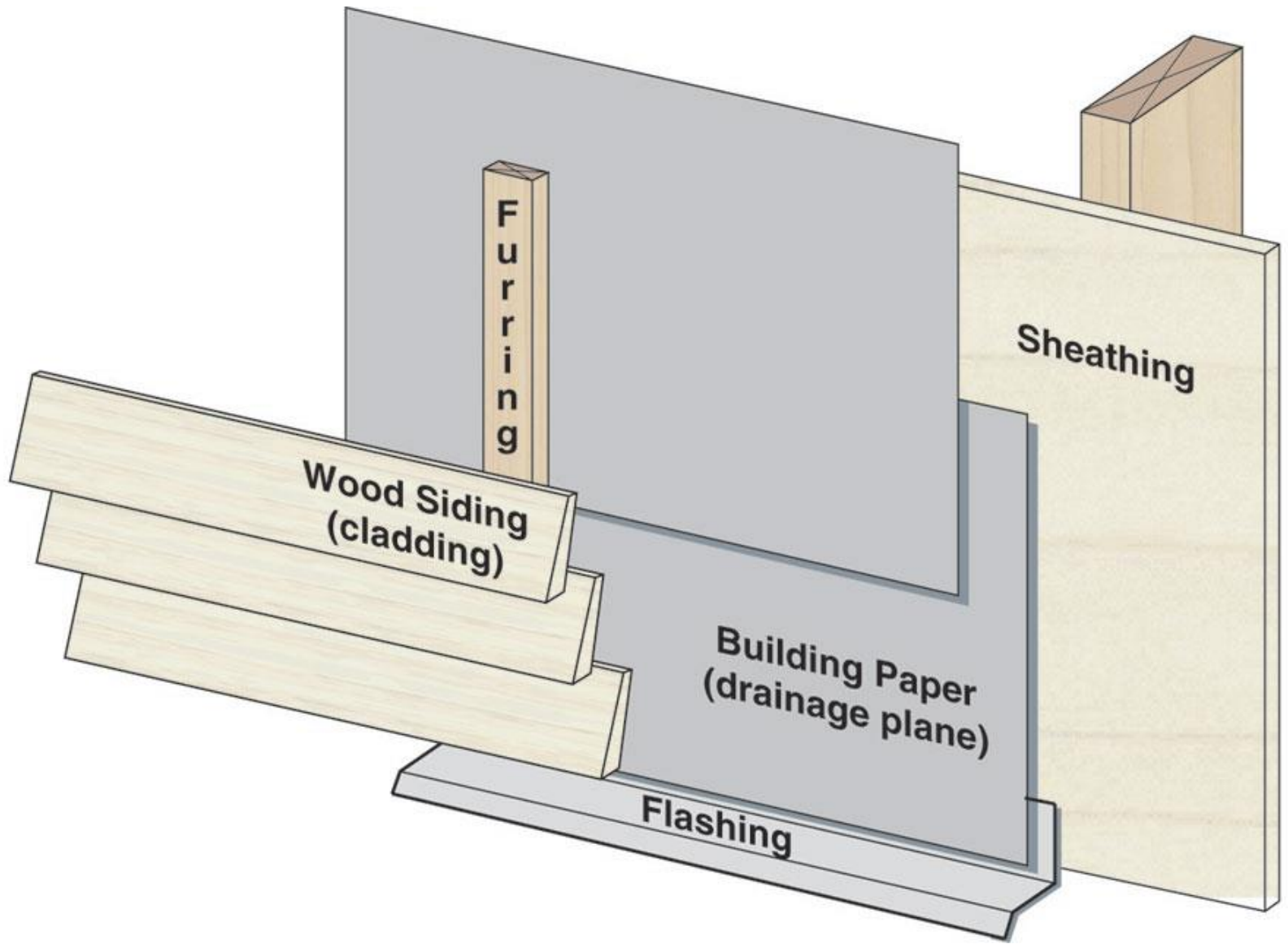
# Beer Screen?

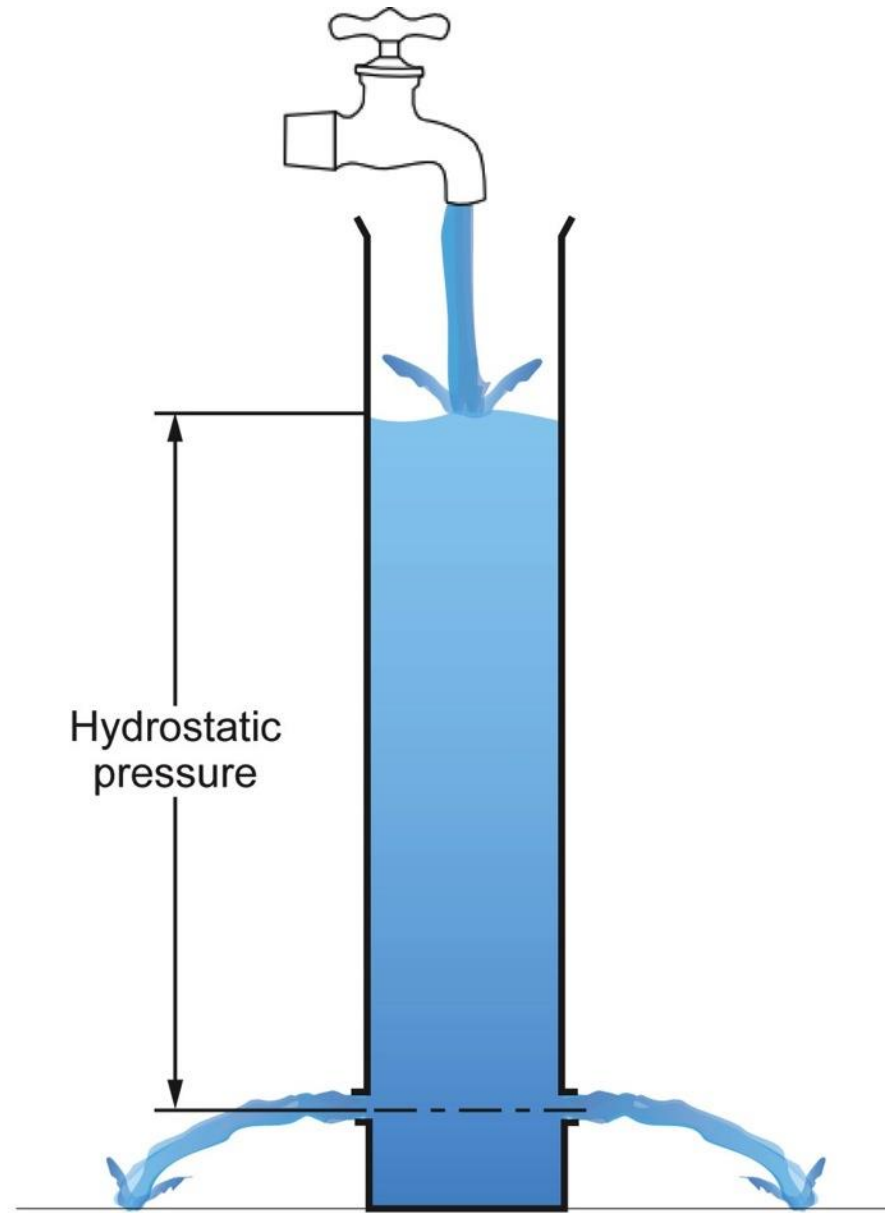
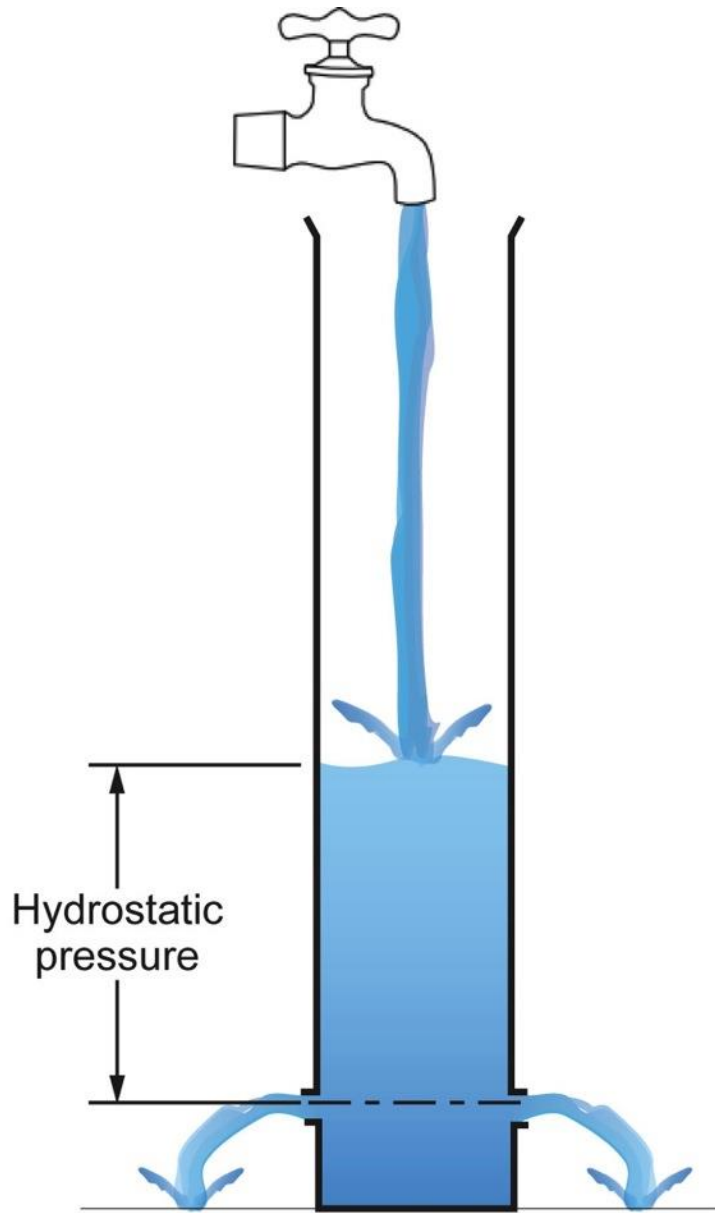






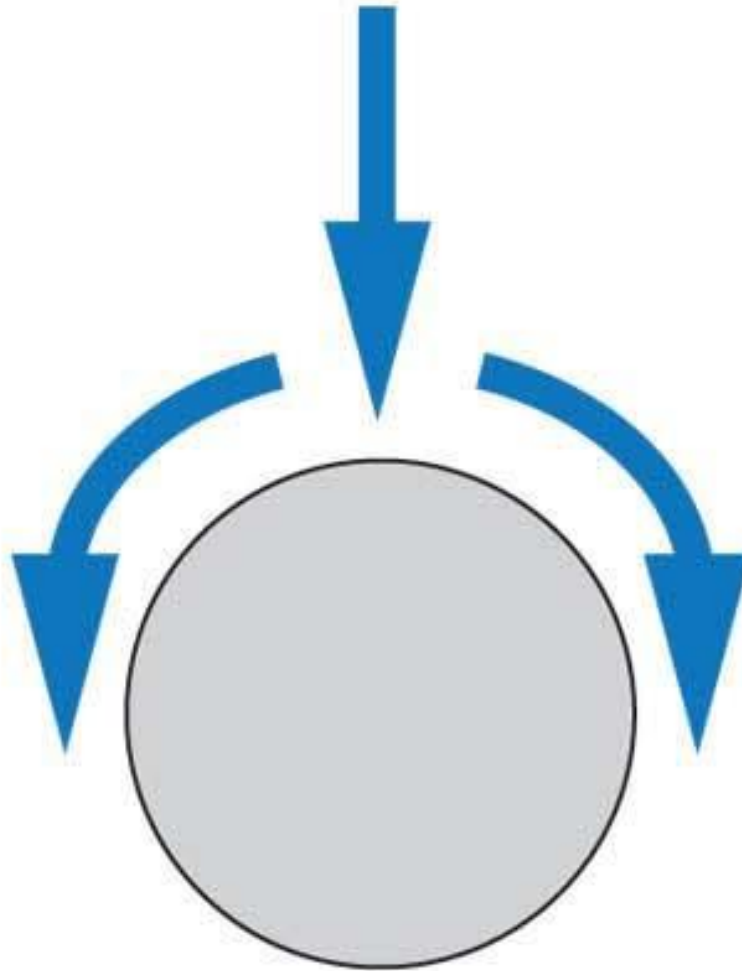


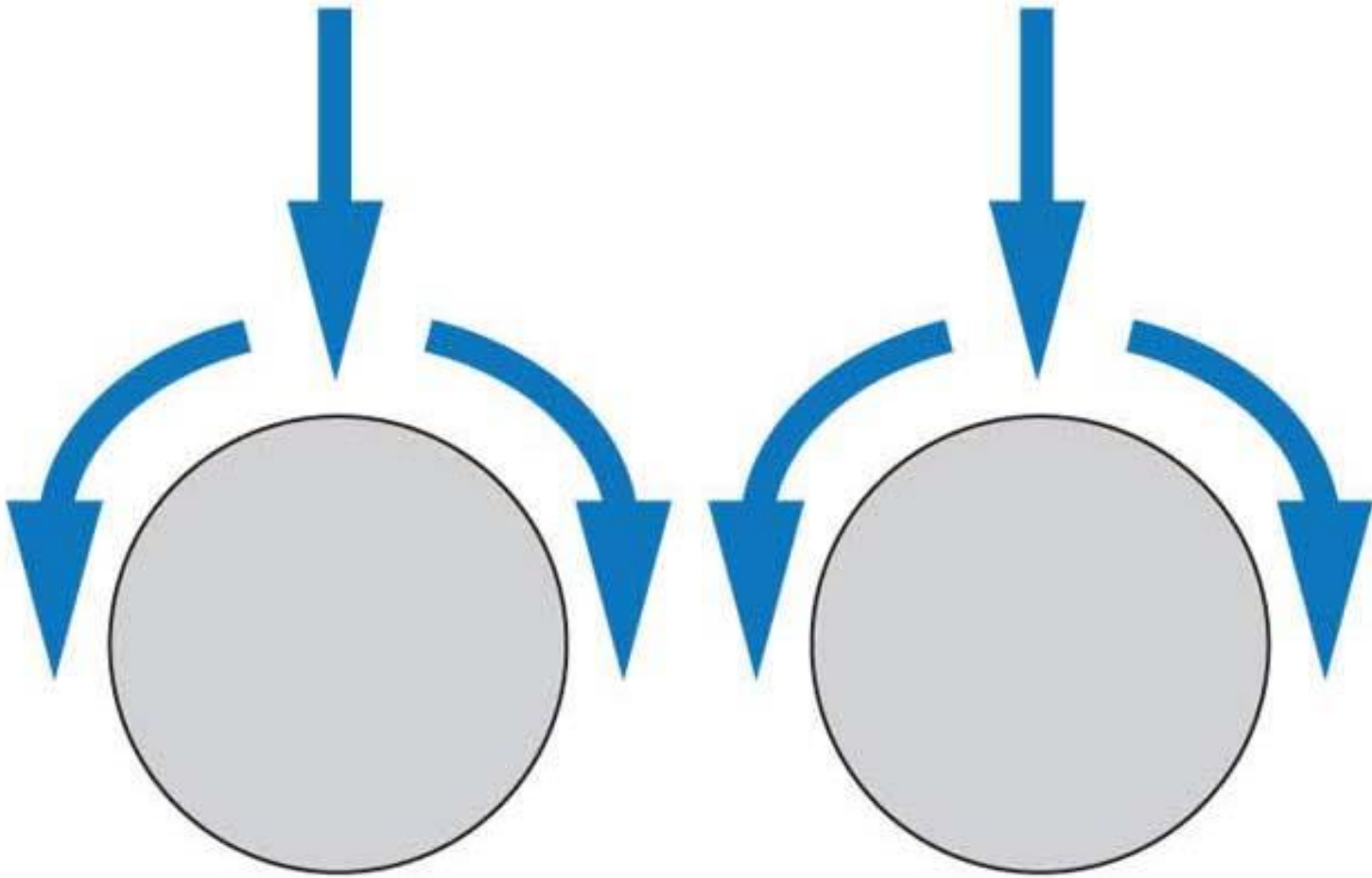




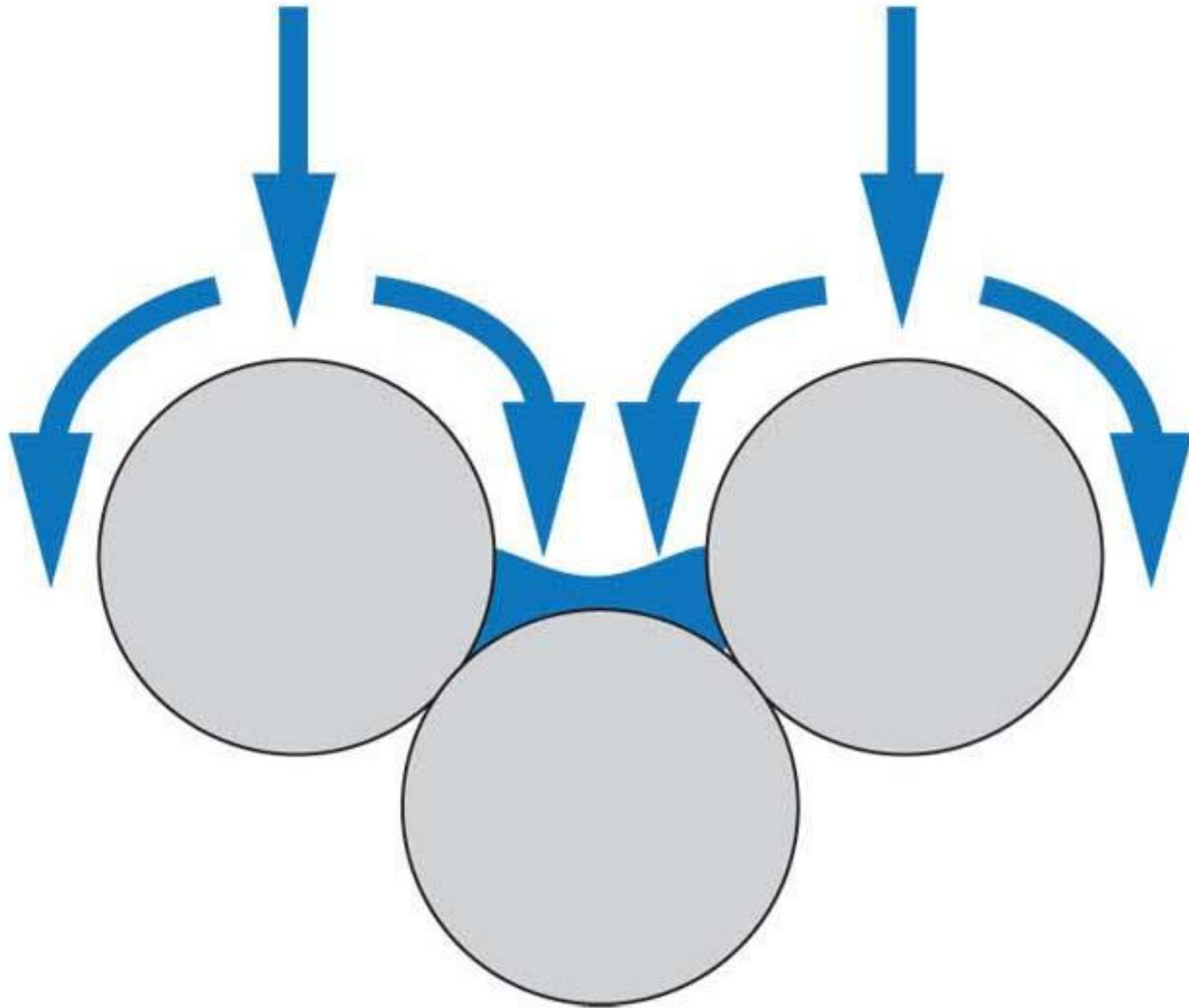


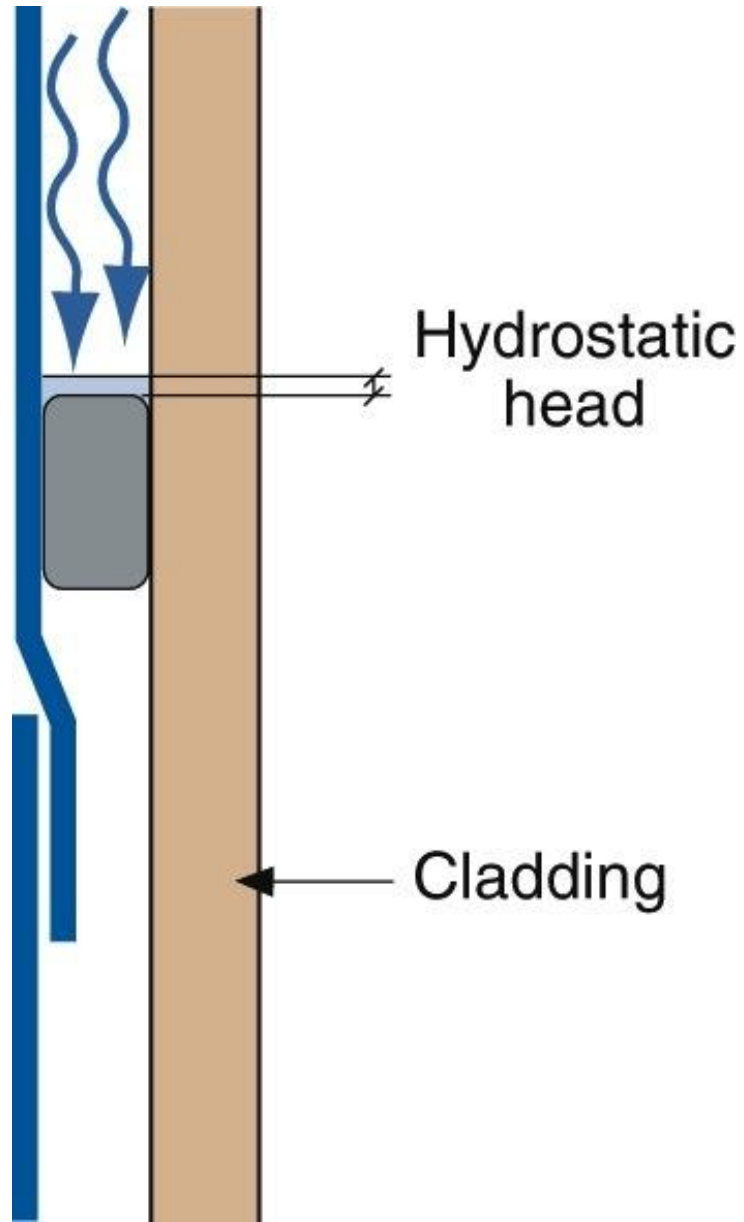


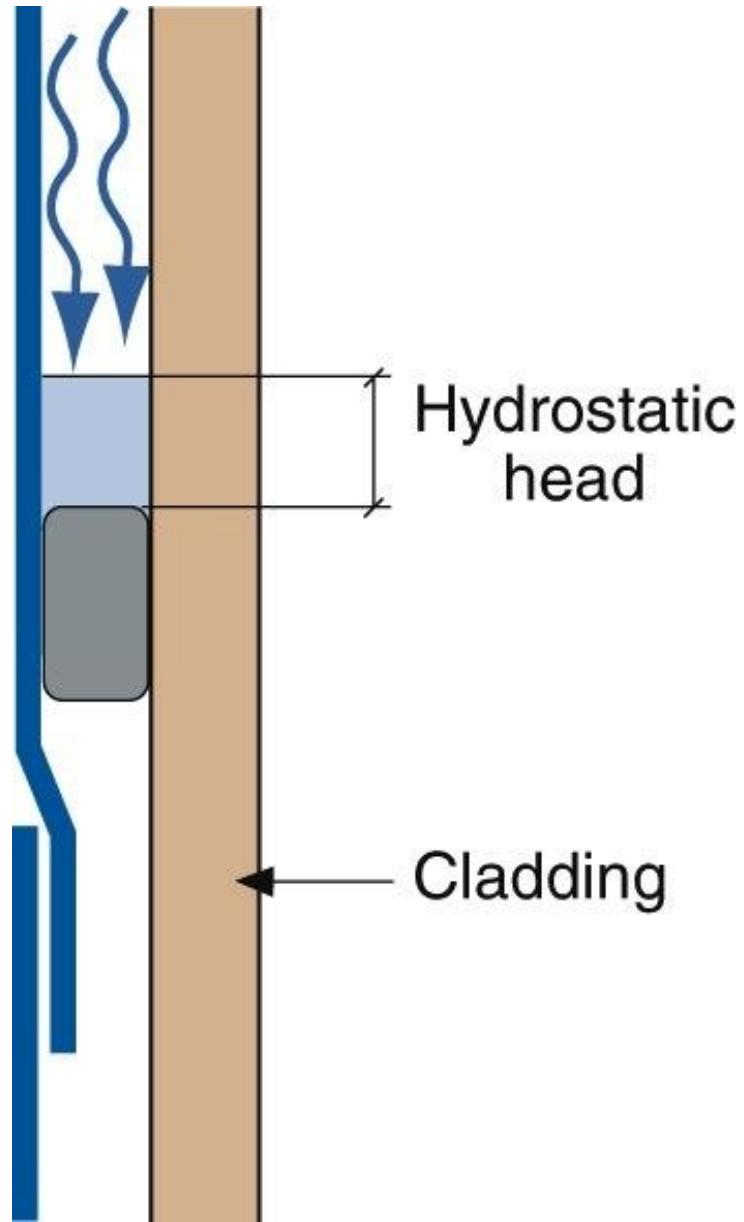




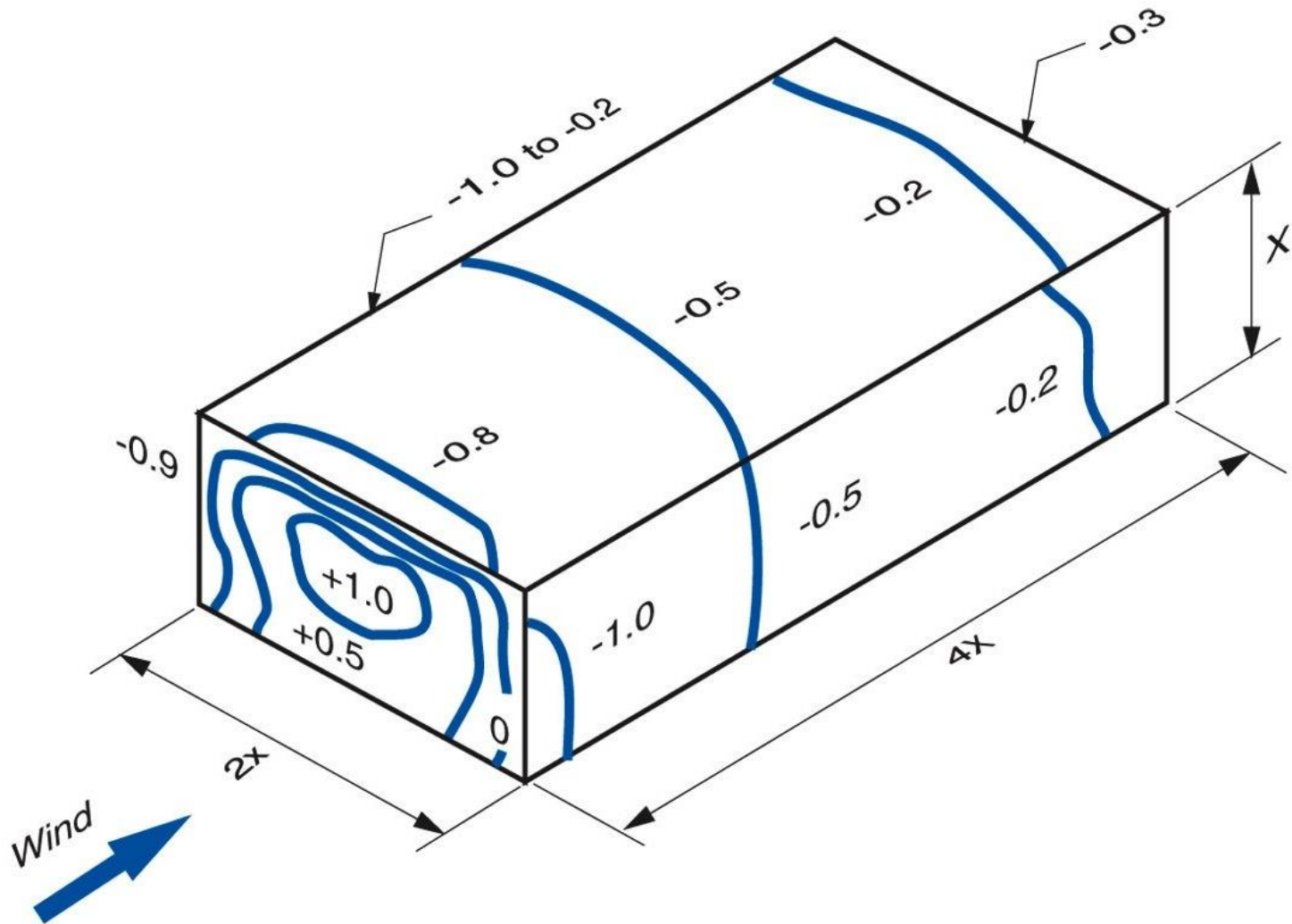








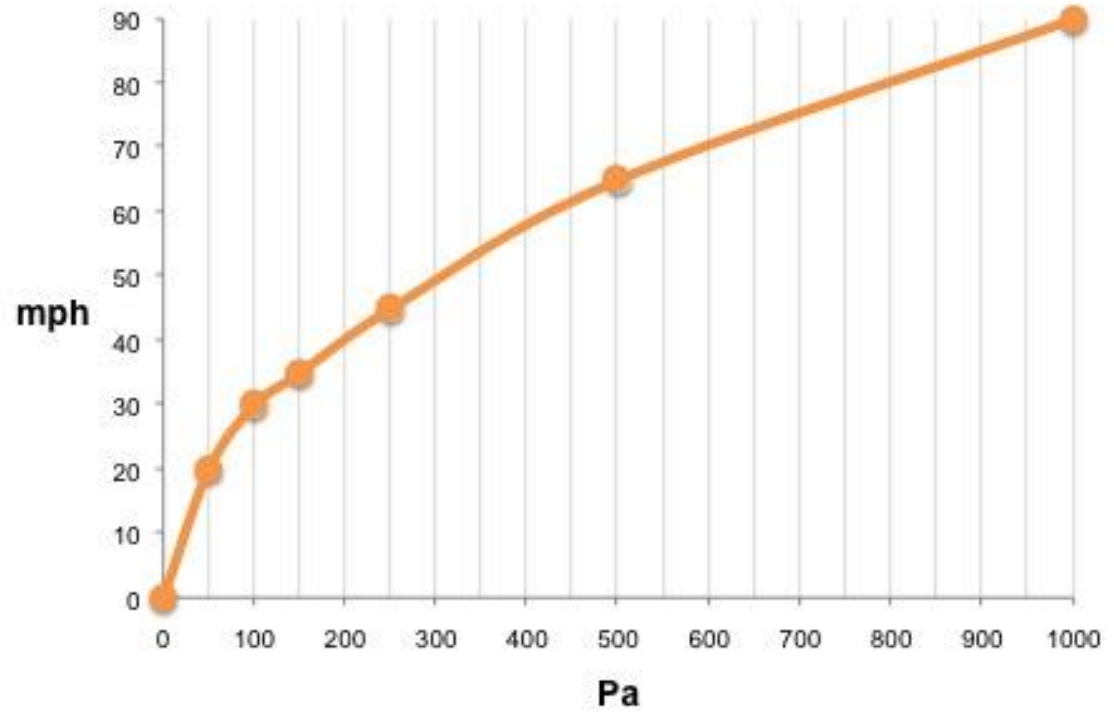




**Pascals    mph**

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)**



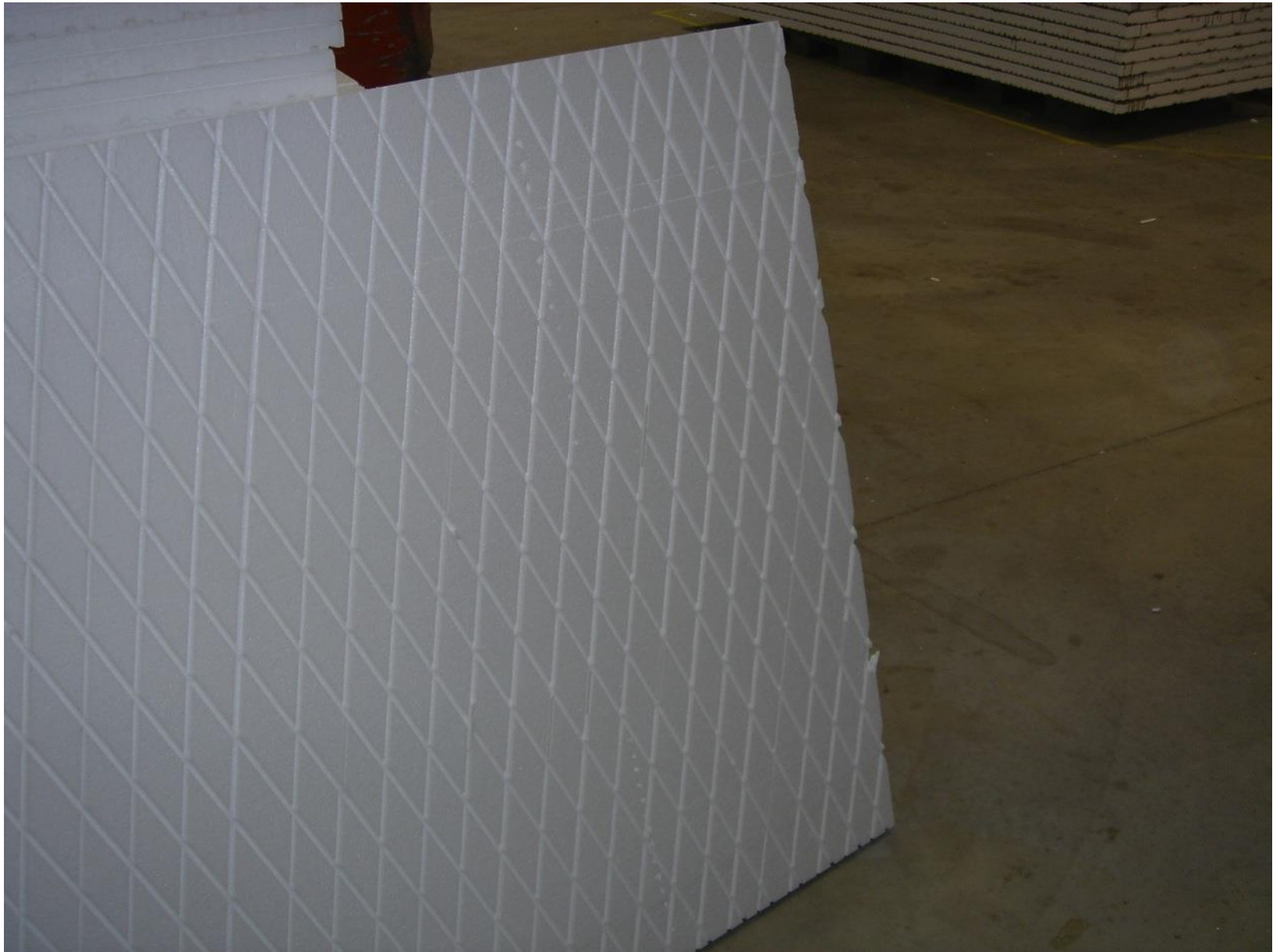












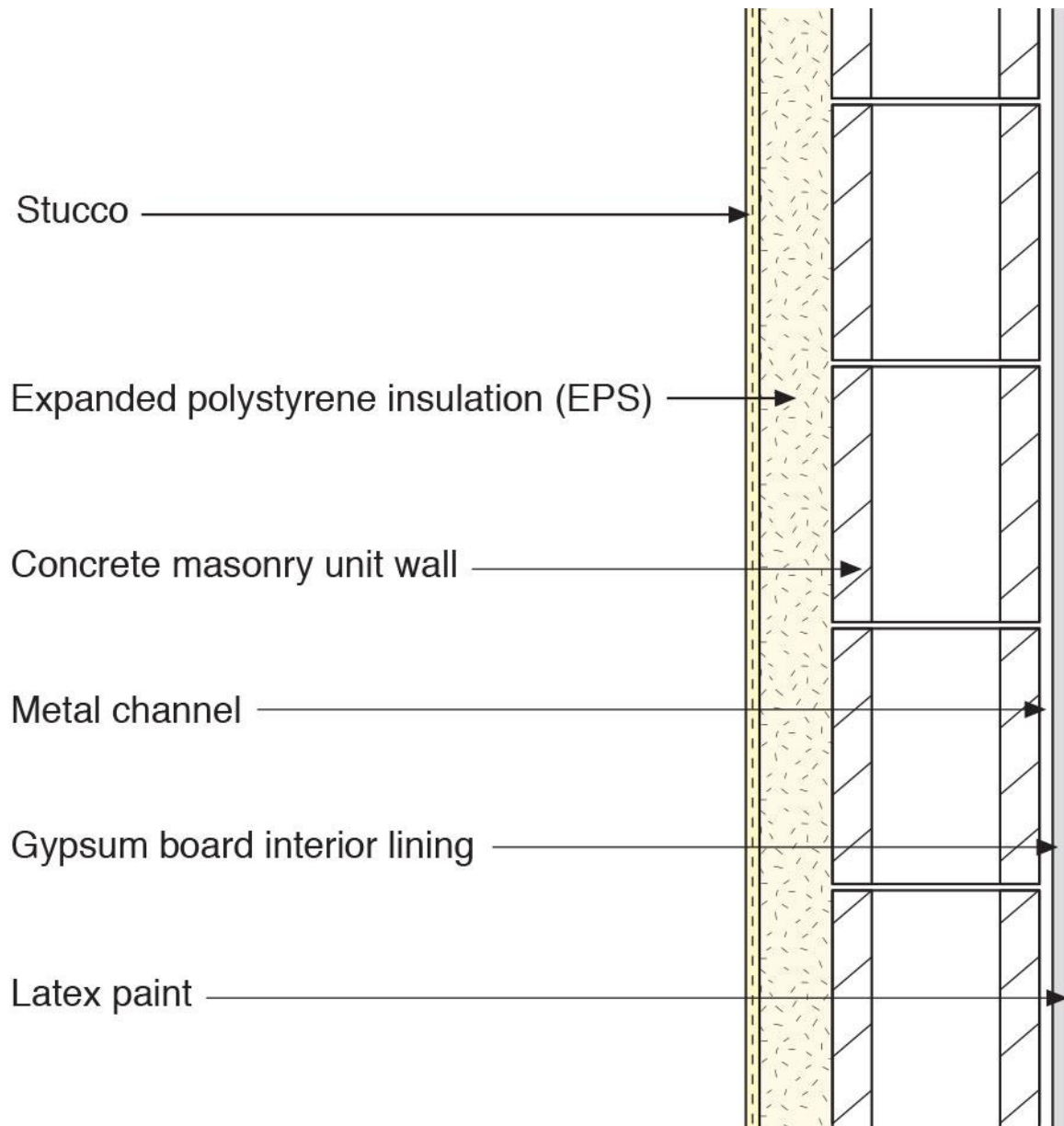


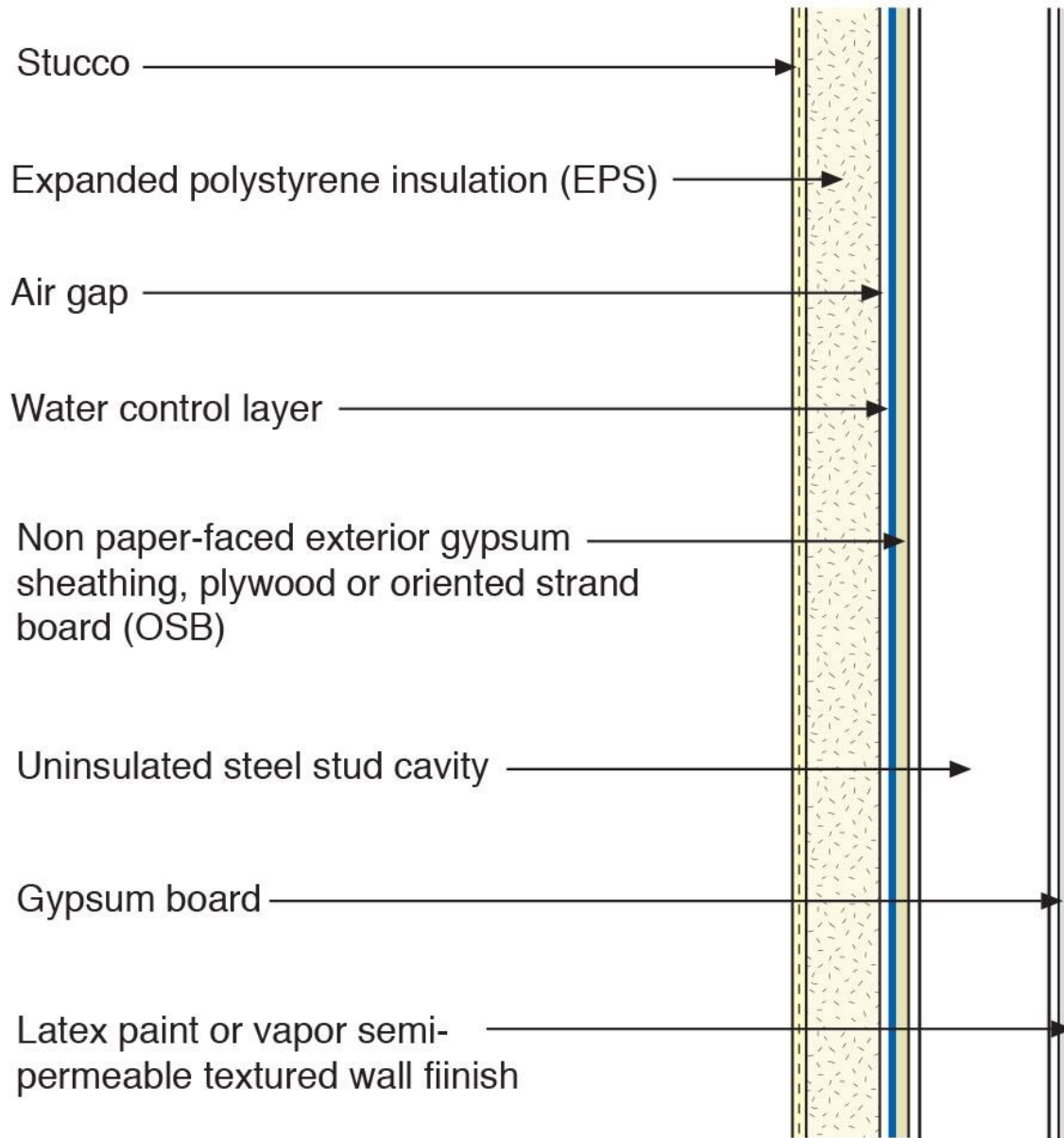
# Side Trip To Woodbury, MN....

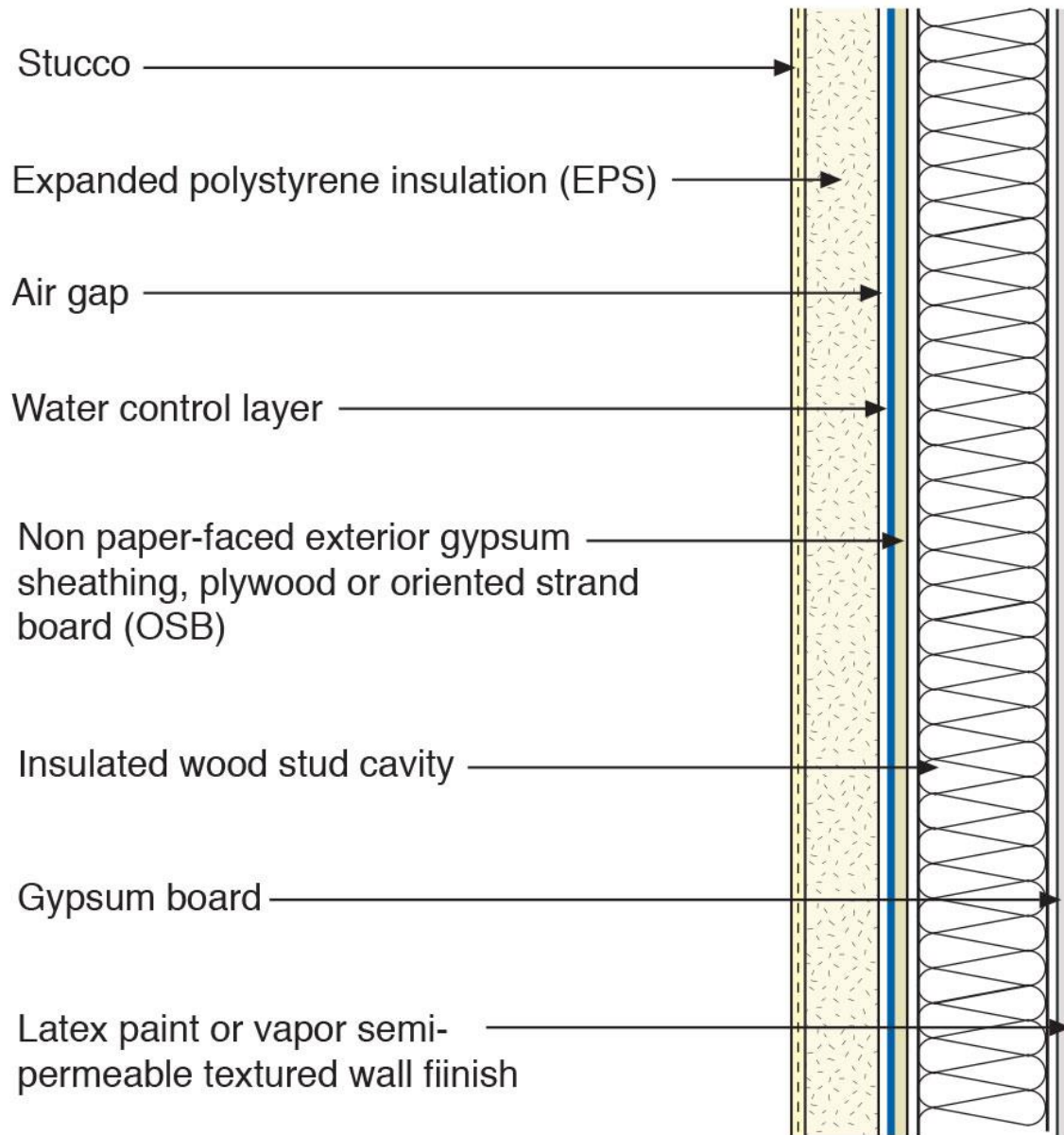


# EIFS No Longer Has Issues

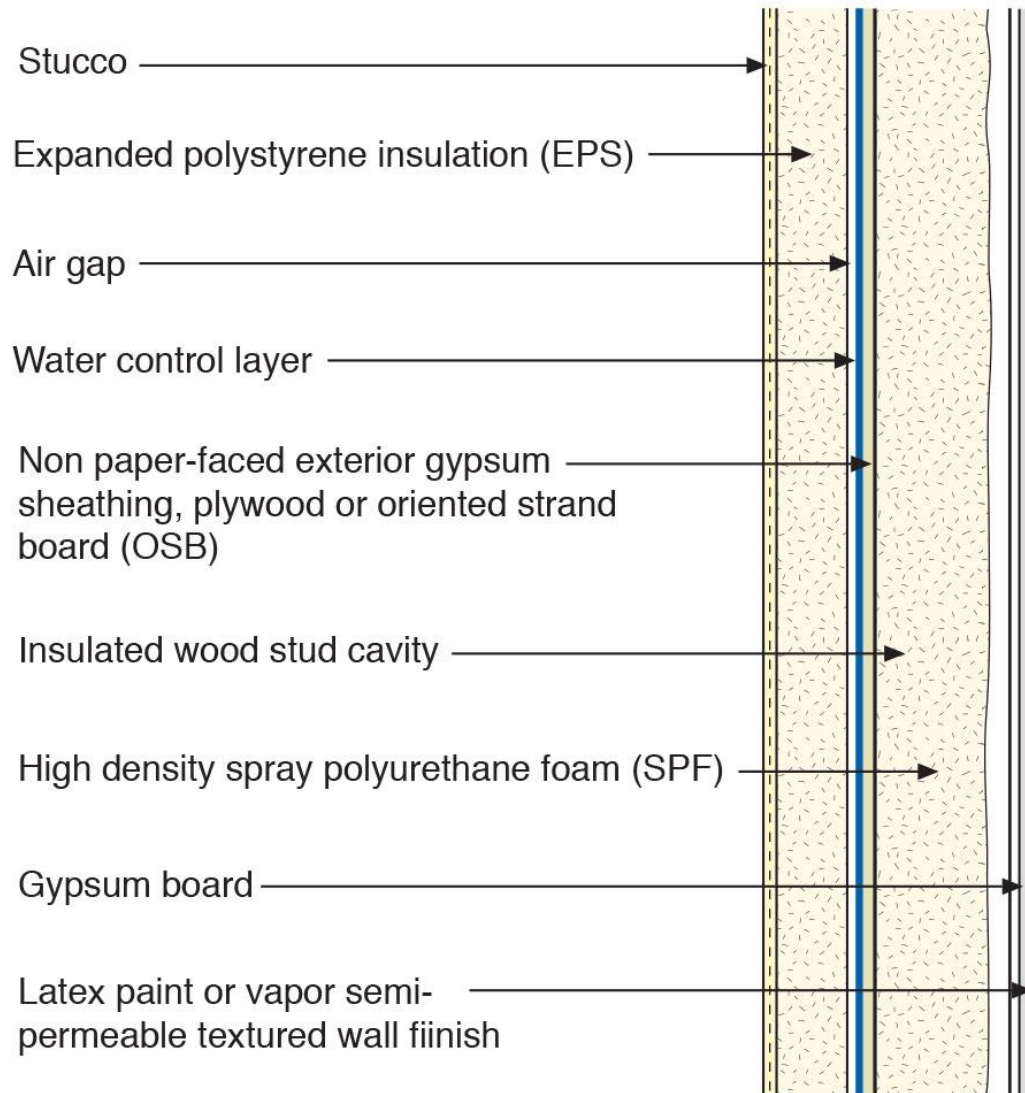










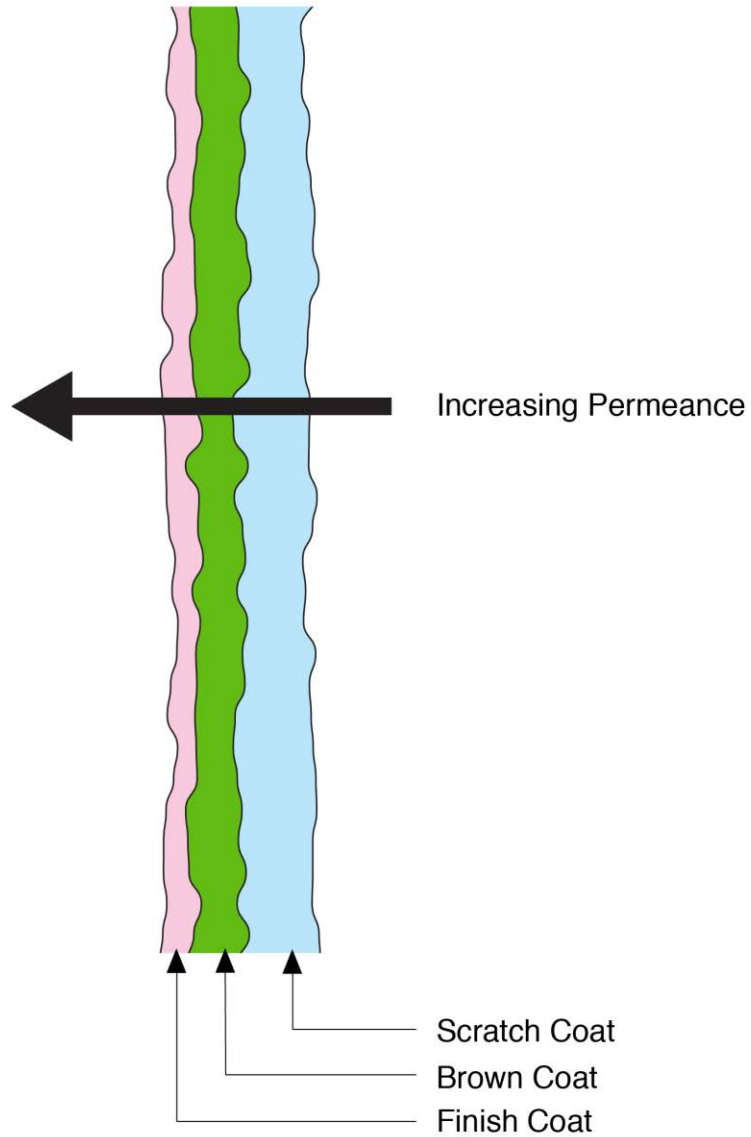


# Back To Stucco....

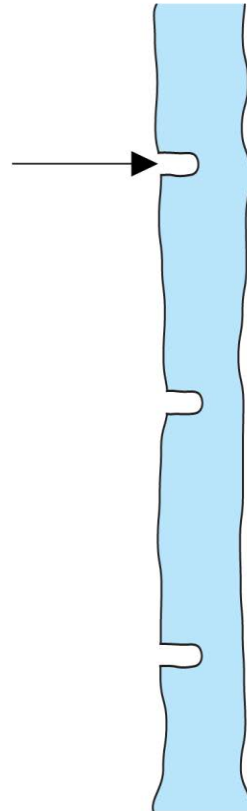
# Lime vs Portland Cement Polymer Modification



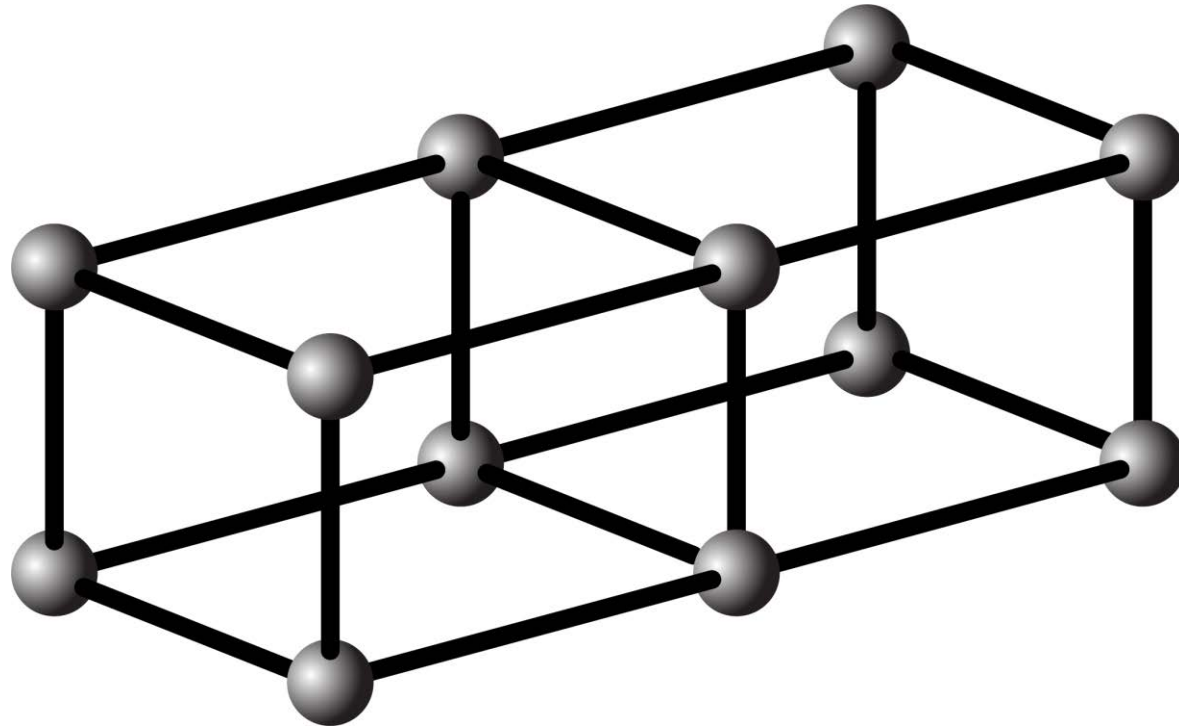
Traditional Lime Stucco	Greater than 20 perms
Lime/Portland Cement Stucco	5 to 10 perms
Portland Cement Stucco	1 to 5 perms
Polymer Modification	Less than 1

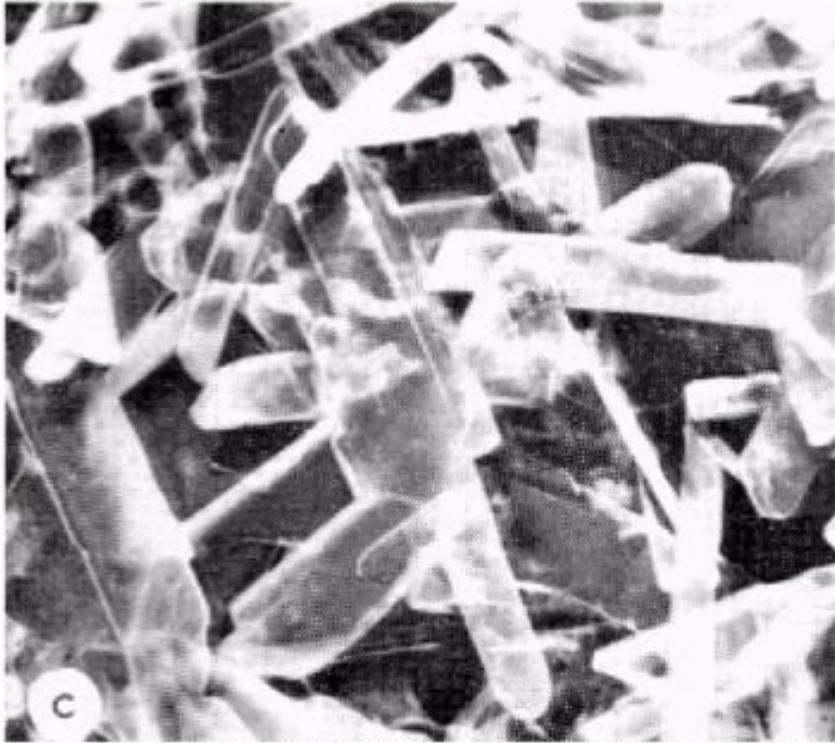


Horizontal “scoring”  
provides mechanical  
bond and “shelf” for  
water during “wet” curing

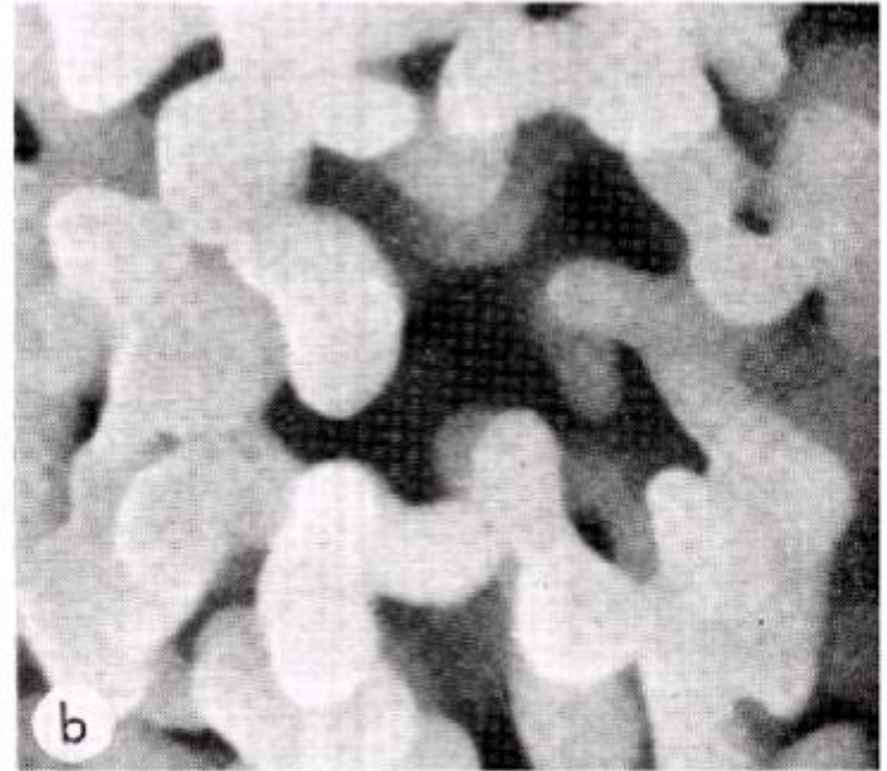






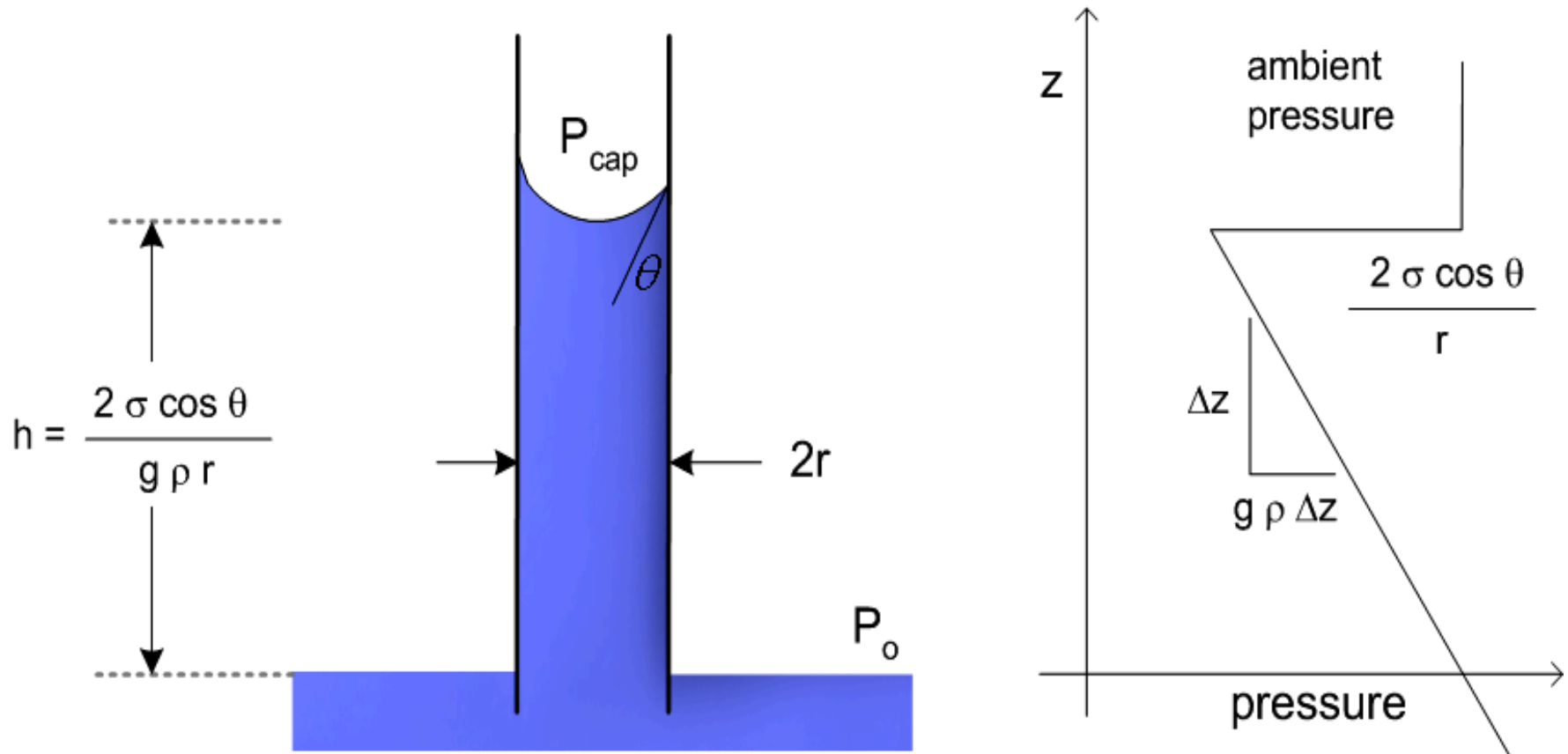


*Figure 1c. Gypsum, hydrated from plaster of paris and water, porosity 30 per cent.*



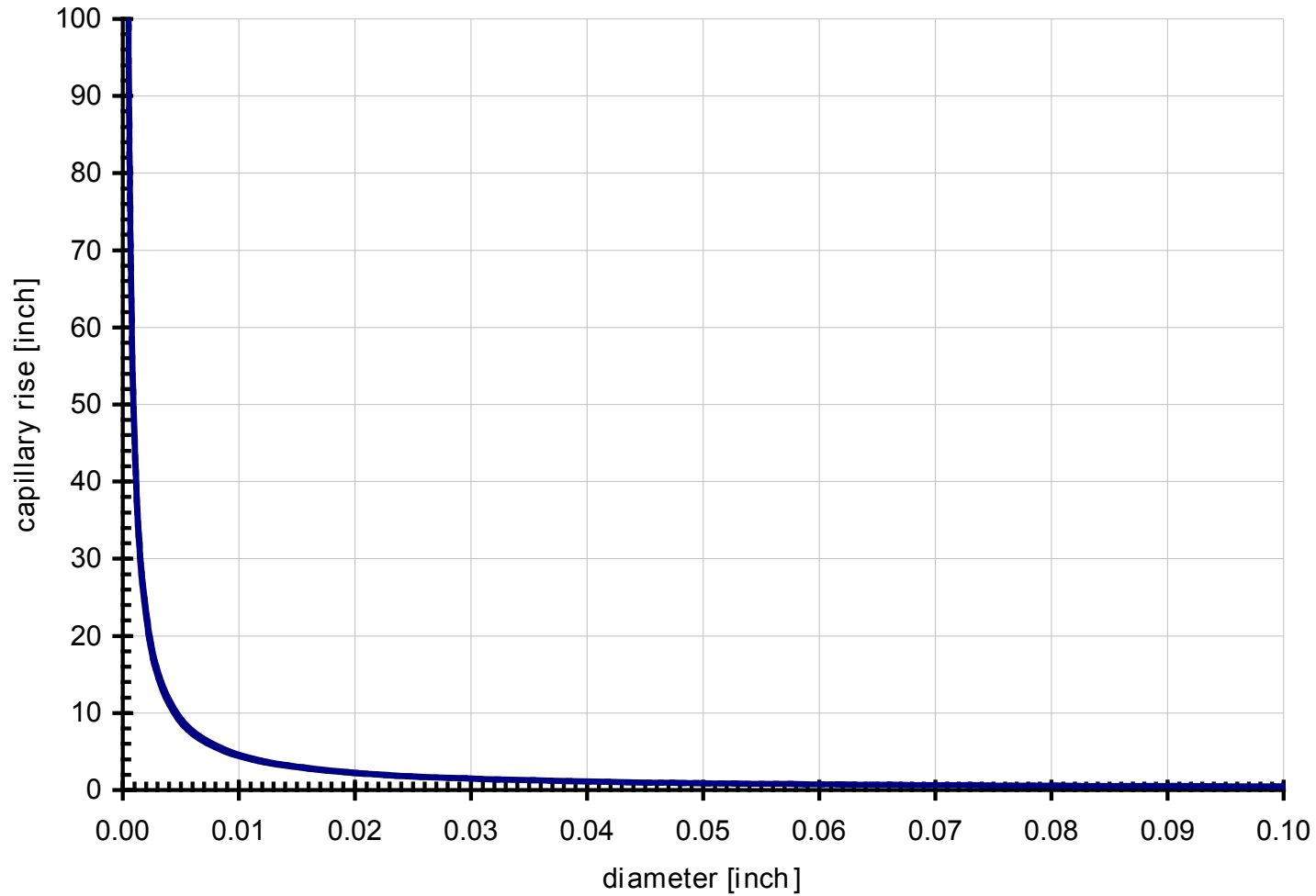
*Figure 1b. Brick, sintered clay, porosity 40 per cent.*

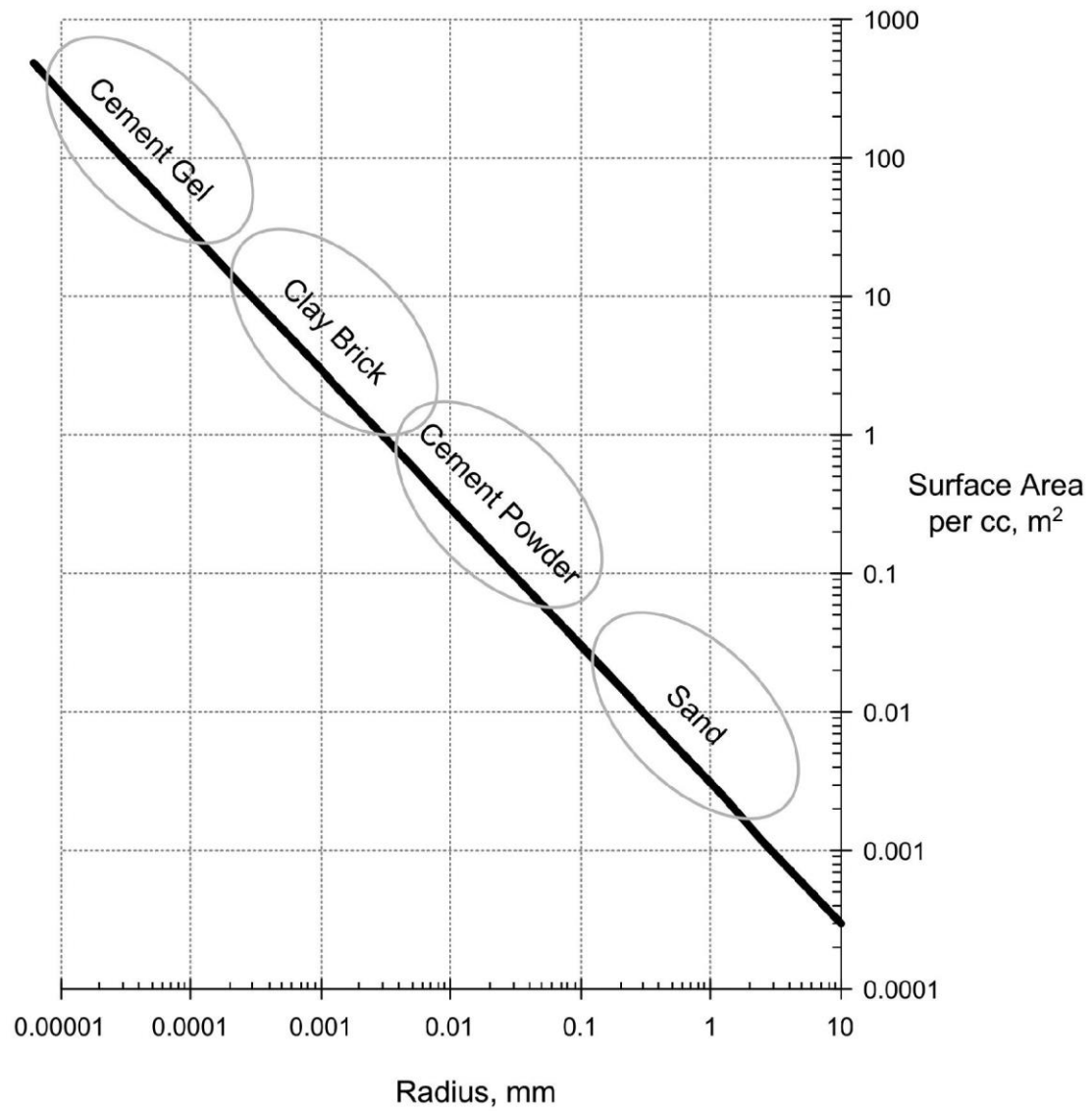
# Calculating capillary rise



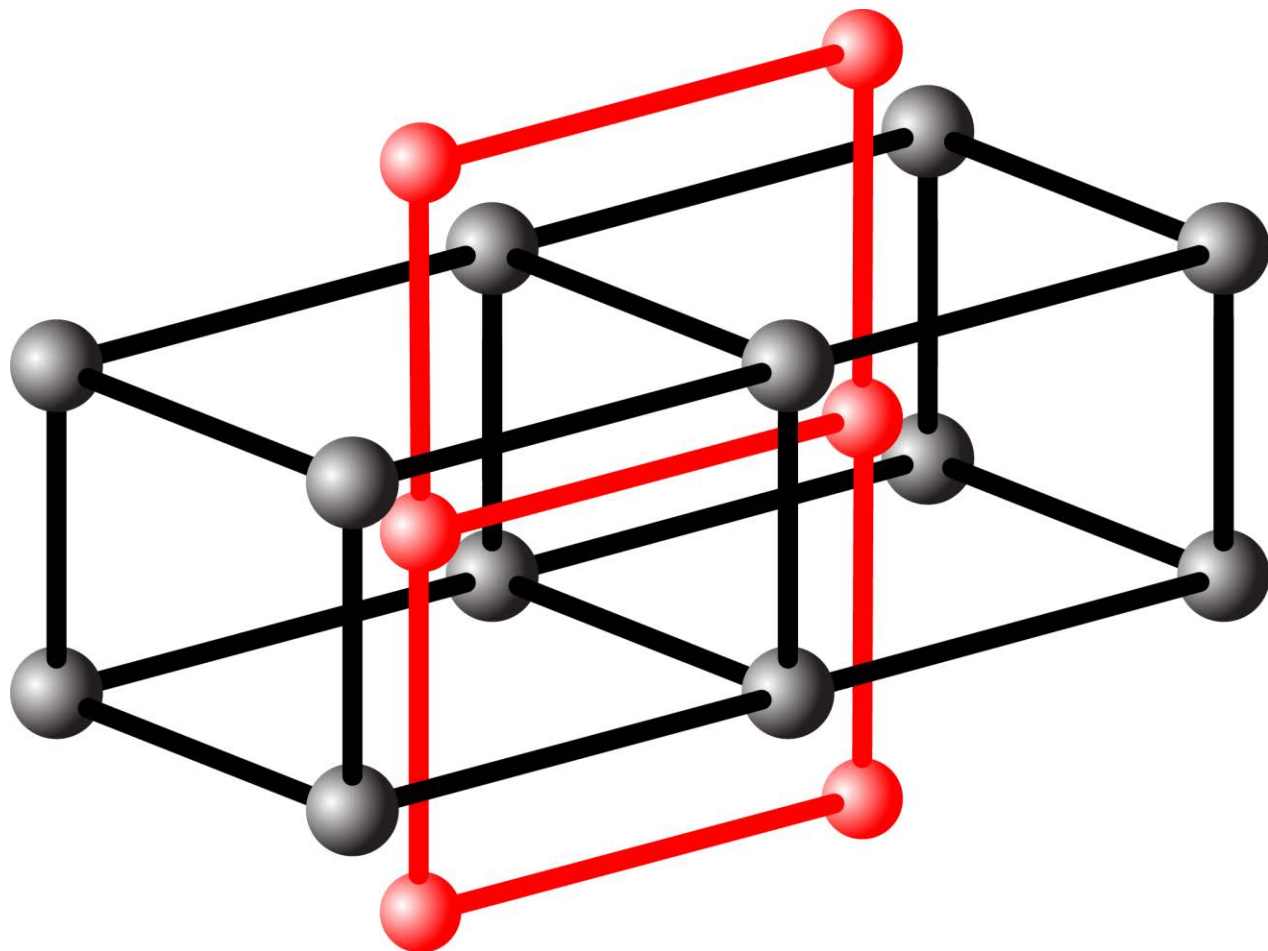


# Capillary rise versus diameter

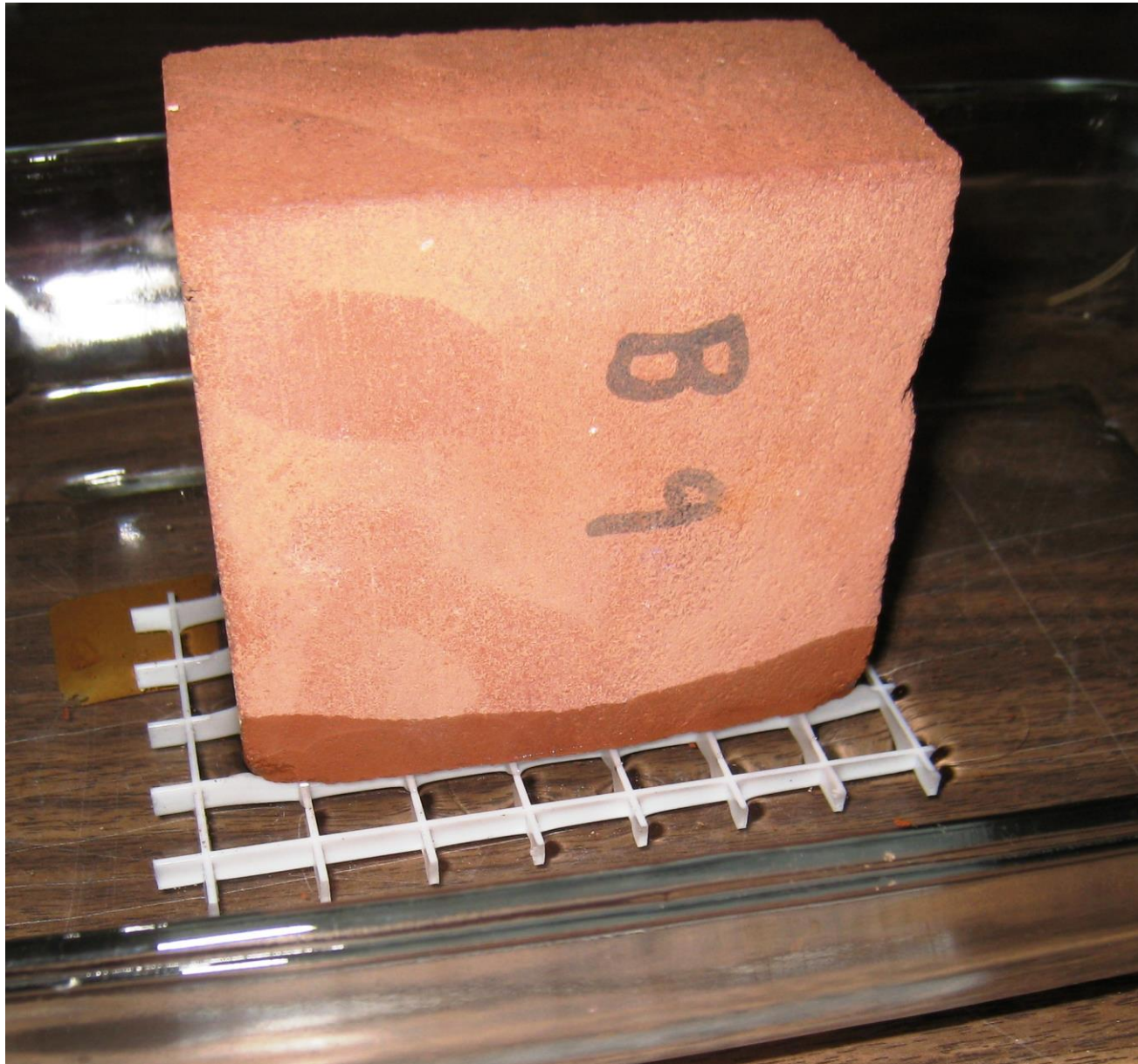




**Surface area vs. particle size**  
From Straube & Burnett, 2005







# Ancient Modification Additives

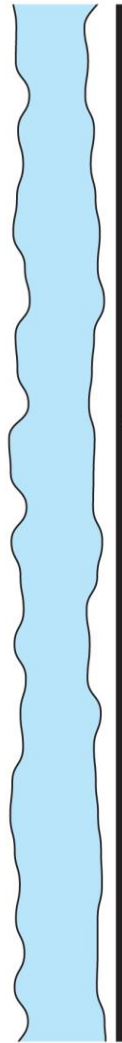
Cow Dung

Egg Whites

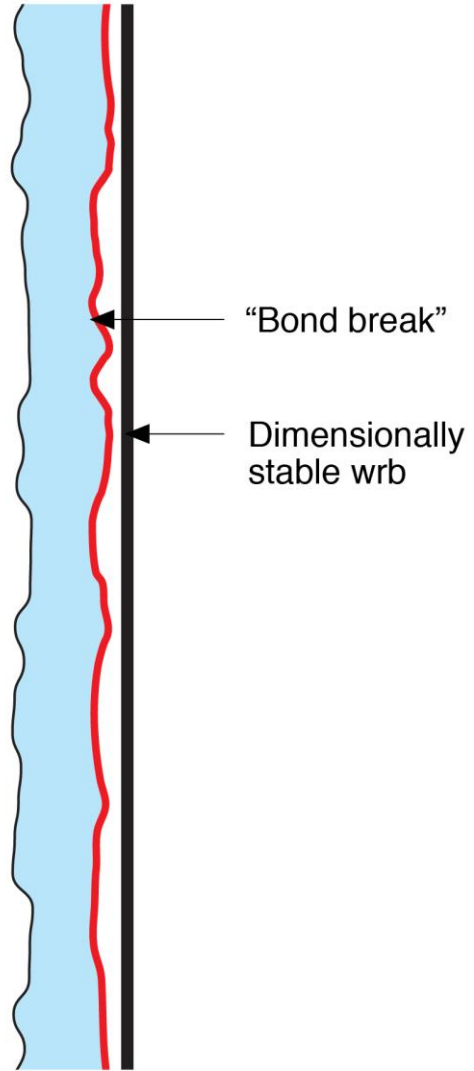
Pig Blood

# Non Traditional Building Wraps





← Dimensionally unstable  
hygroscopic wrb's "good"































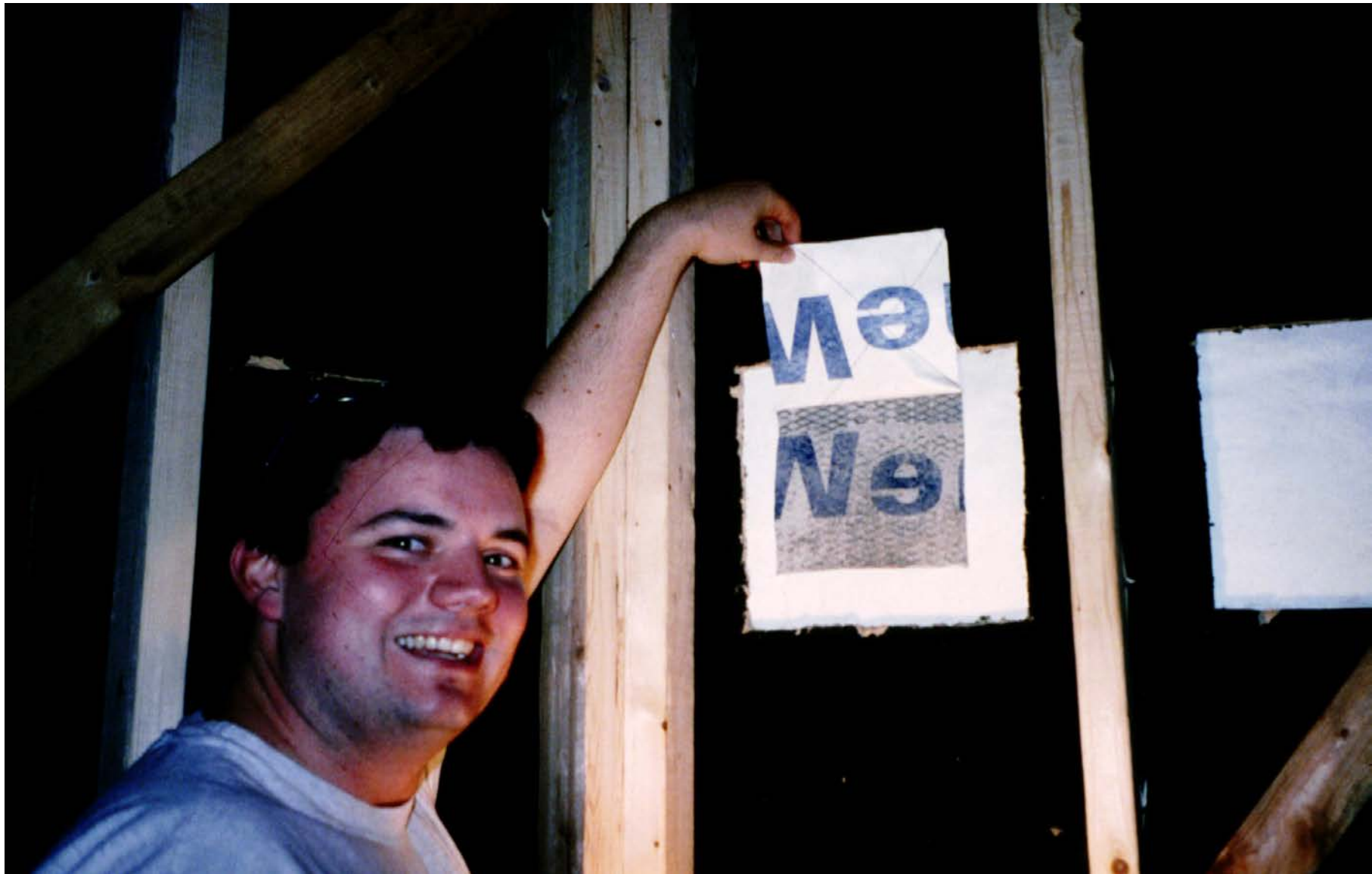






# Side Trip To My Backyard....



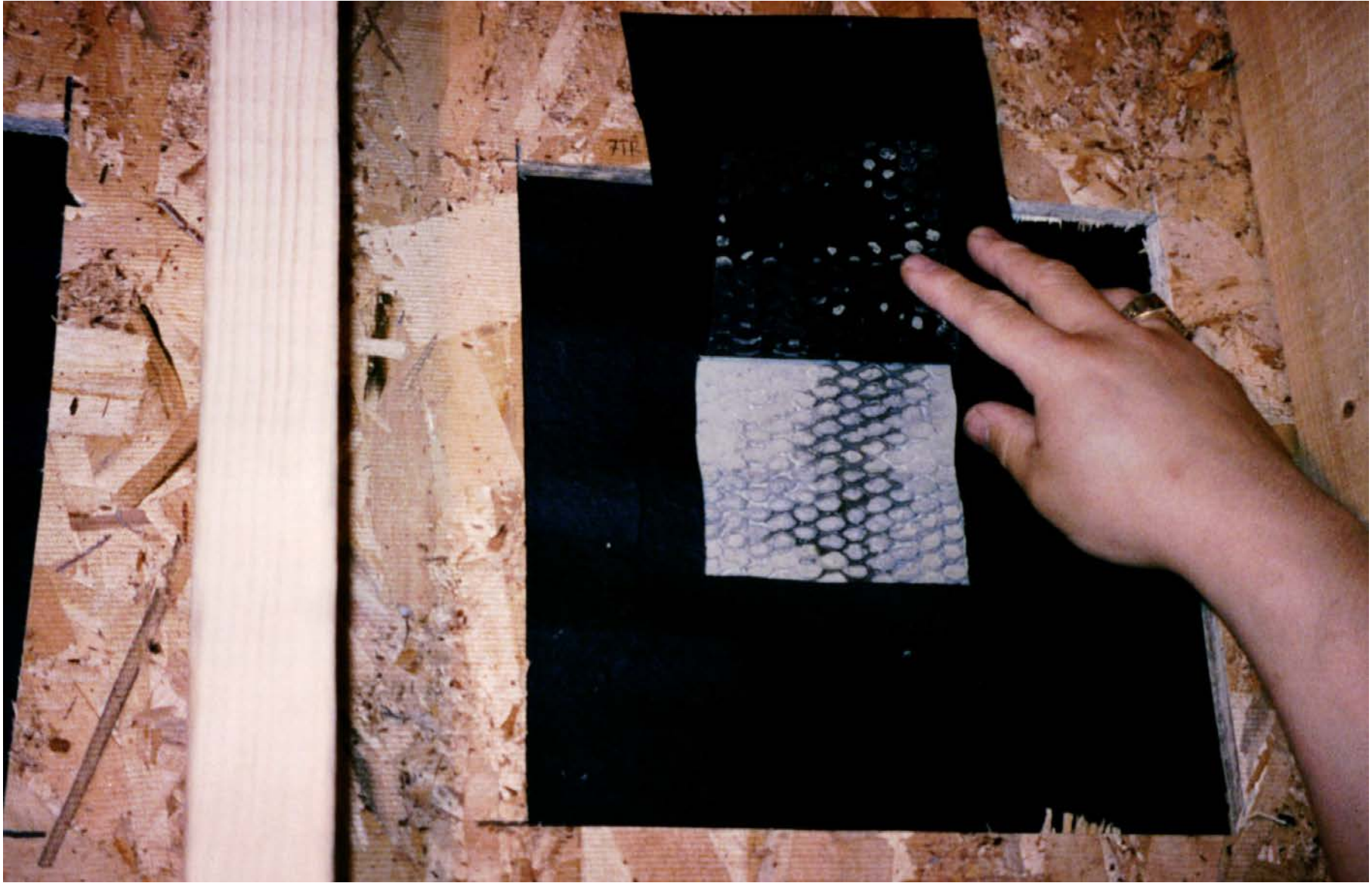






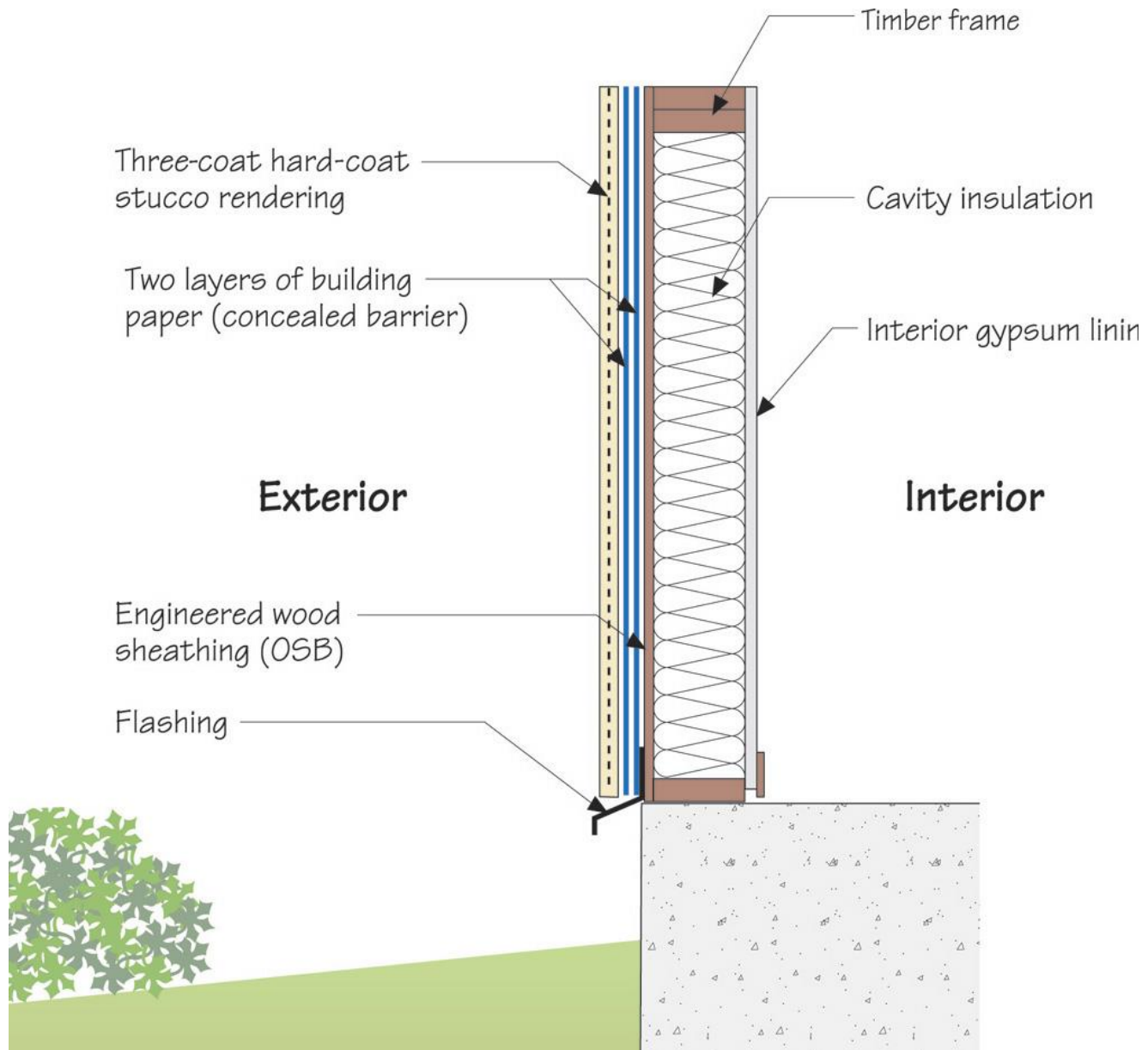












“Lumpy Stucco” ....

Should Have Been The Big US Warning....













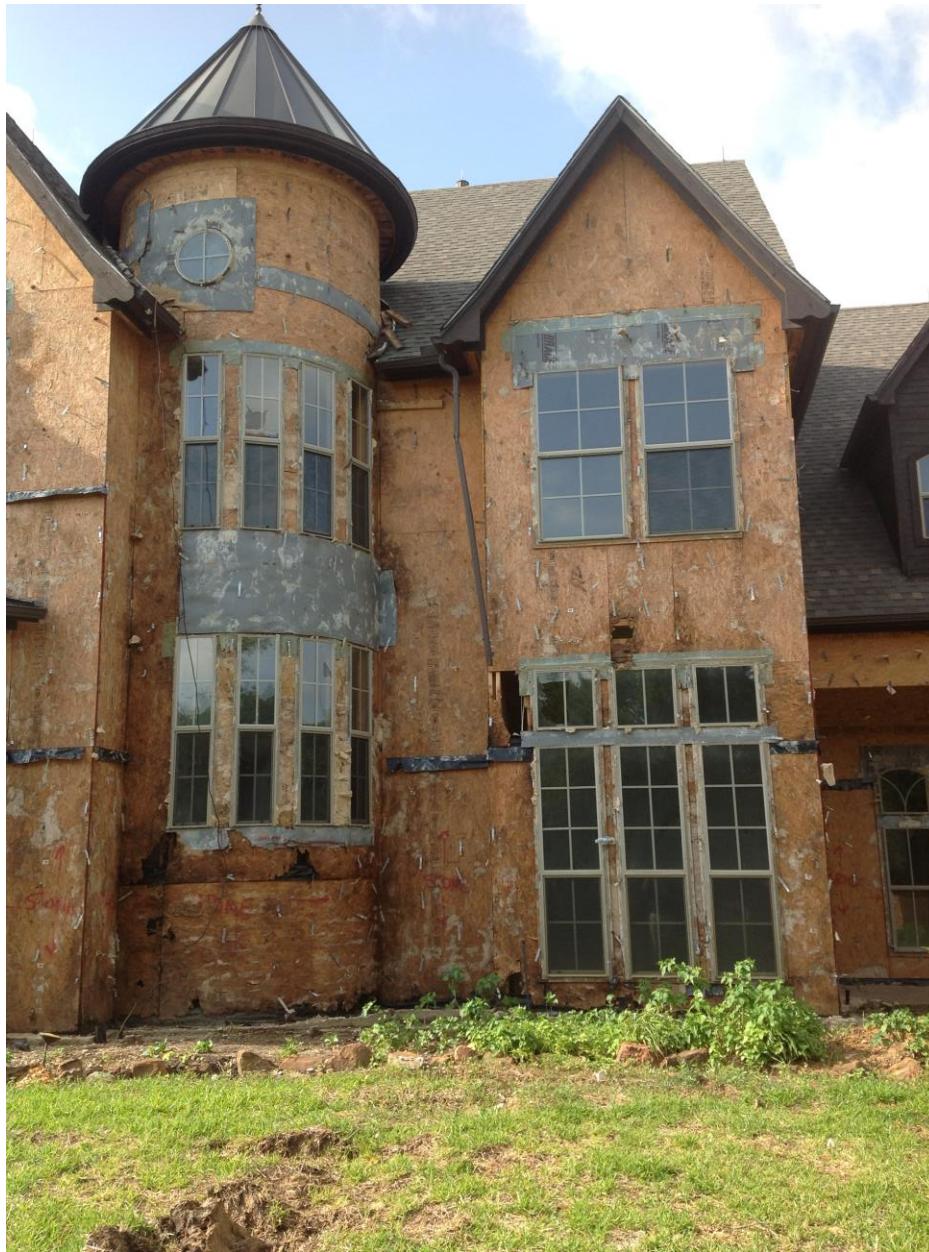
Back To America....Pennsylvania....  
And Then Pretty Much Anywhere It Rains...





































# Back To Lumpy Stucco....







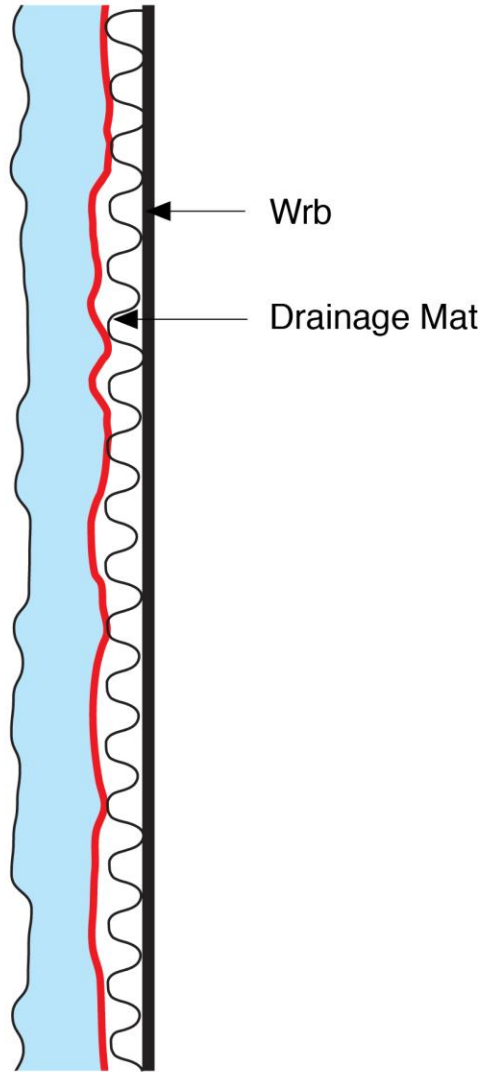








Easy Solution....





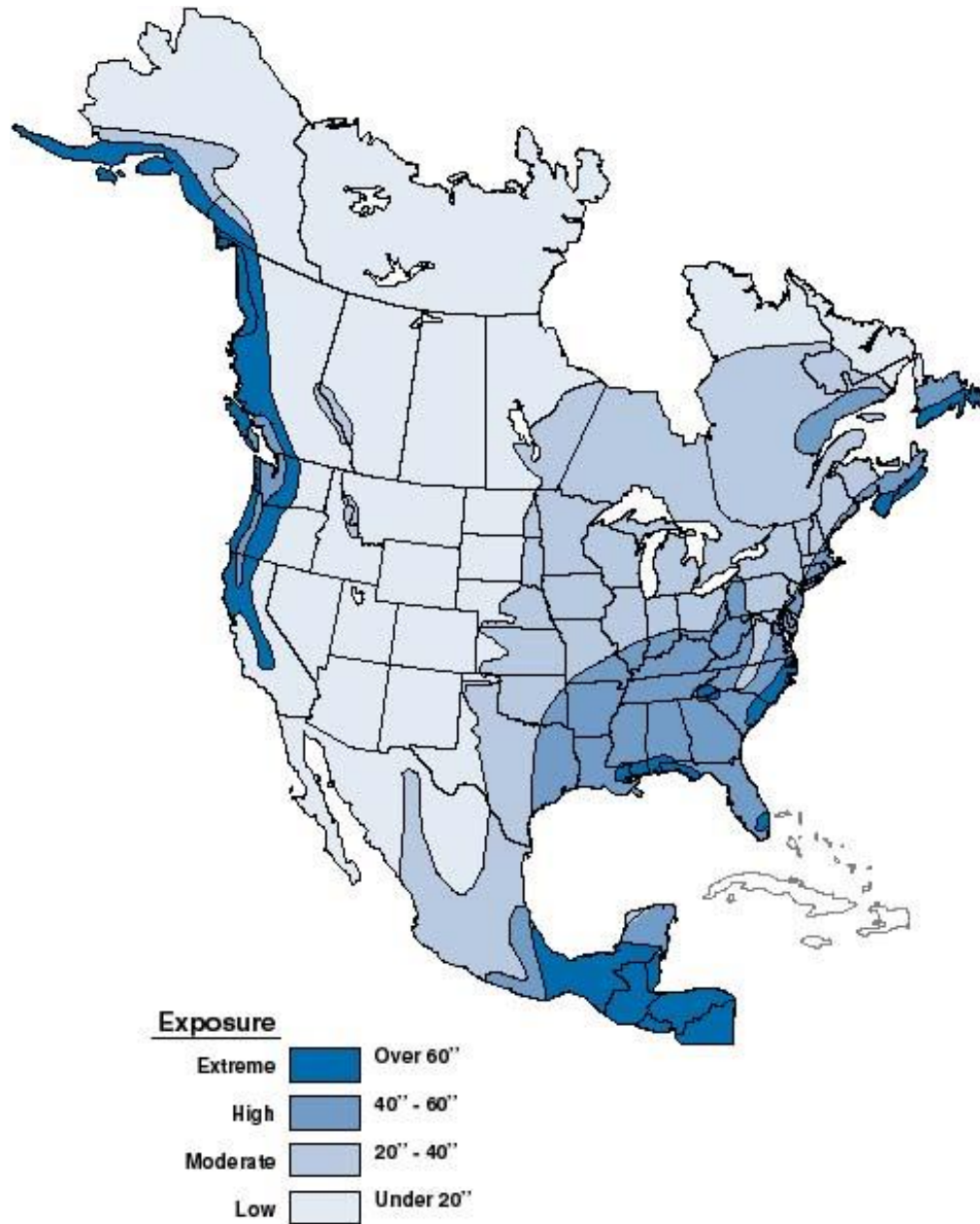




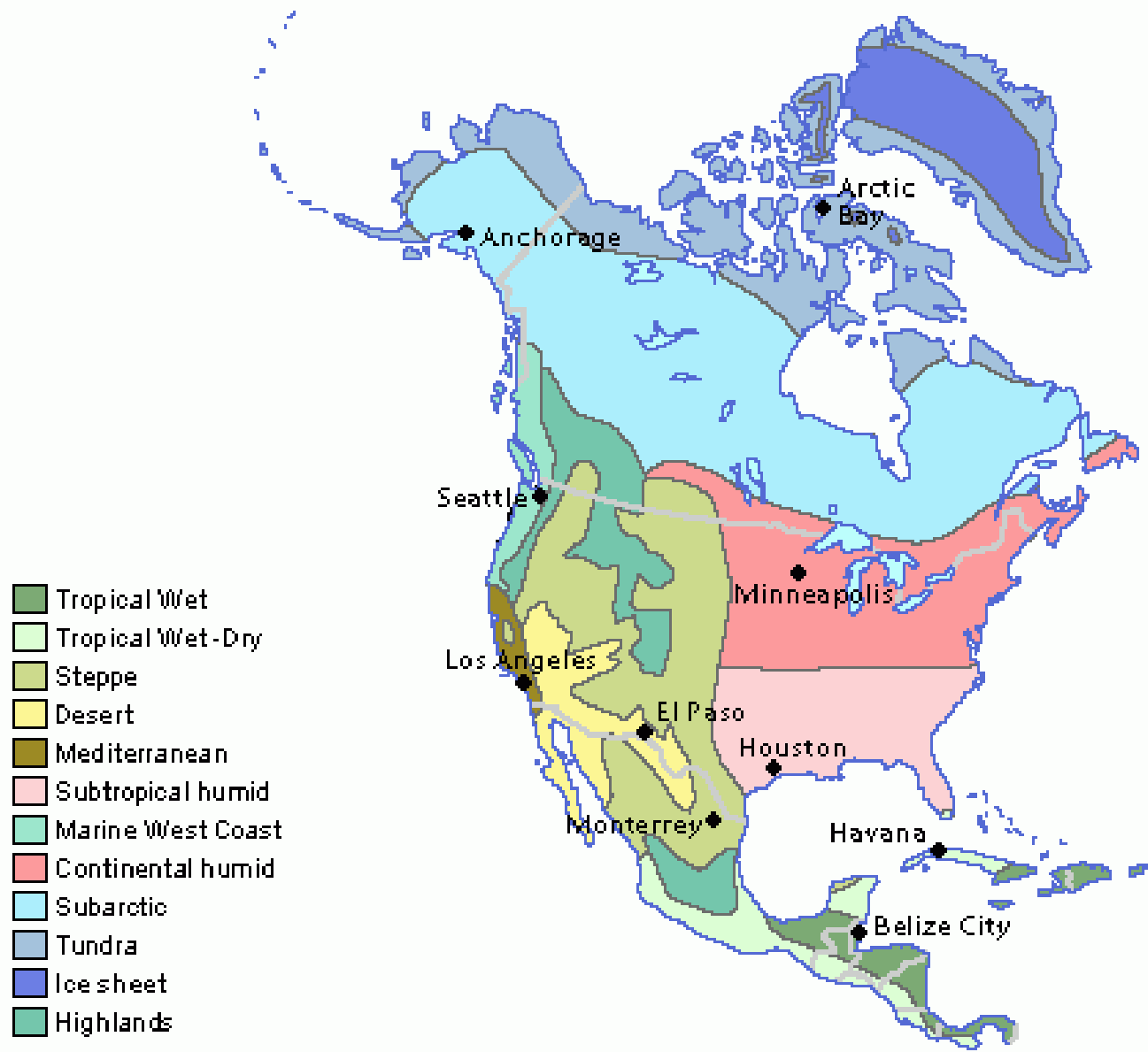






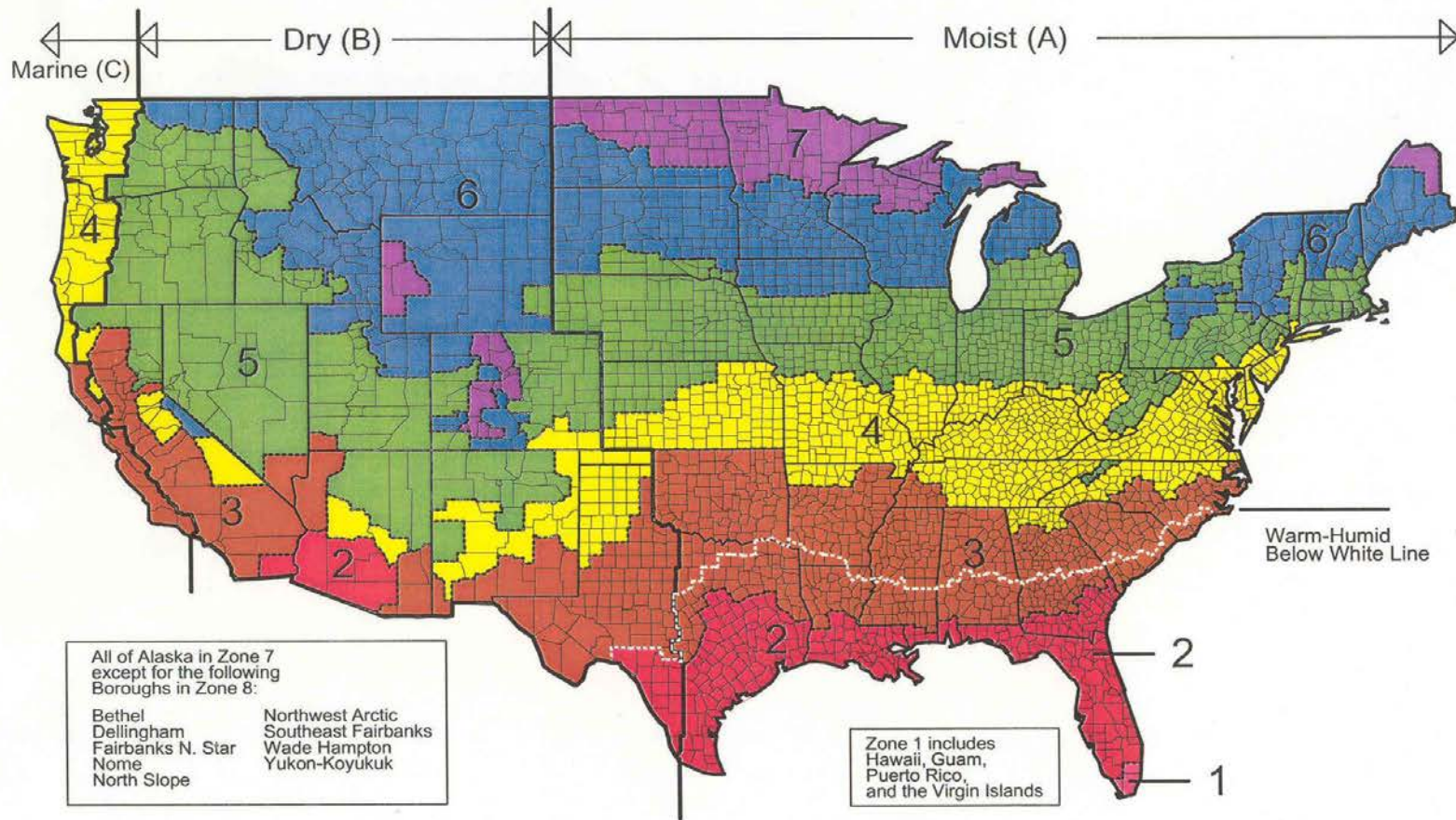








# Map of DOE's Proposed Climate Zones



March 24, 2003

## Recommendations....

Provide a 3/8 inch air space behind all stucco in regions where it rains more than 20 inches per year

Provide a 3/8 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



**Exterior Conditions**

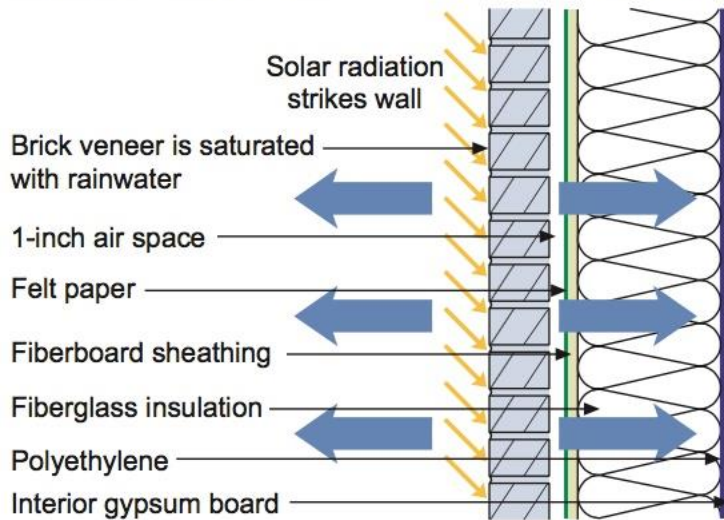
Temperature: 80°F  
Relative humidity: 75%  
Vapor pressure: 2.49 kPa

**Conditions within Cavity:**

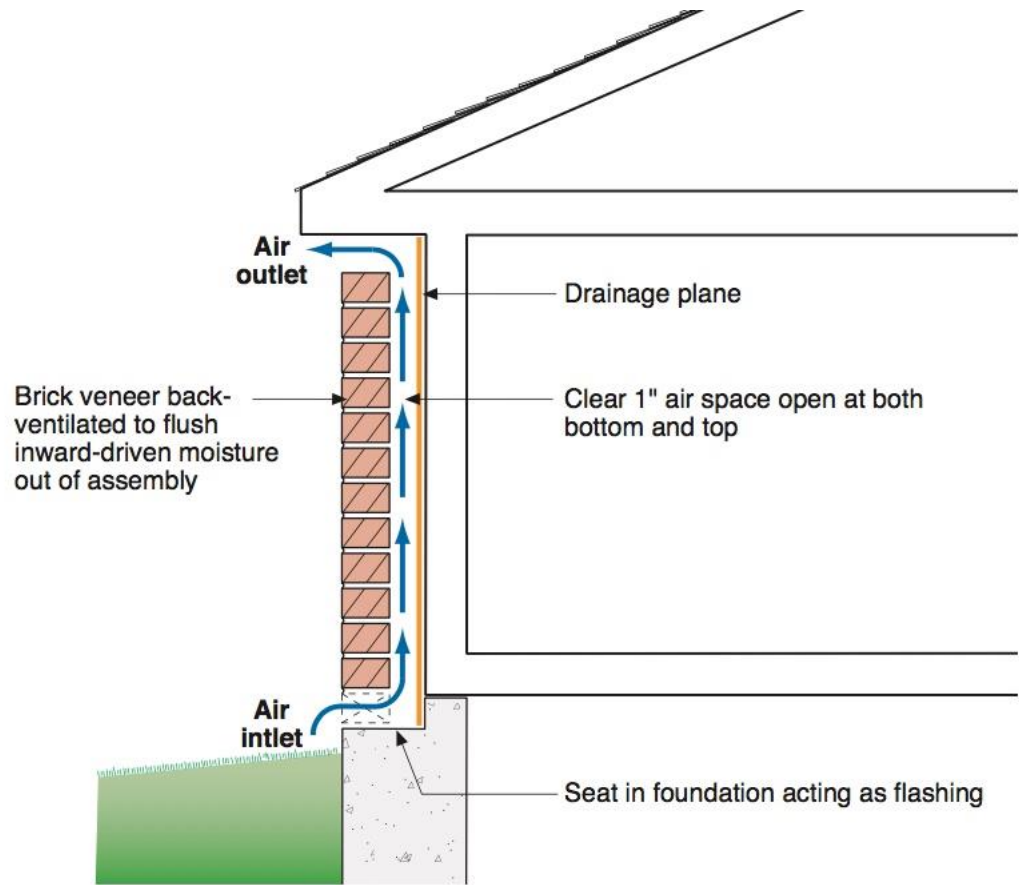
Temperature: 100°F  
Relative humidity: 100%  
Vapor pressure: 6.45 kPa

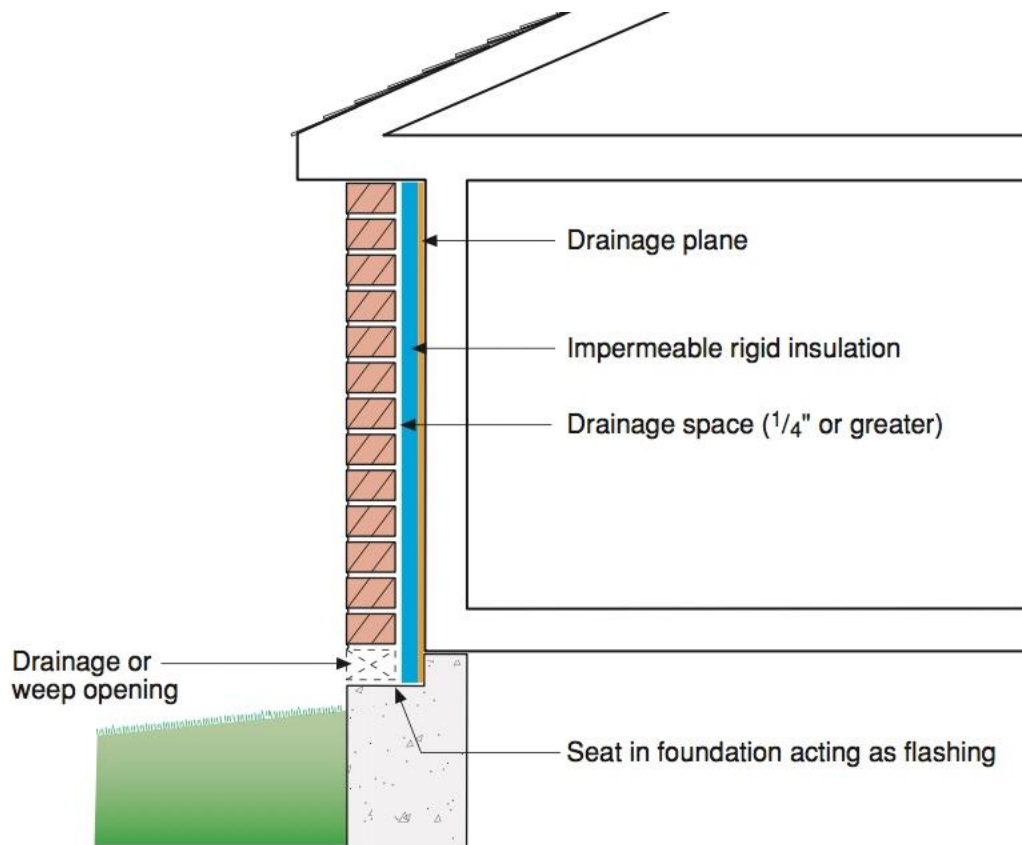
**Interior Conditions**

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

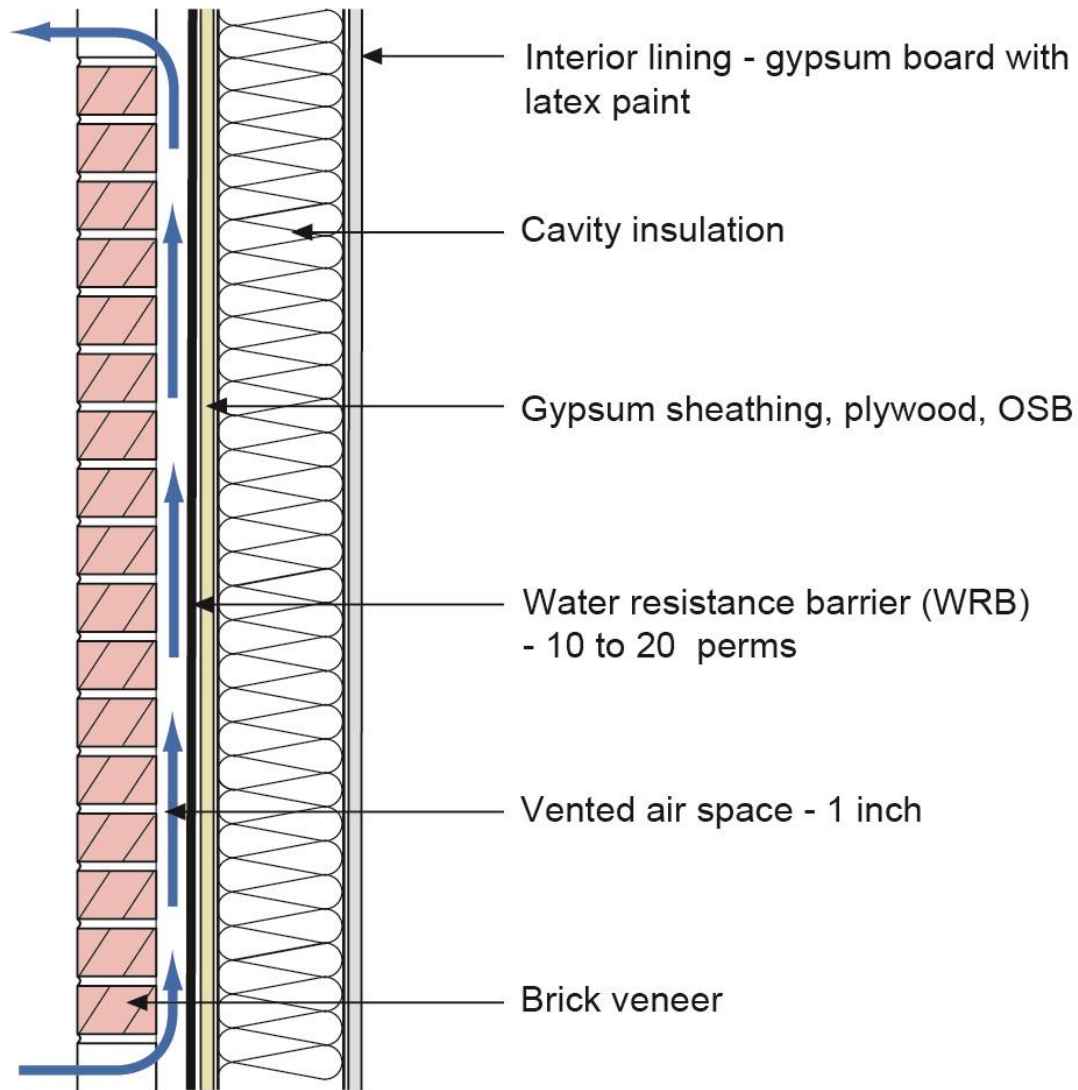


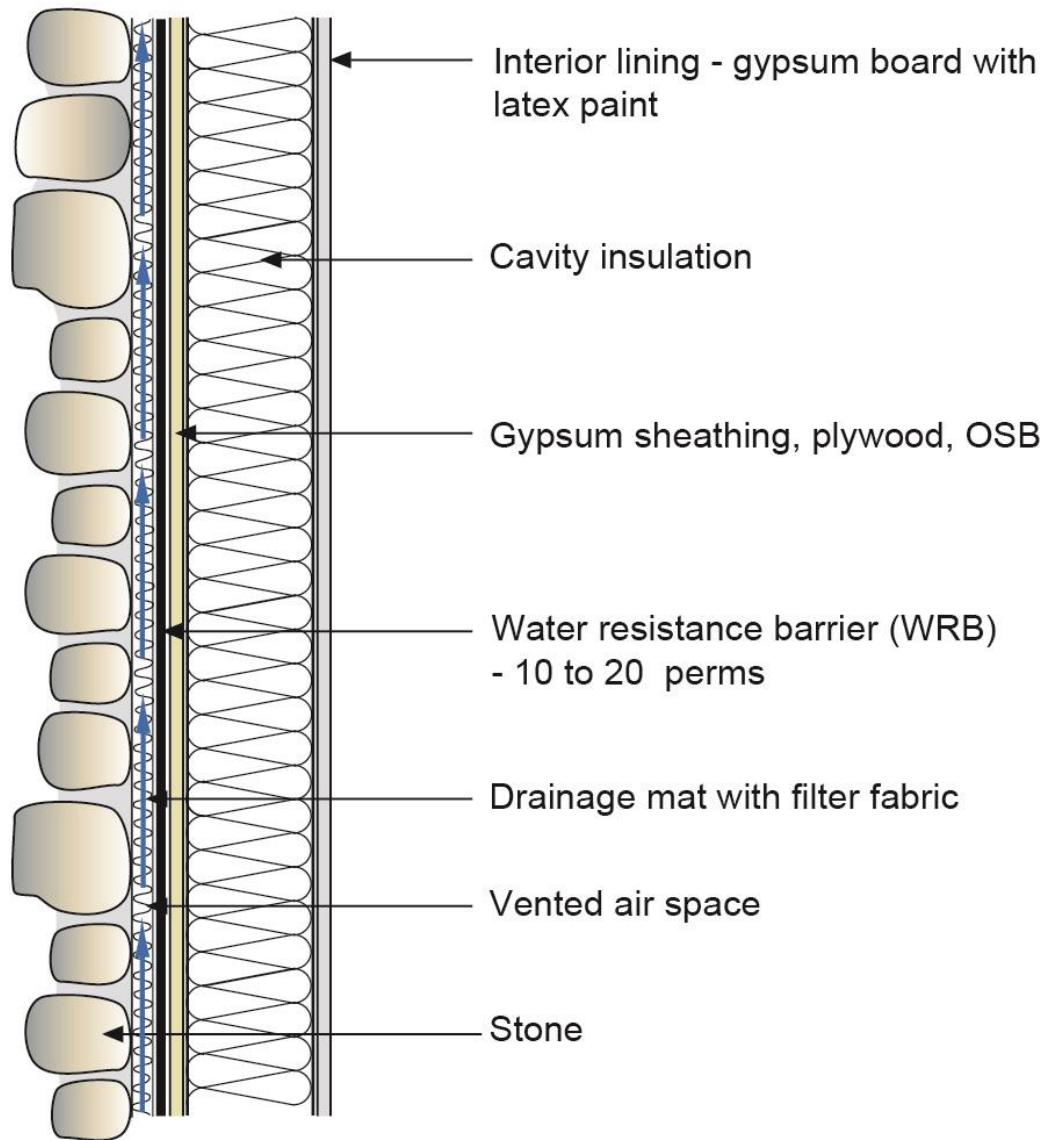
Vapor is driven both inward and outward by a high vapor pressure differential between the brick and the interior and the brick and the exterior.

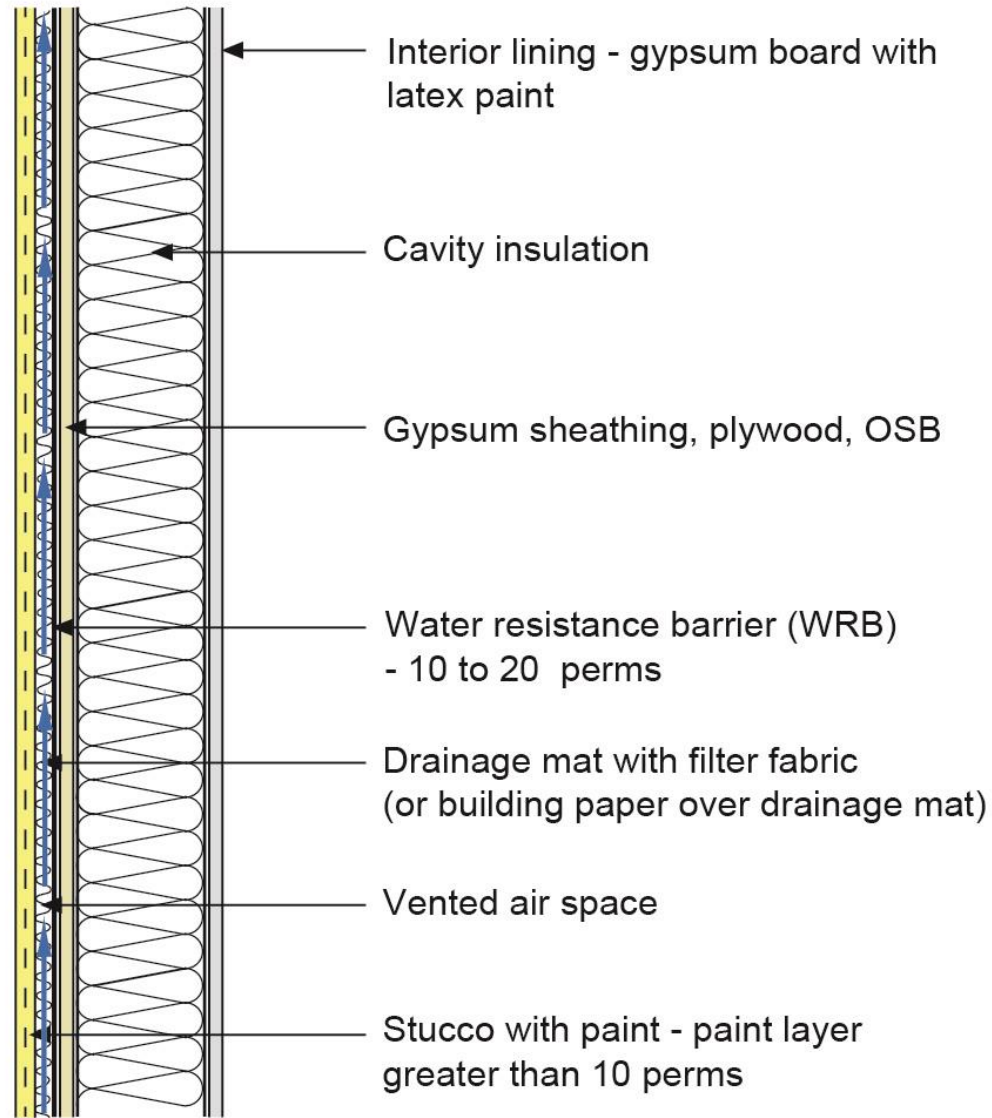














### Water Vapor Permeance of WRB's

