

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

# Building Science

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Adventures In Building Science

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“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....



# Thermodynamics

Zeroth Law – Equal Systems

First Law - Conservation of Energy

Second Law - Entropy

Third Law – Absolute Zero

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics

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

# Thermodynamic Potential



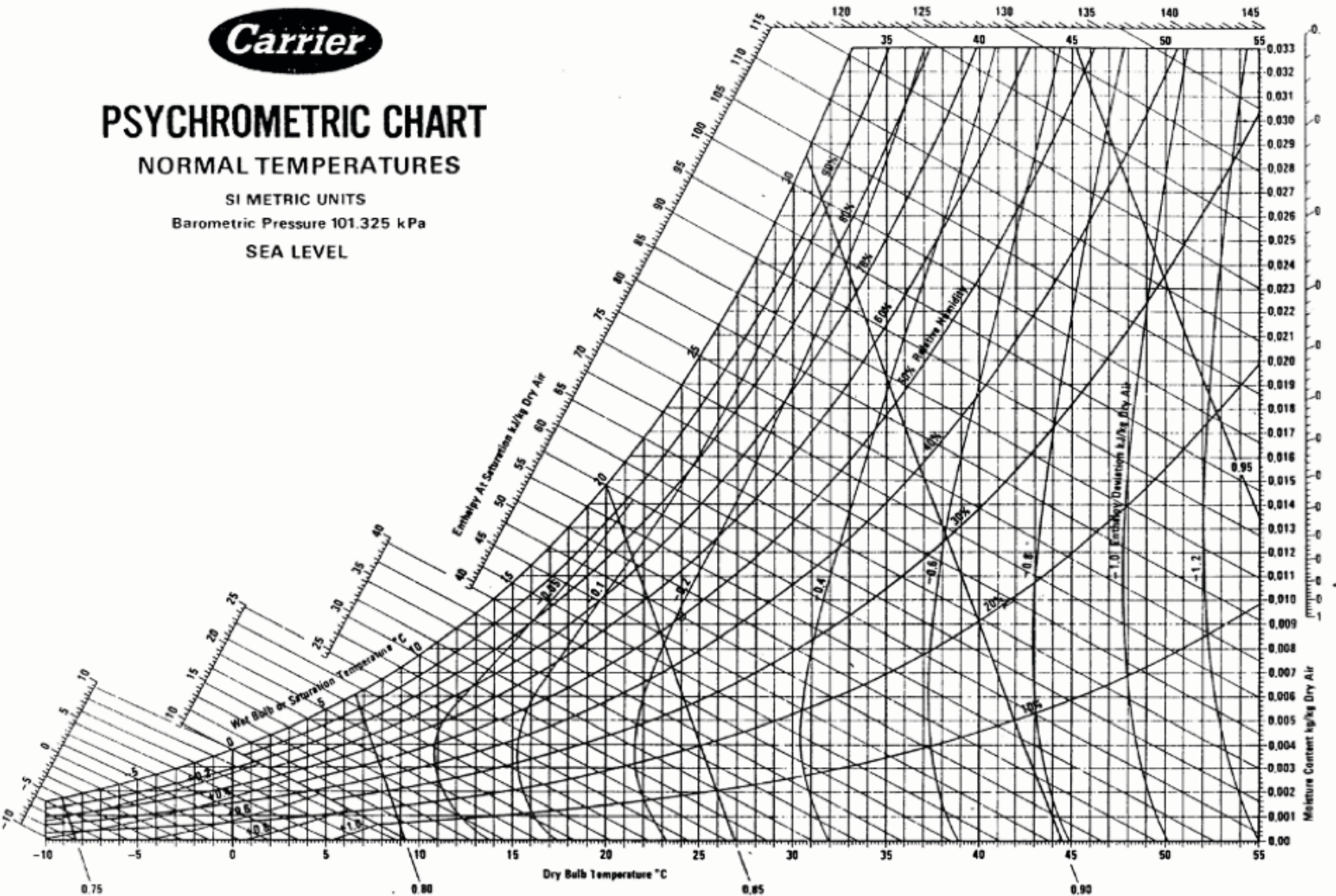
# PSYCHROMETRIC CHART

## NORMAL TEMPERATURES

SI METRIC UNITS

Barometric Pressure 101.325 kPa

SEA LEVEL



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

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# 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

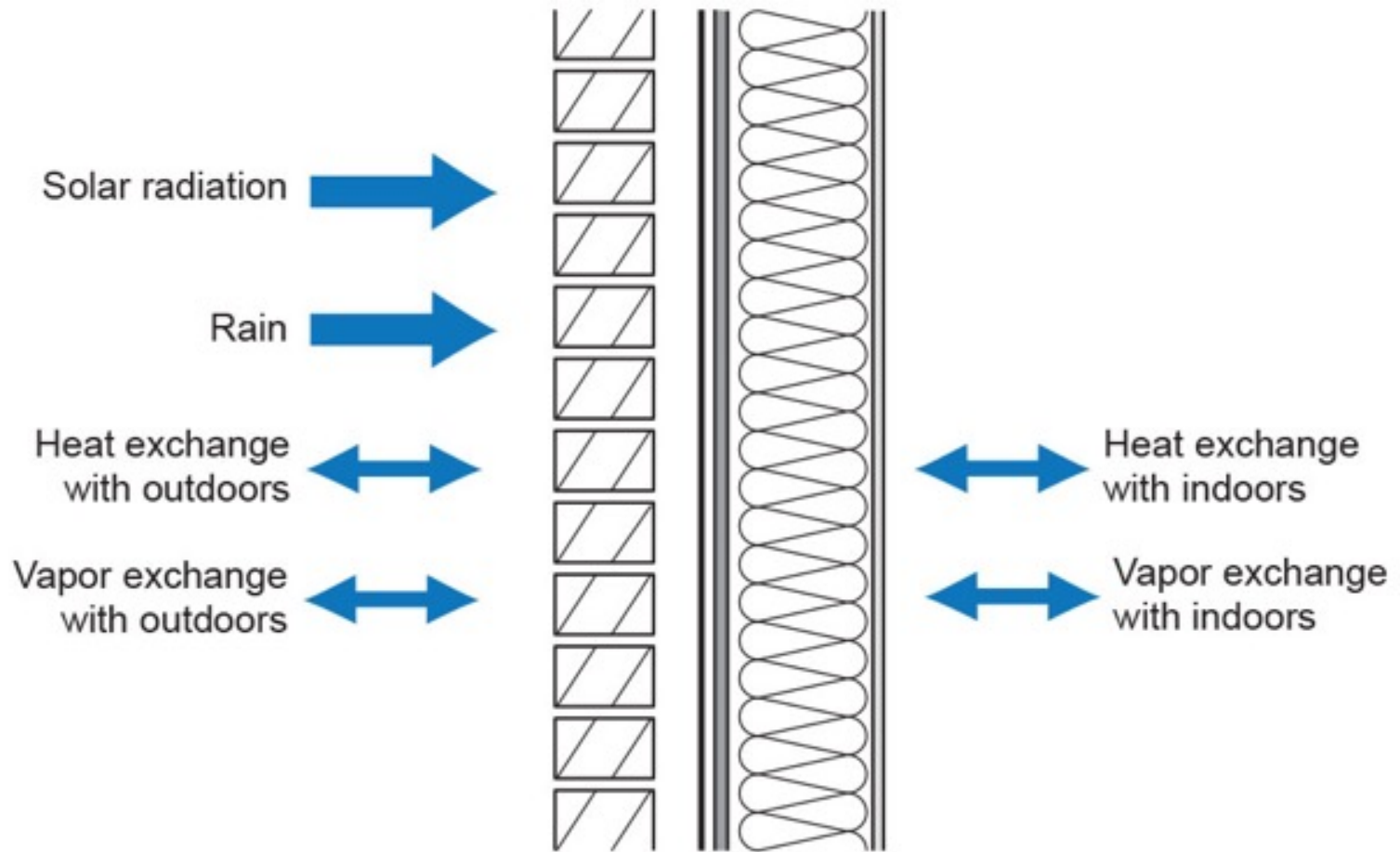
Heat

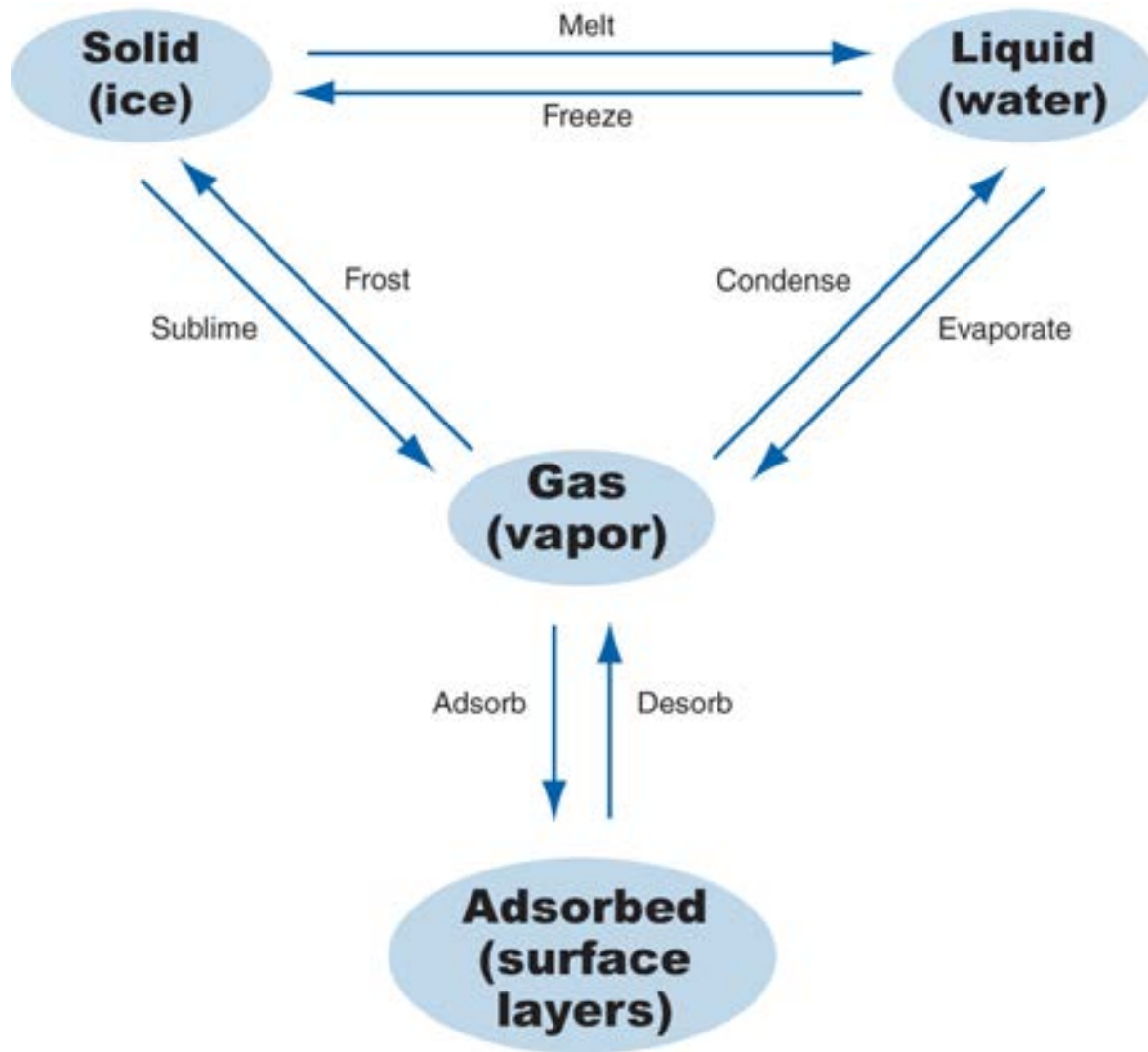
Air

Moisture

HAM

# Hygrothermal Analysis

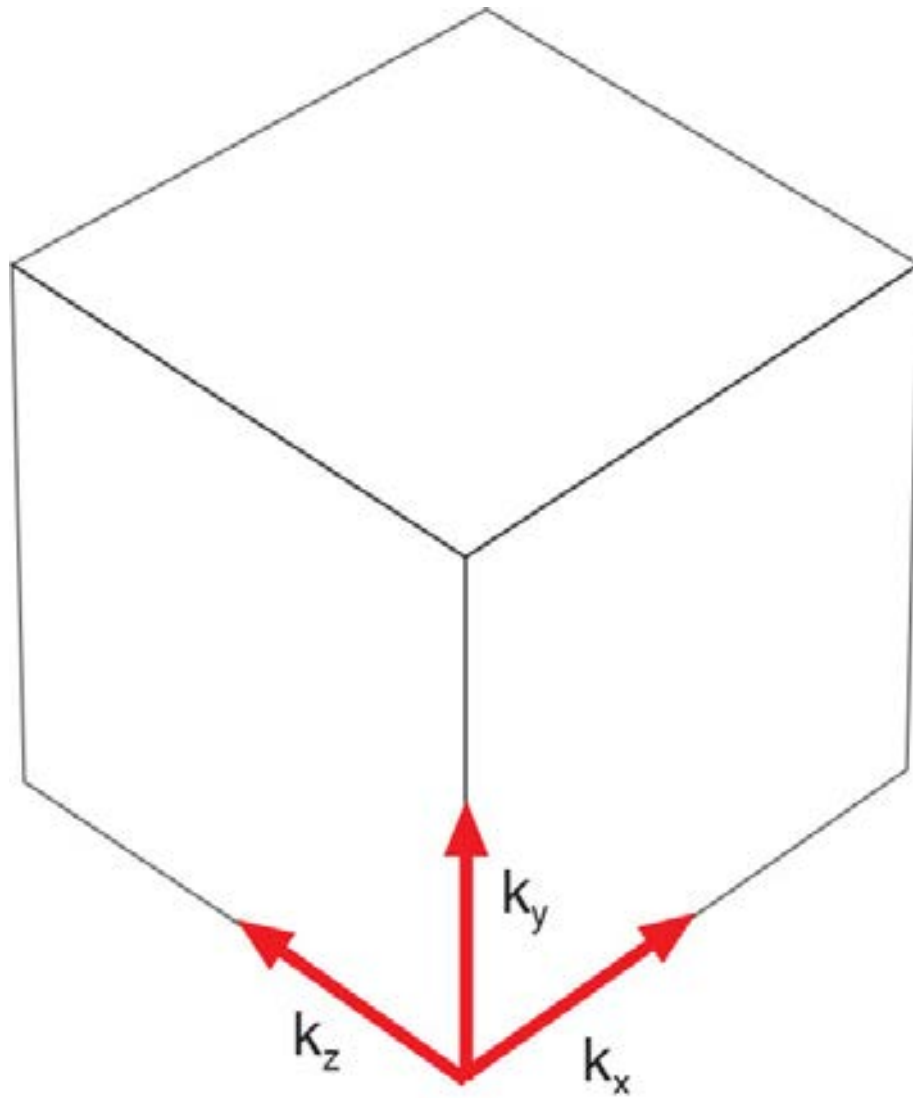


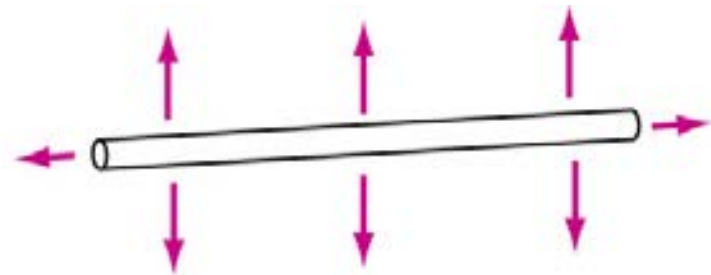
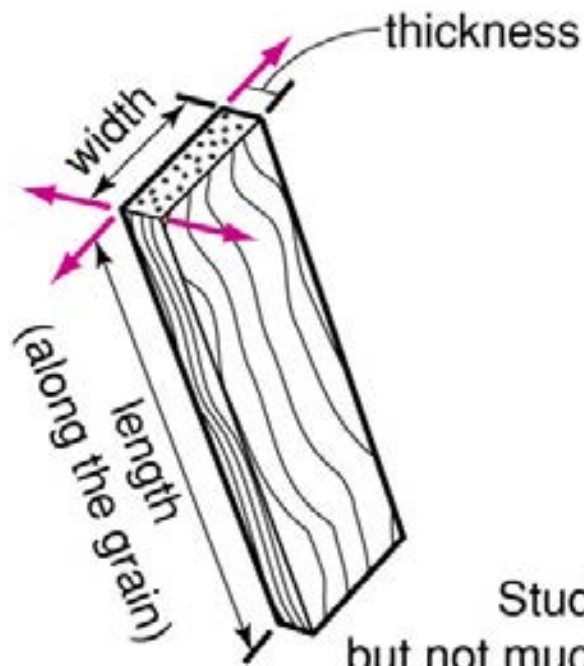




## Moisture Transport in Porous Media

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

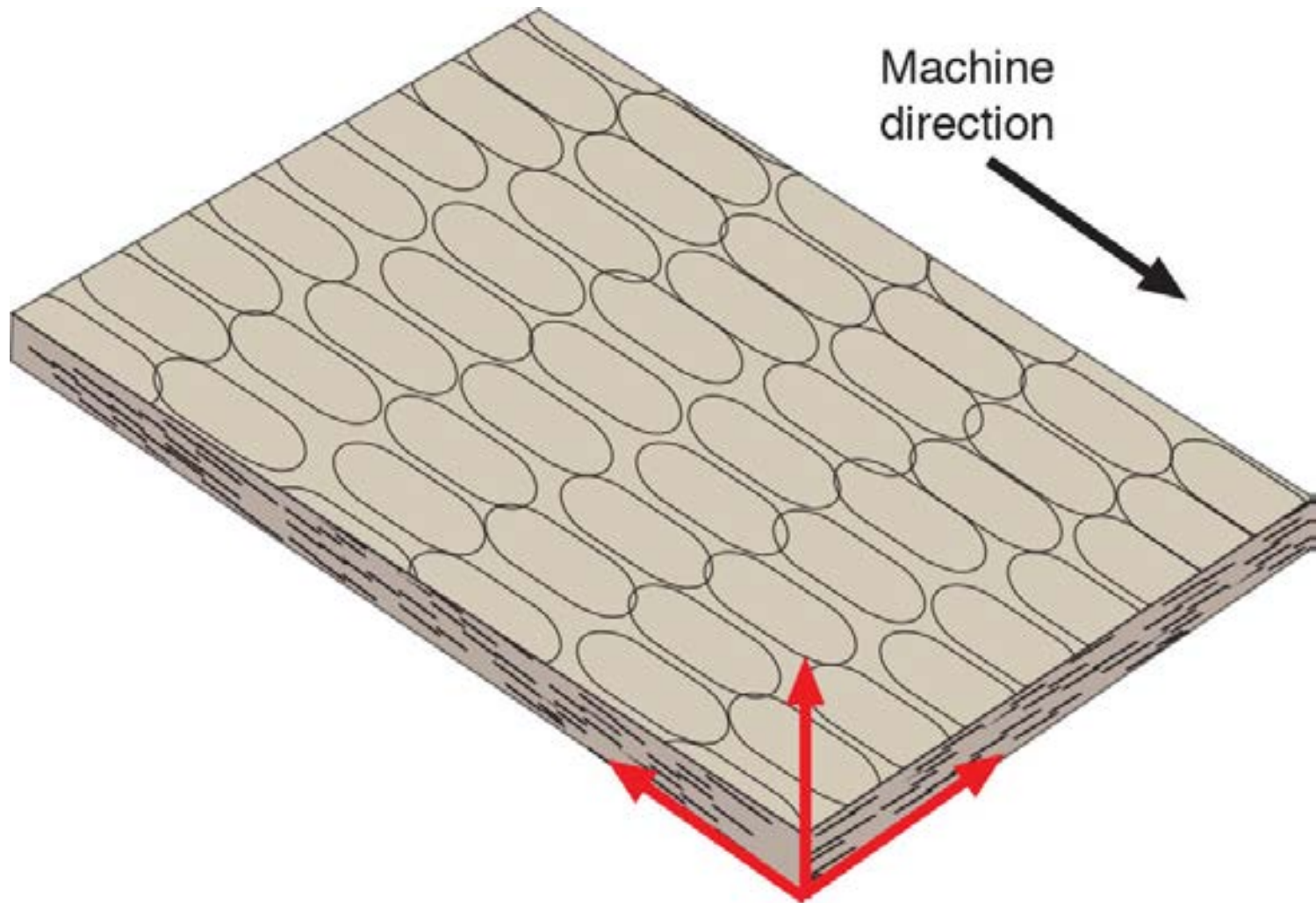




Wood Fiber

Fibers get much thicker than longer when they pick up moisture

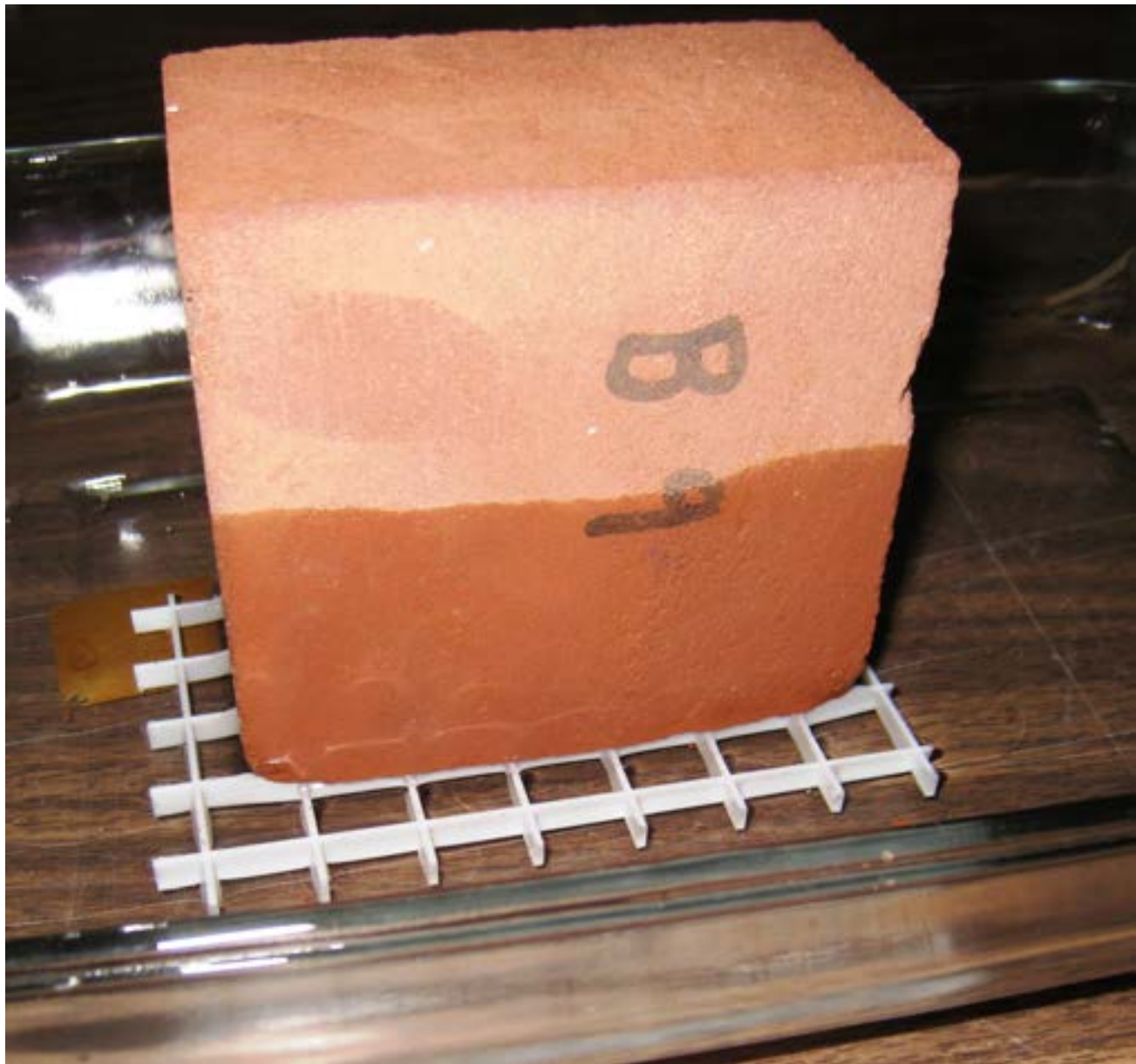
Studs get much wider and thicker, but not much longer, when they pick up moisture





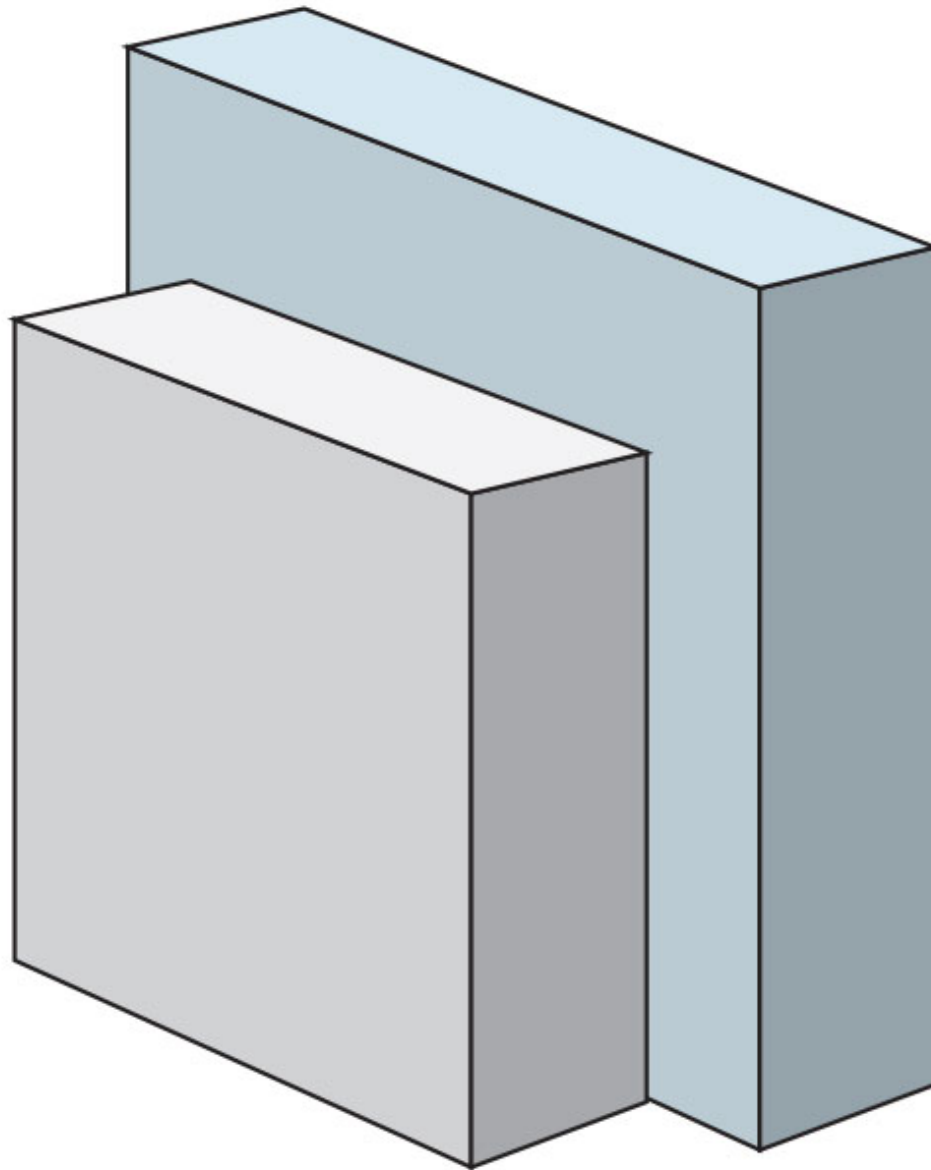


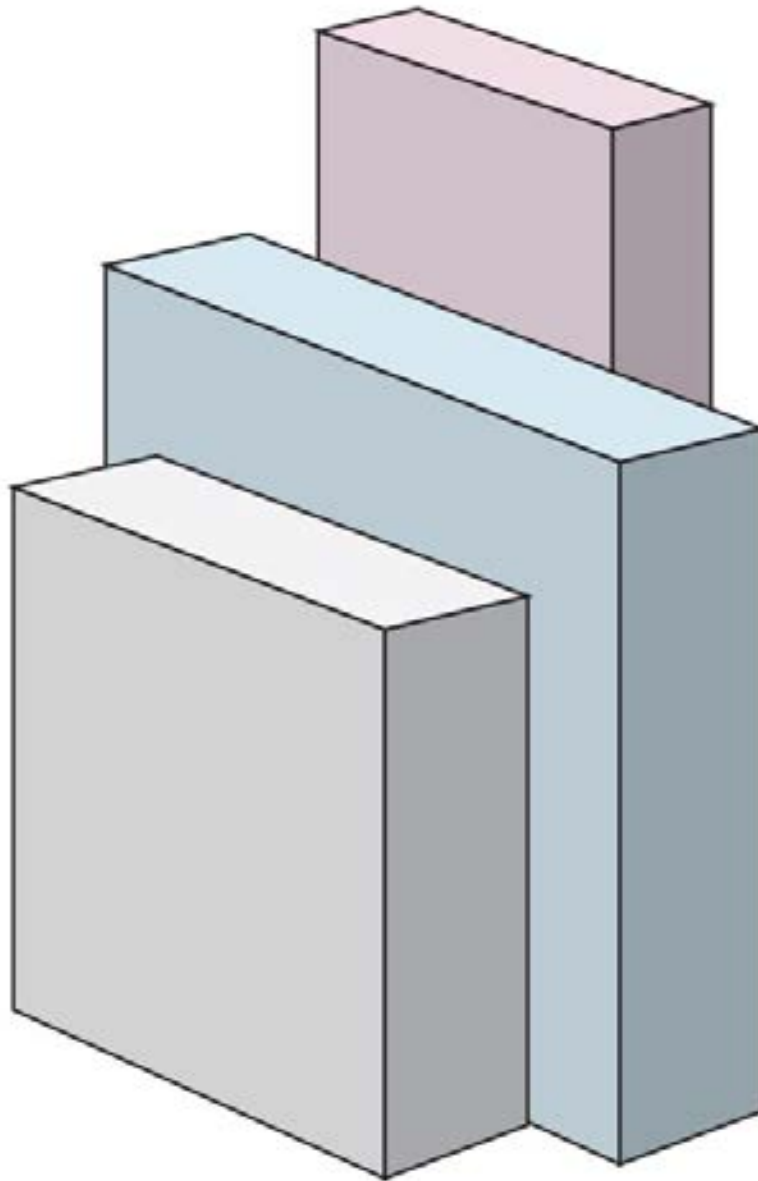




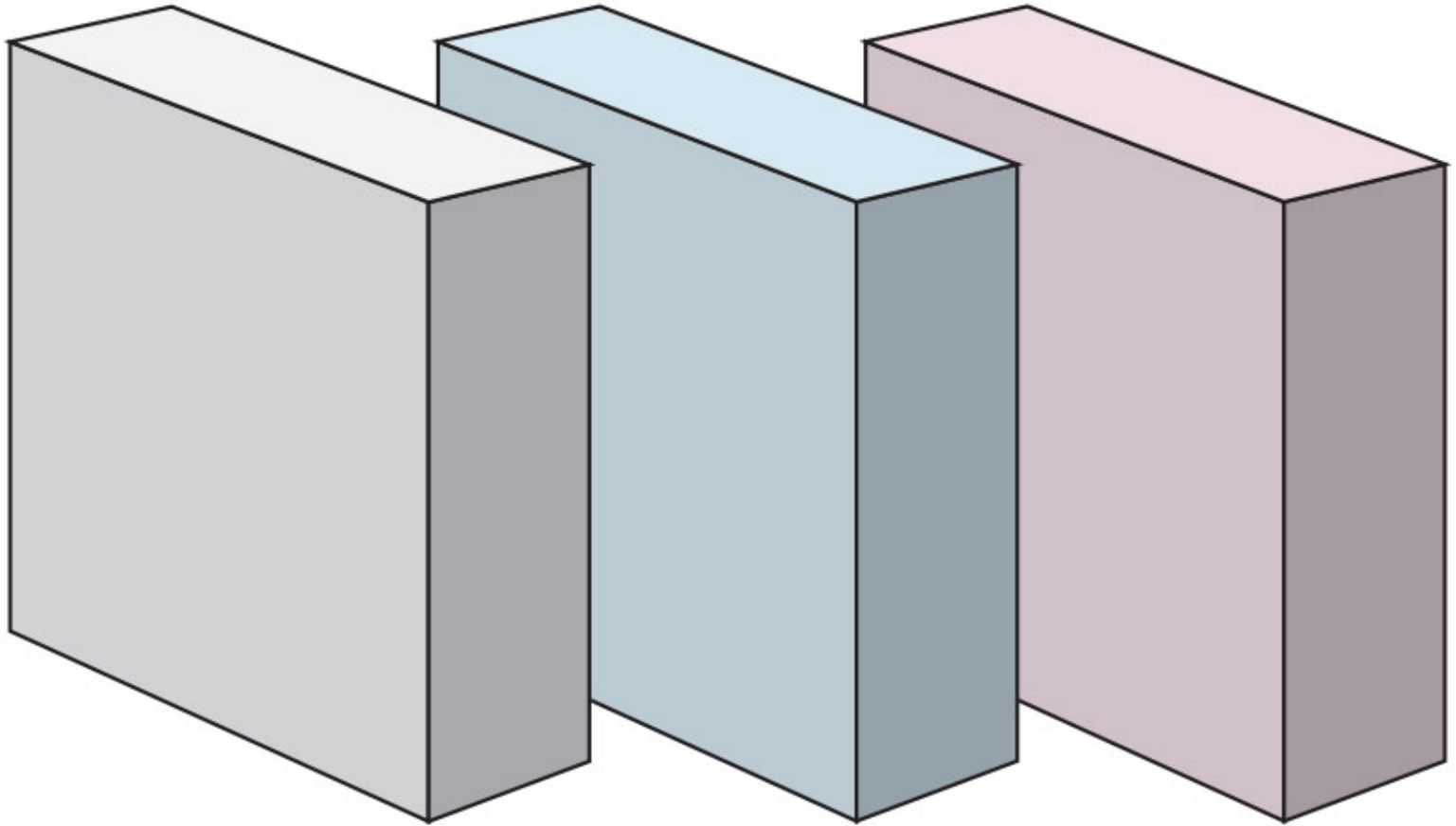








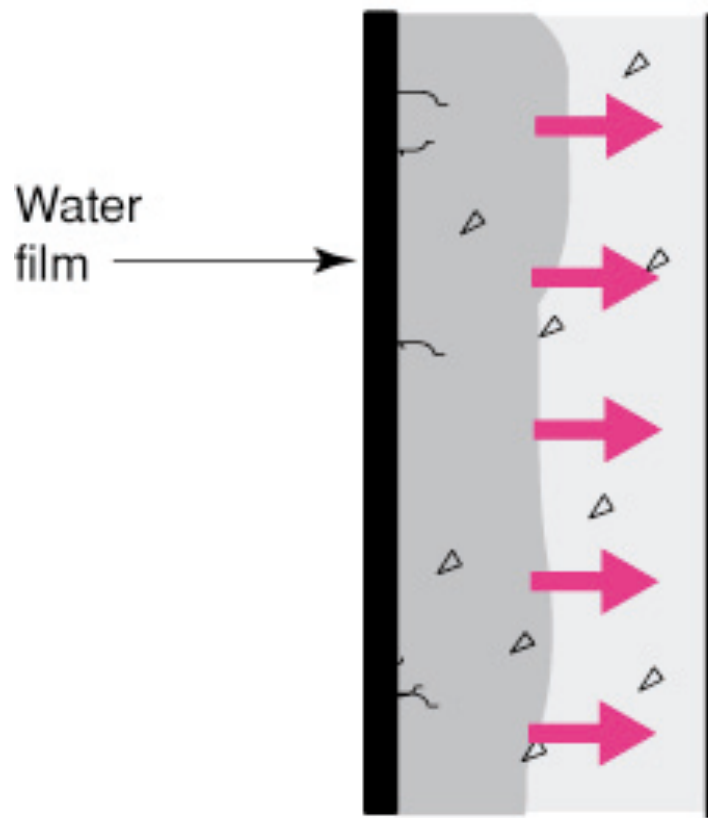
# Rain and Airflow Missing



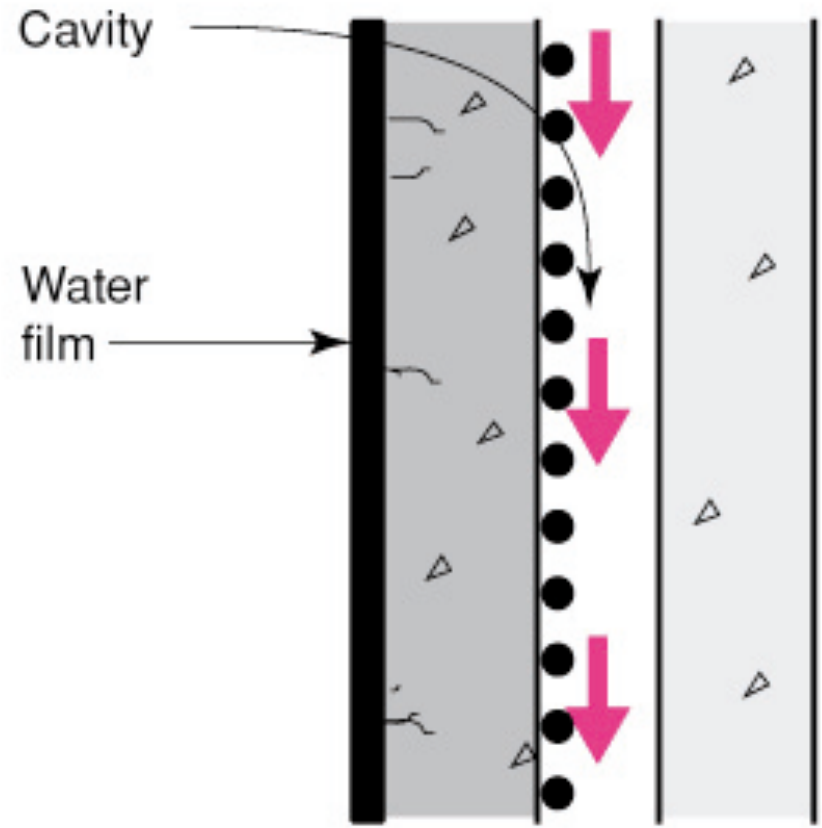
# Recall That Rain and Airflow Are Missing

## Moisture Transport in Assemblies

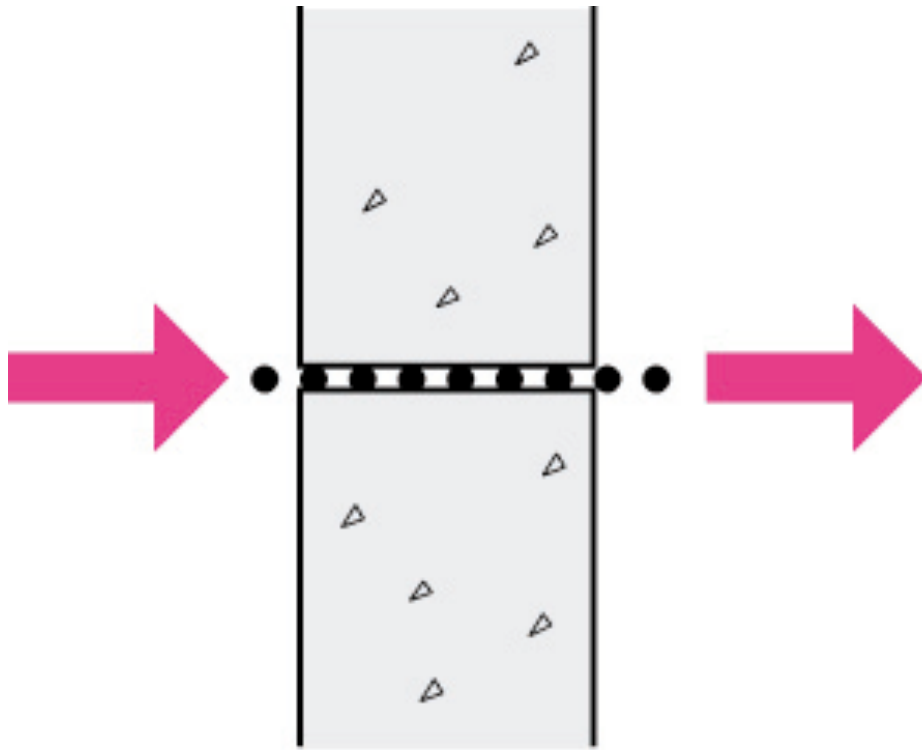
Phase	Transport Process	Driving Potential
<b>Vapor</b>	Diffusion	Vapor Concentration
	Convective Flow	Air Pressure
-----		
<b>Adsorbate</b>	Surface Diffusion	Concentration
-----		
<b>Liquid</b>	Capillary Flow	Suction Pressure
	Osmosis	Solute Concentration
	Gravitational Flow	Height
	Surface Tension	Surface Energy
	Momentum	Kinetic Energy
	Convective Flow	Air Pressure



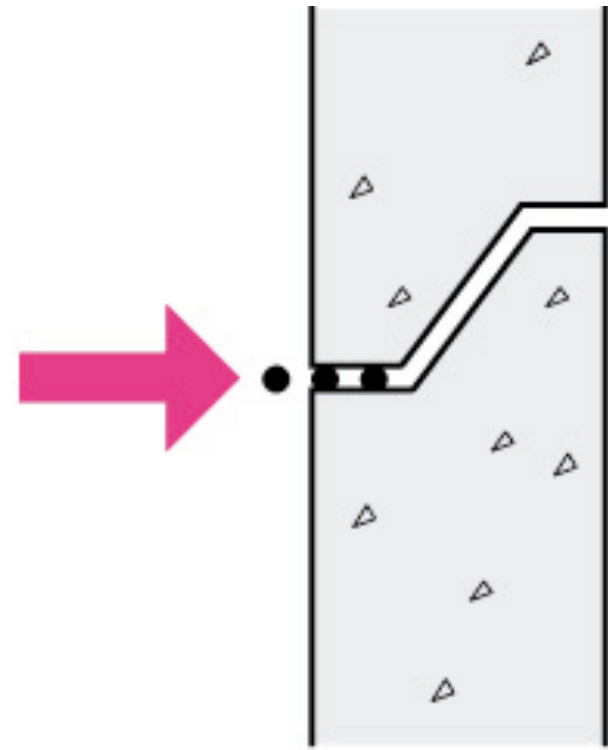
Capillary suction draws water into porous material and tiny cracks



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

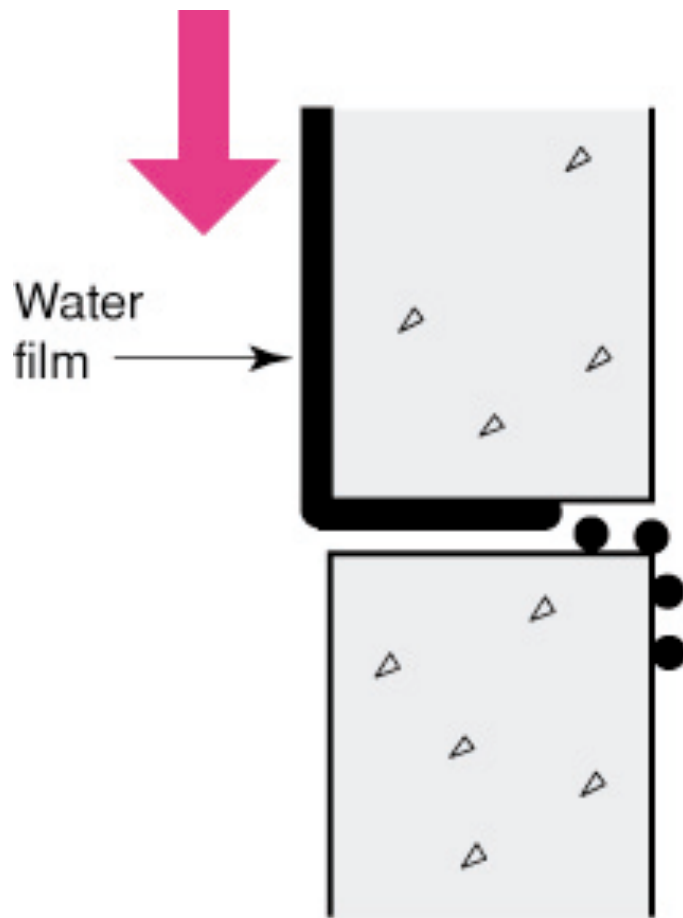


Rain droplets can be carried through a wall by their own momentum

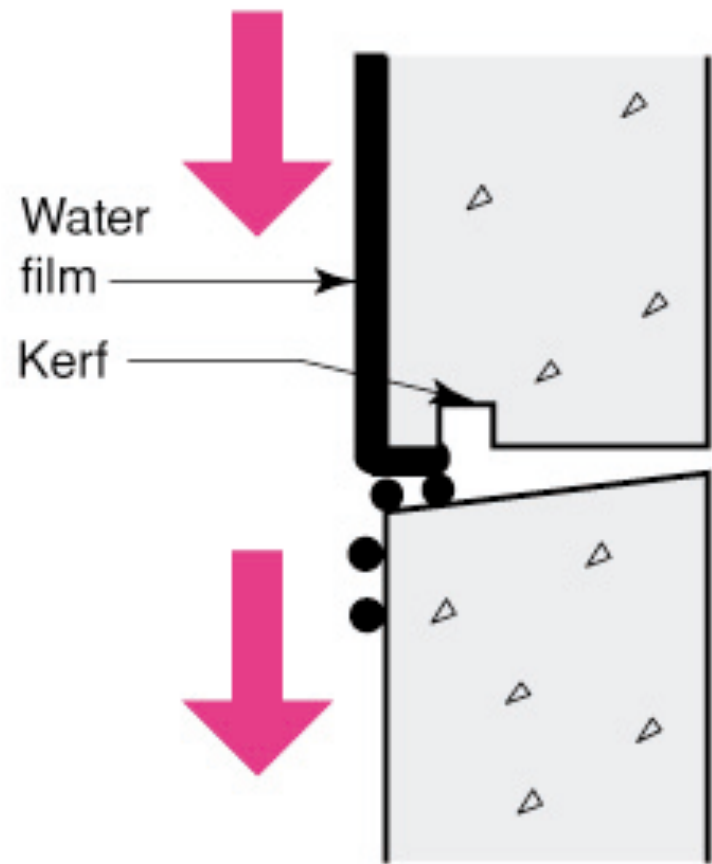


Rain entry by momentum can be prevented by designing wall systems with no straight through openings

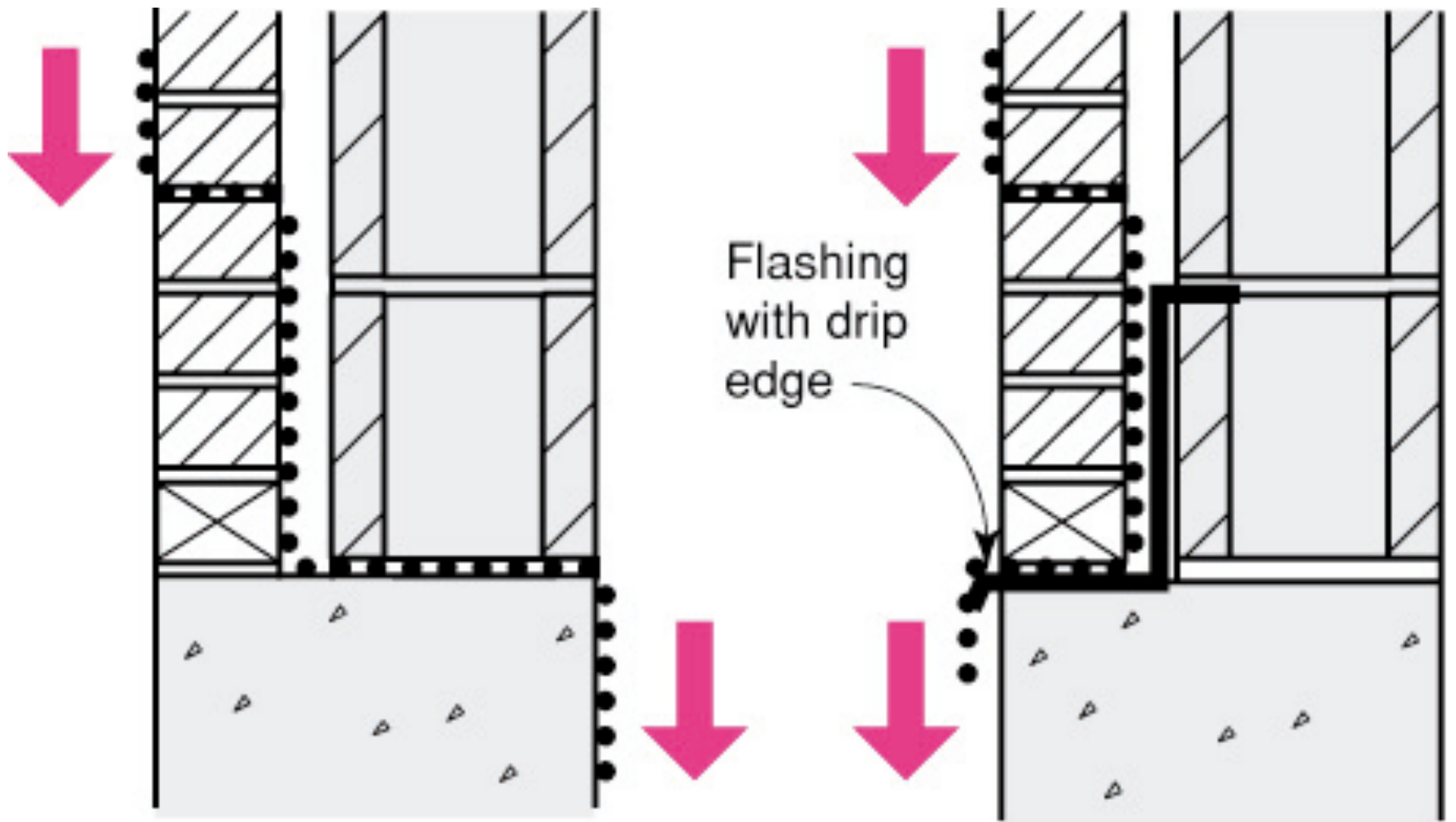




Rainwater can flow around a surface as a result of surface tension

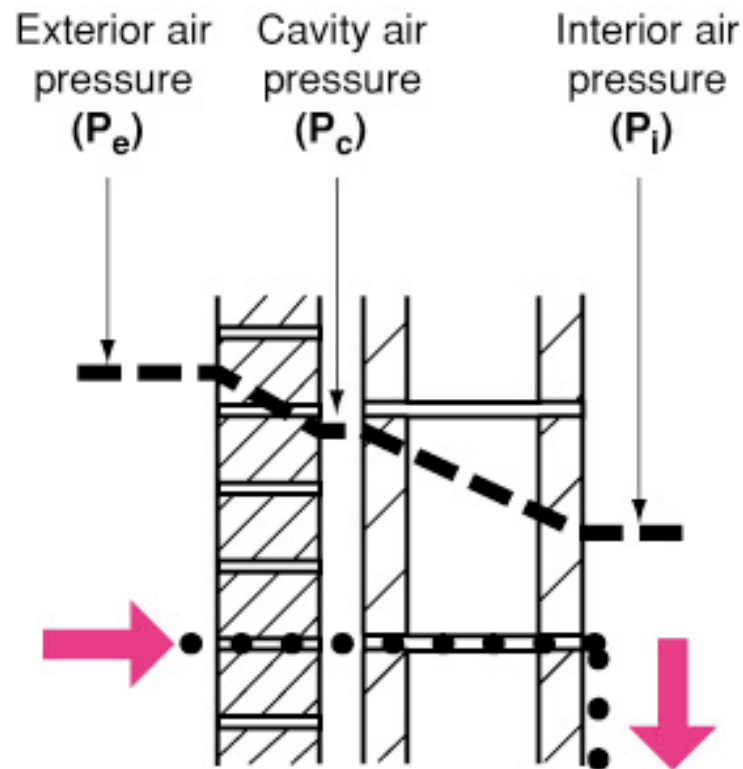


Providing a kerf or drip edge will promote the formation of a water droplet and interrupt flow



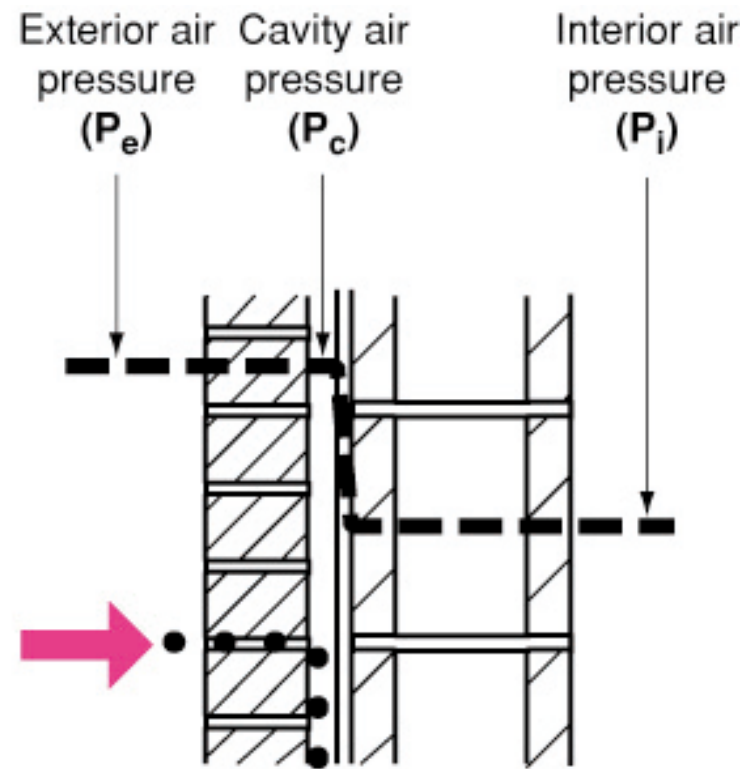
Rainwater can flow down surfaces and enter through openings and cavities

Flashings direct gravity flow rainwater back toward the exterior



$$P_e > P_c > P_i$$

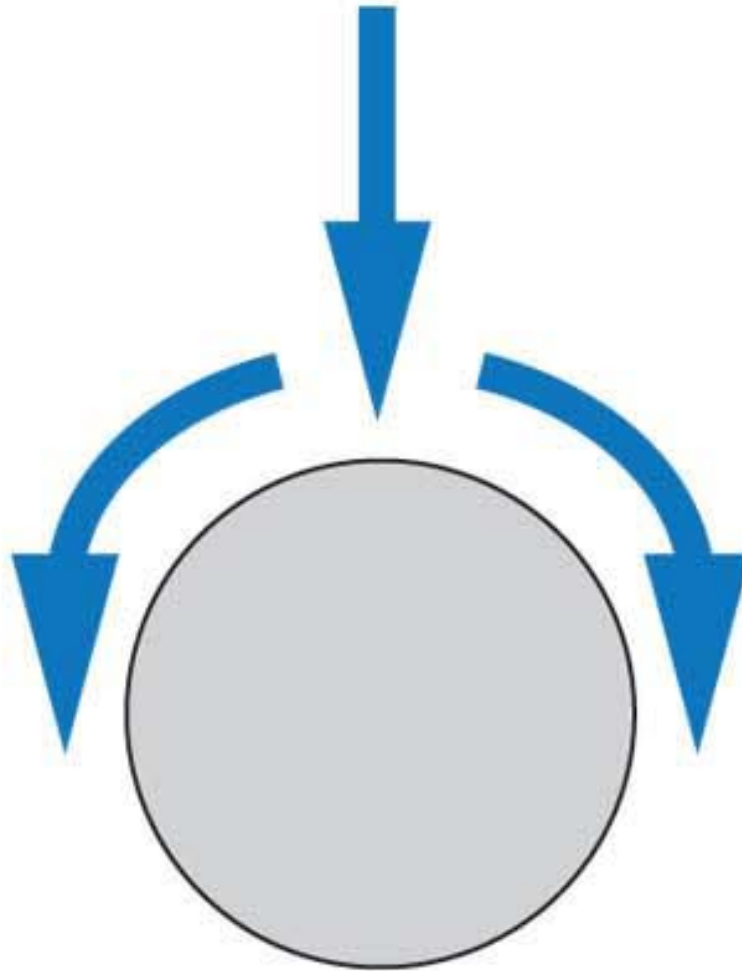
Driven by air pressure differences, rain droplets are drawn through wall openings from the exterior to the interior

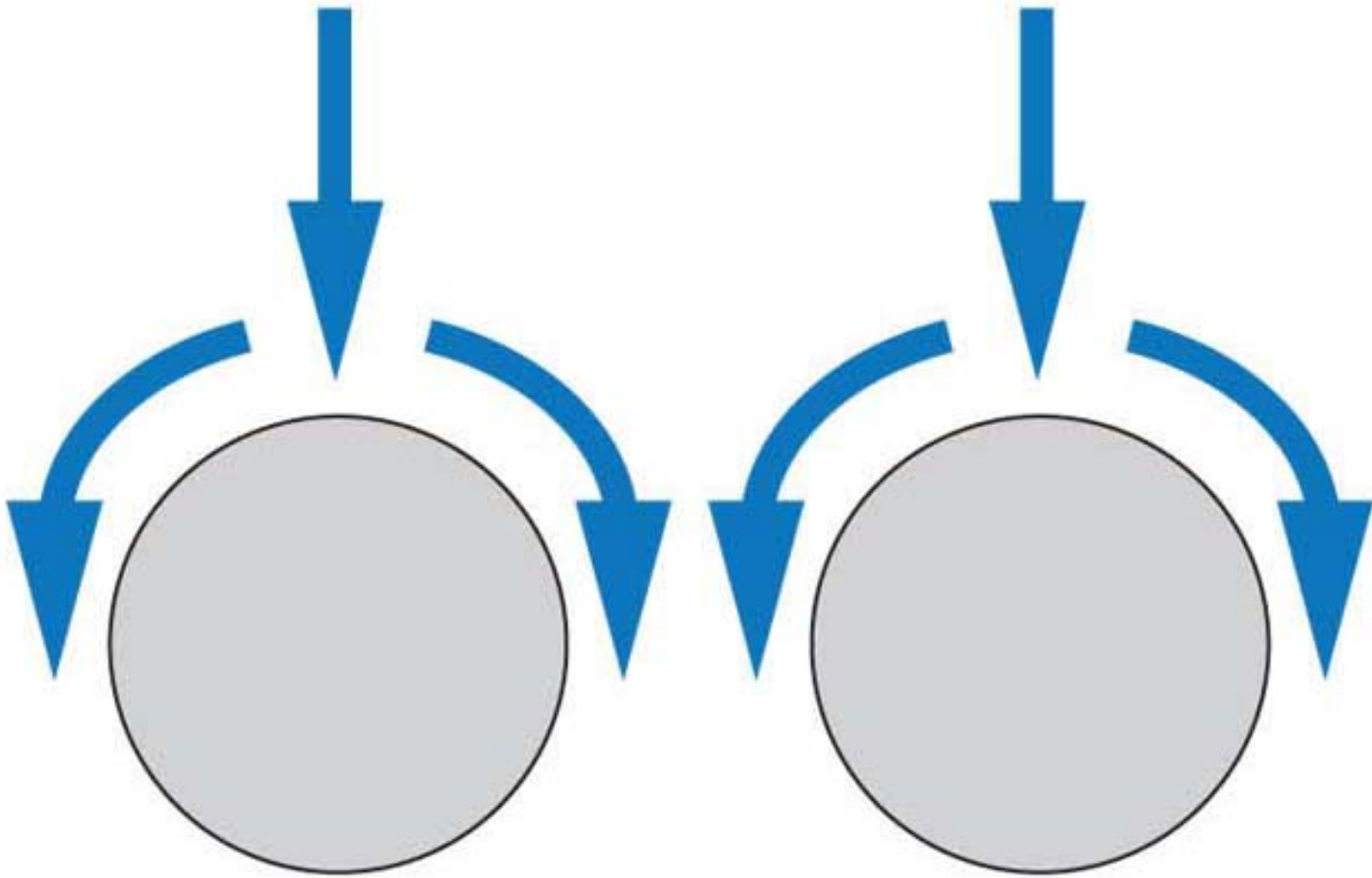


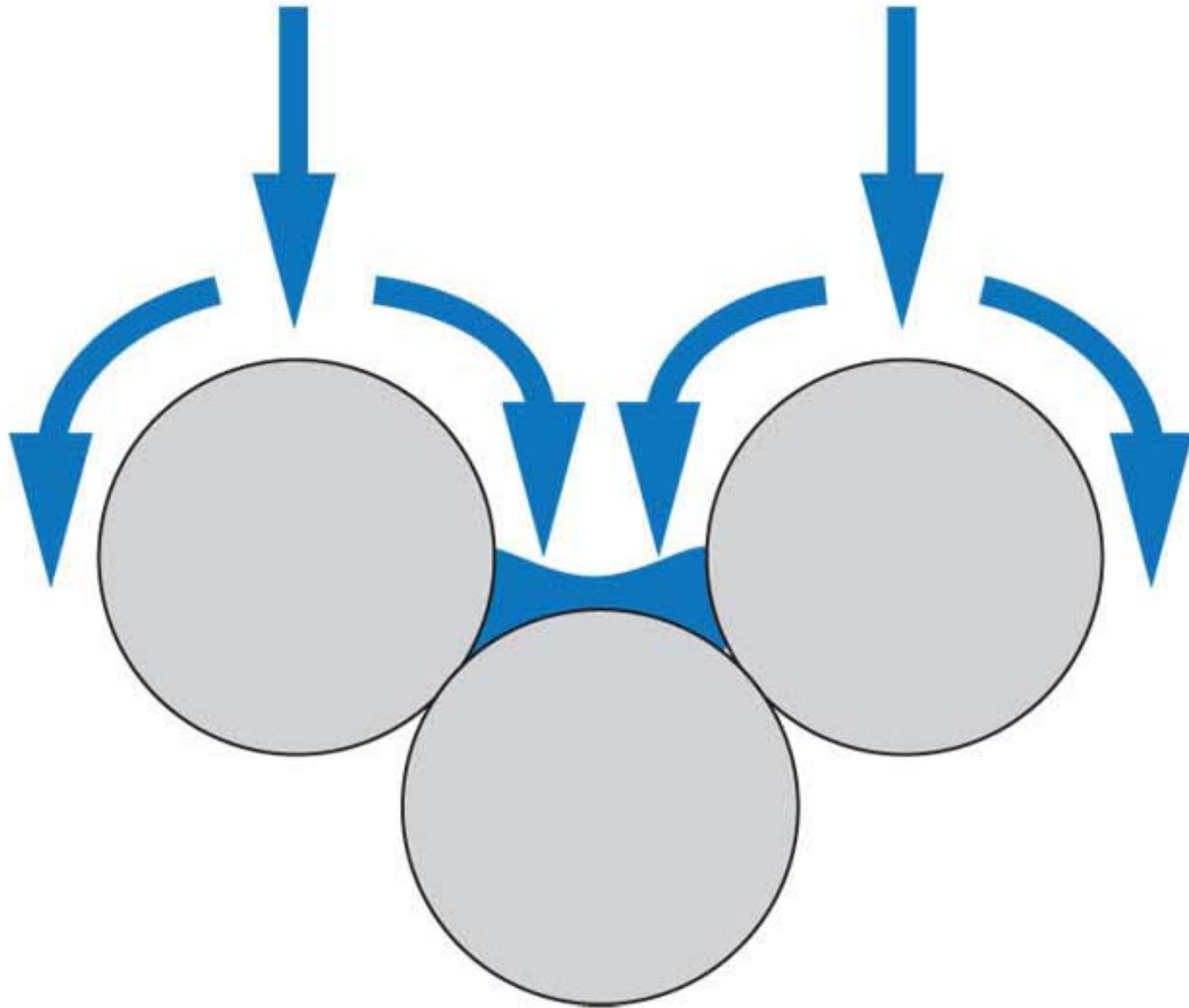
$$P_e = P_c > P_i$$

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





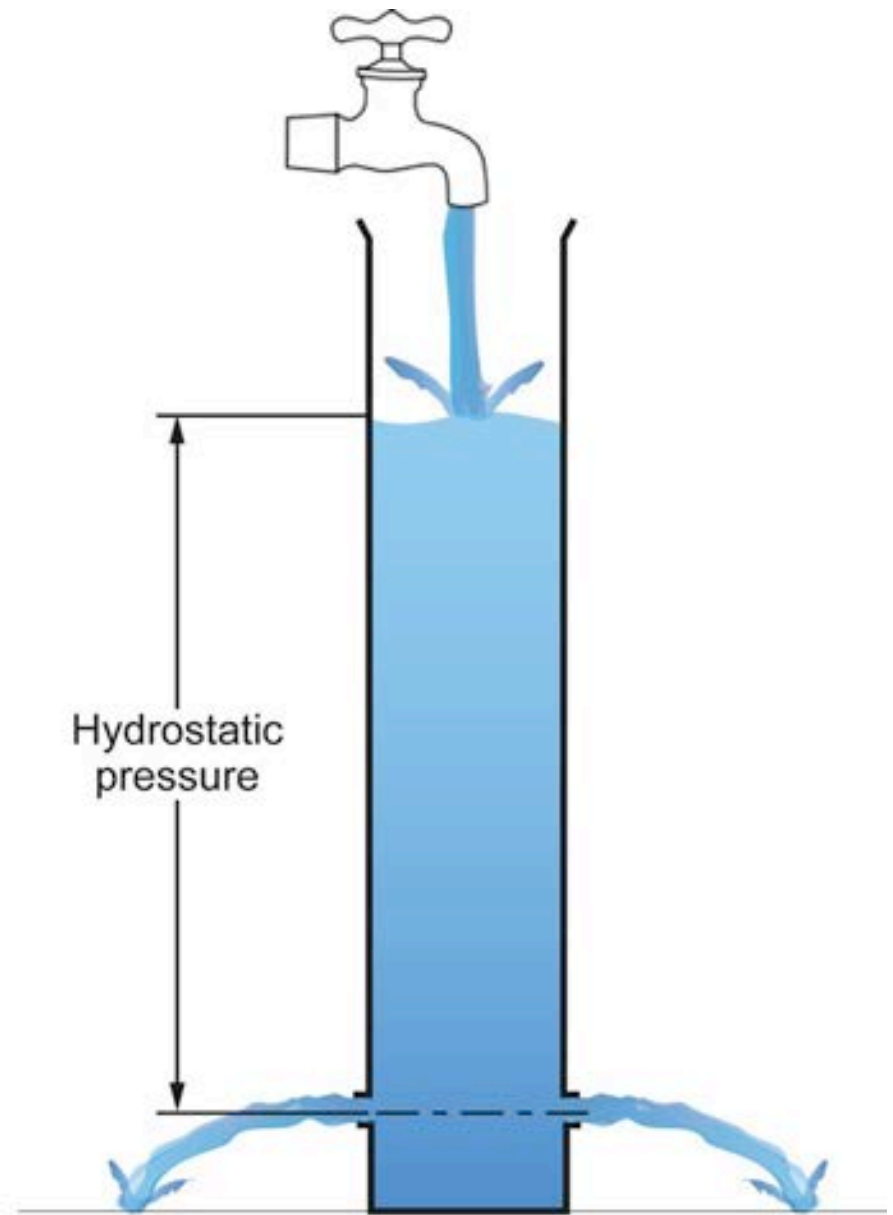
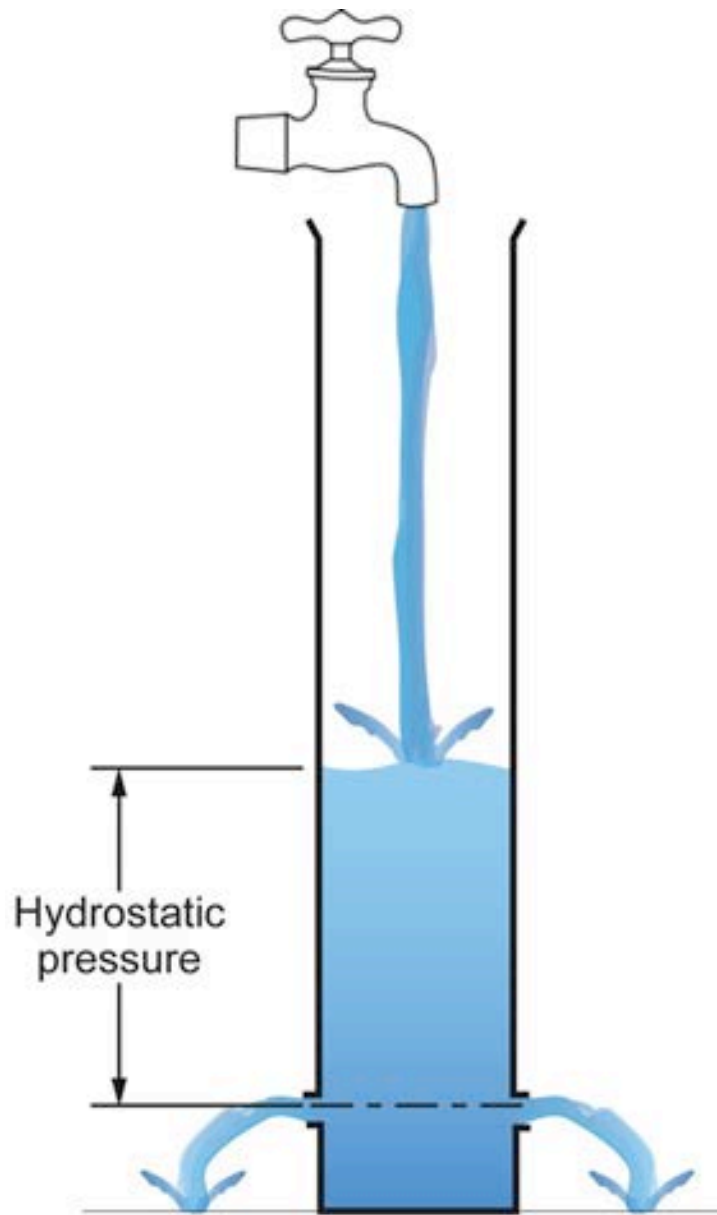


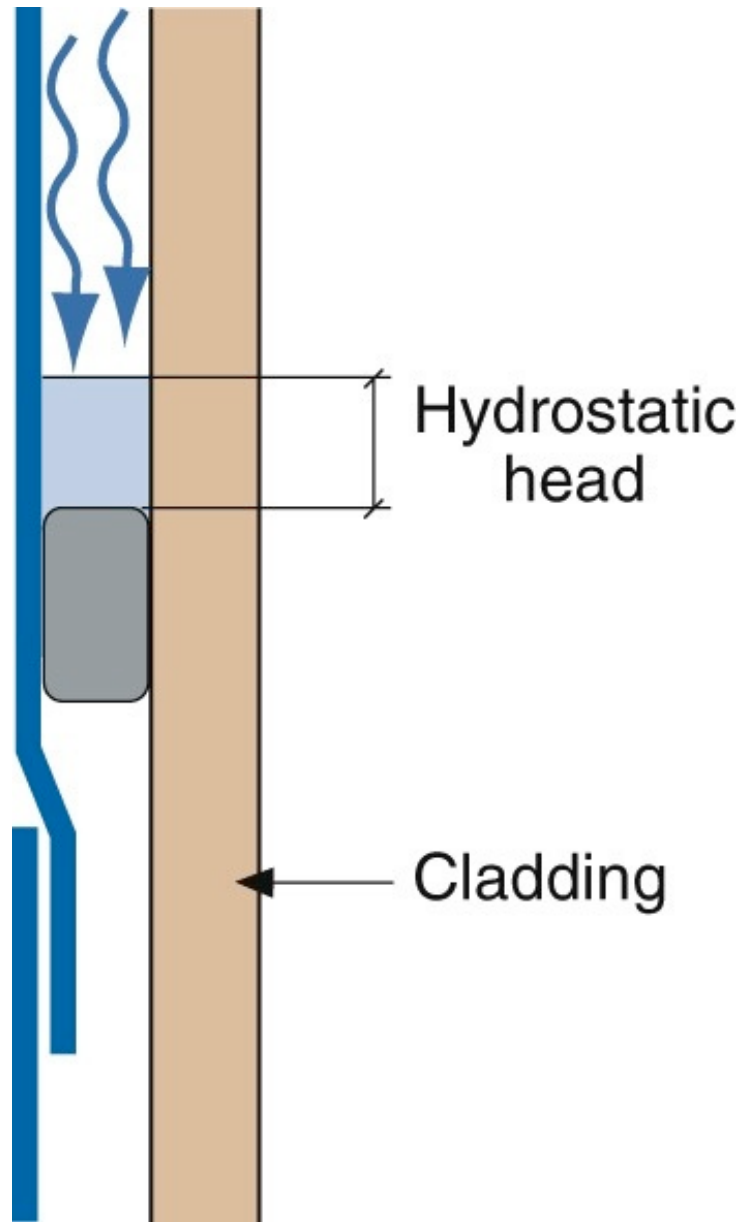


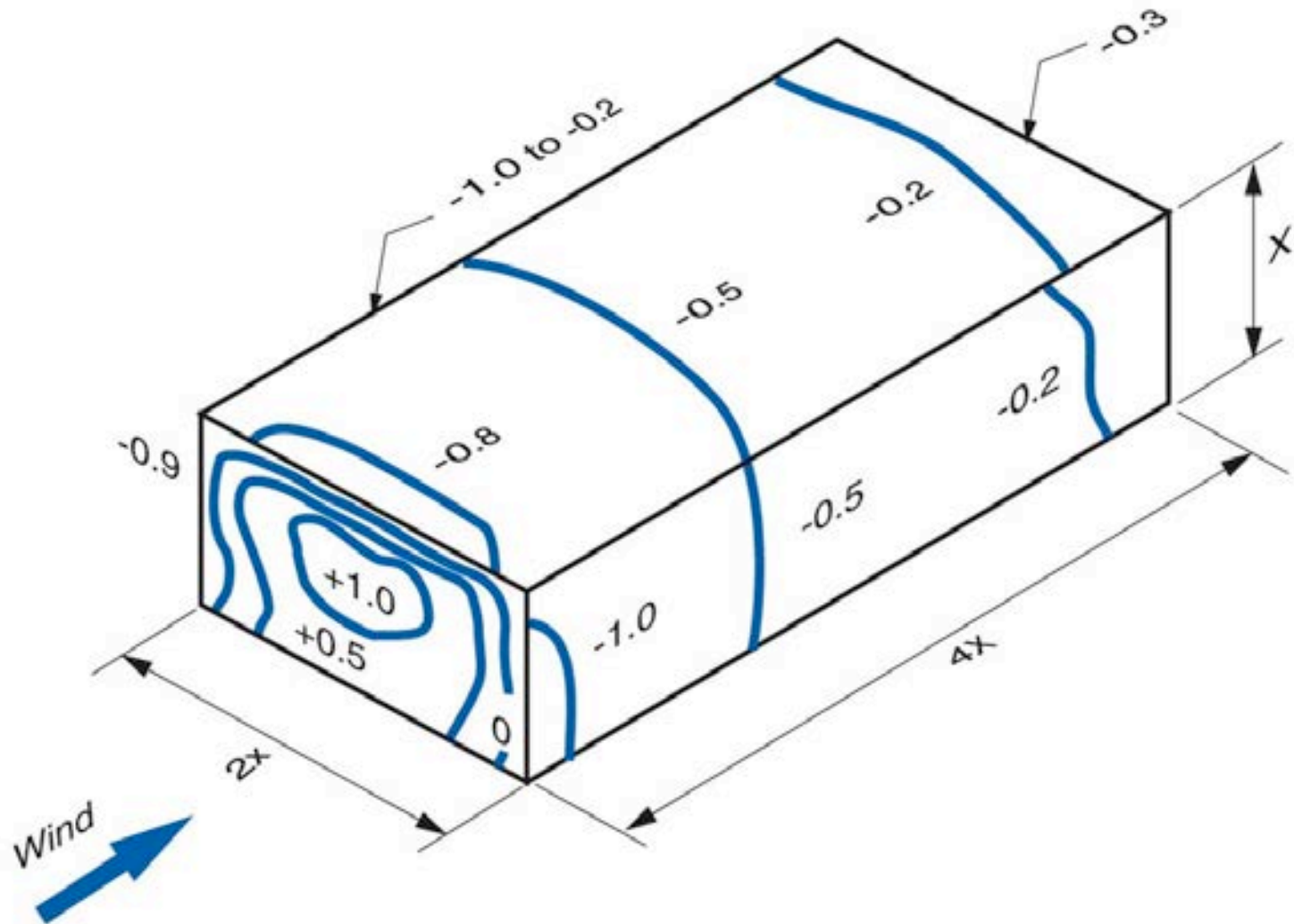






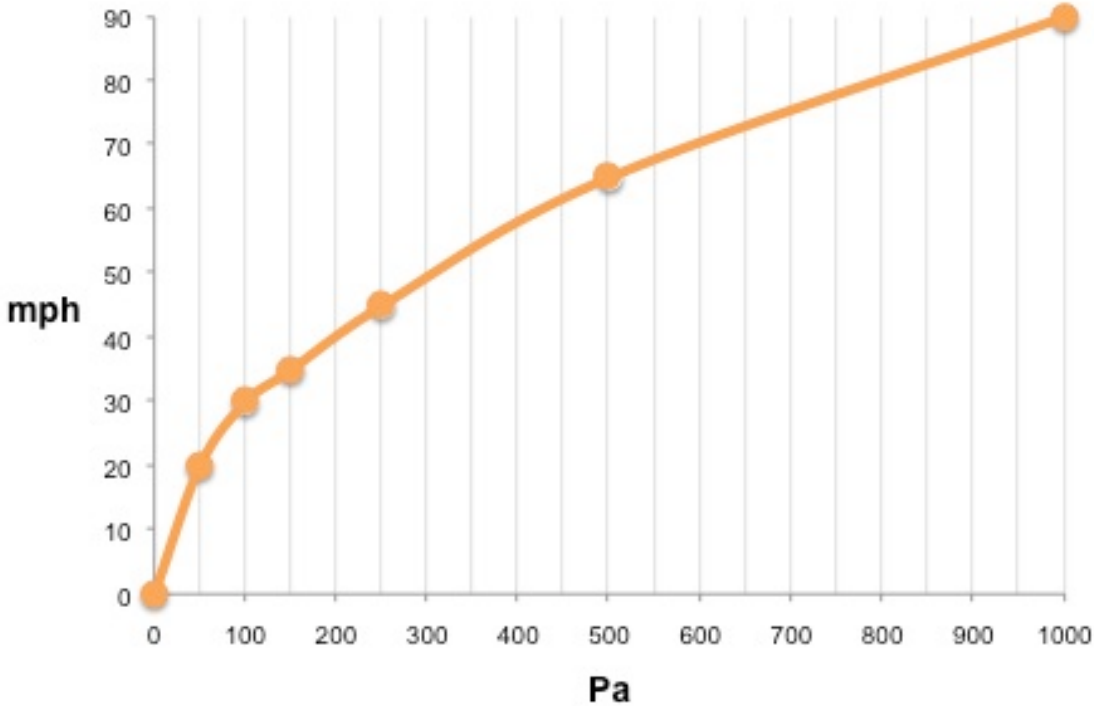




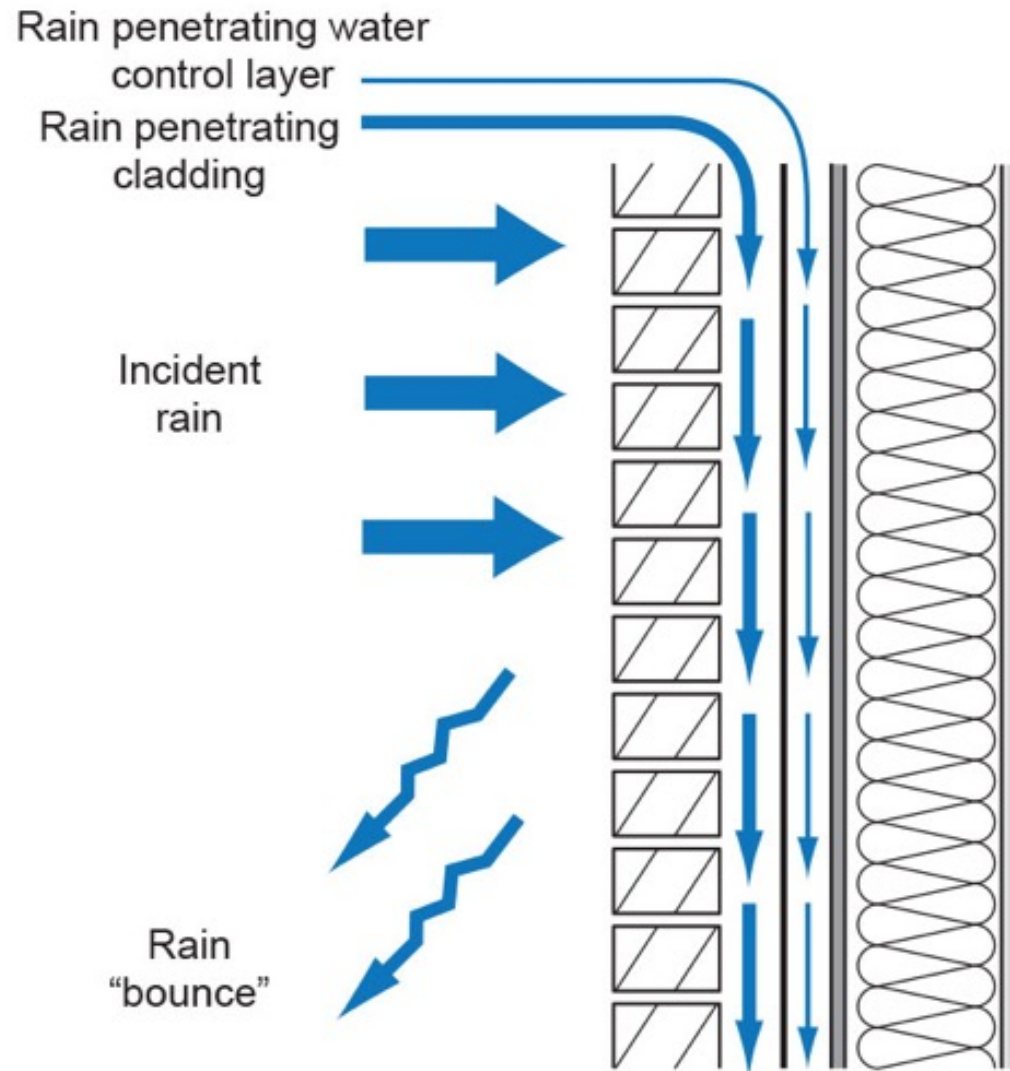


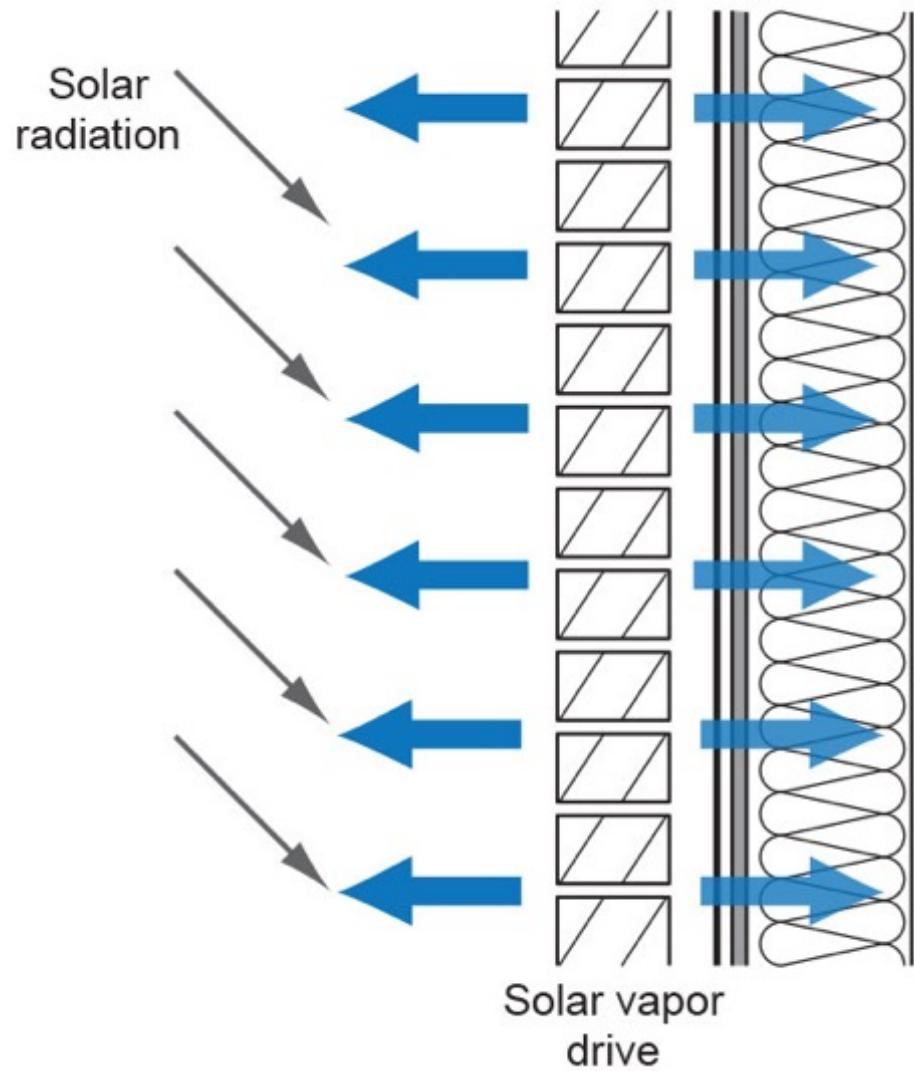
Pascals	mph
50	Pa = 20 mph
100	Pa = 30 mph
150	Pa = 35 mph
250	Pa = 45 mph
500	Pa = 65 mph
1,000	Pa = 90 mph

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



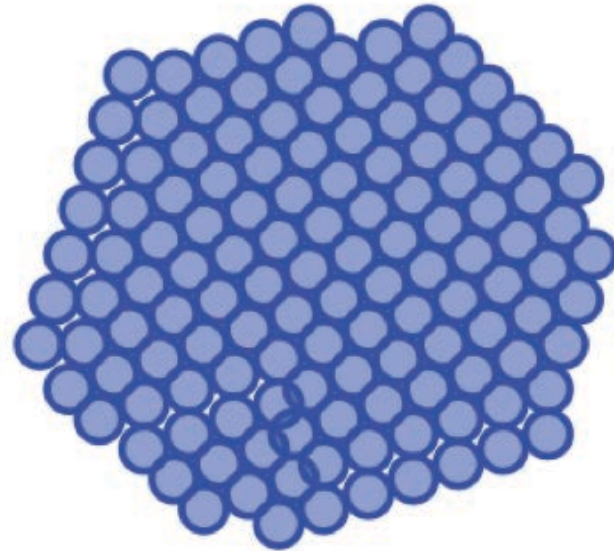
All We Have To Figure Out Is How Much Hits  
The Wall







**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**

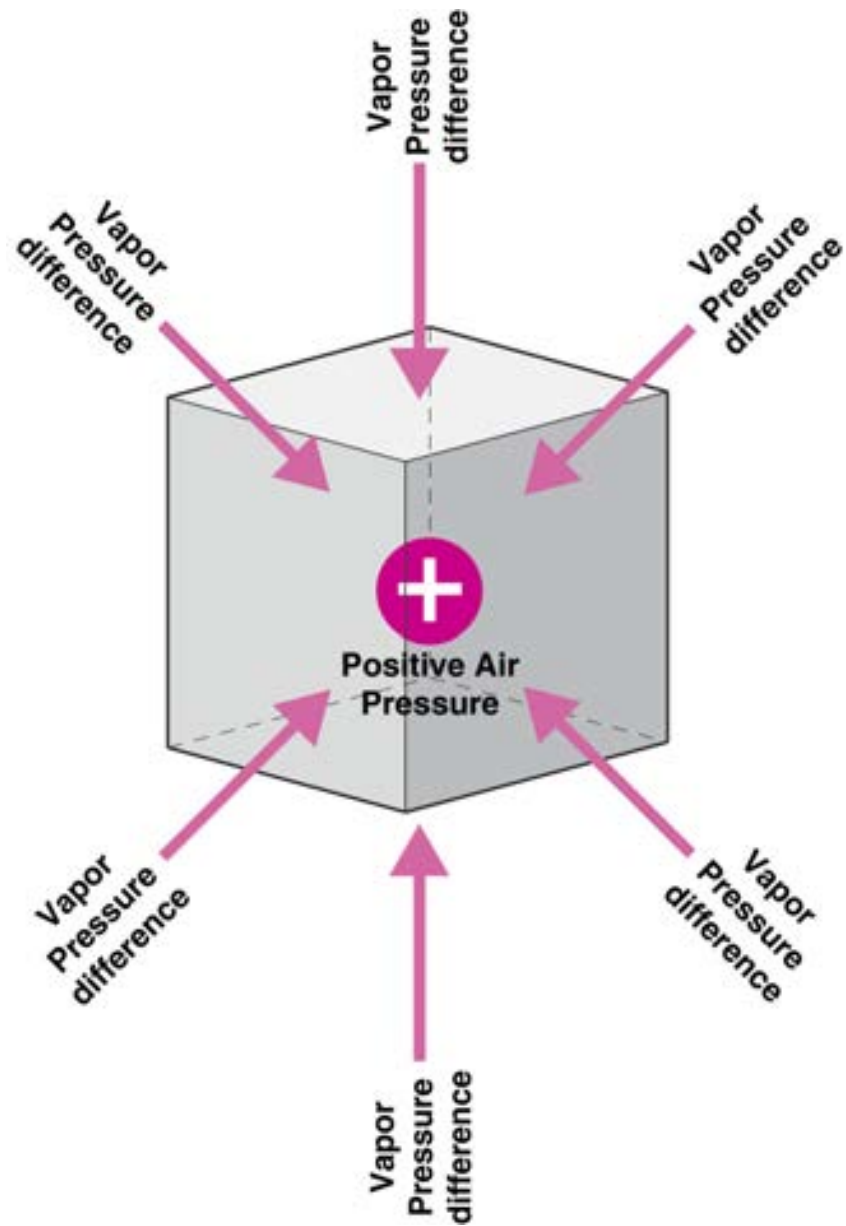


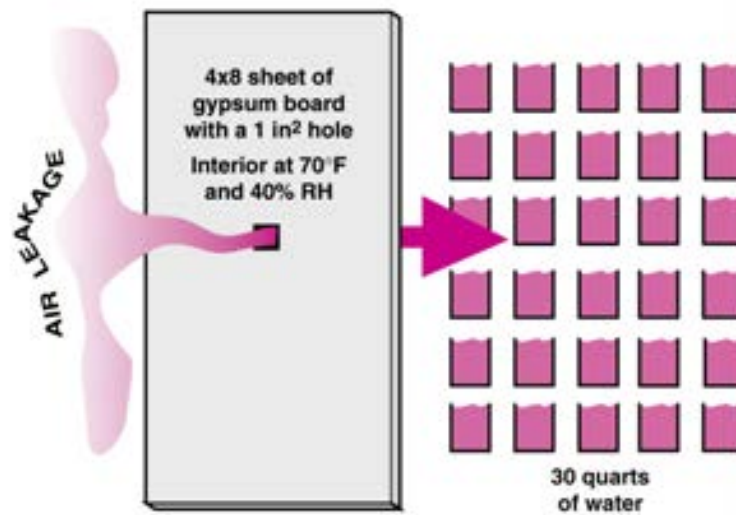
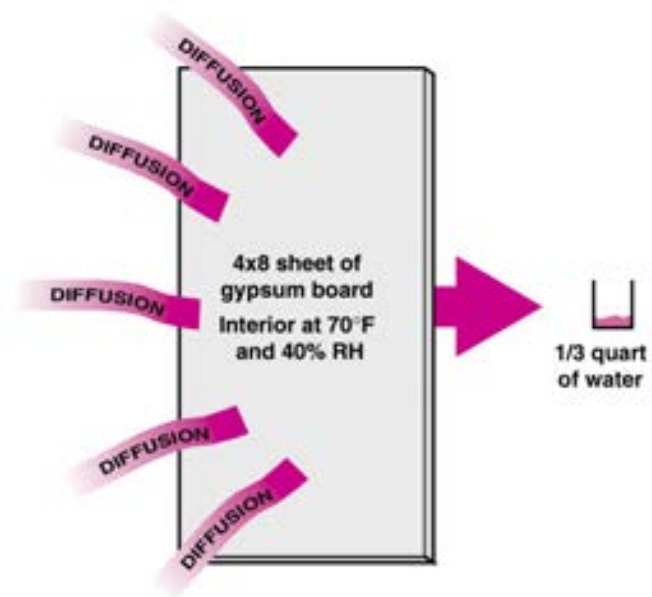
**AIR TRANSPORT**

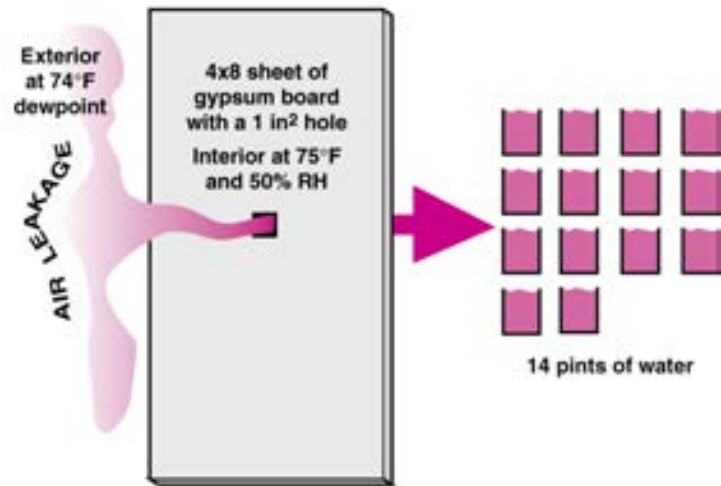
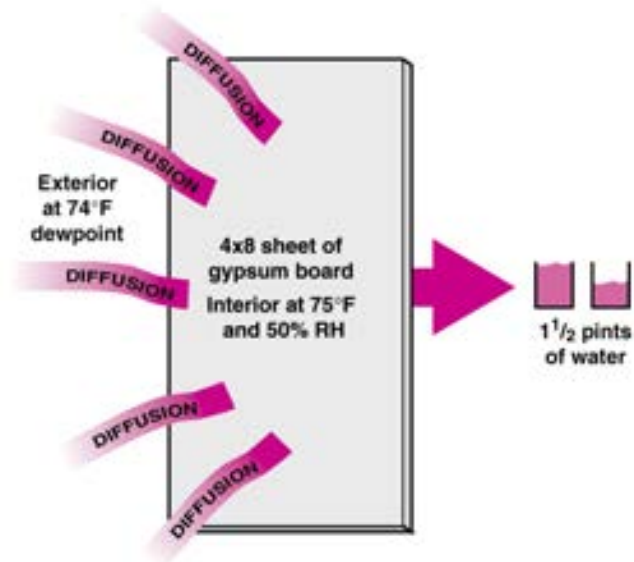


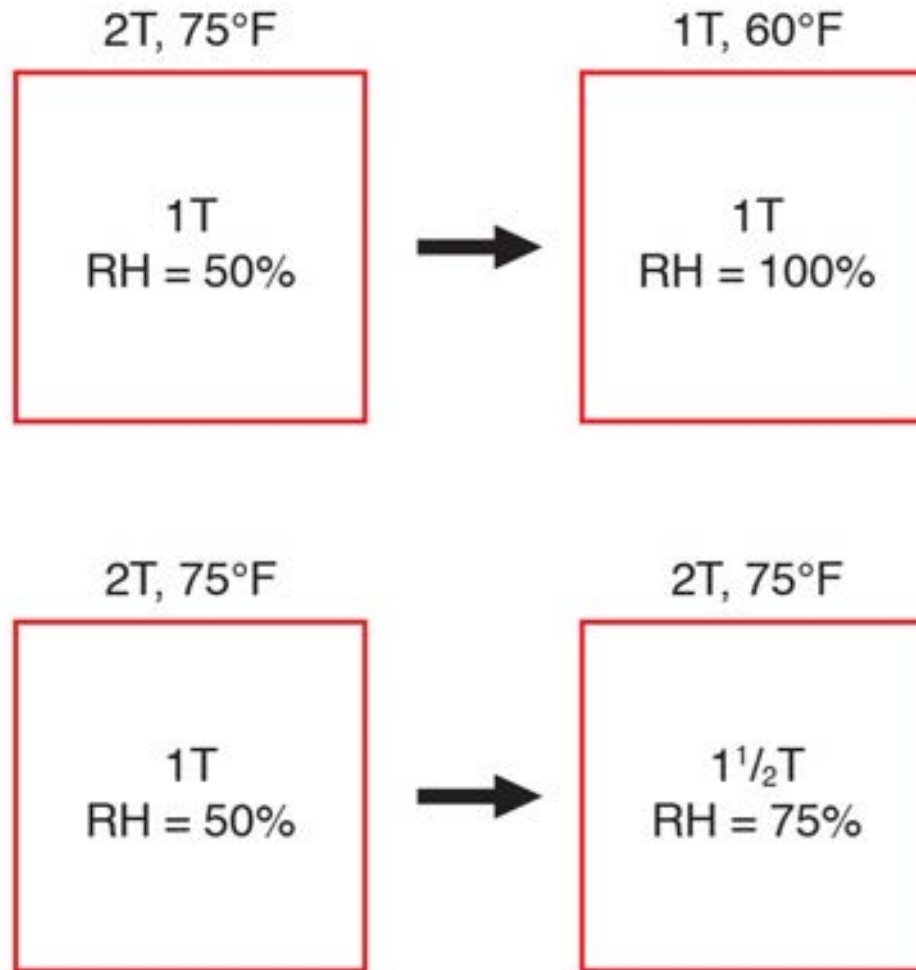
**Higher Air  
Pressure**

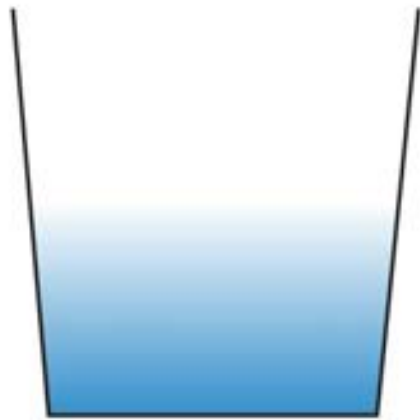
**Lower Air  
Pressure**



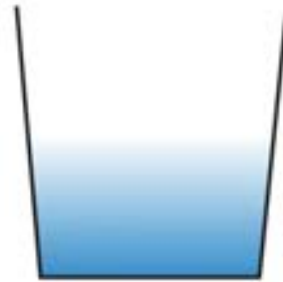








90°F  
50% RH



75°F  
50% RH



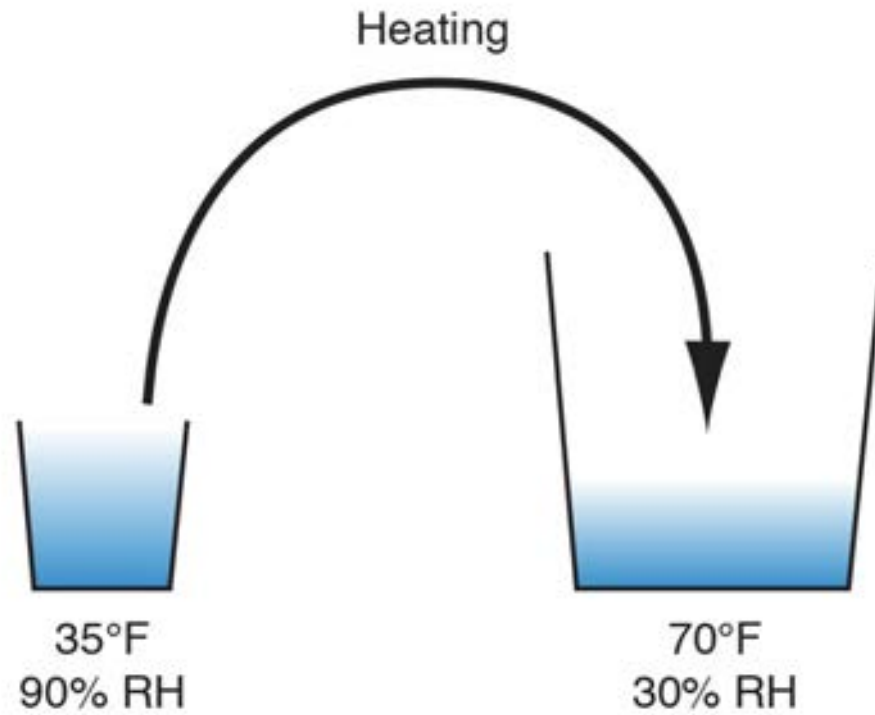
60°F  
50% RH

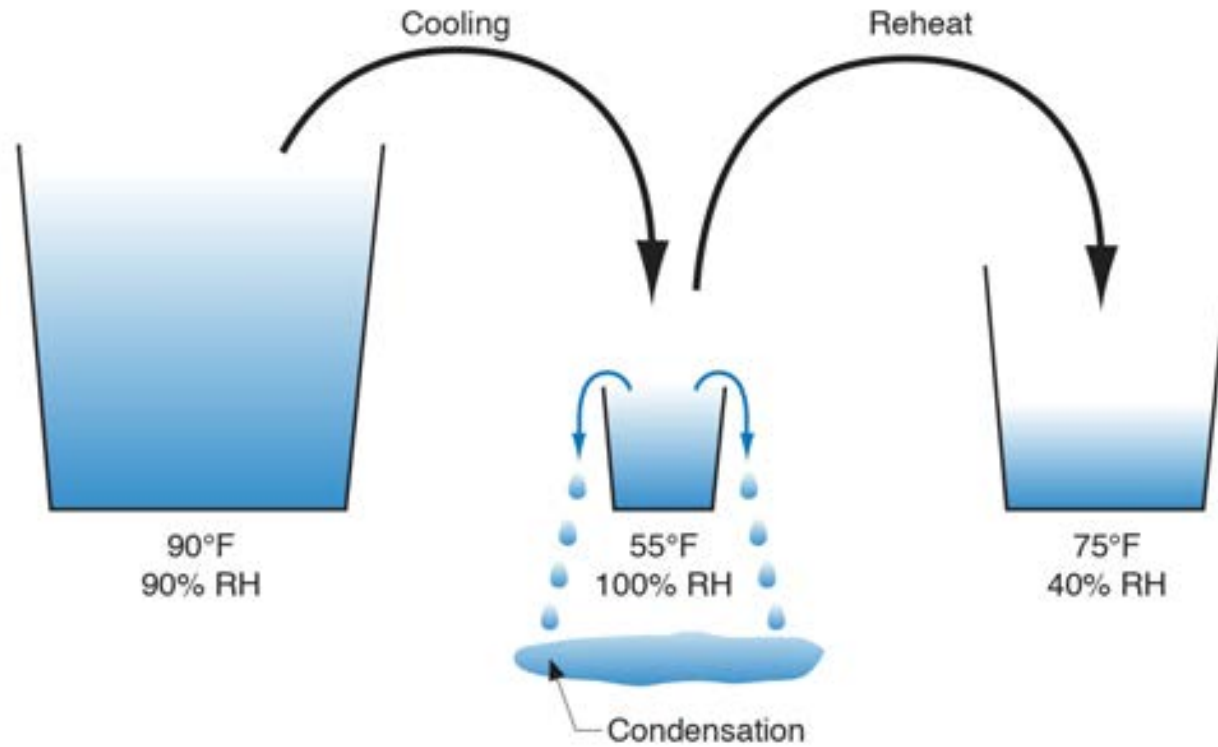


45°F  
50% RH



30°F  
50% RH









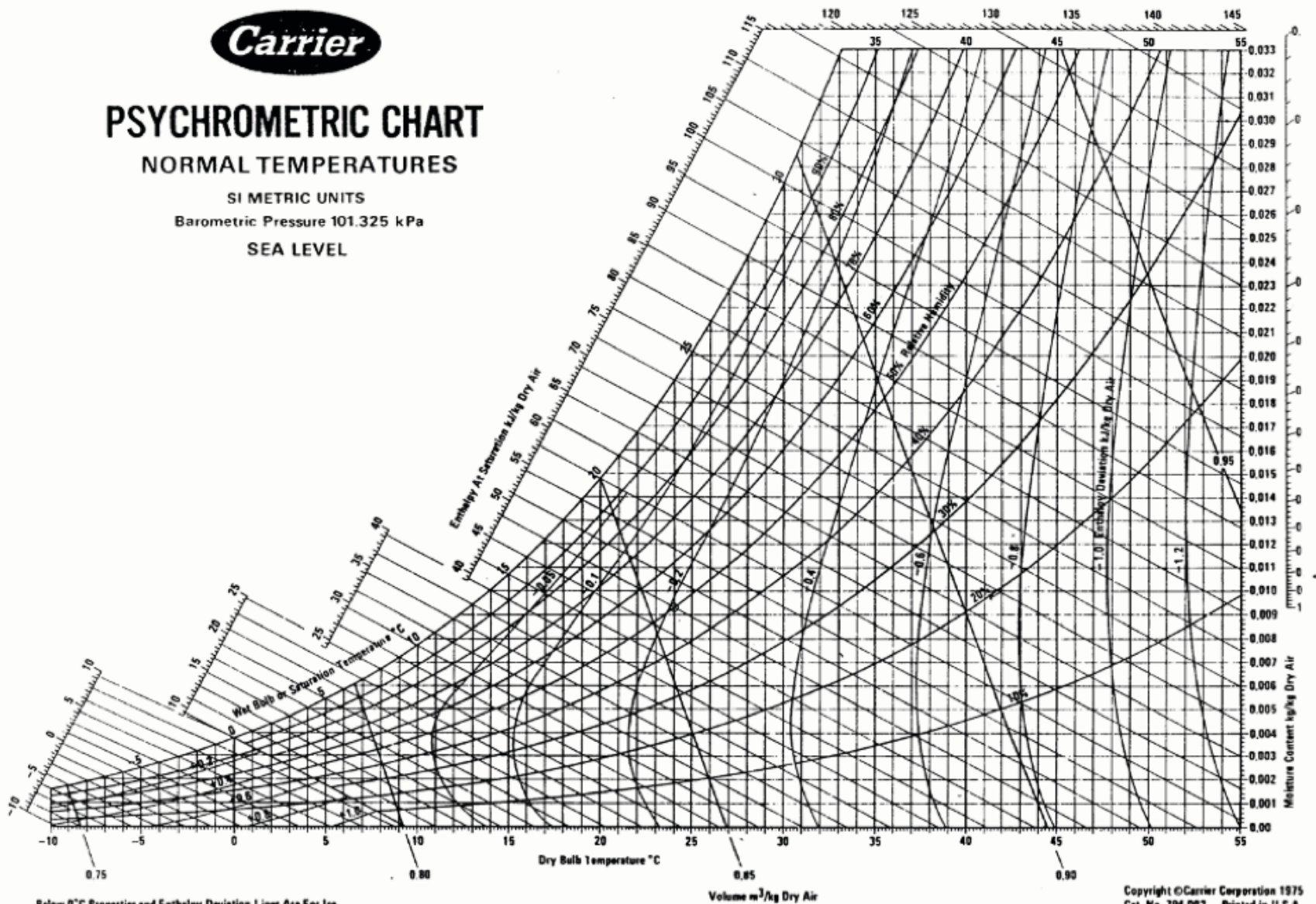
# PSYCHROMETRIC CHART

NORMAL TEMPERATURES

SI METRIC UNITS

Barometric Pressure 101.325 kPa

SEA LEVEL

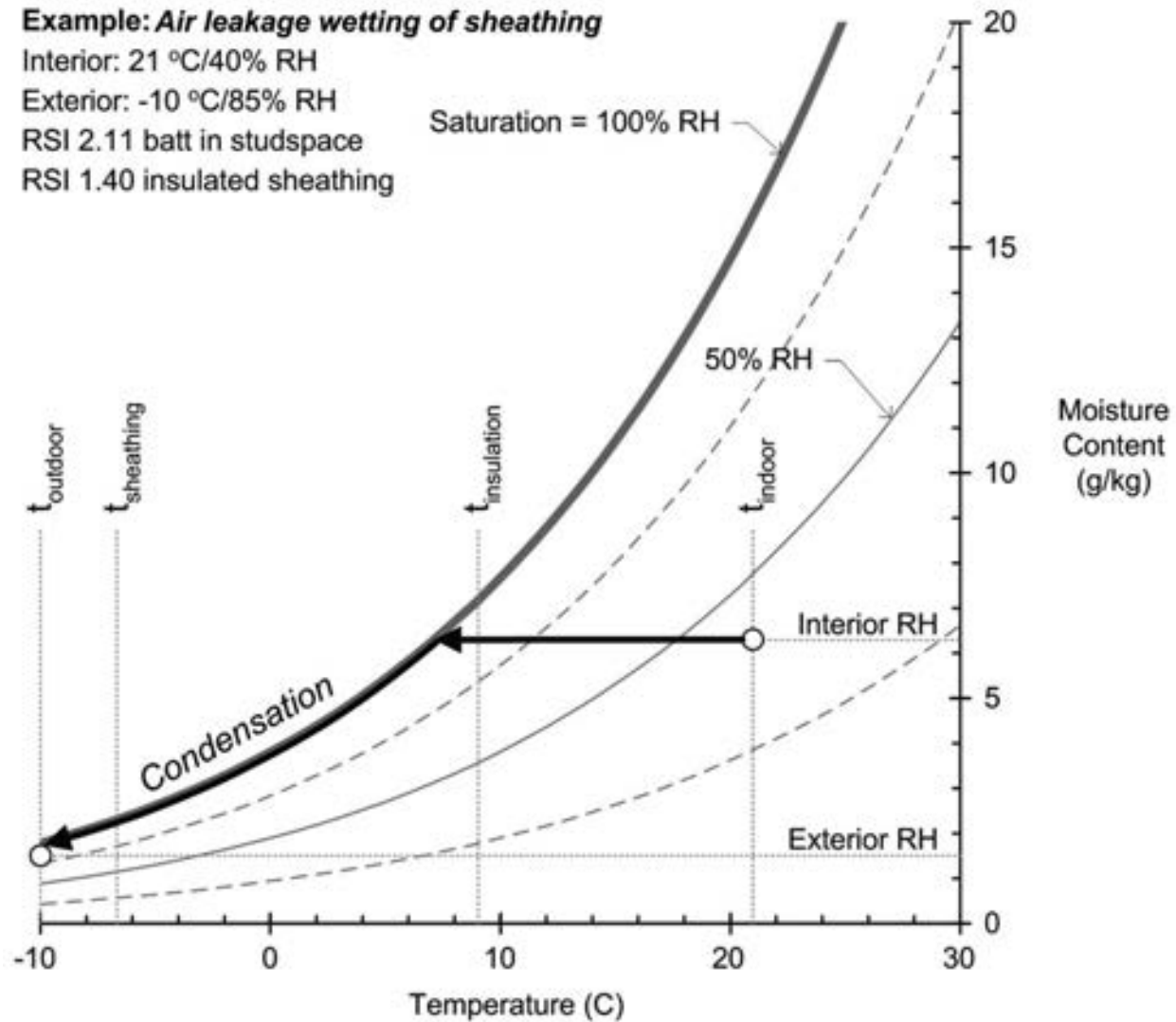


Below 0°C Properties and Enthalpy Deviation Lines Are For Ice

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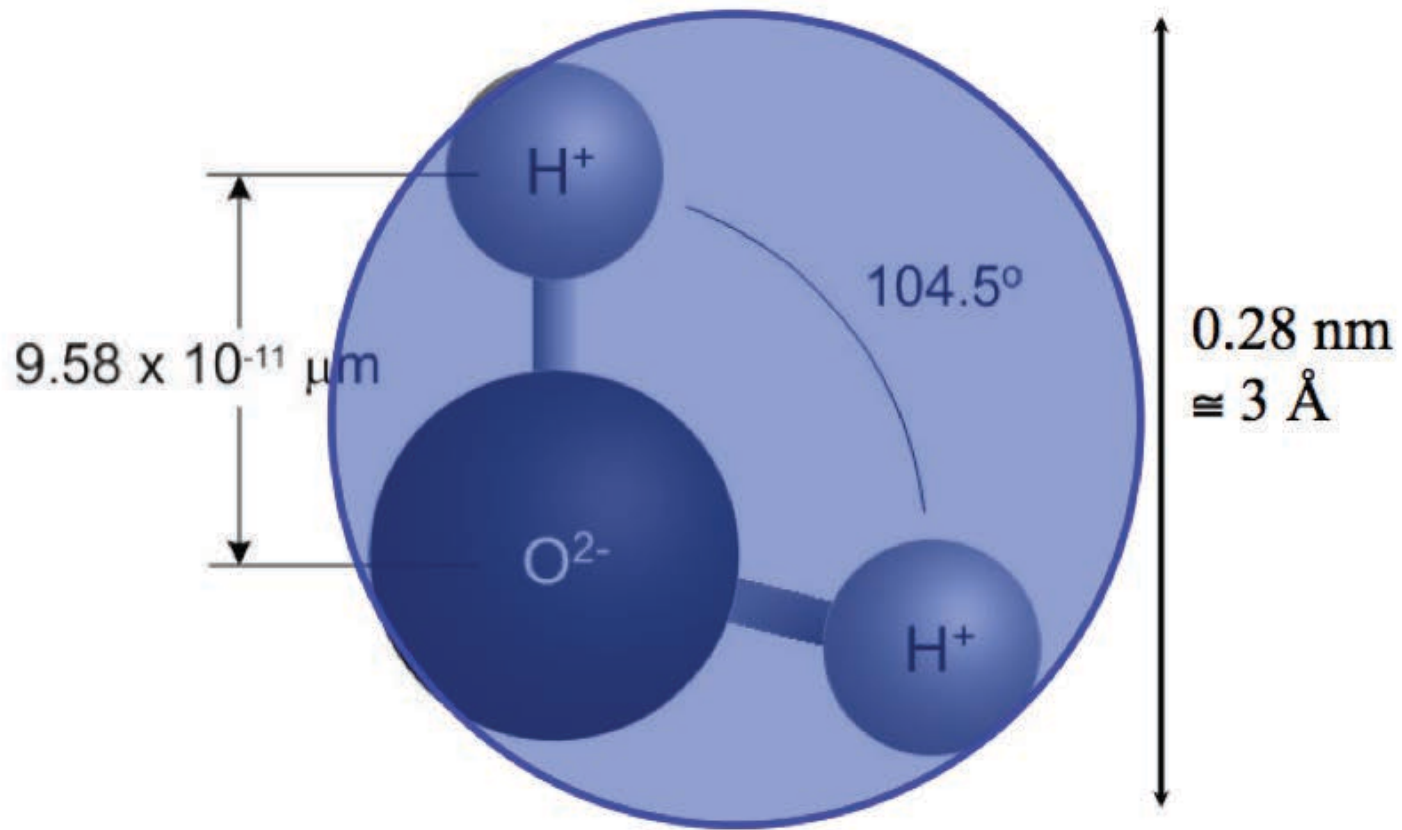
**Example: Air leakage wetting of sheathing**

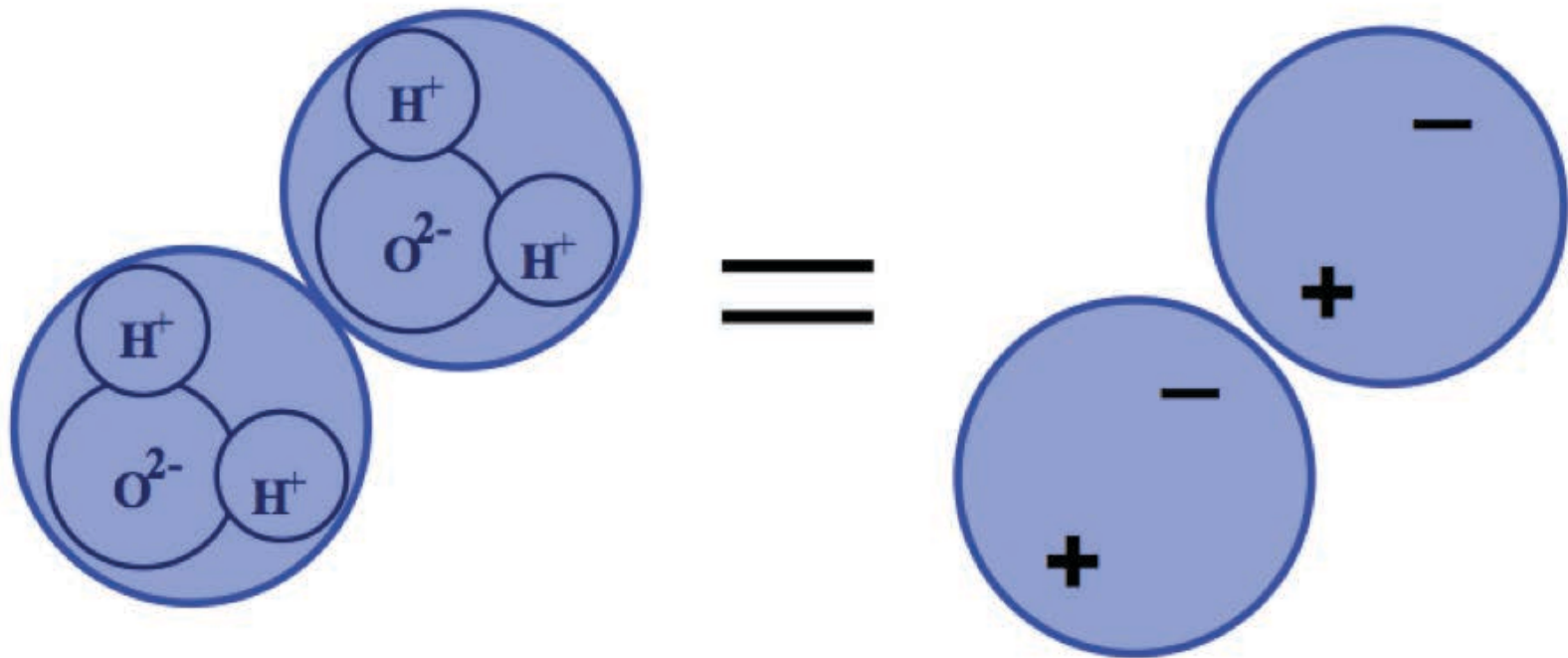
Interior: 21 °C/40% RH  
Exterior: -10 °C/85% RH  
RSI 2.11 batt in studspace  
RSI 1.40 insulated sheathing

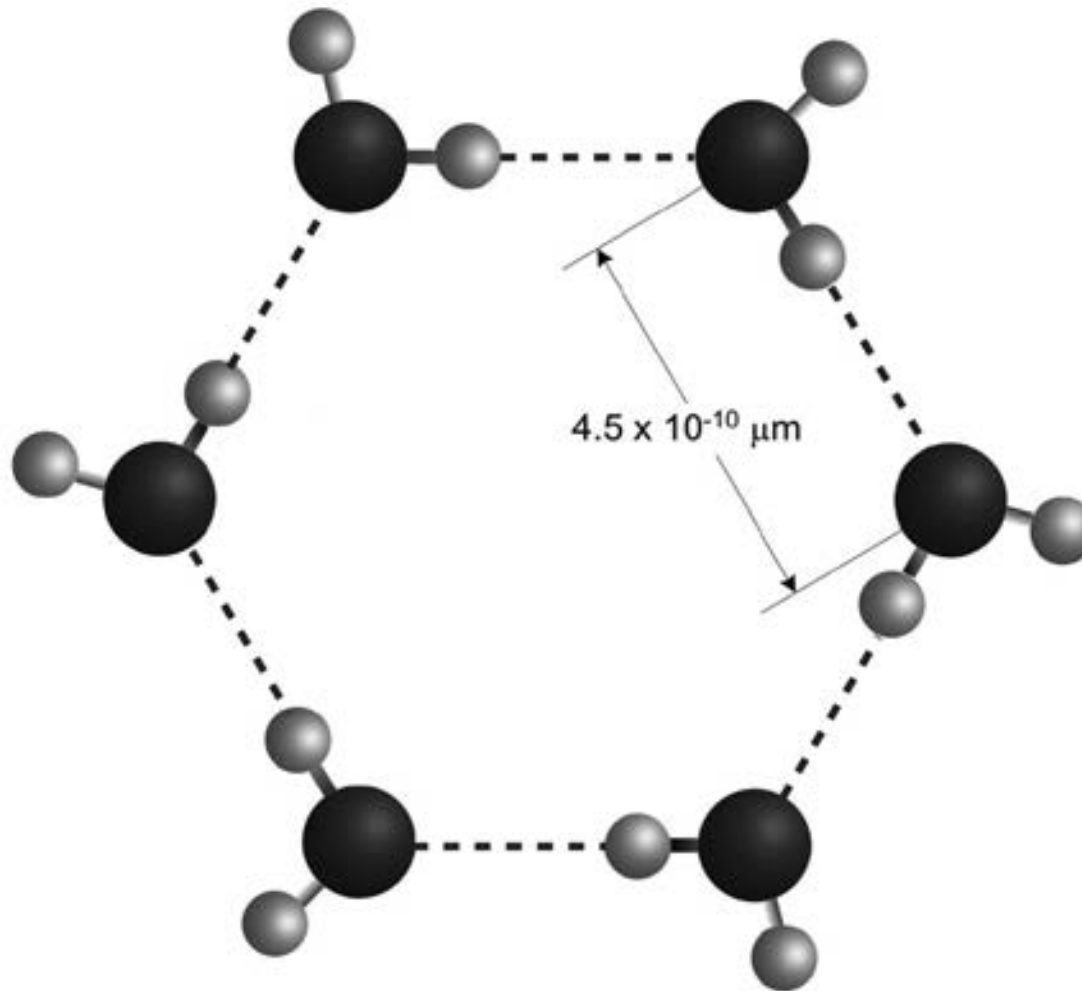


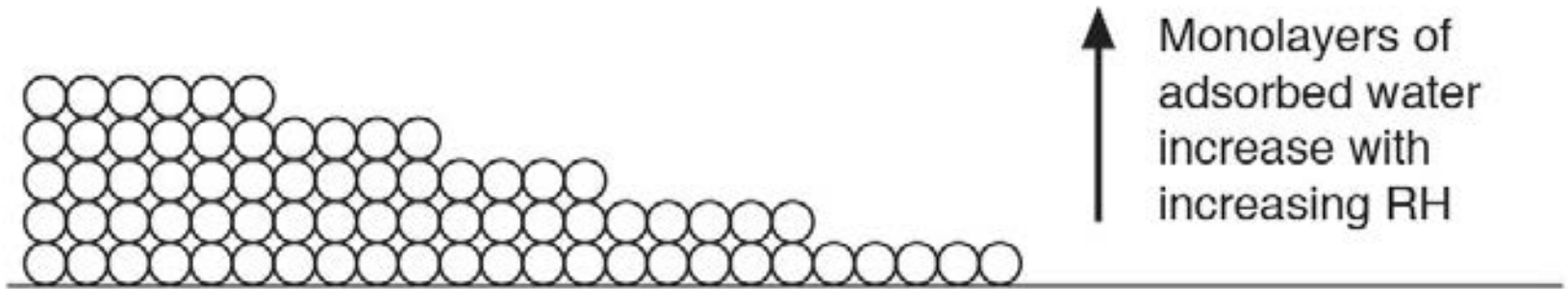
**Cooling and condensation**

From Straube & Burnett, 2005













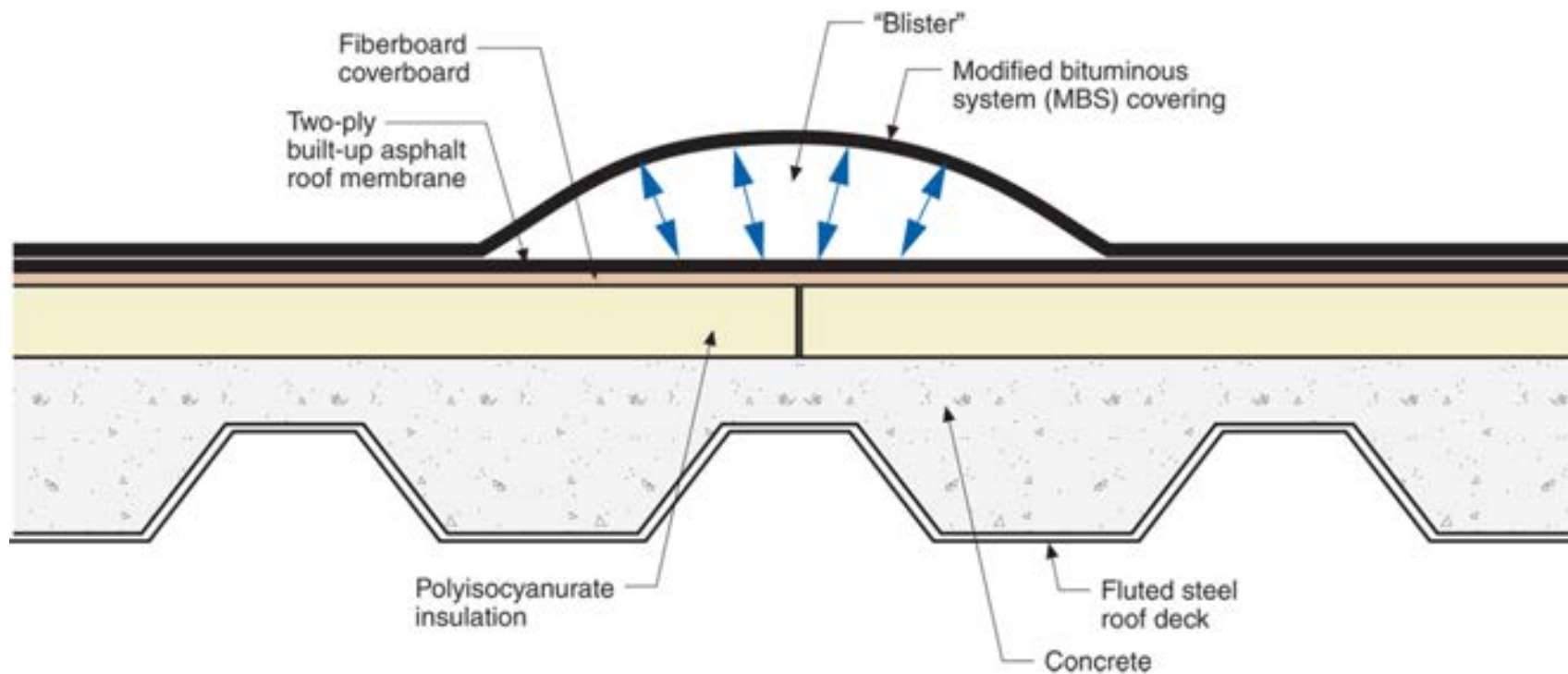


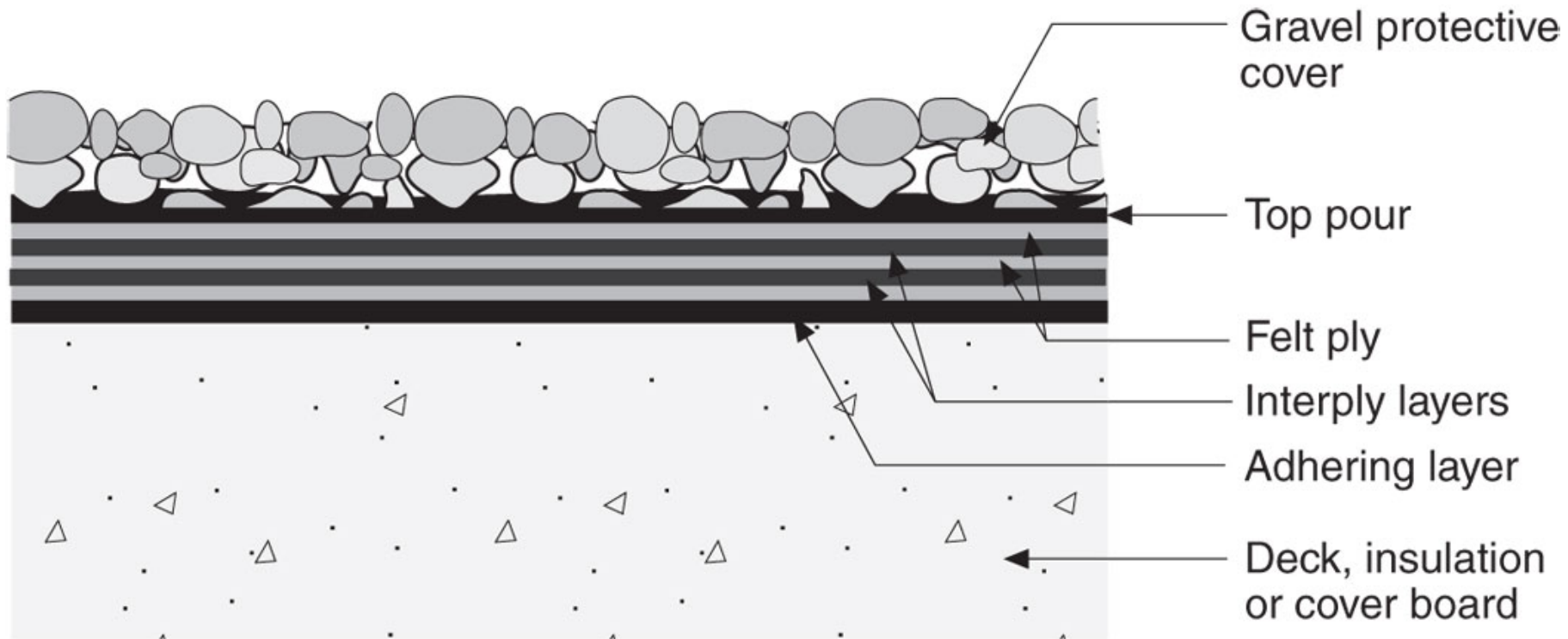






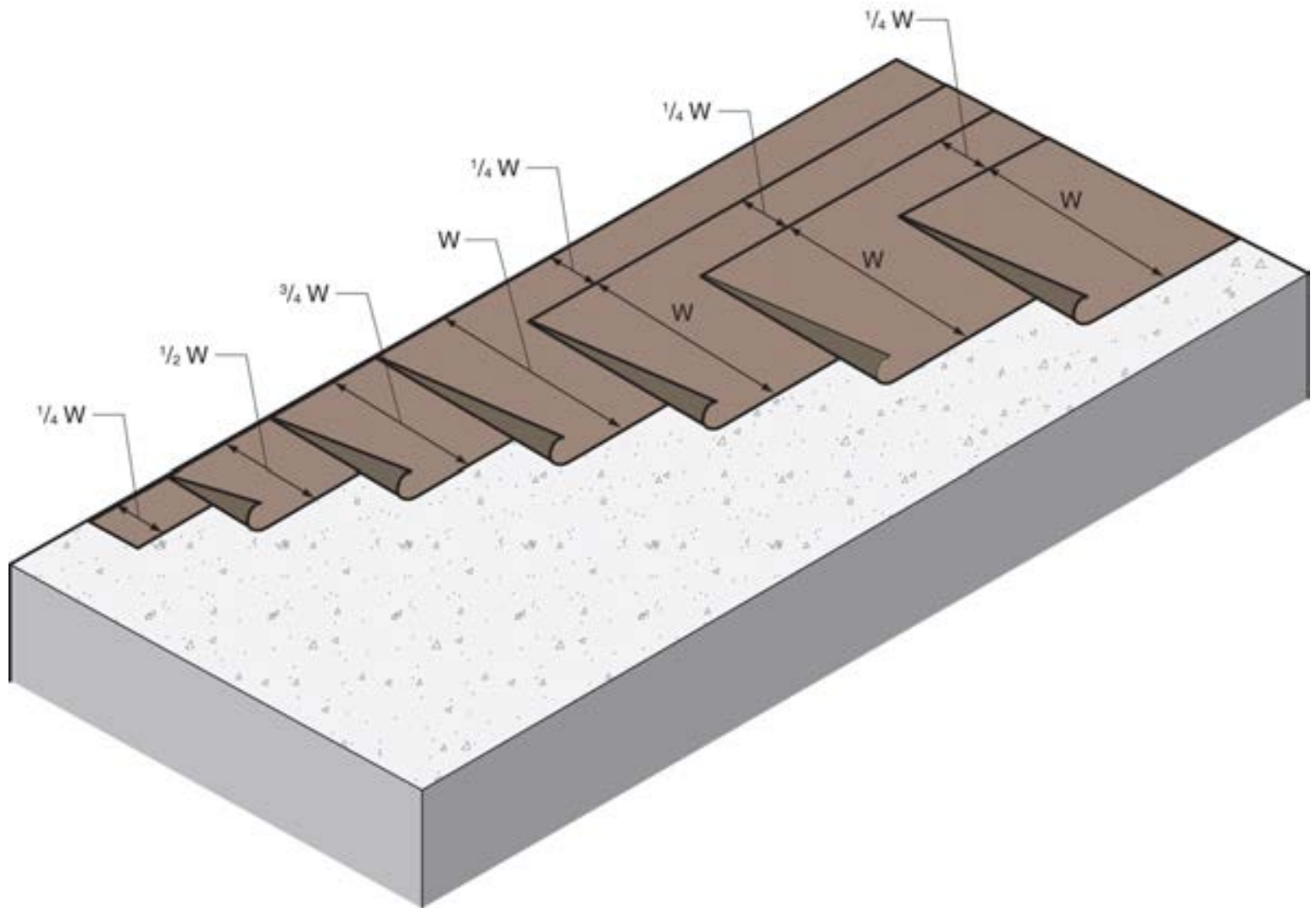


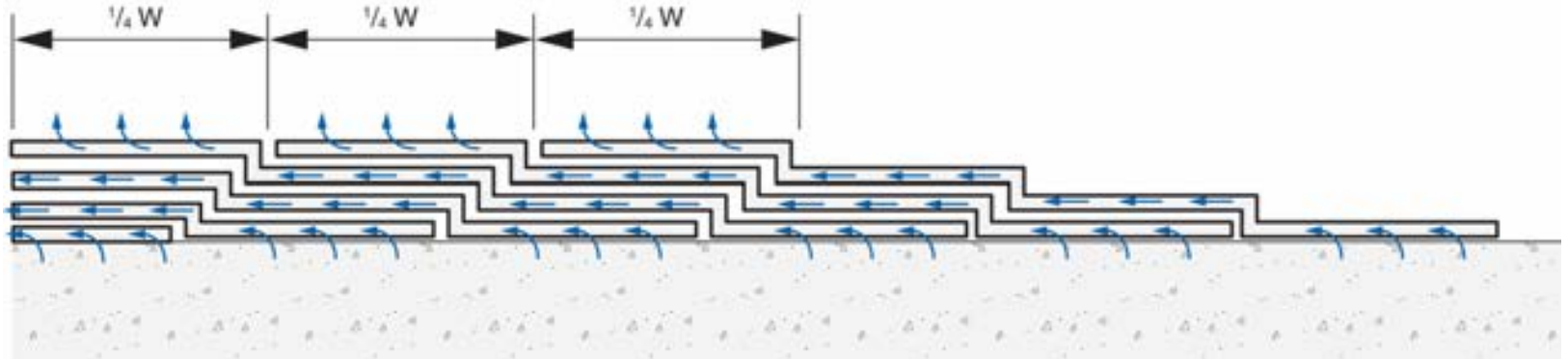


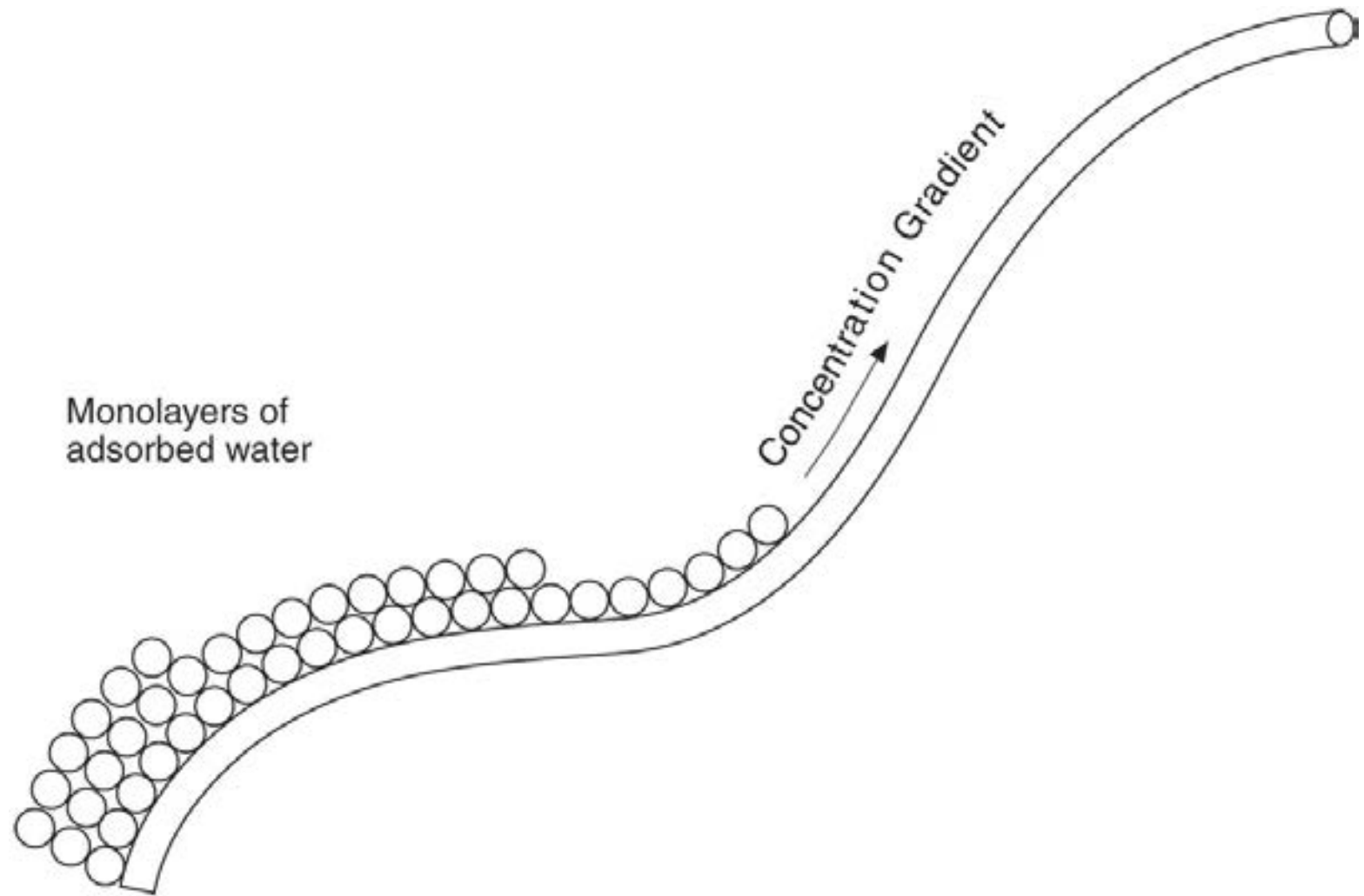


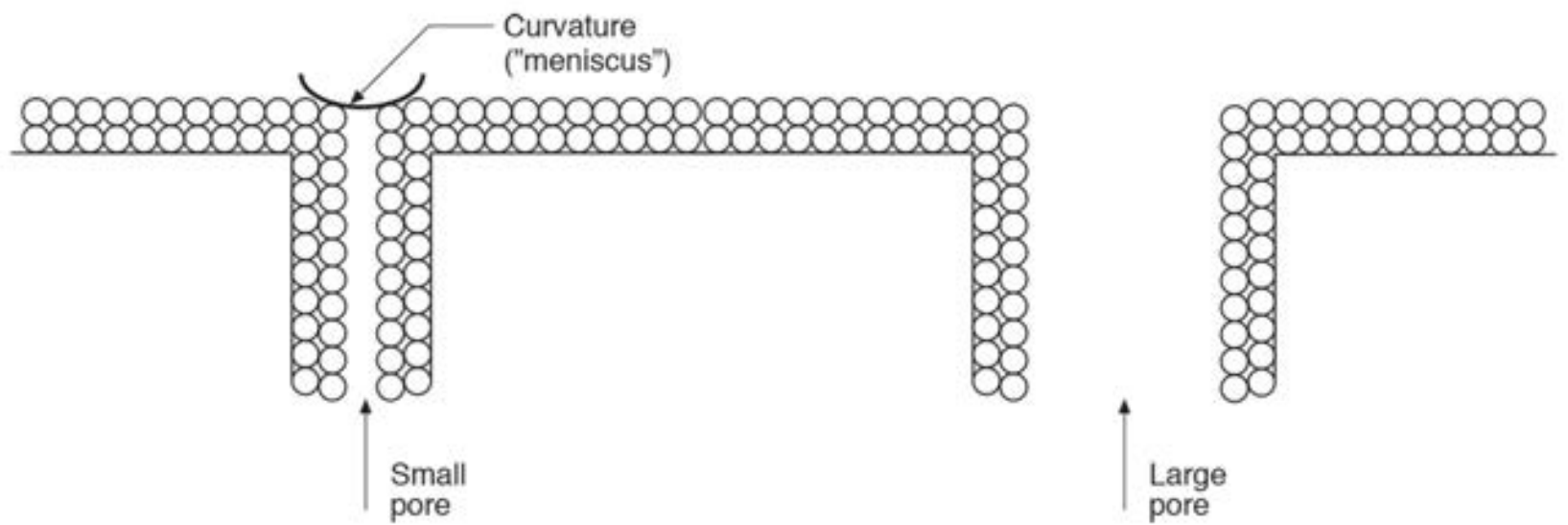
*From Baker, M.; Roofs, 1980*











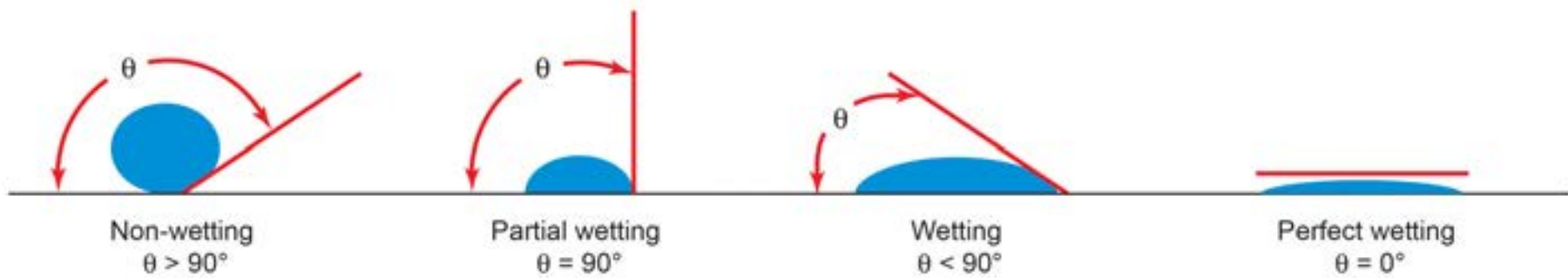






- "non-wetable" surface
- water repellent surface
- hydrophobic surface
- water more attracted to itself than to surface
- surface energy of water greater than surface energy of surface
- water "beads up"
- "greasy" surface
- high contact angle " $\theta$ "

- "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 " $\theta$ "



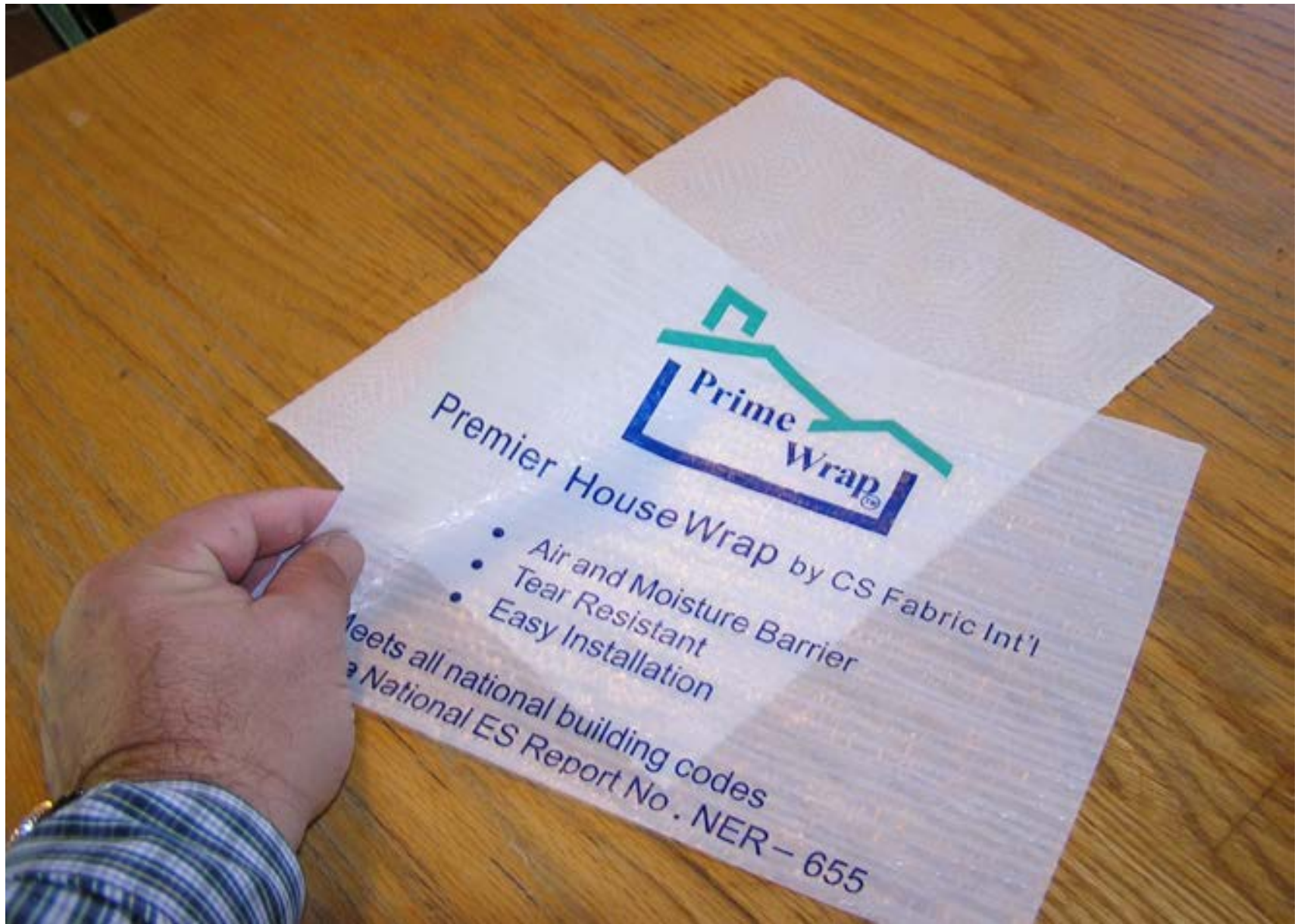


















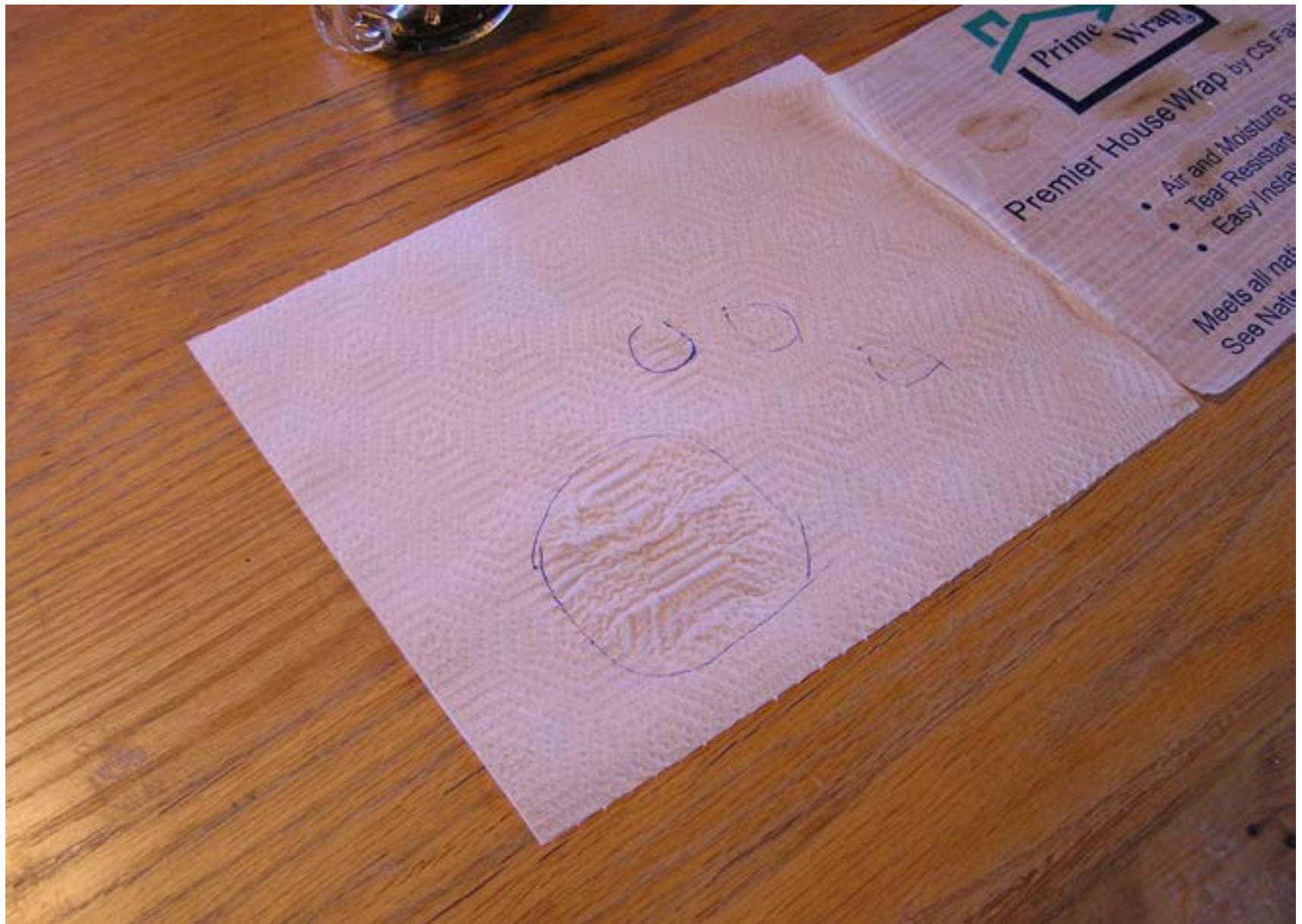


















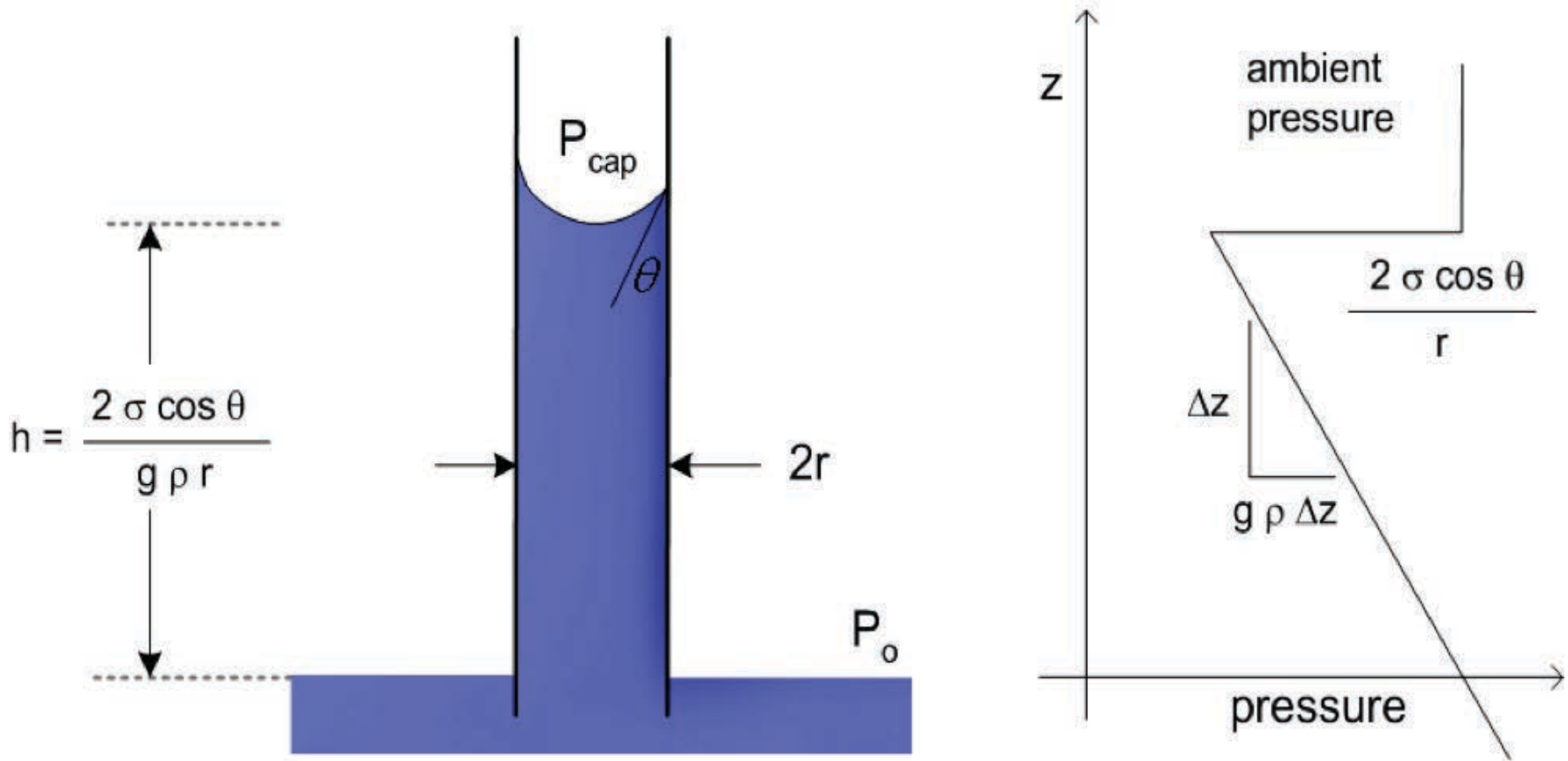




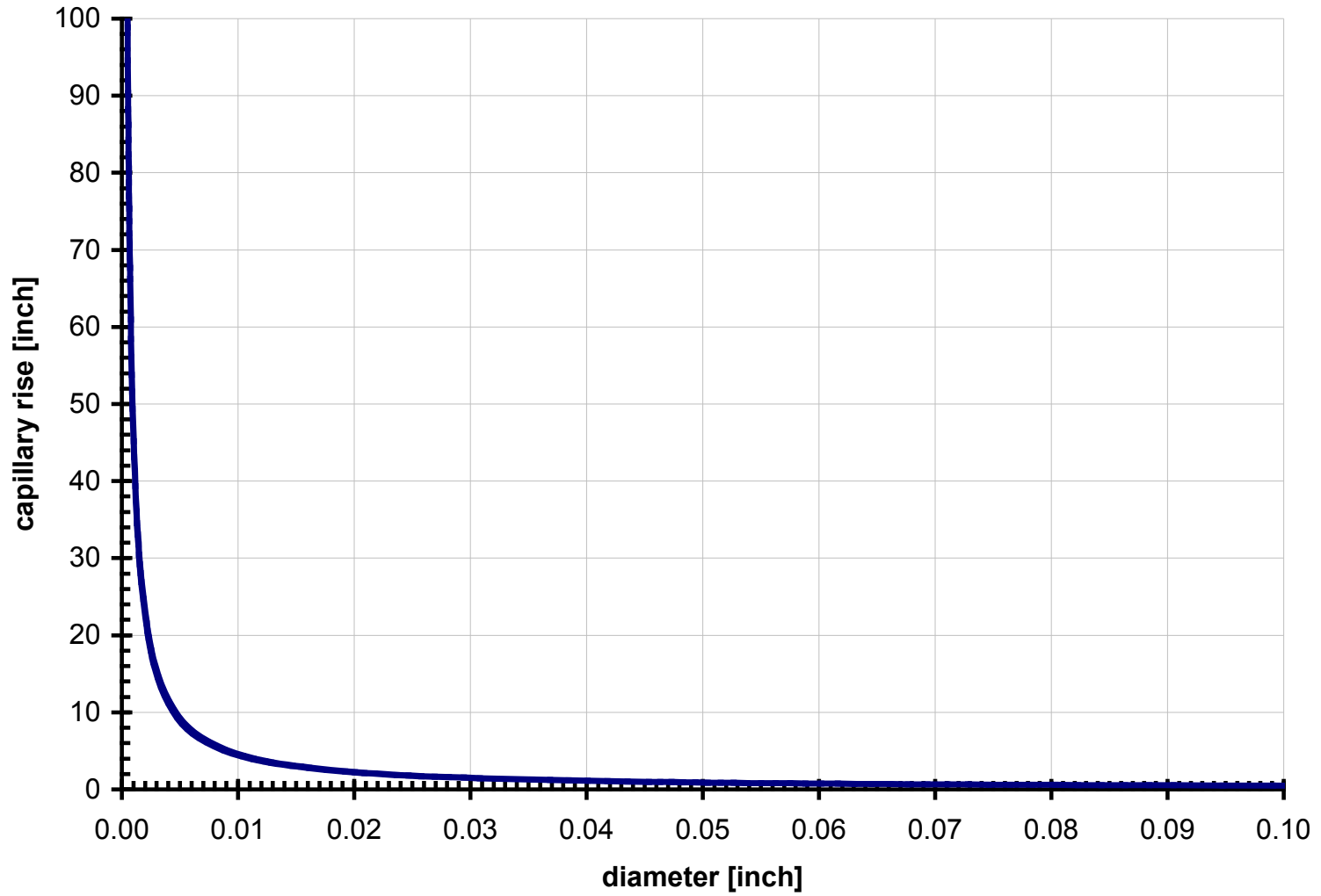
## Surface Energy

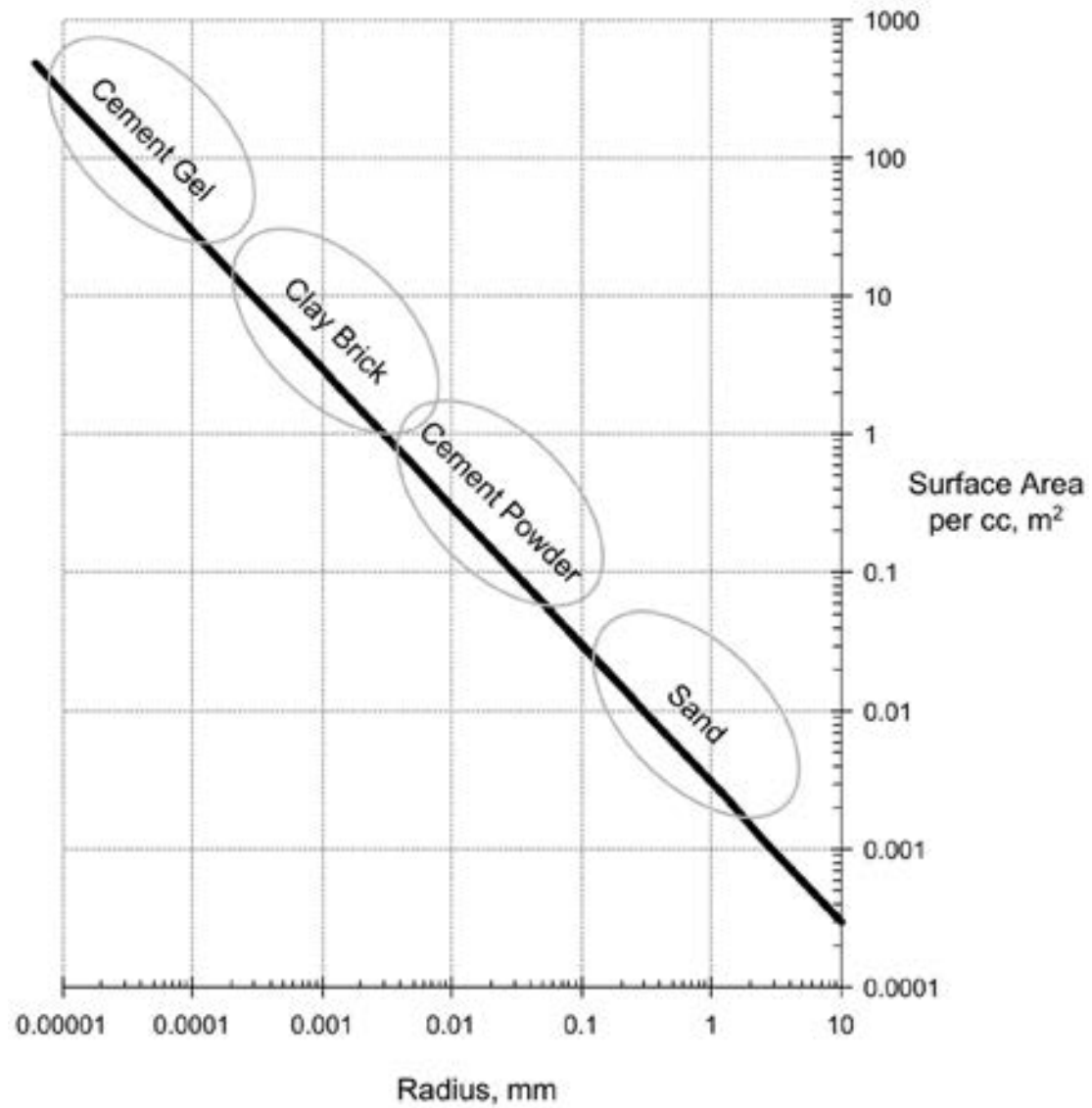
Water (20 C)	73 dynes/cm
Water (100 C)	59 dynes/cm
Epoxy	46 dynes/cm
Polyethylene	31 dynes/cm
Soapy water	30 dynes/cm
Paraffin wax	25 dynes/cm
Silicone	24 dynes/cm
Teflon	18 dynes/cm

# Calculating capillary rise

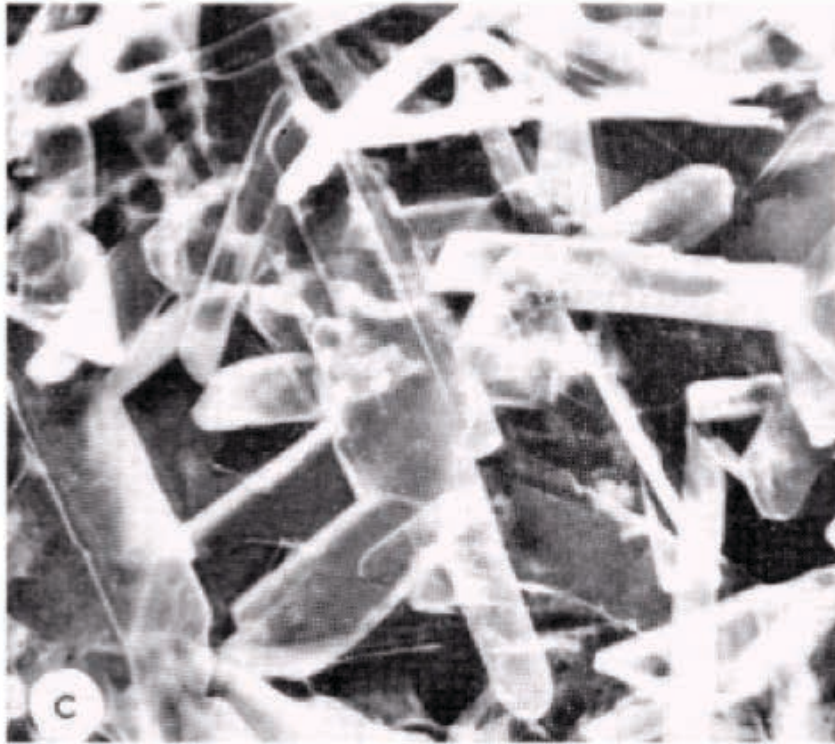


# Capillary rise versus diameter

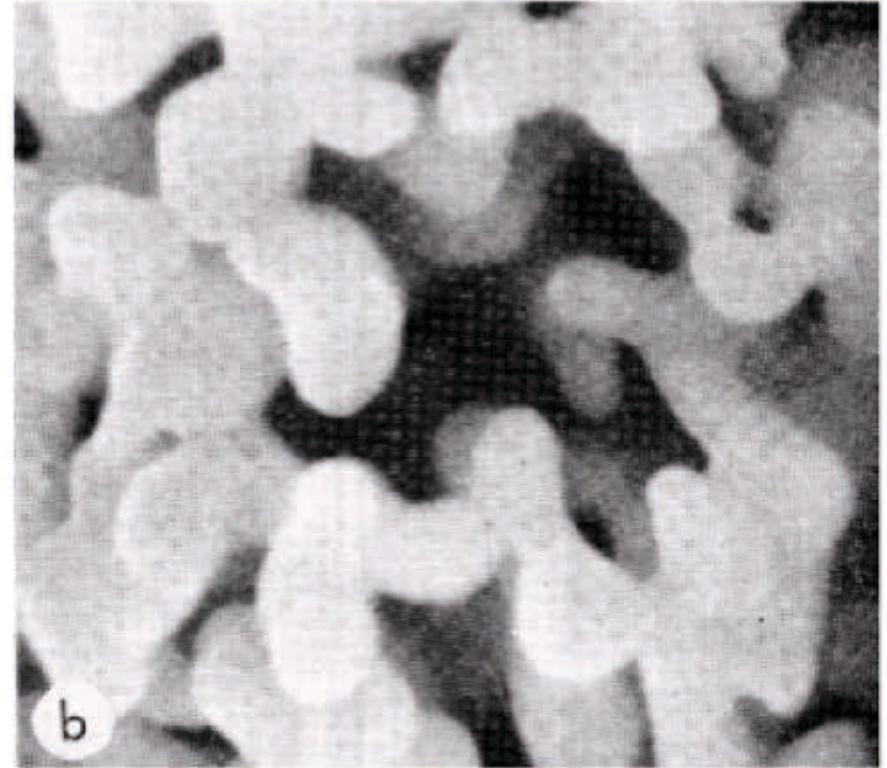




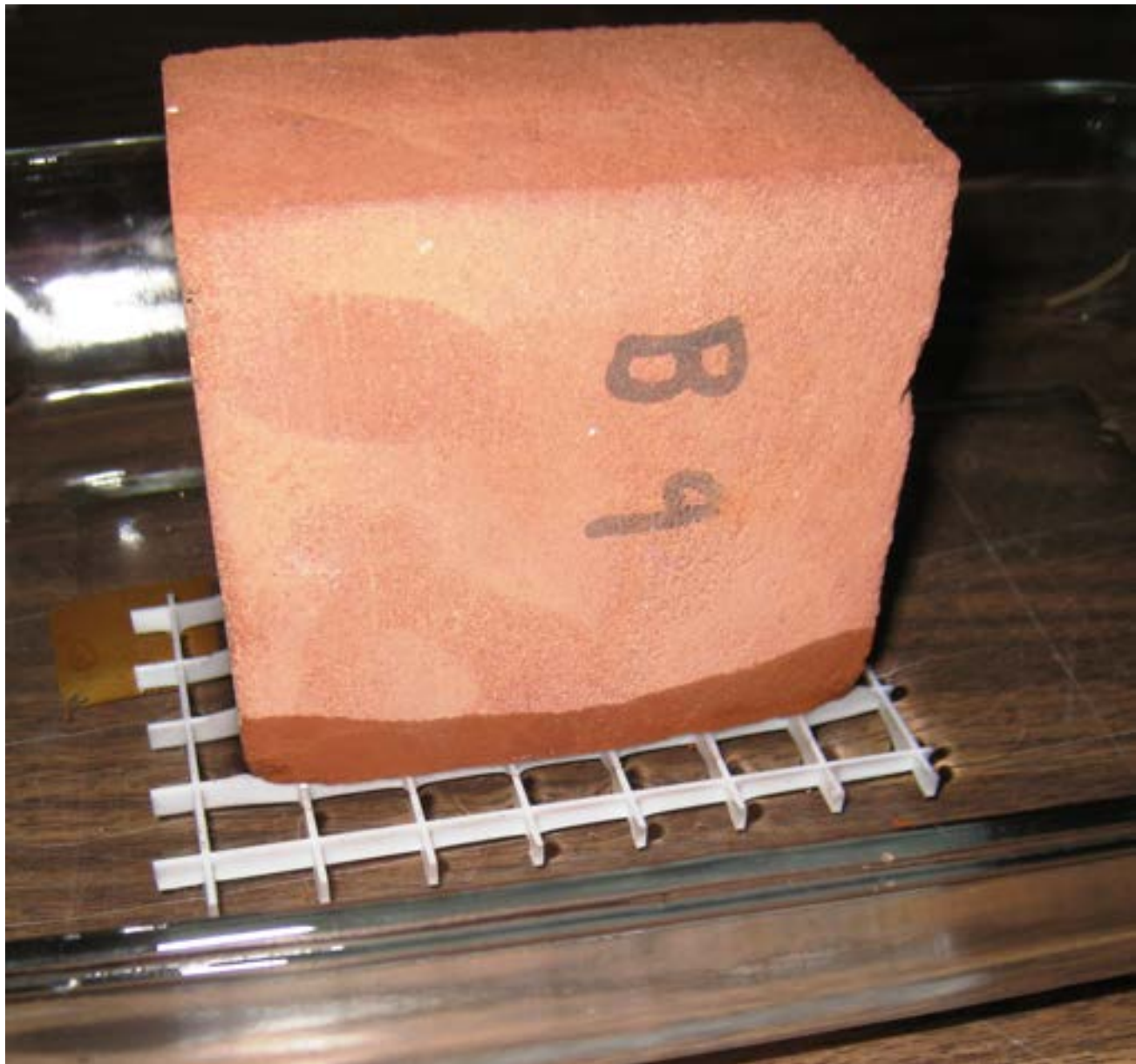
Surface area vs. particle size  
From Straube & Burnett, 2005



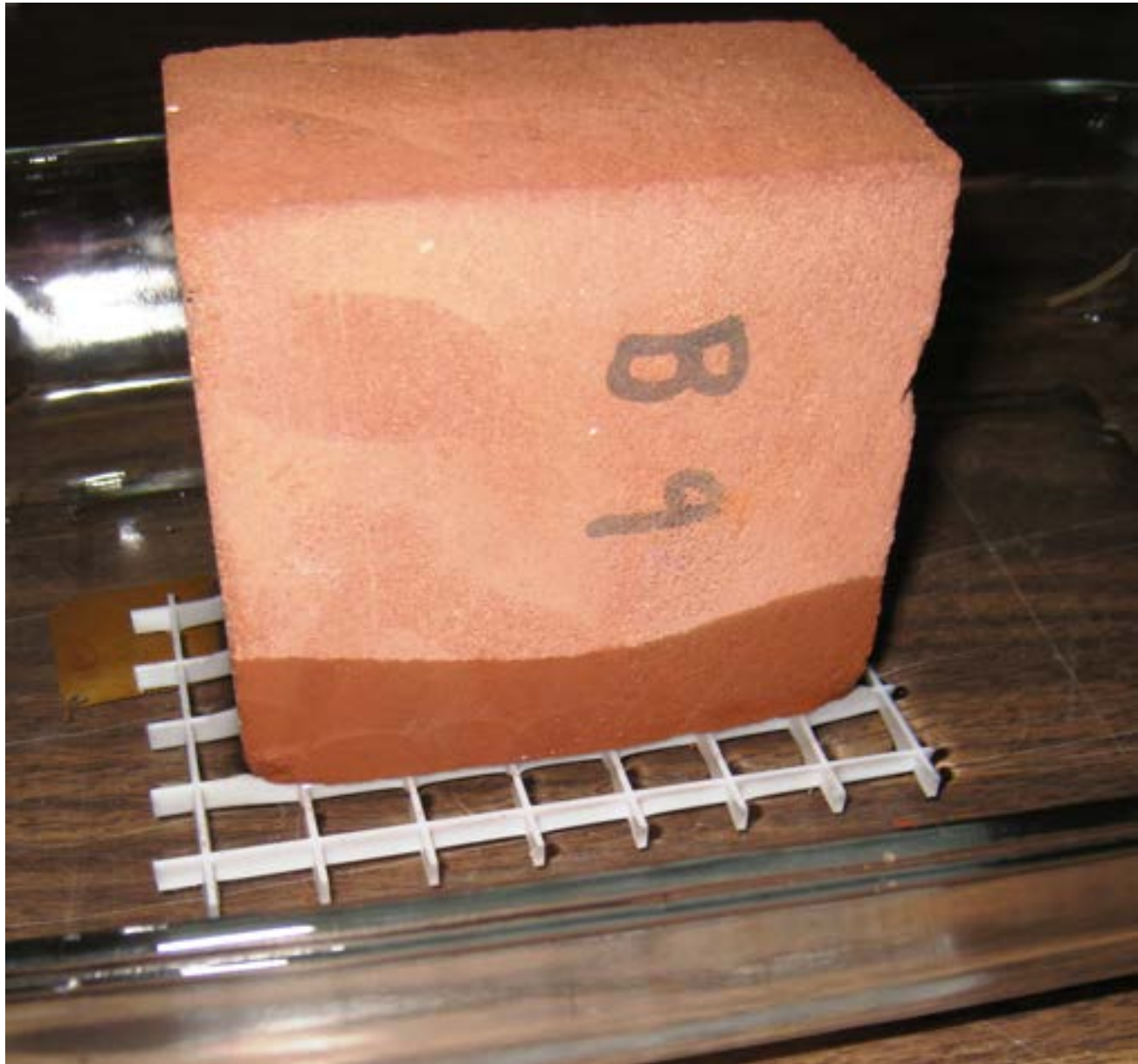
*Figure 1c. Gypsum, hydrated from plaster of paris and water, porosity 30 per cent.*

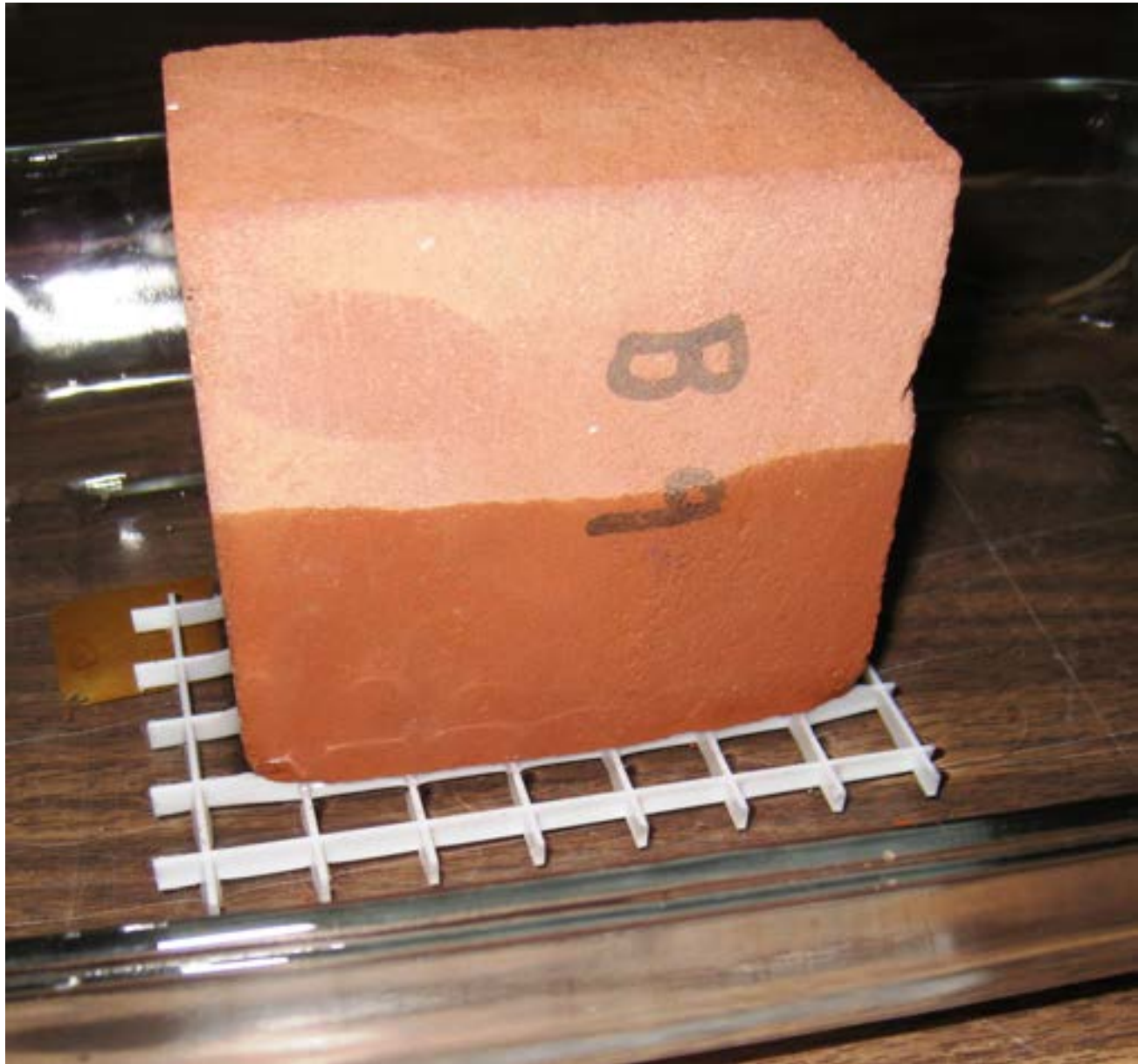


*Figure 1b. Brick, sintered clay, porosity 40 per cent.*

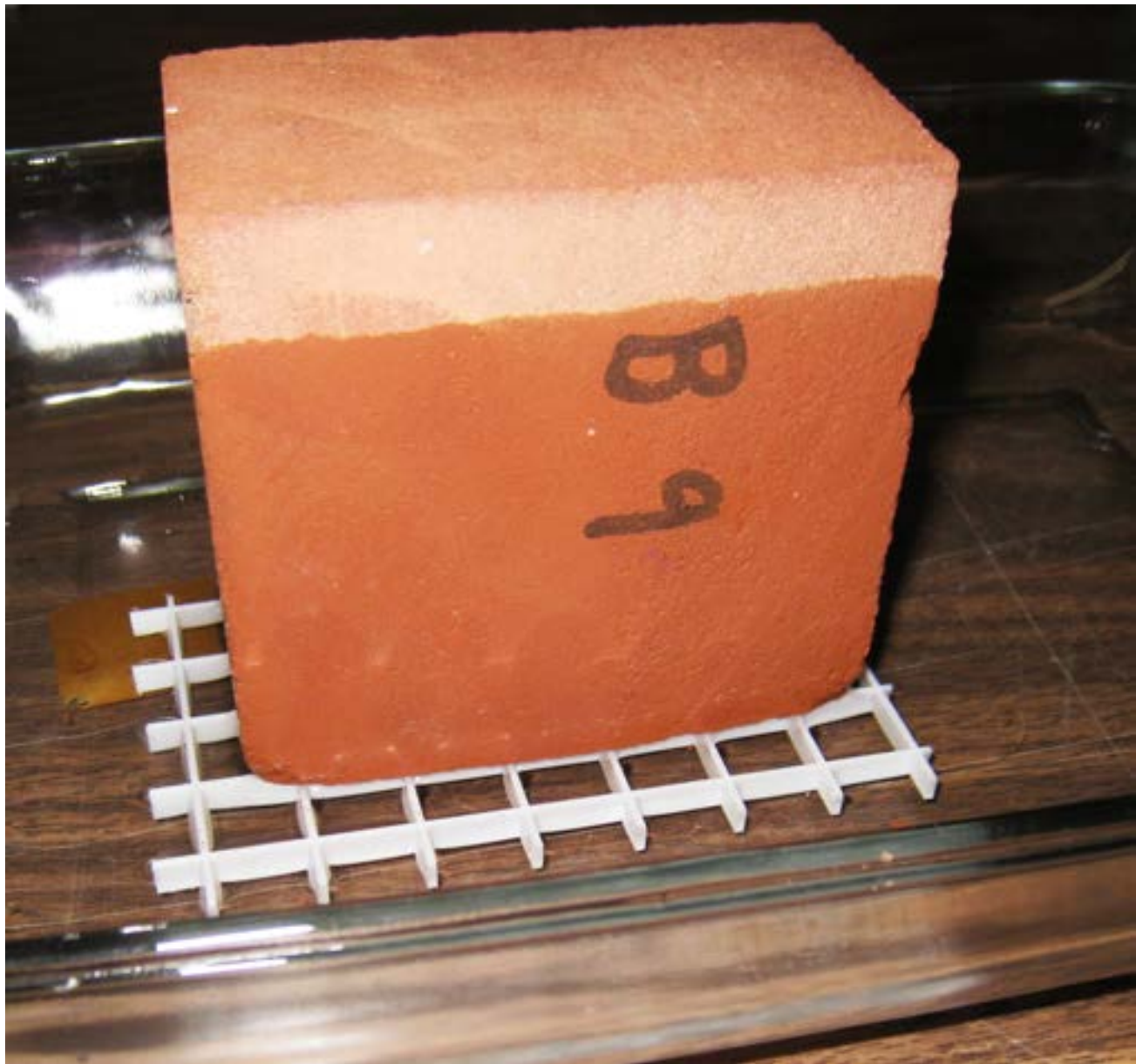


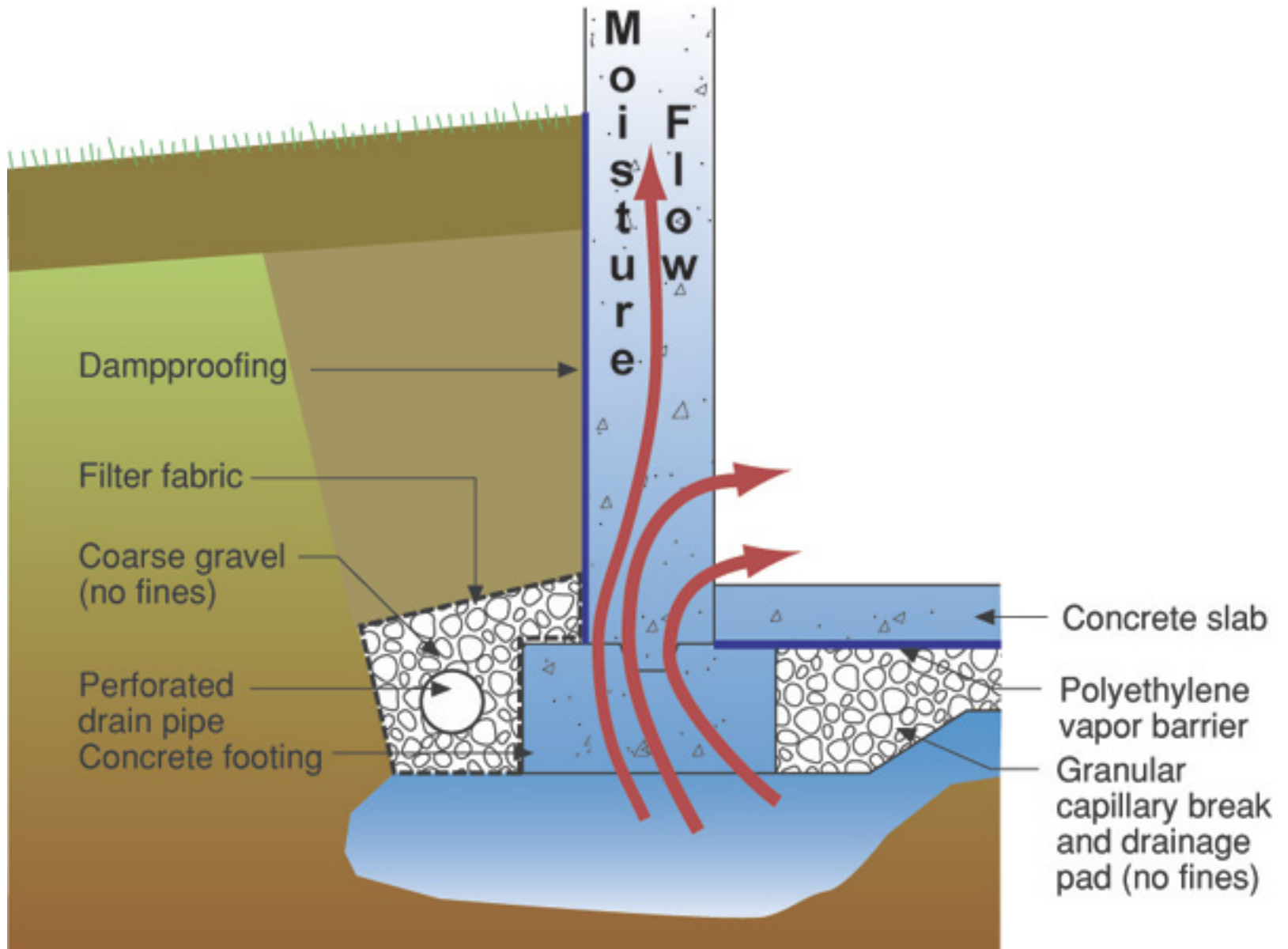


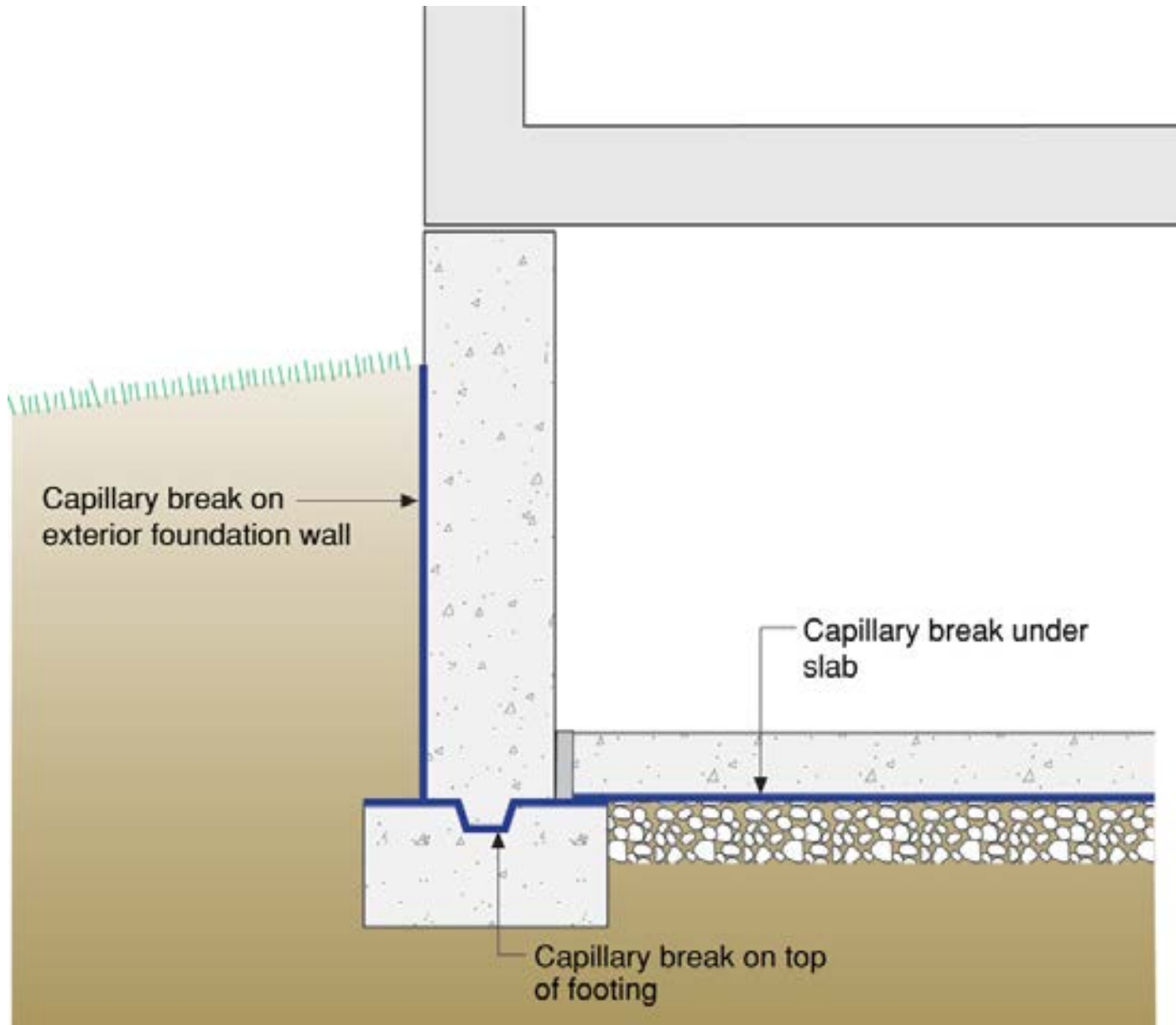


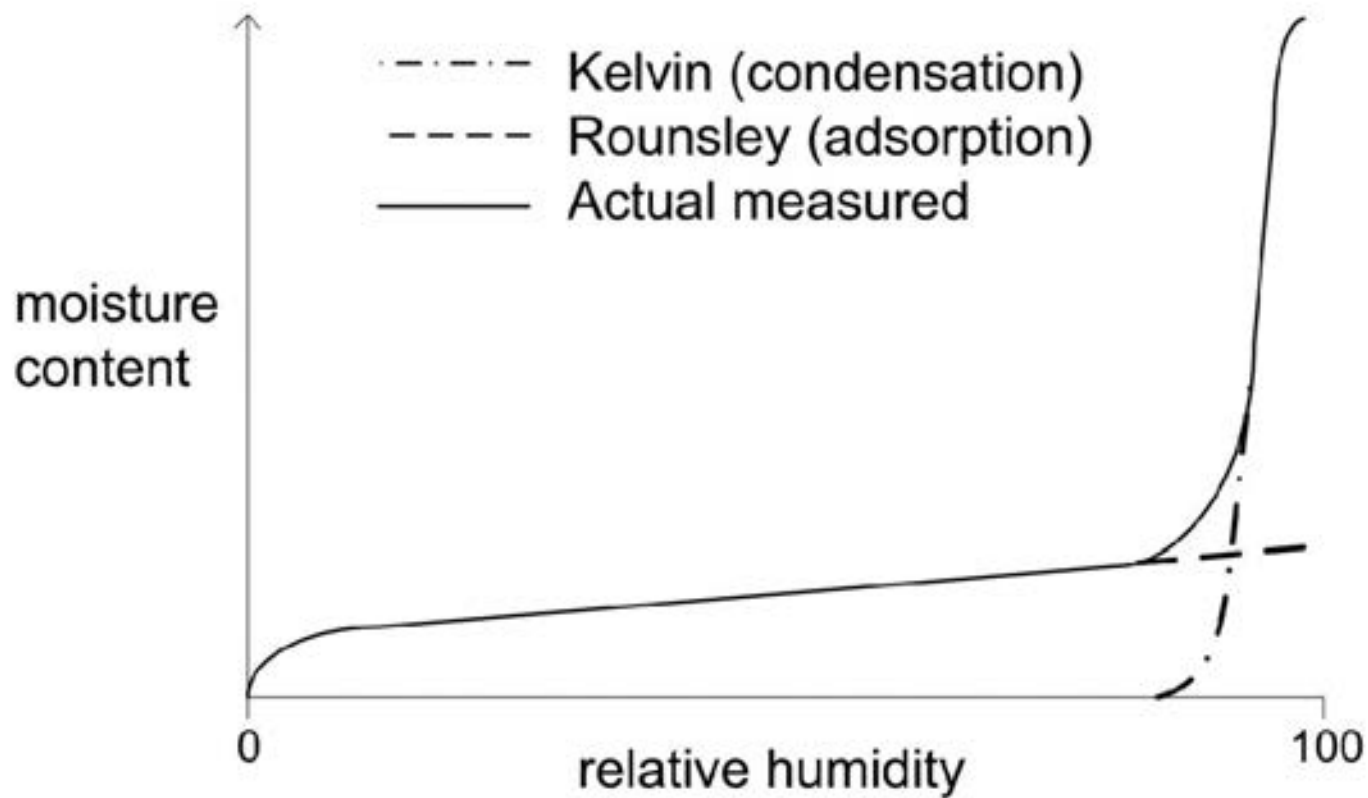




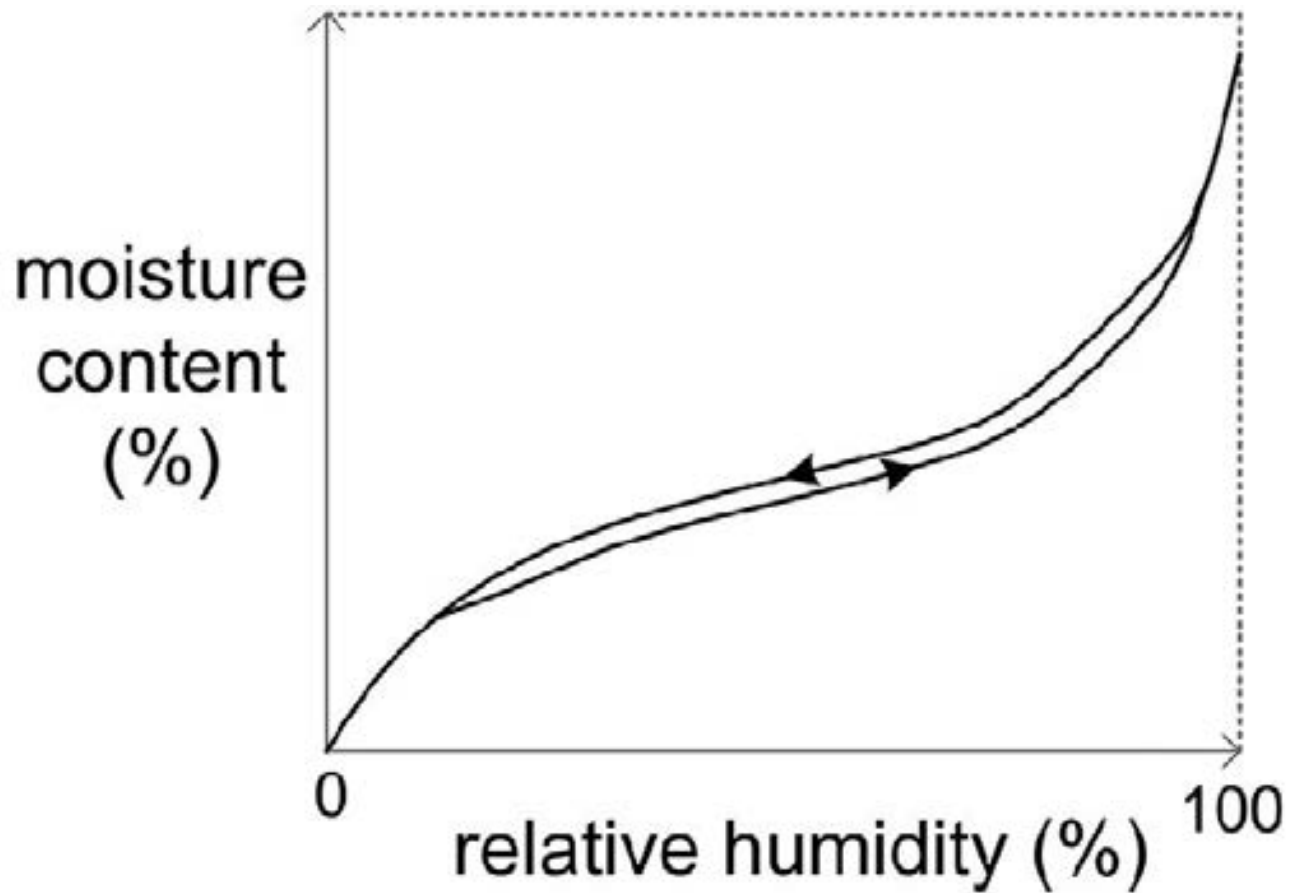






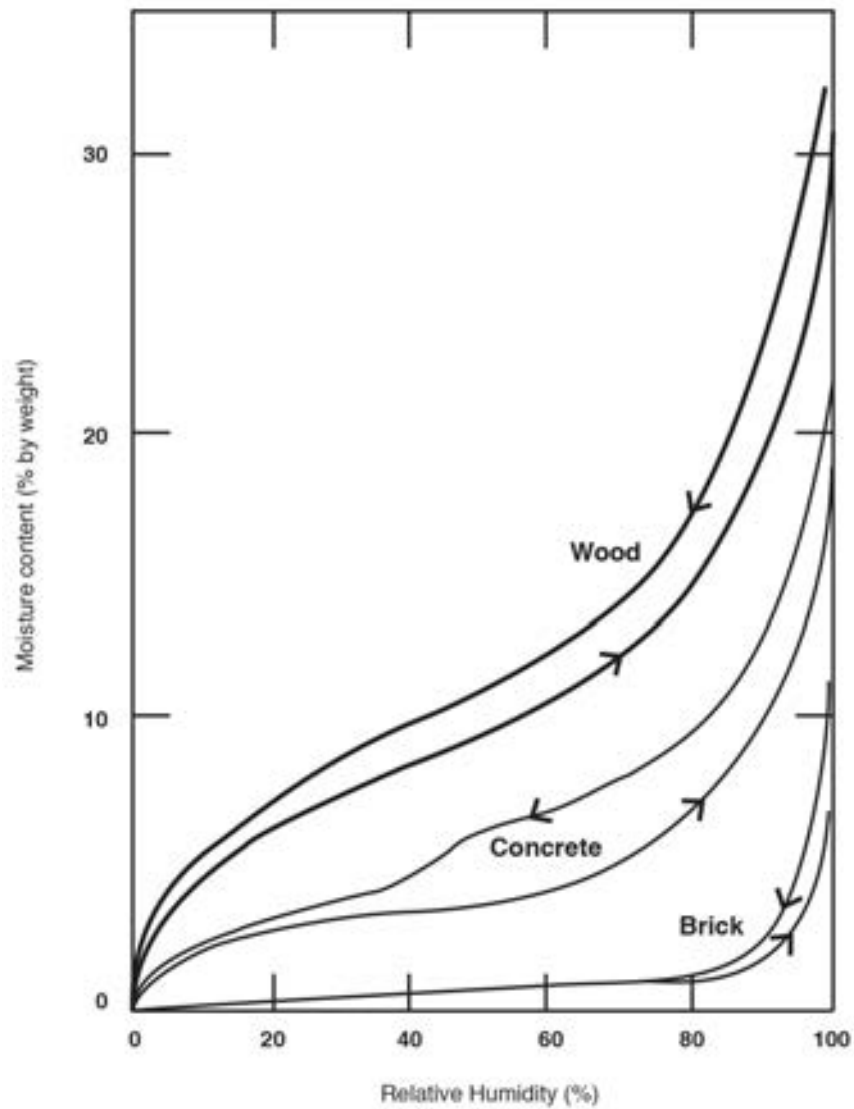


**Typical predicted sorption isotherm according to Kelvin equation  
and modified BET theory**  
From Straube & Burnett, 2005

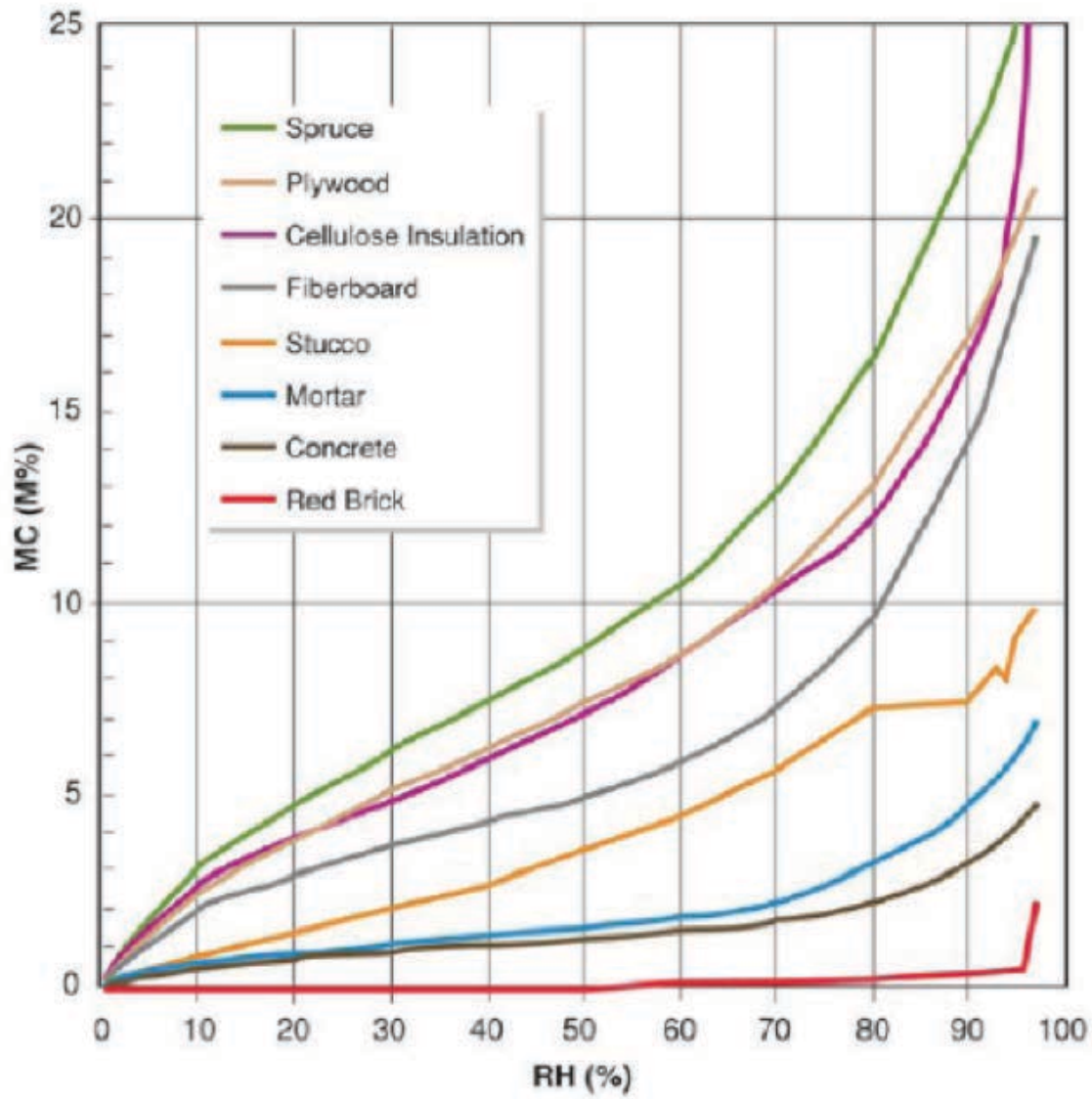


**Typical sorption isotherm of a  
hygroscopic material**

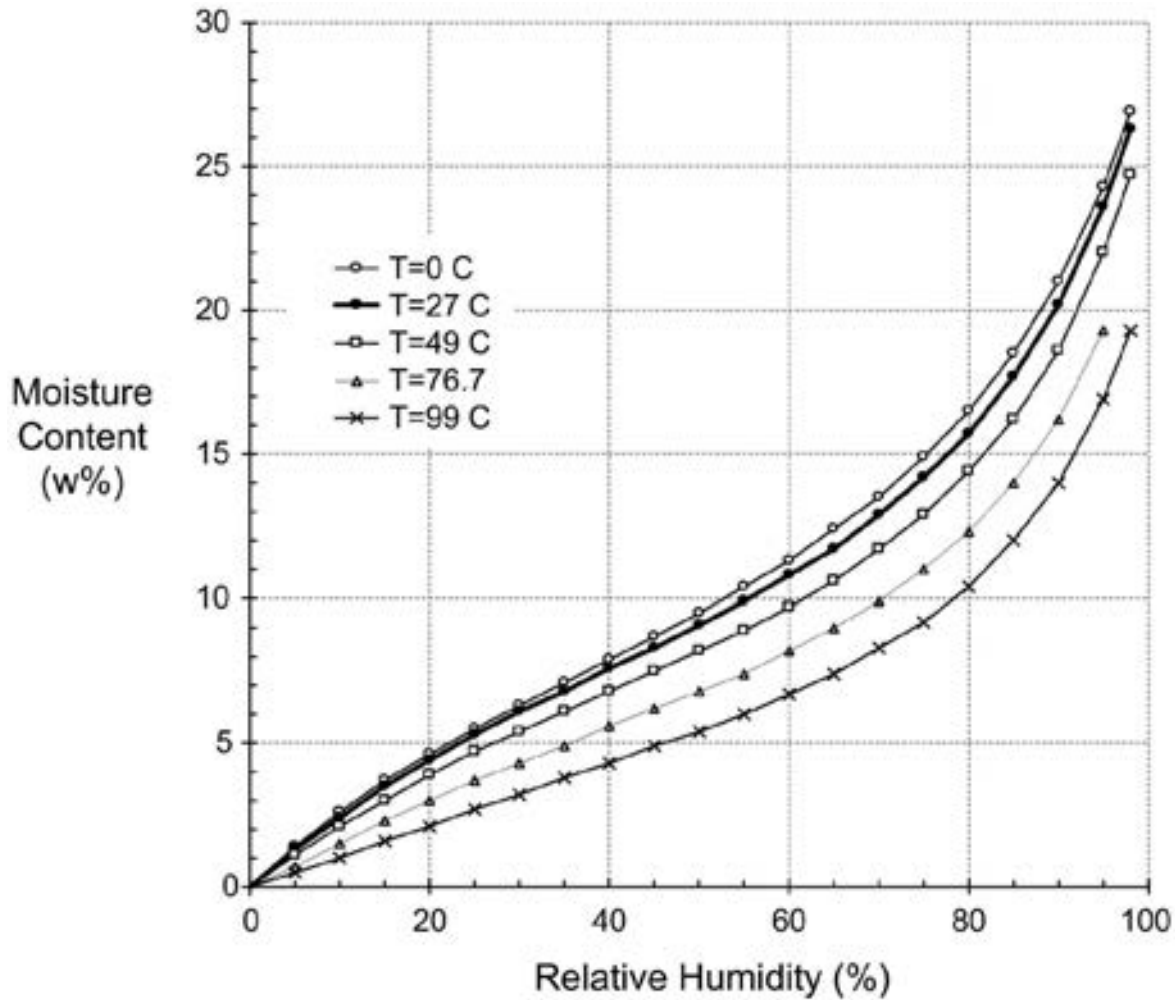
From Straube & Burnett, 2005



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



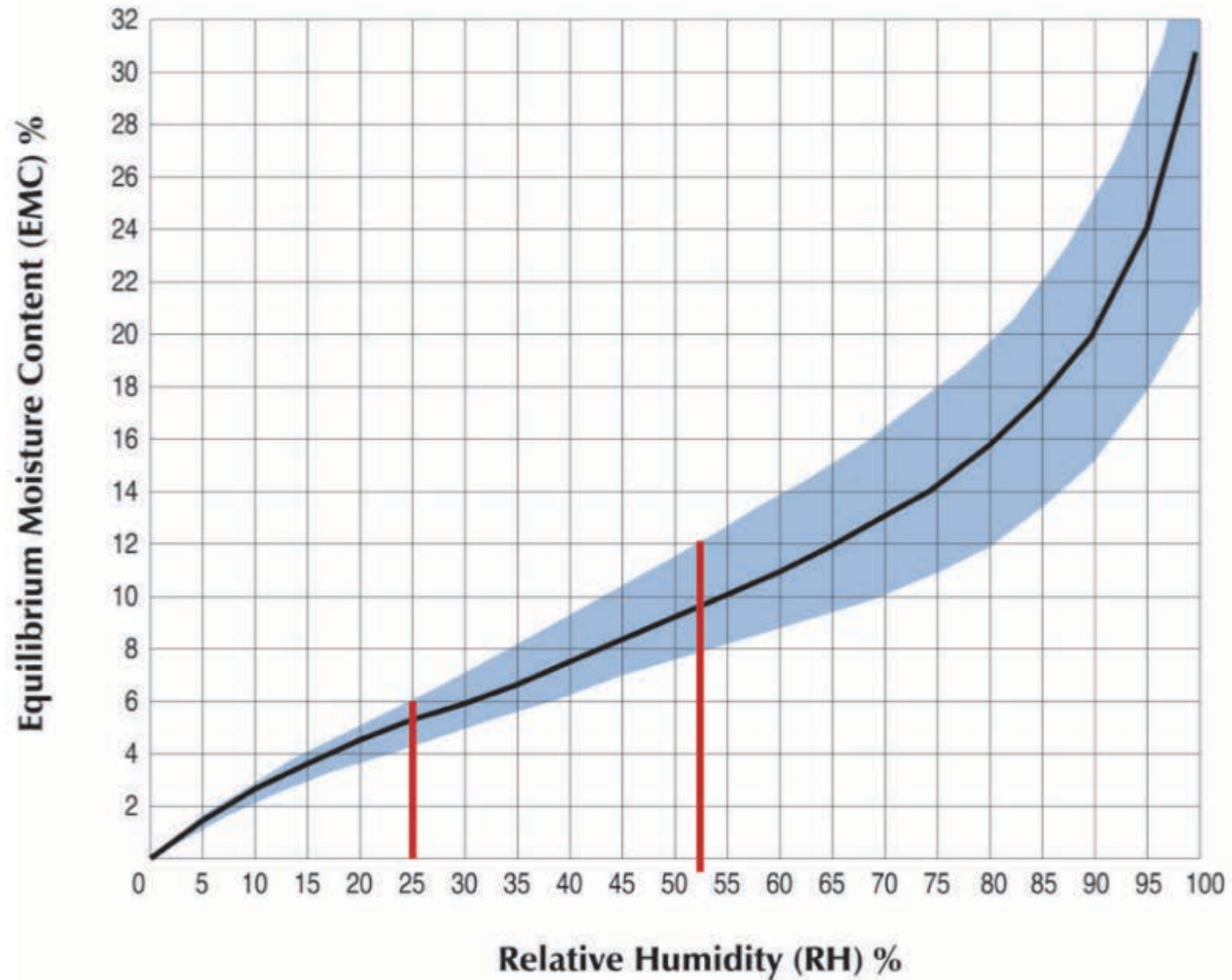




Average sorption isotherm for wood as a function of temperature  
 From Straube & Burnett, 2005

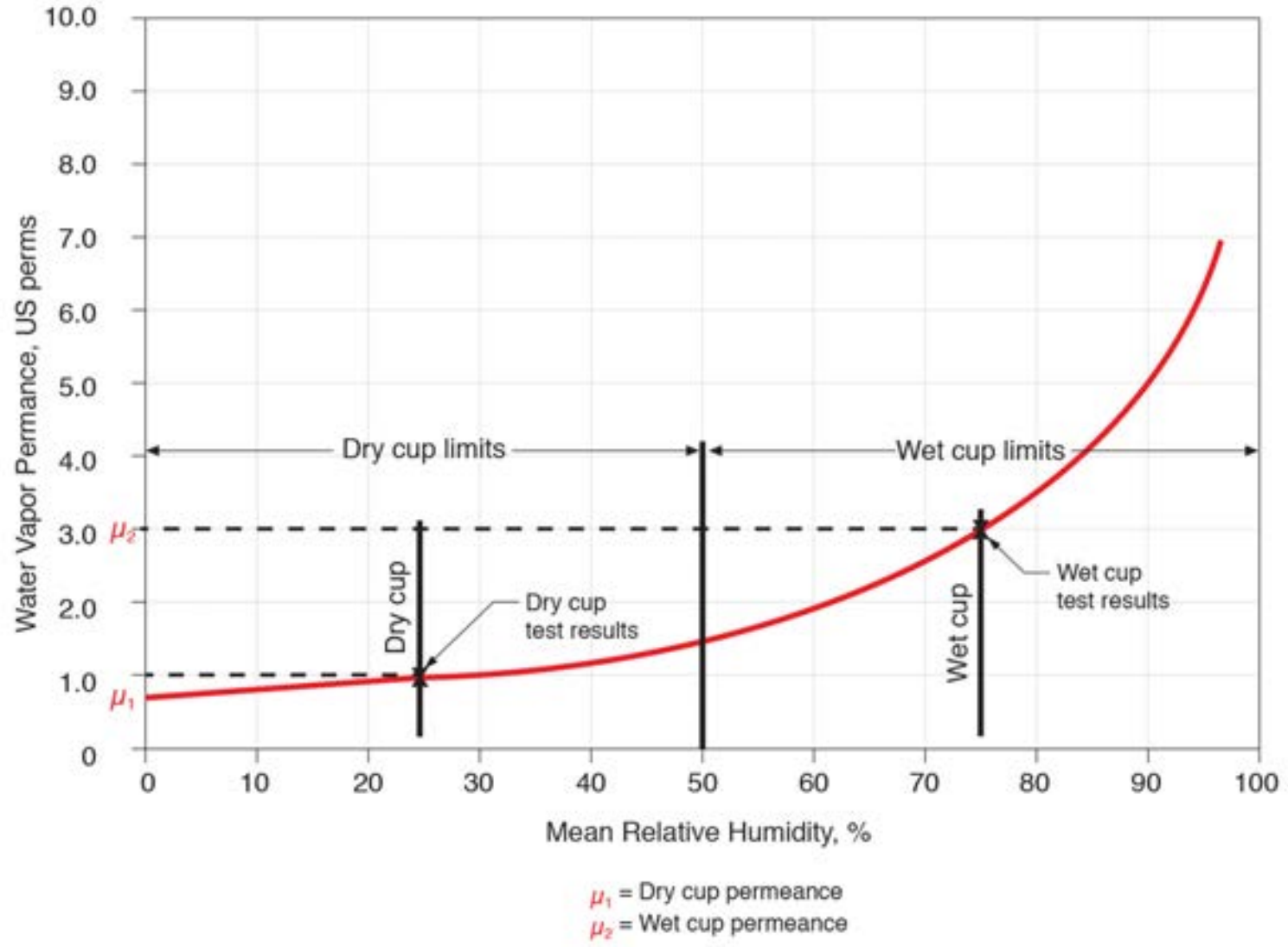


## Moisture Content vs. Relative Humidity





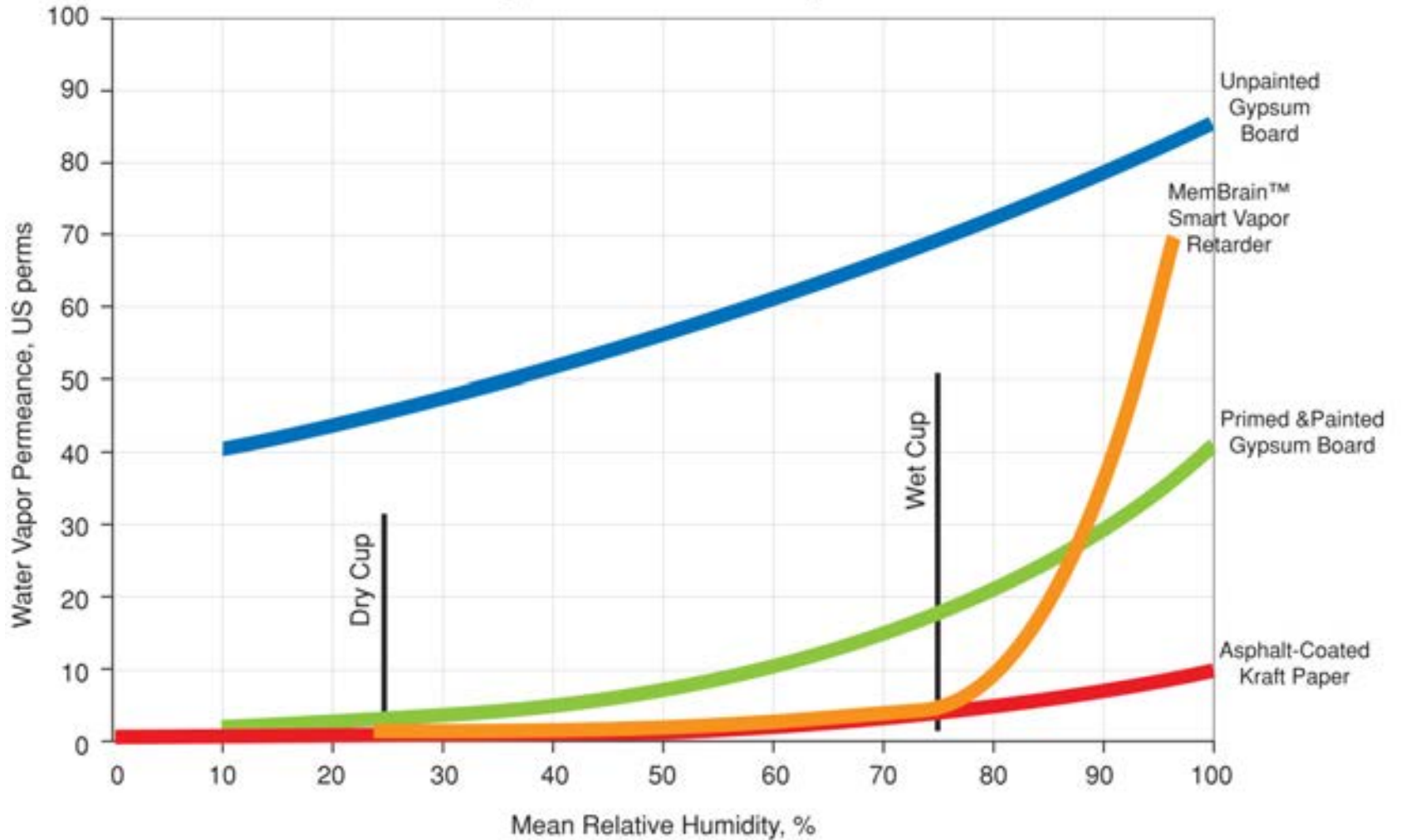
## Water Vapor Permeance vs. Relative Humidity



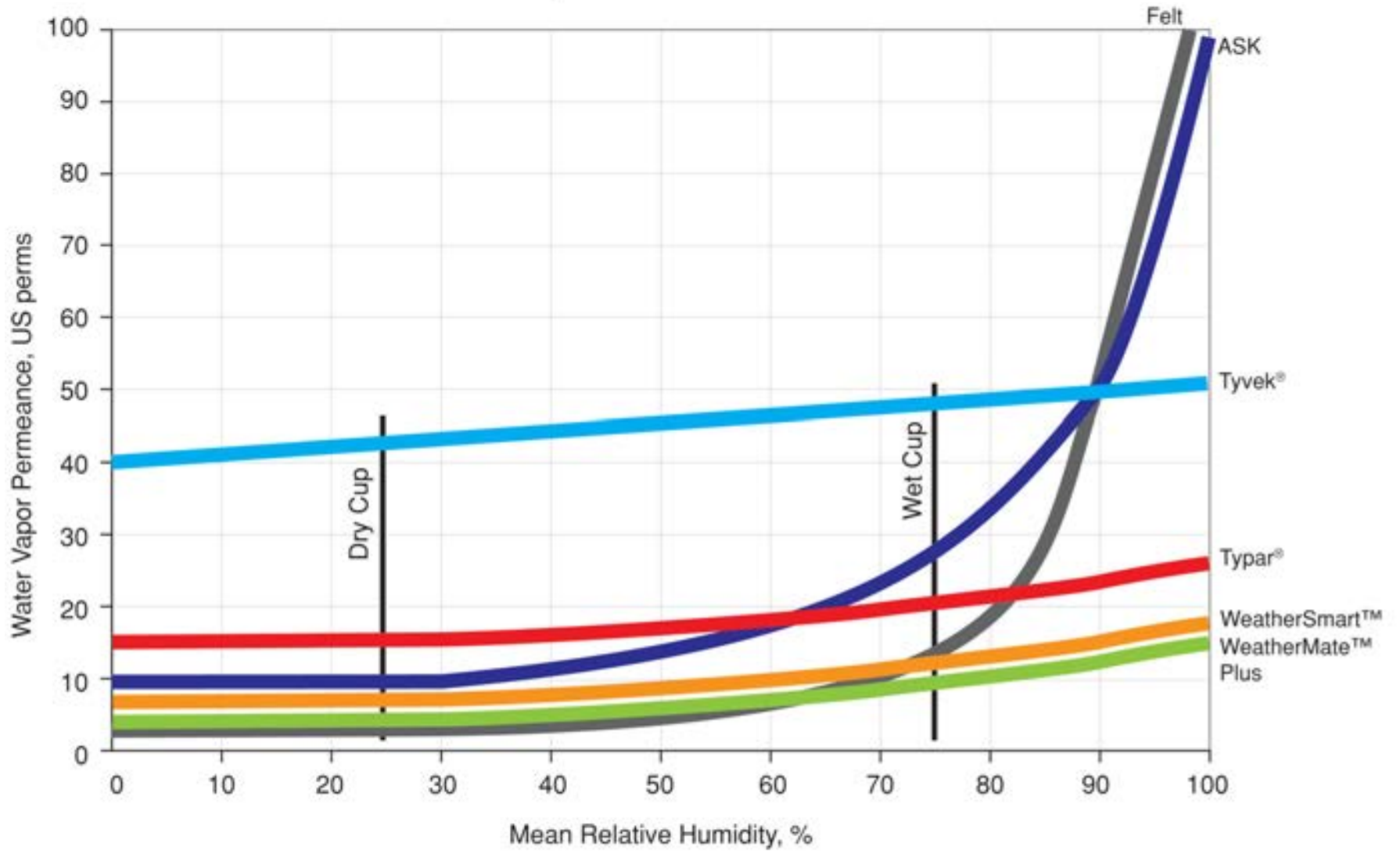




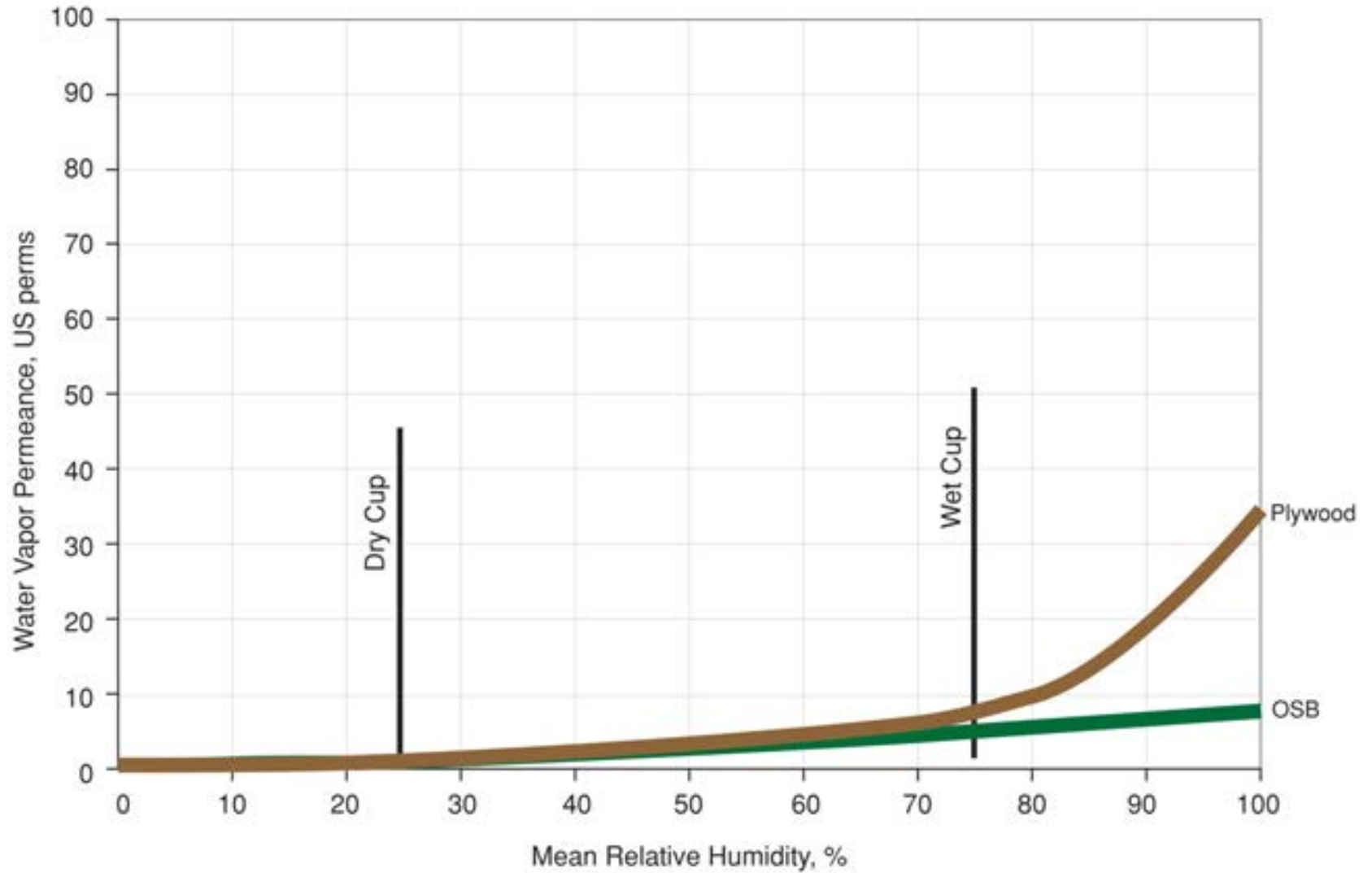
### Water Vapor Permeance of MemBrain™ Smart Vapor Retarder, Primed and Painted Gypsum Board, Unpainted Gypsum Board and Asphalt-Coated Kraft Paper



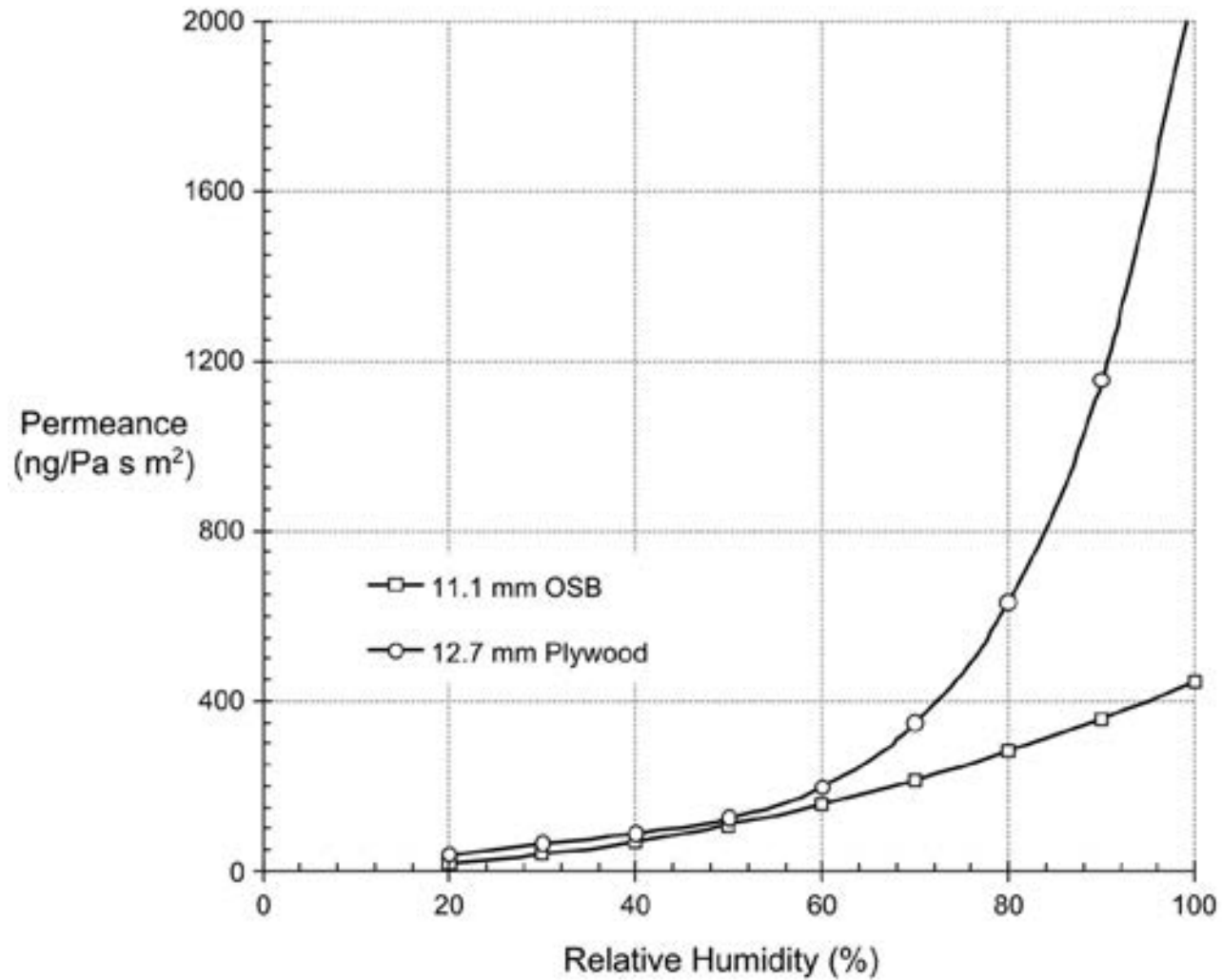
### Water Vapor Permeance of WRB's



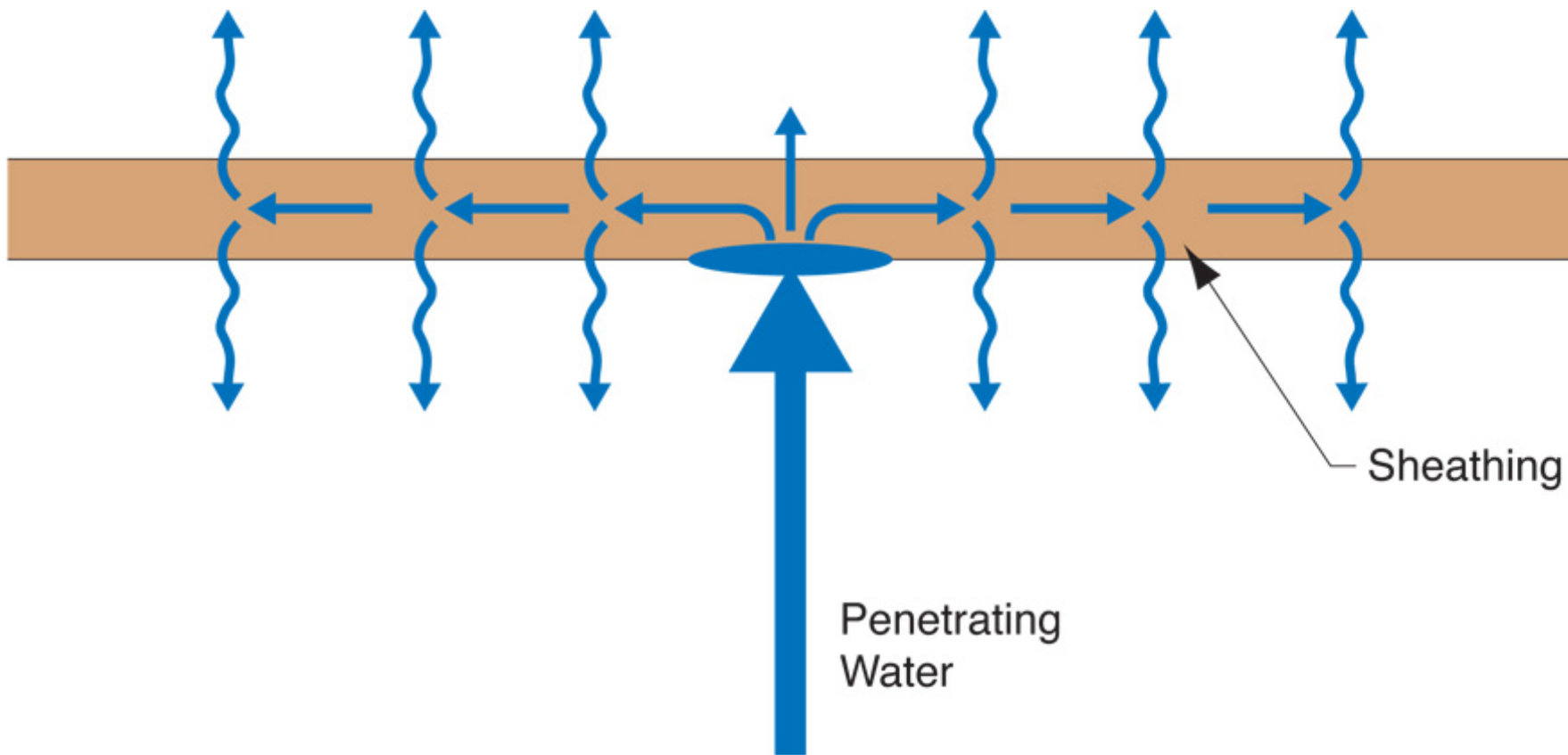
## Water Vapor Permeance of Sheathing Materials

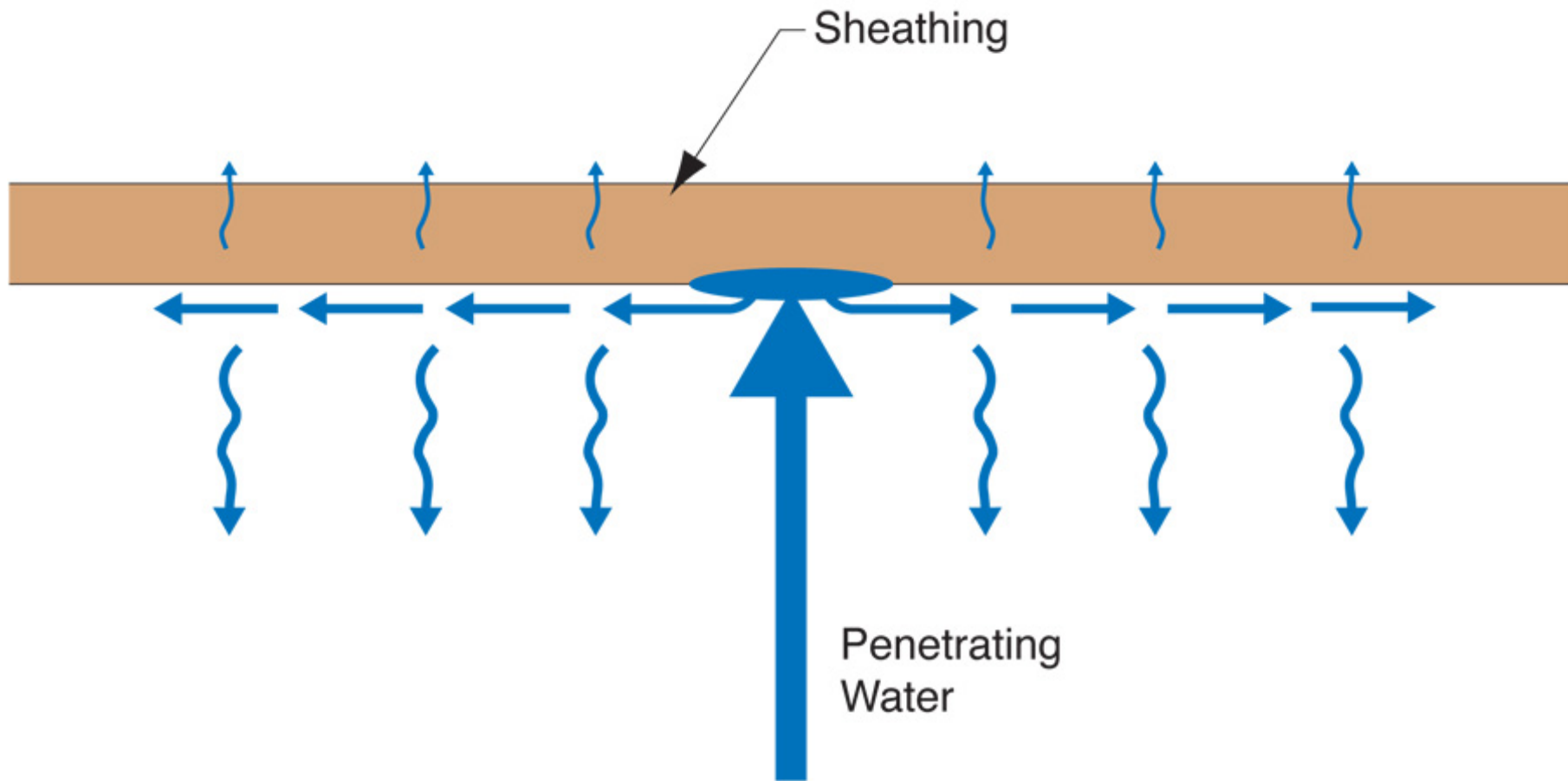




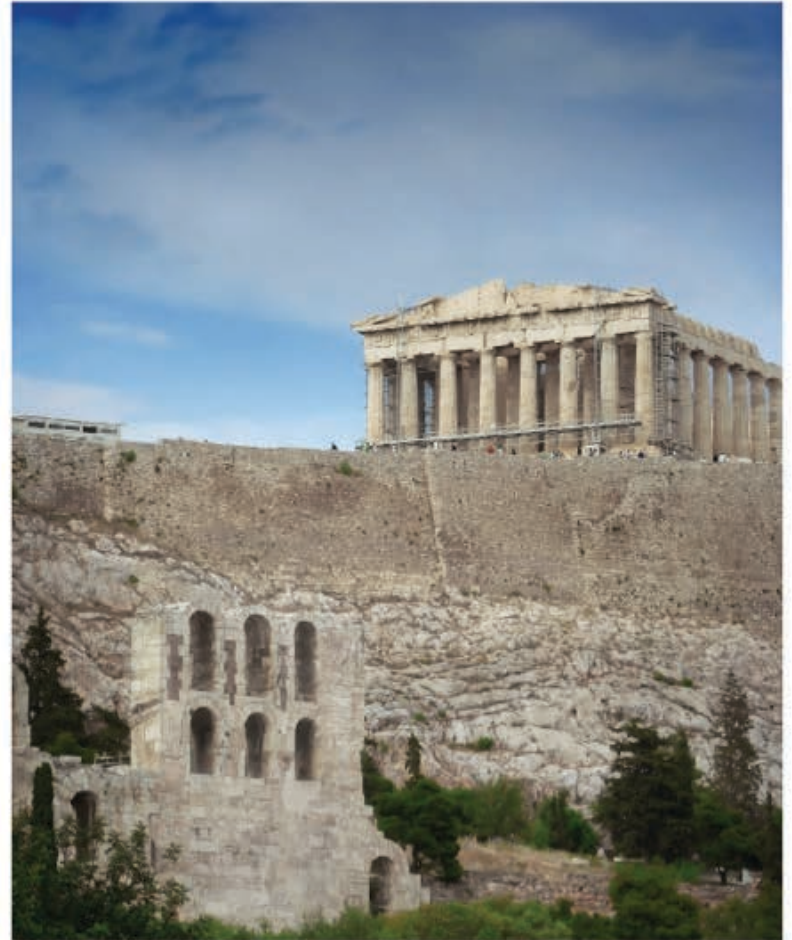


Vapor permeability test results for wood-based products as a function of RH  
 [Kumaran *et al* 2002]  
 From Straube & Burnett, 2005



















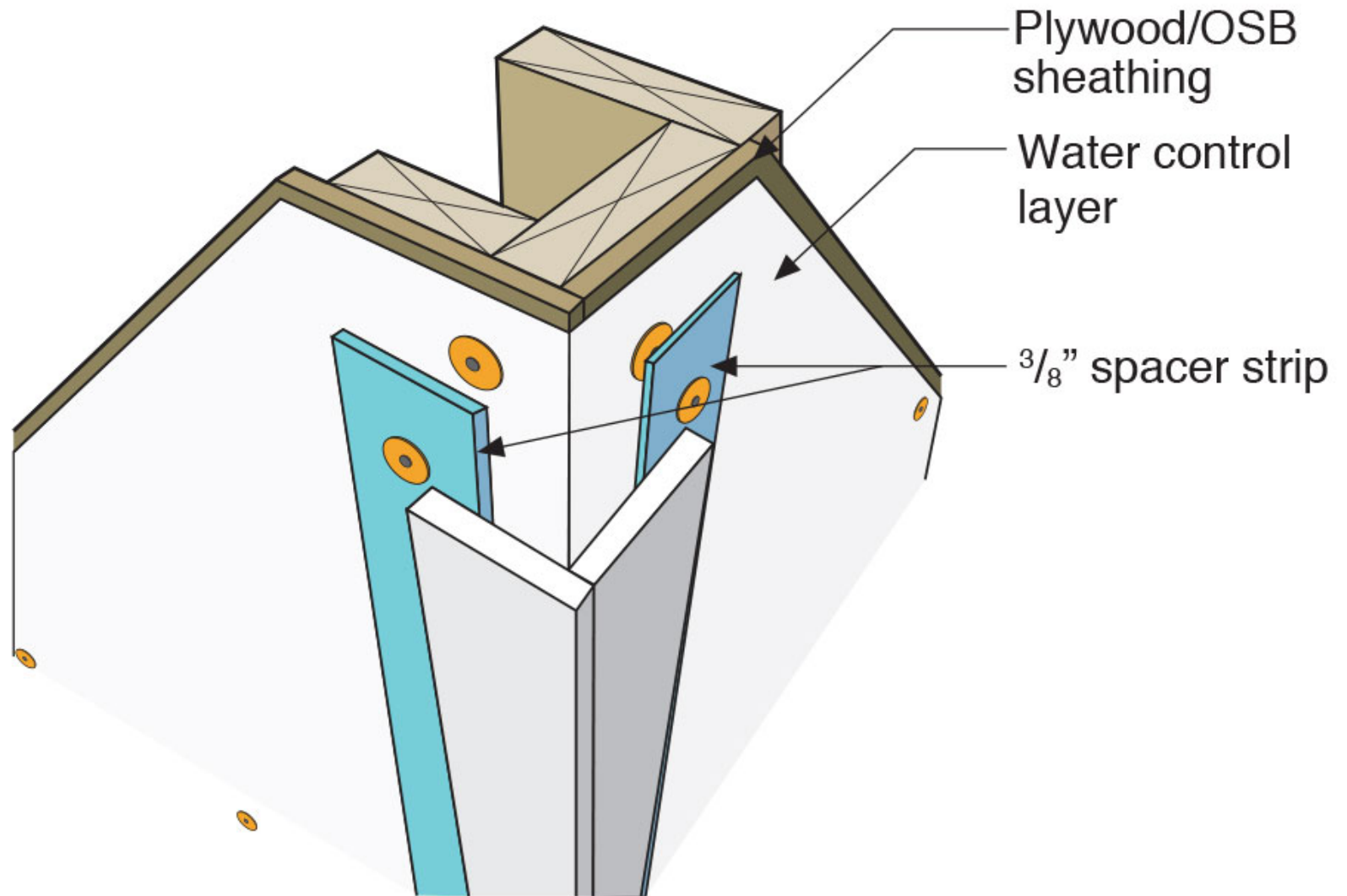


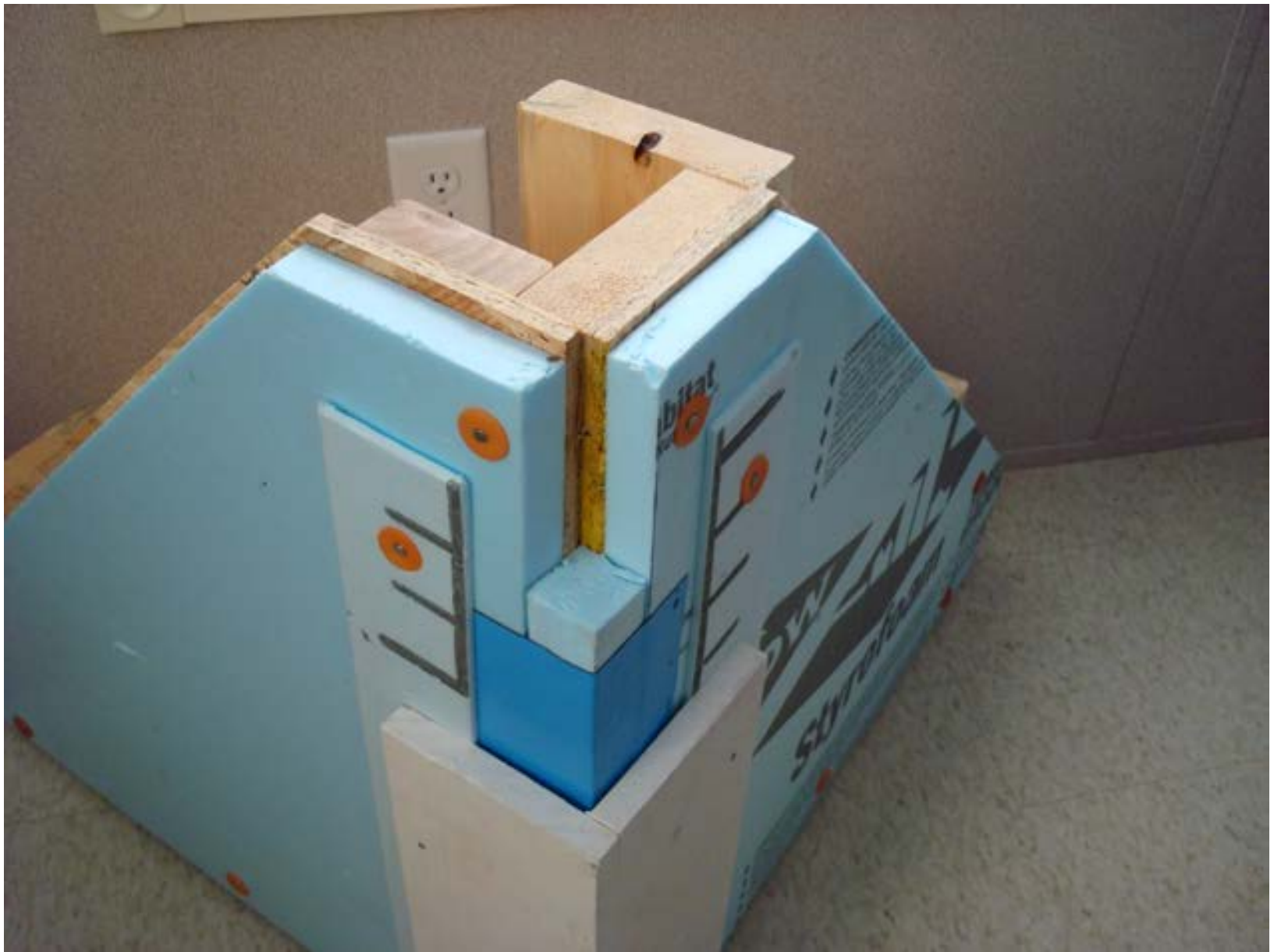












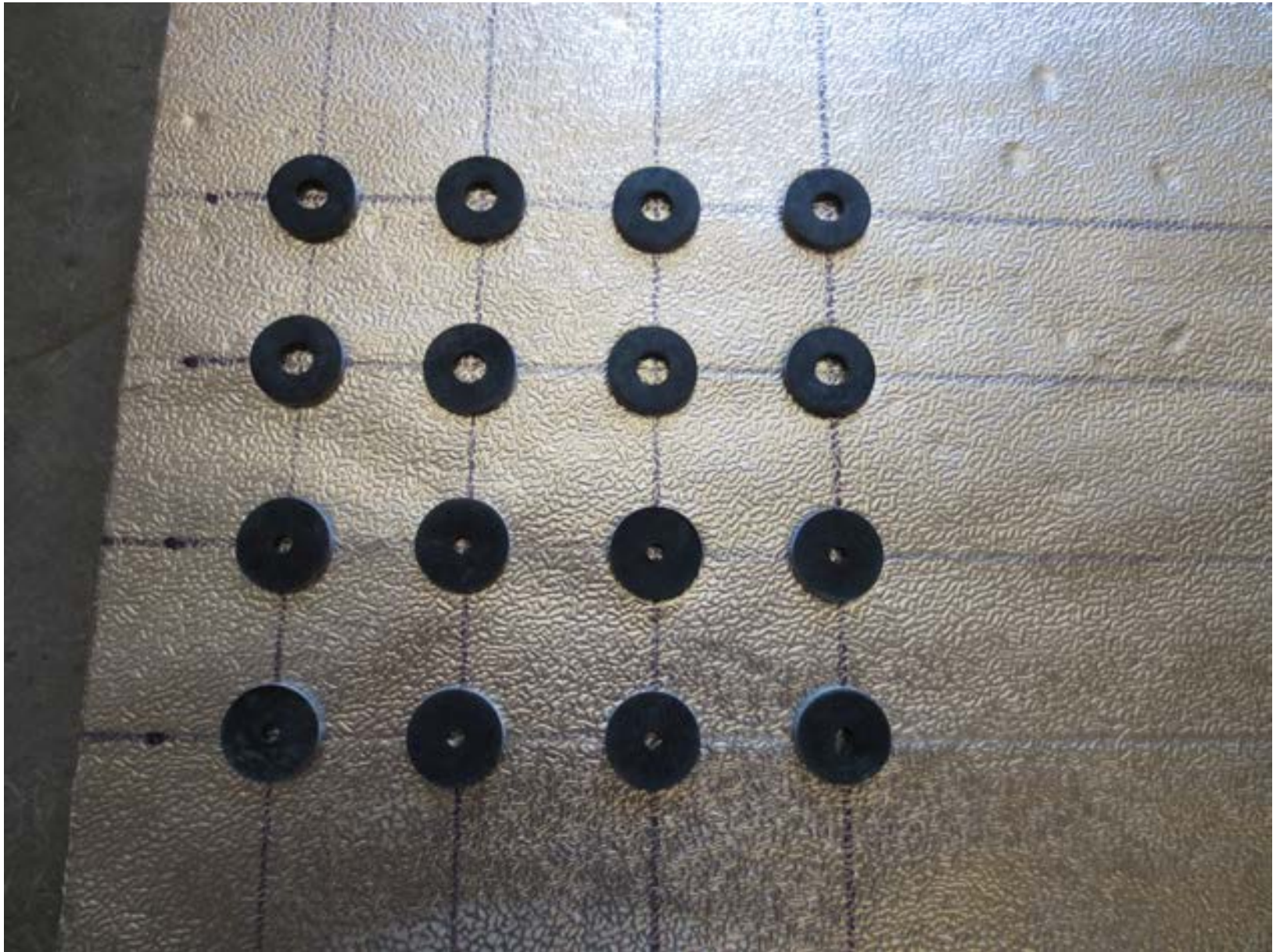




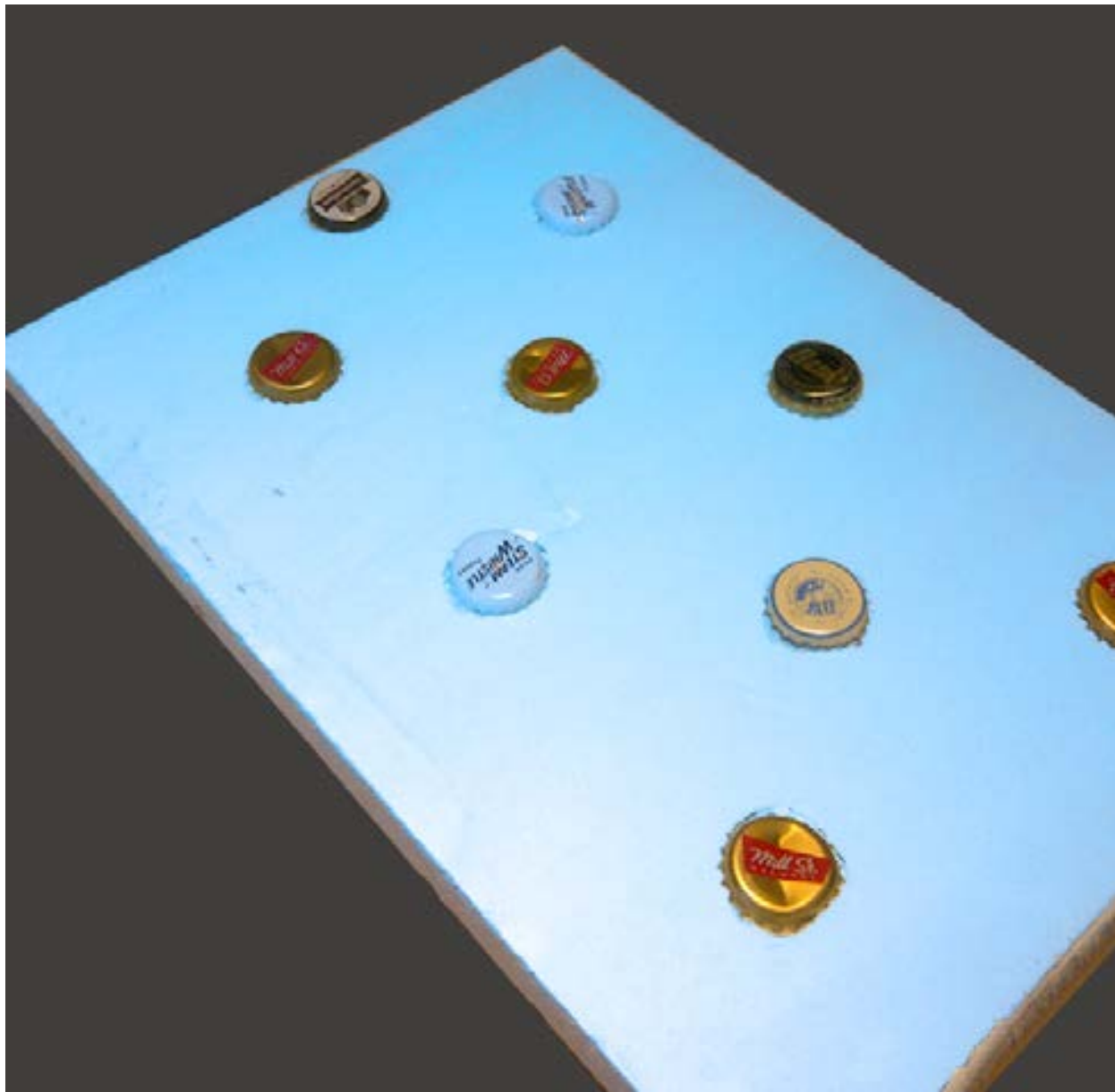


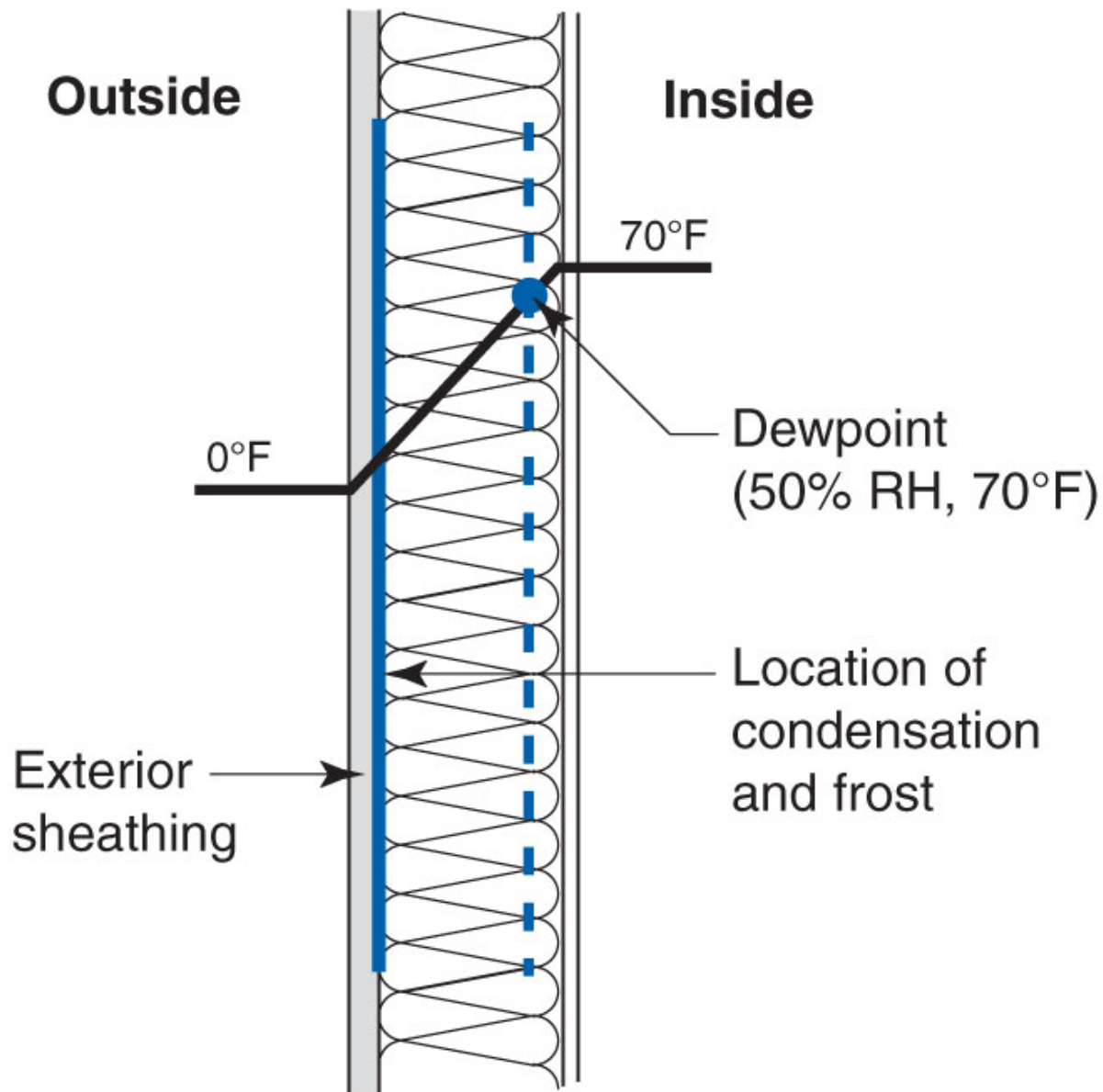


# Rain Screen



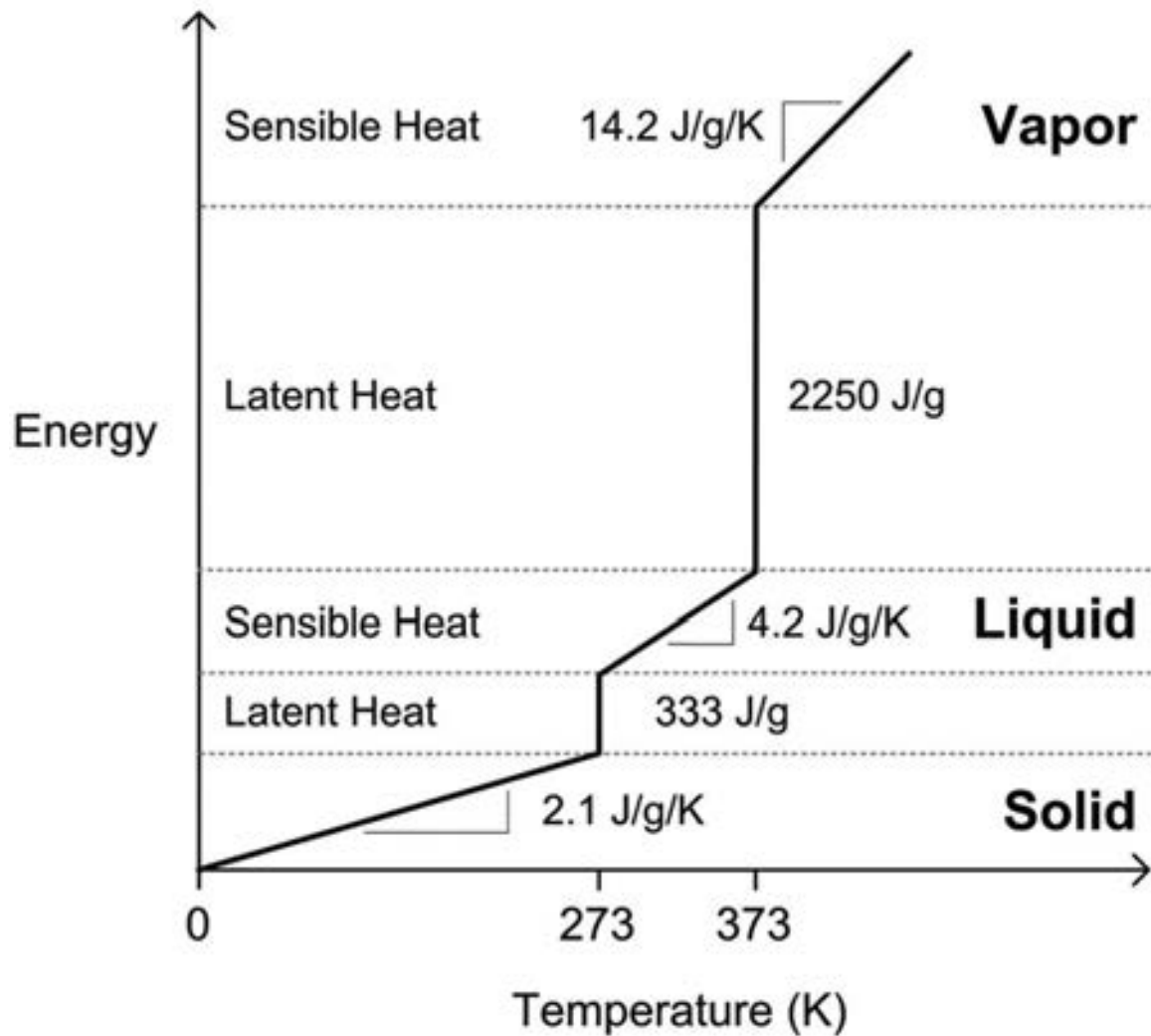
# Beer Screen?







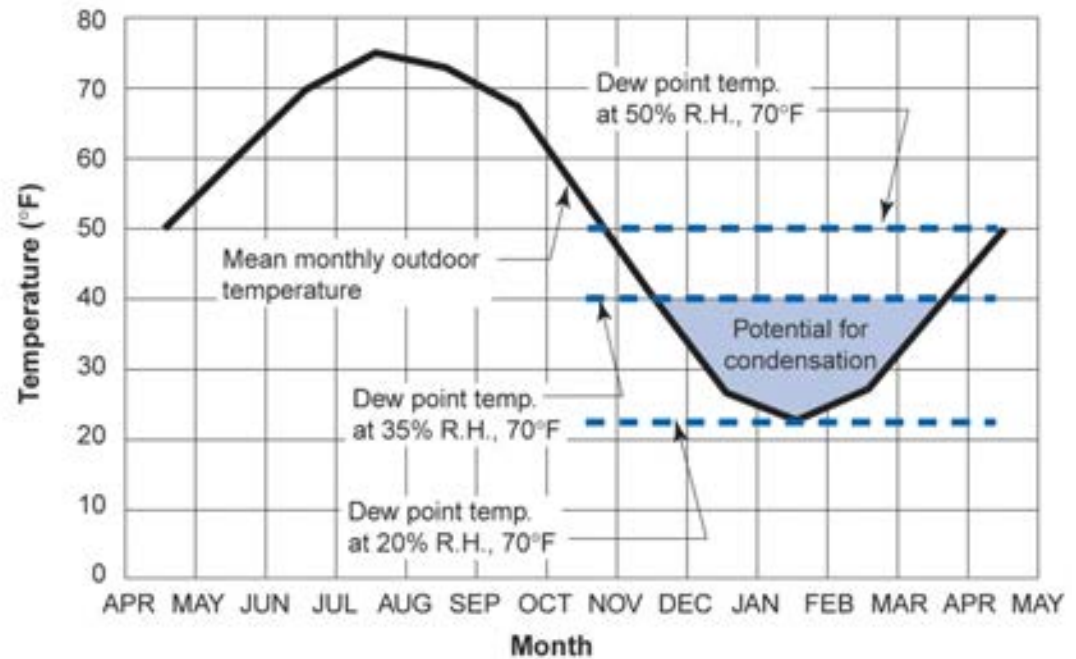
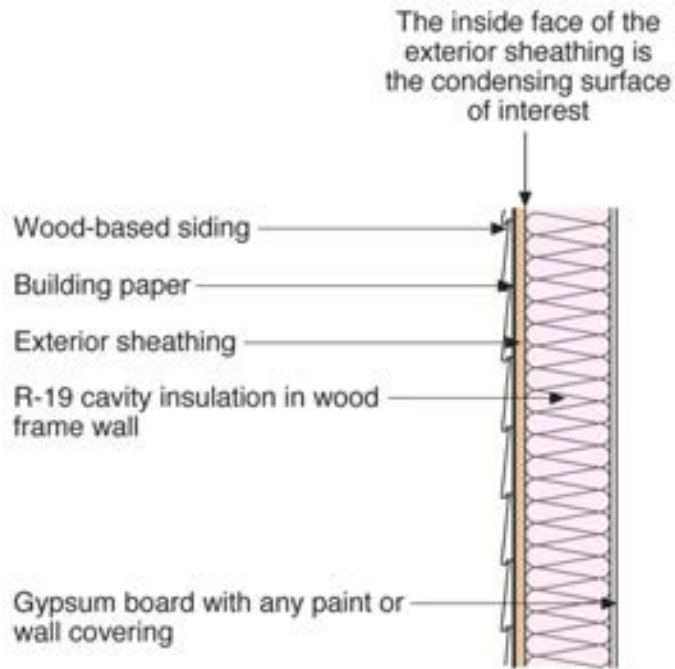


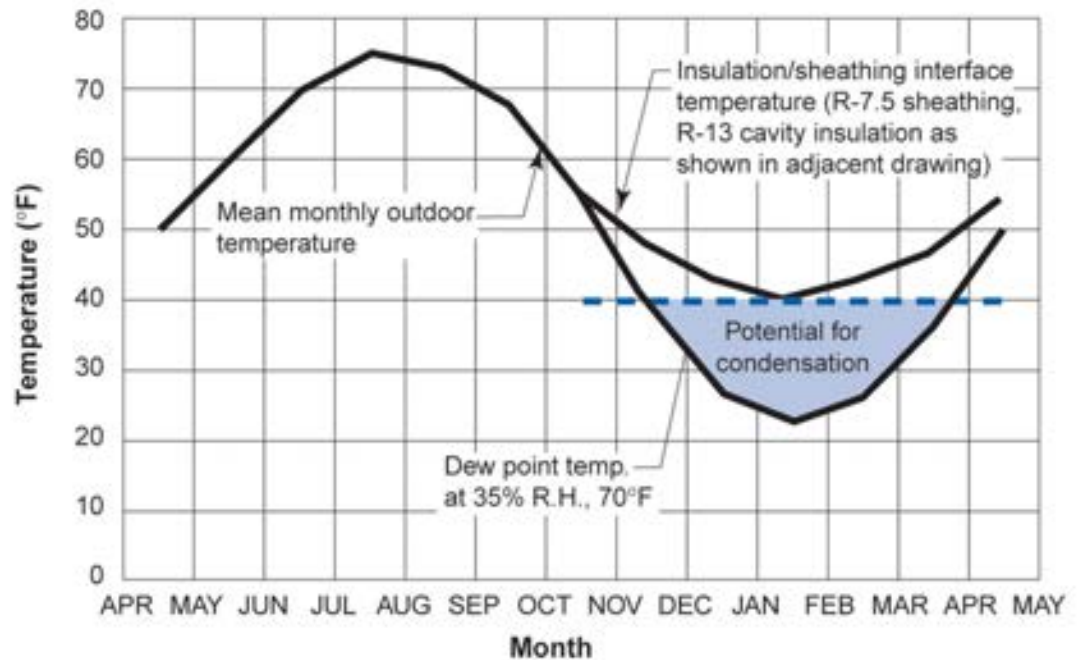
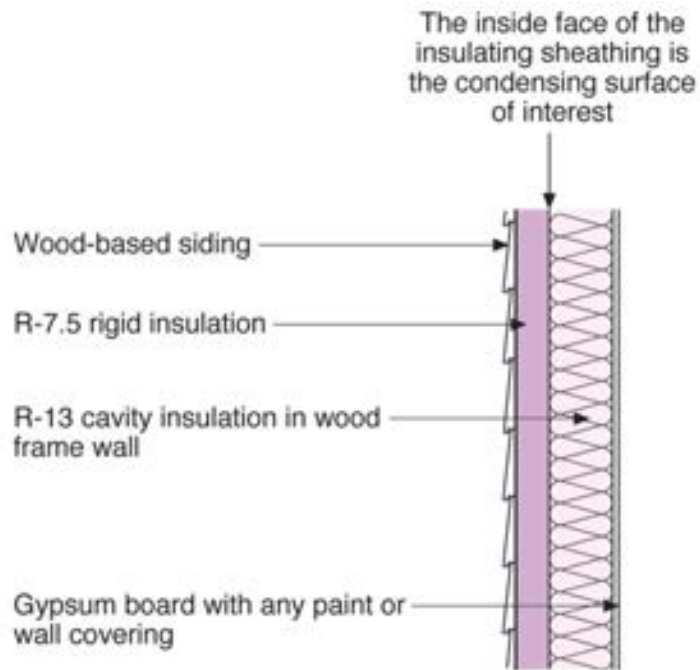


**Simple linearized energy-temperature relation for water**

From Straube & Burnett, 2005









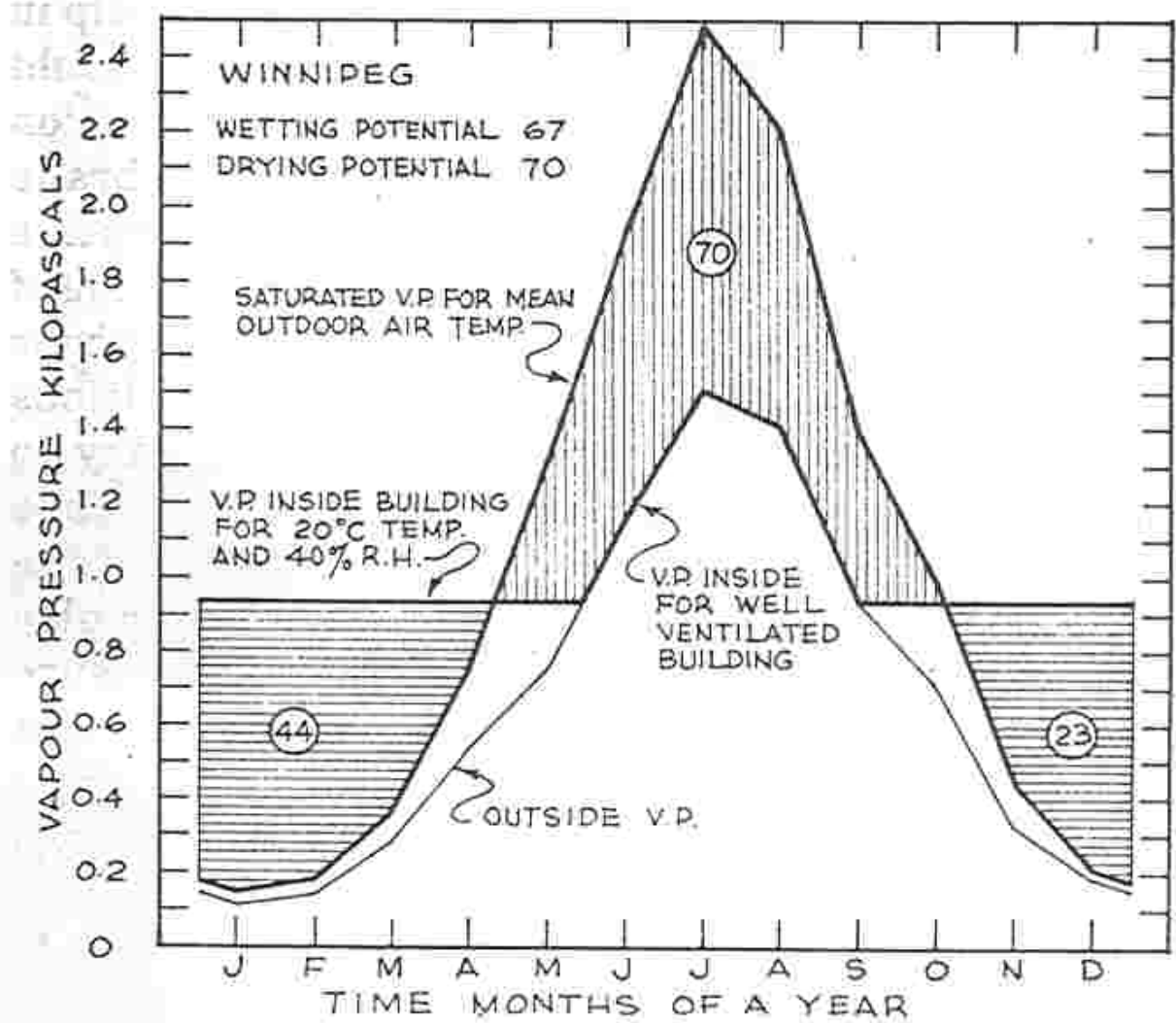
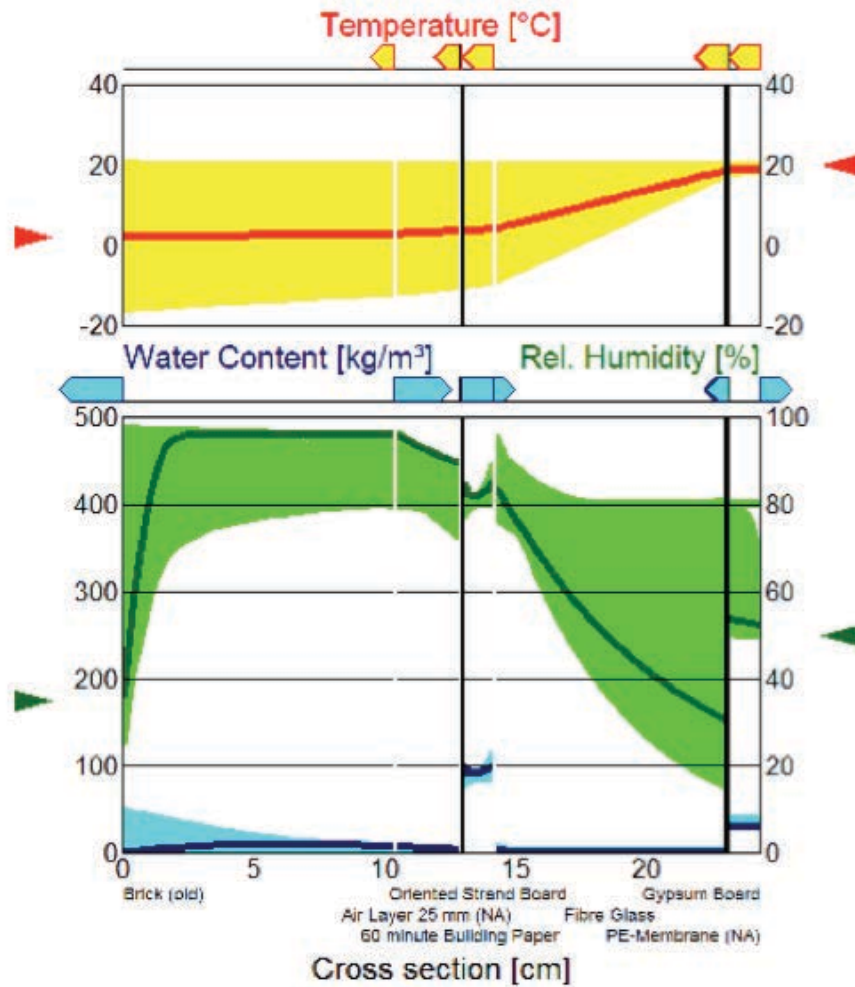


Figure 8-7. Outside vapour pressure, saturated vapour pressure and inside vapour pressure for Winnipeg.



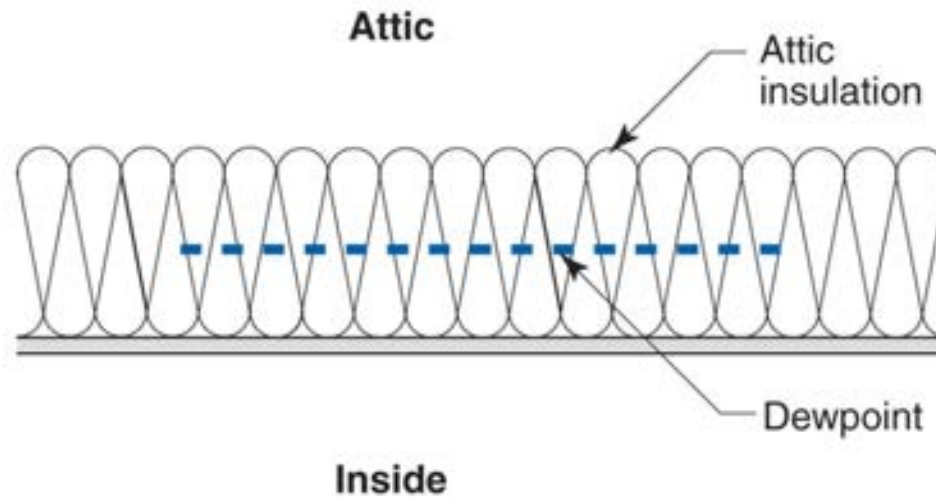
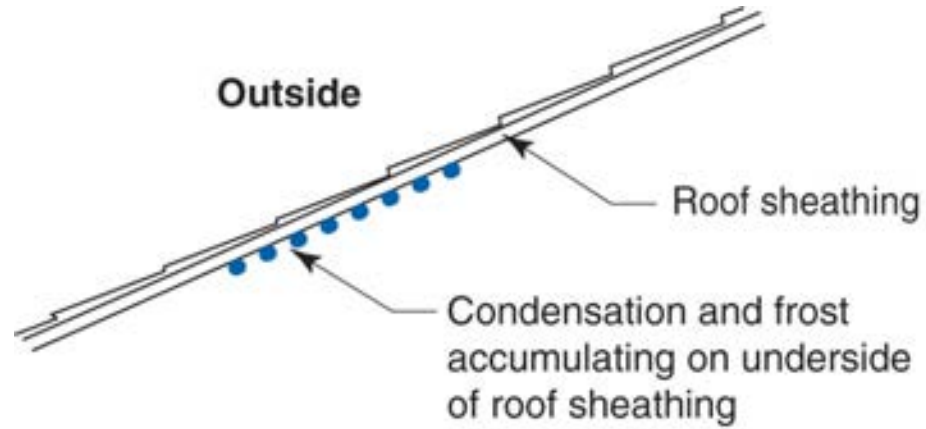
WUFI® 3.3 Pro. IBP  
Run

16 Feb  
2001

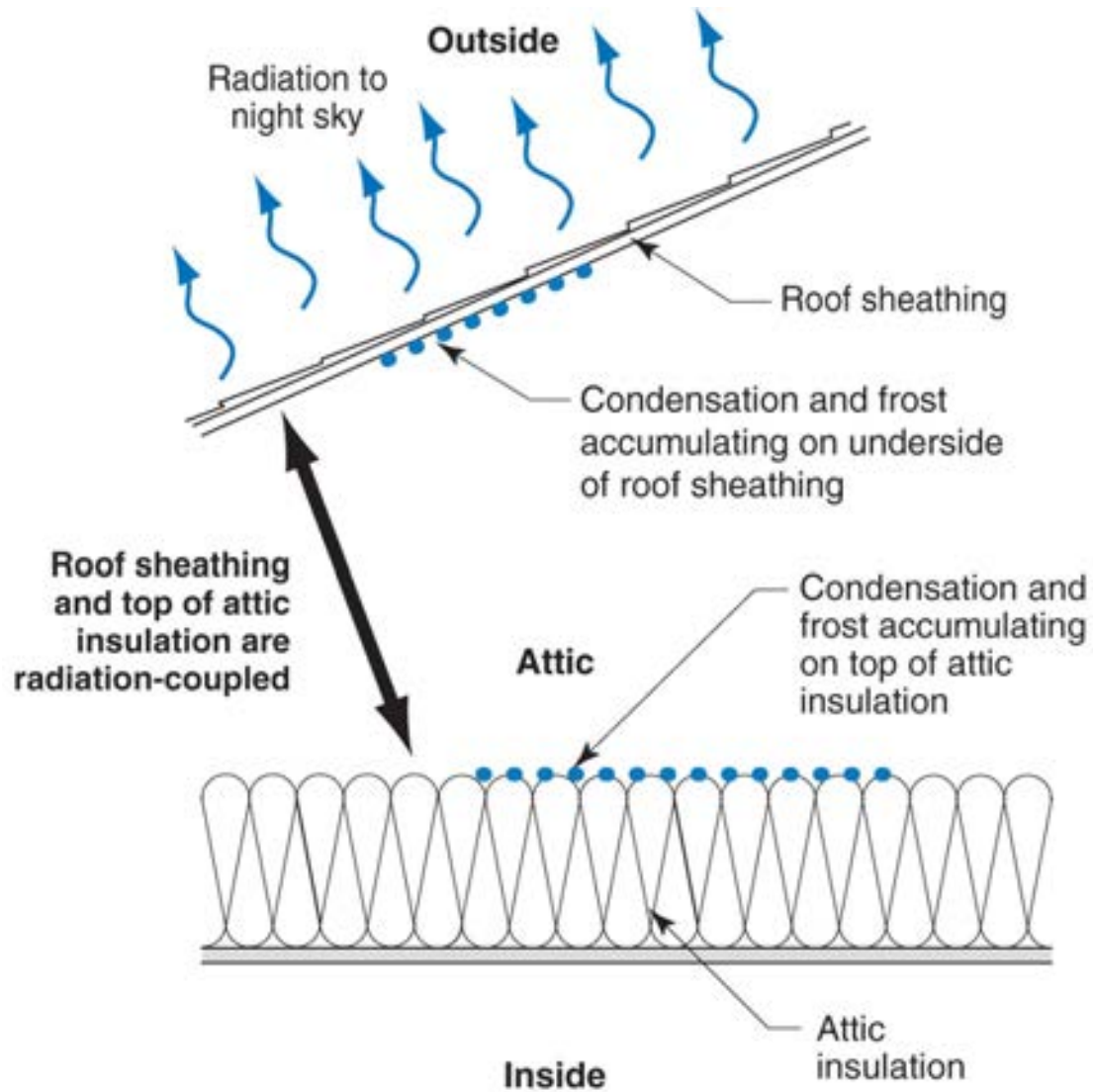
100%

0% 100%

? +< | >+





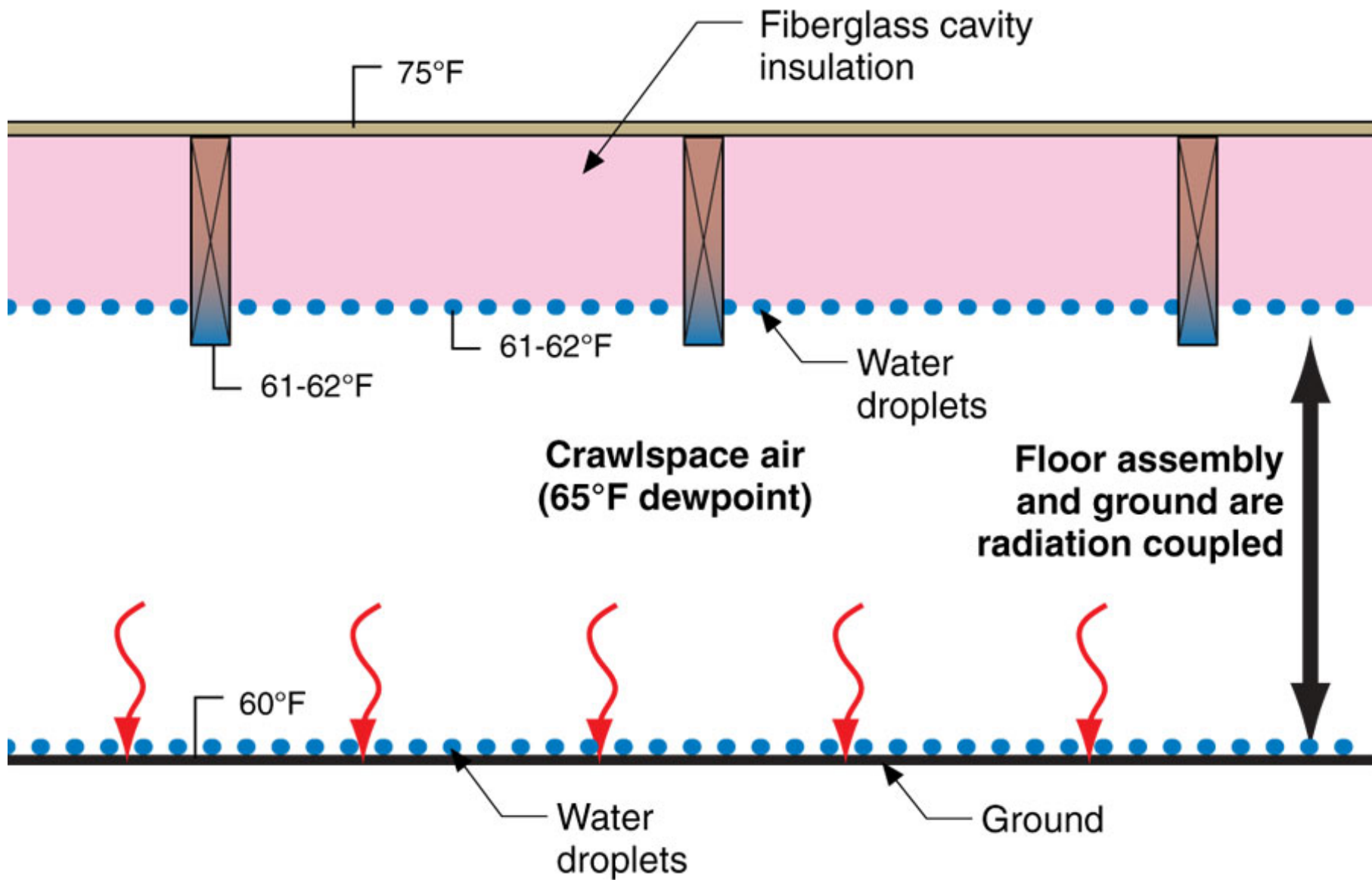


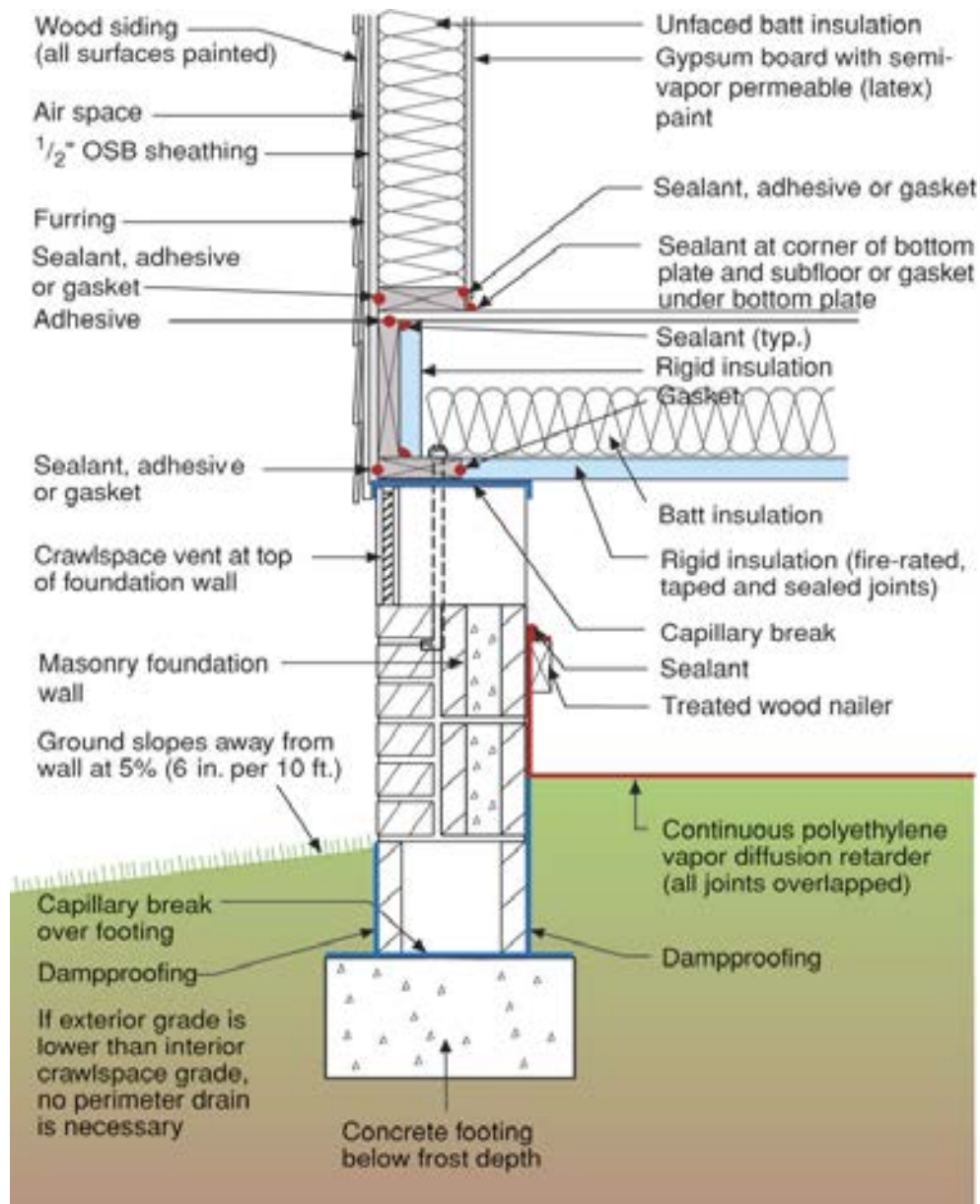


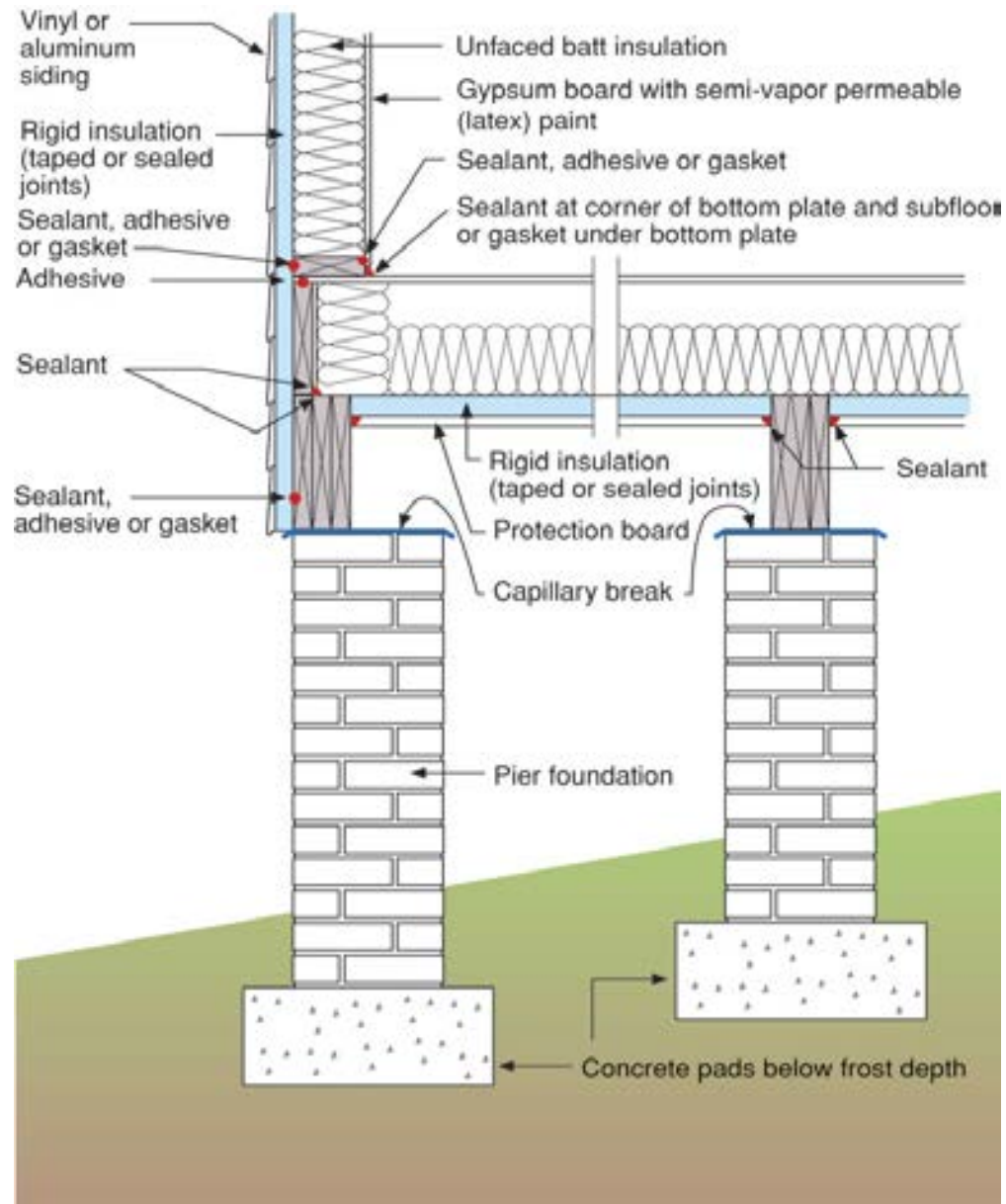




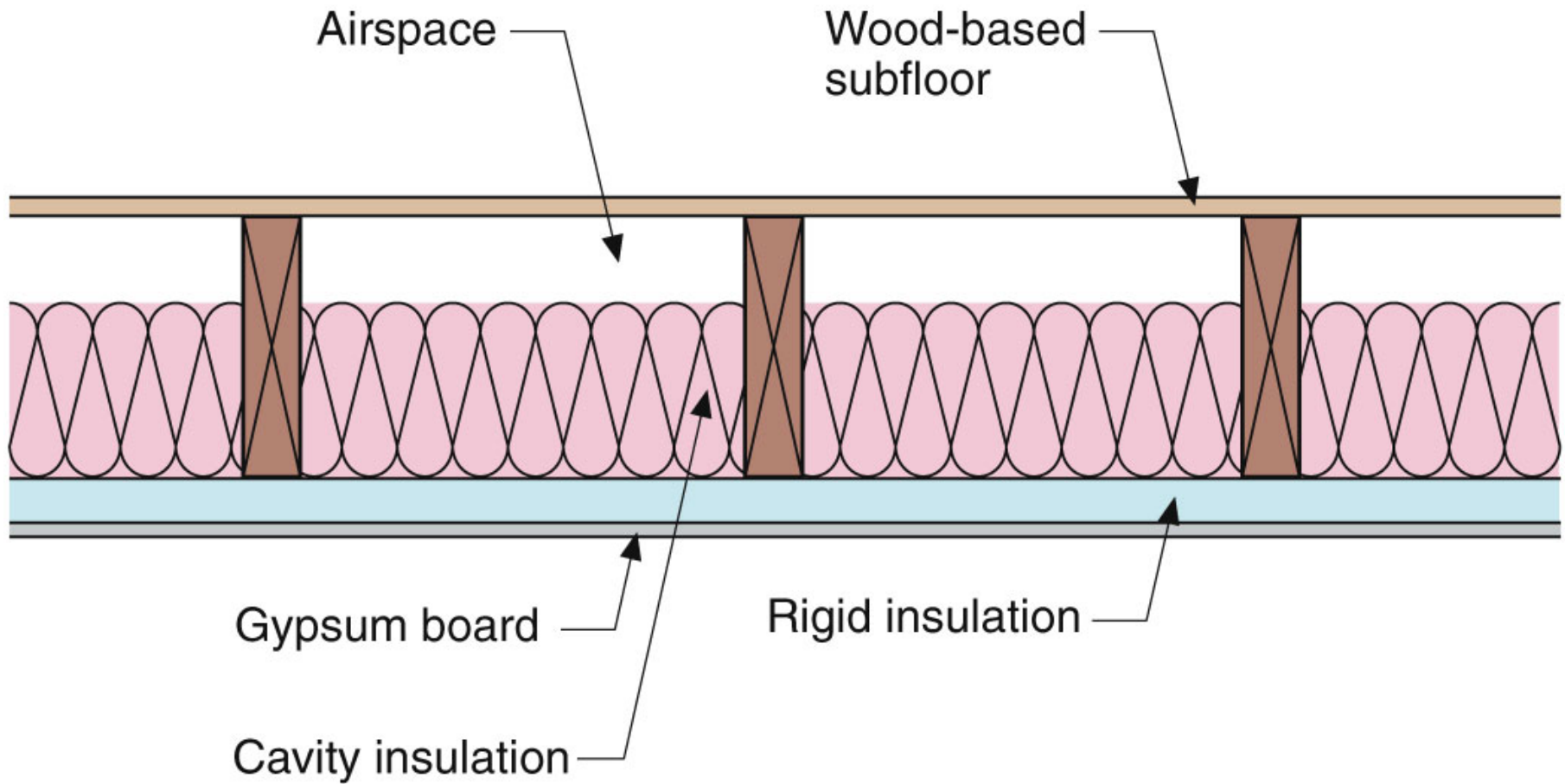


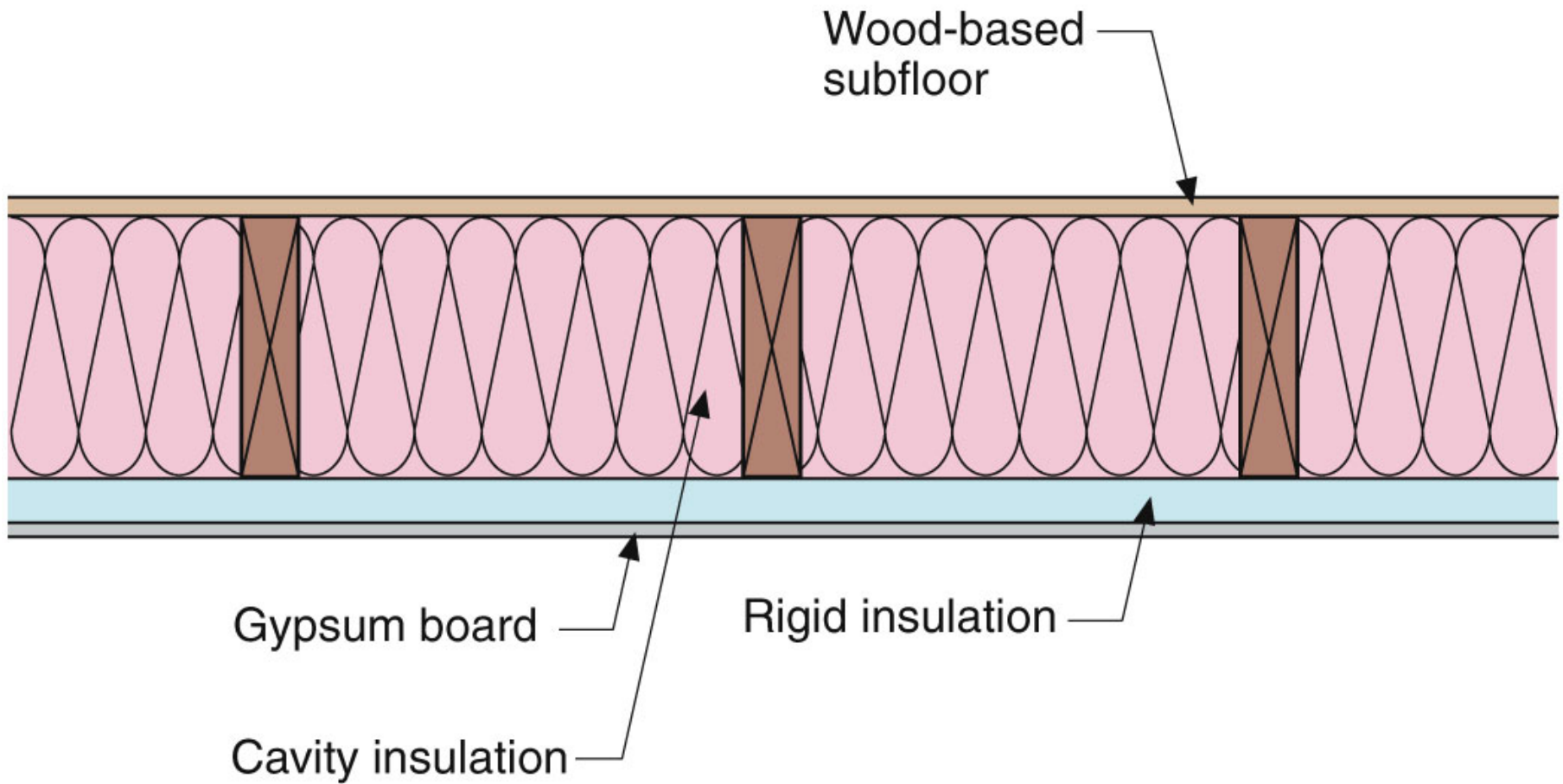


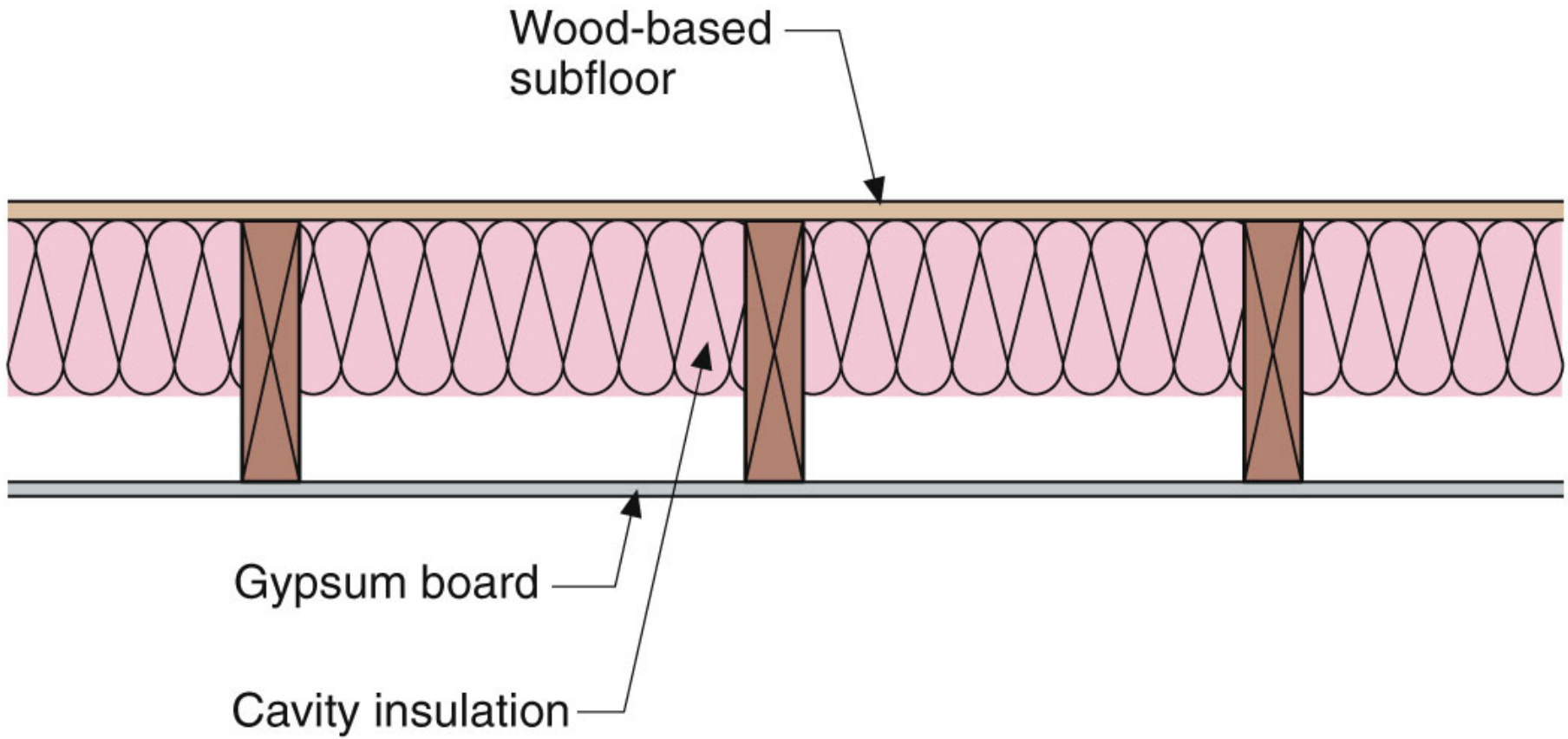


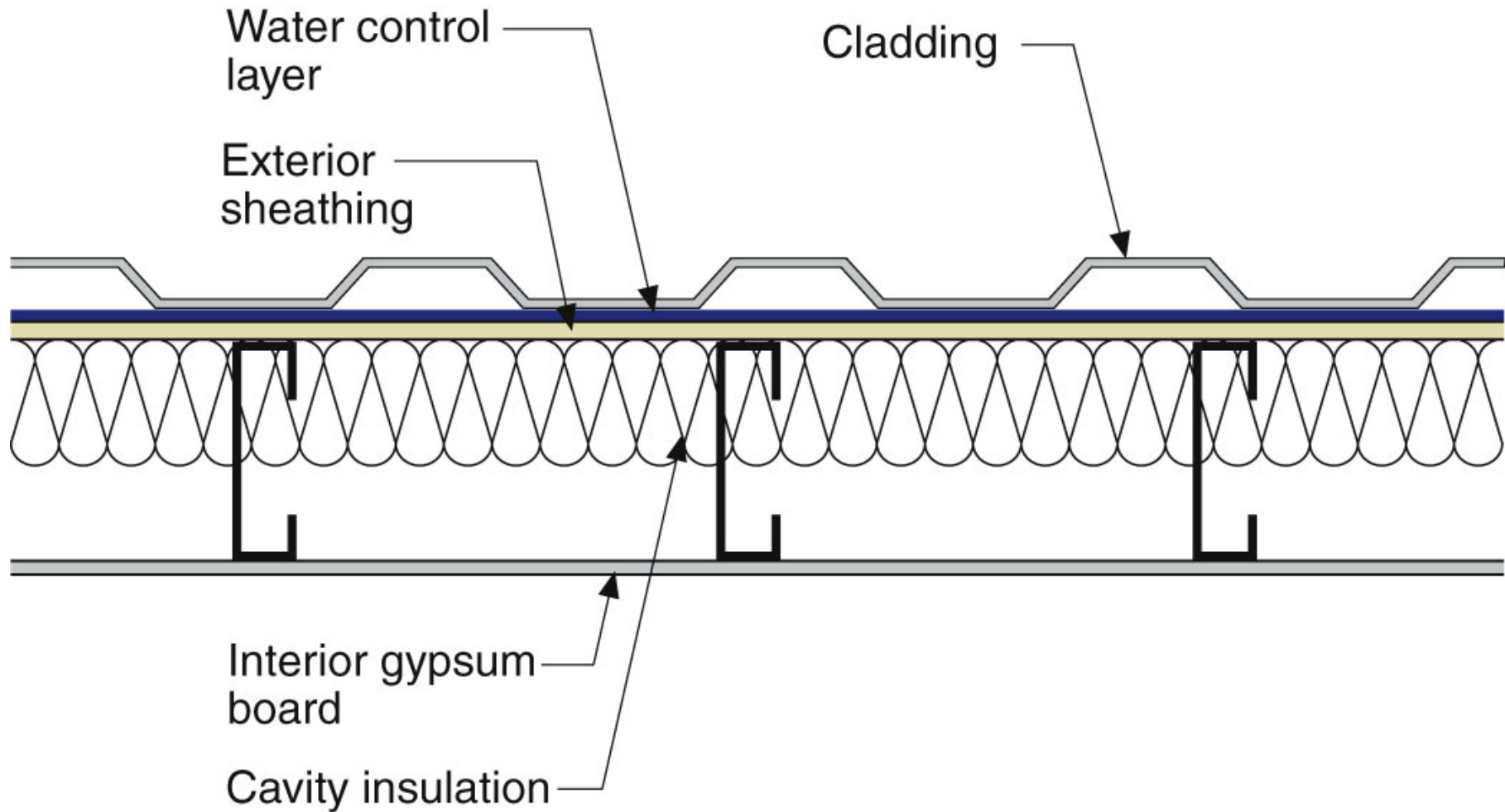


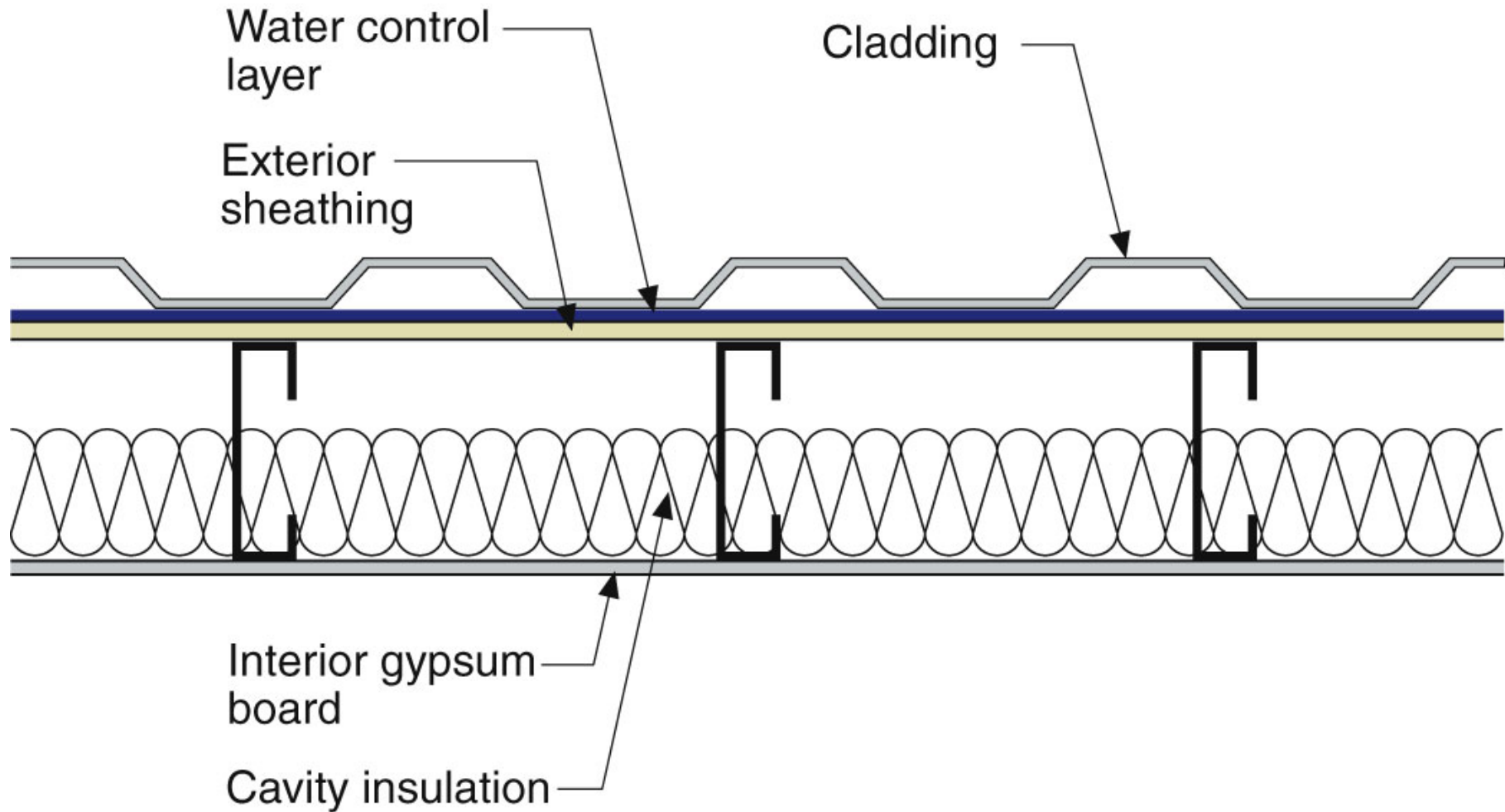




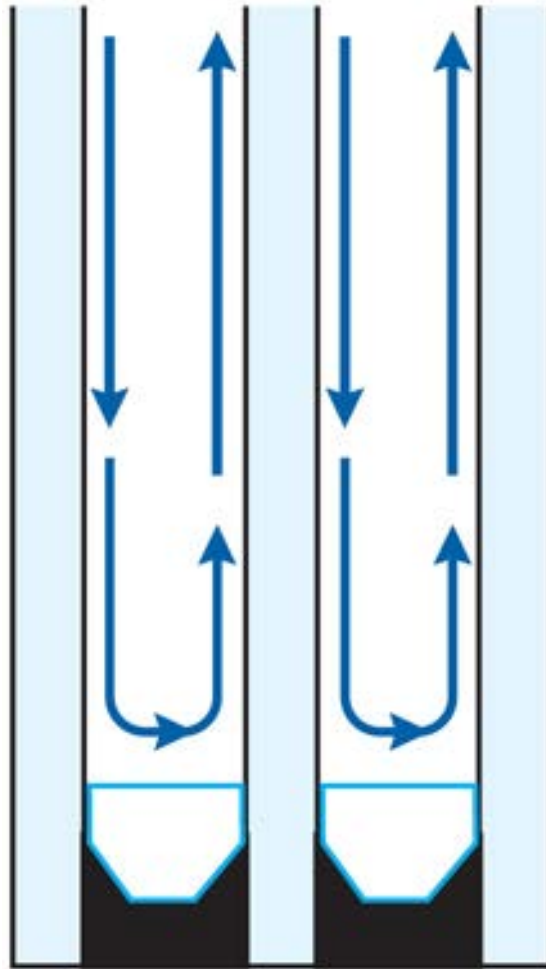




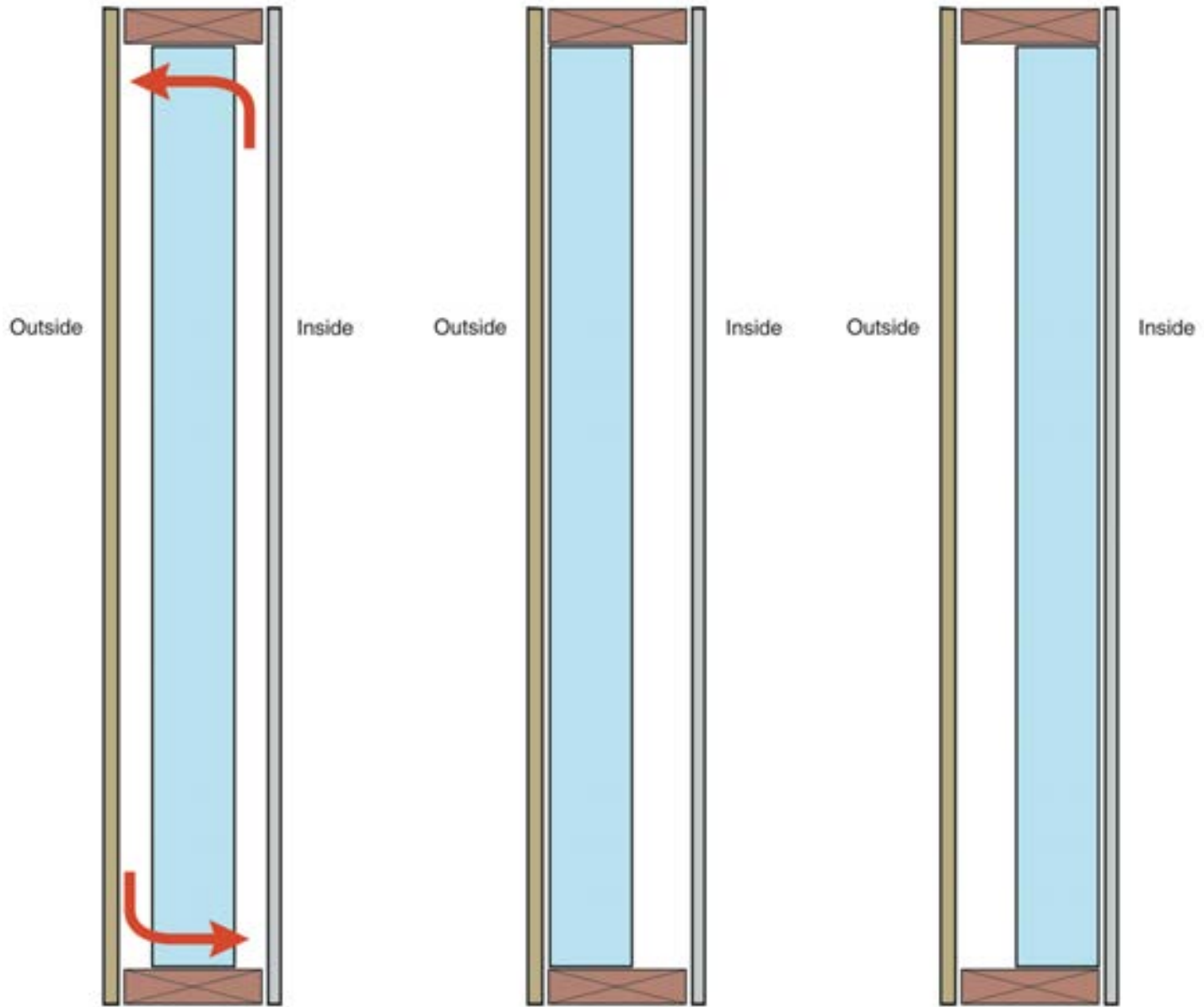


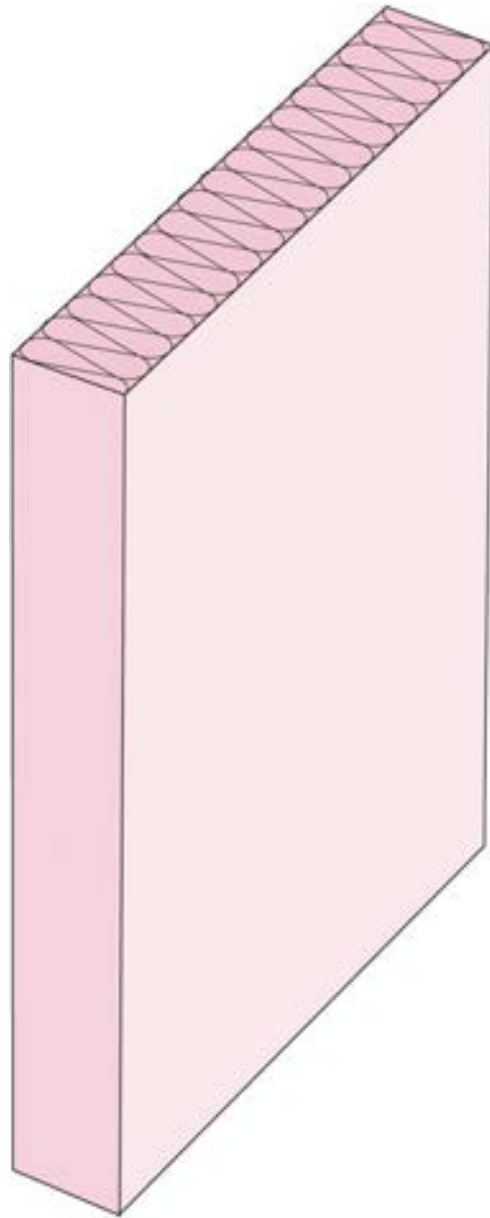


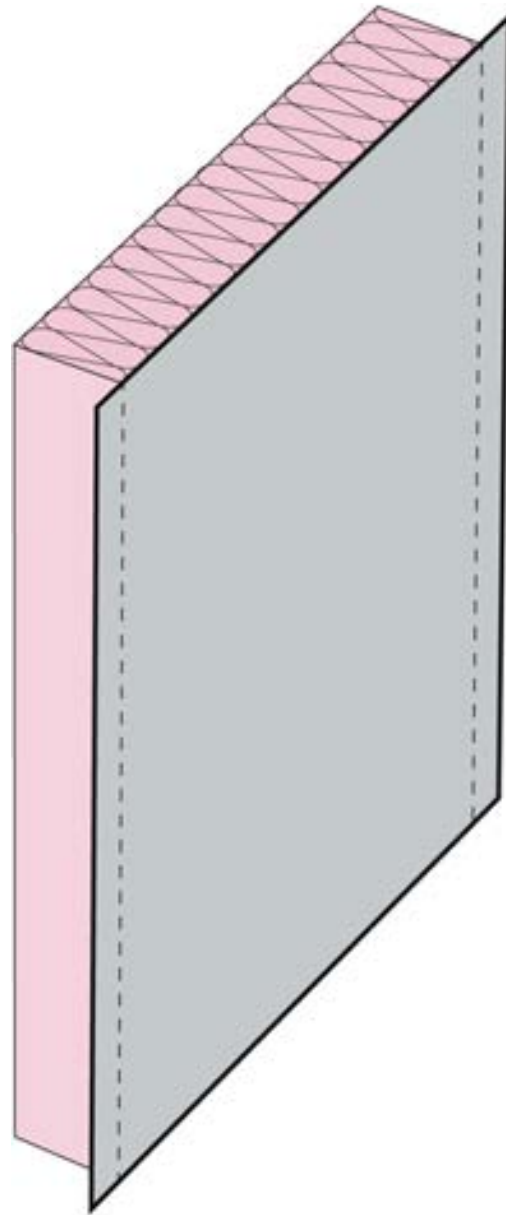


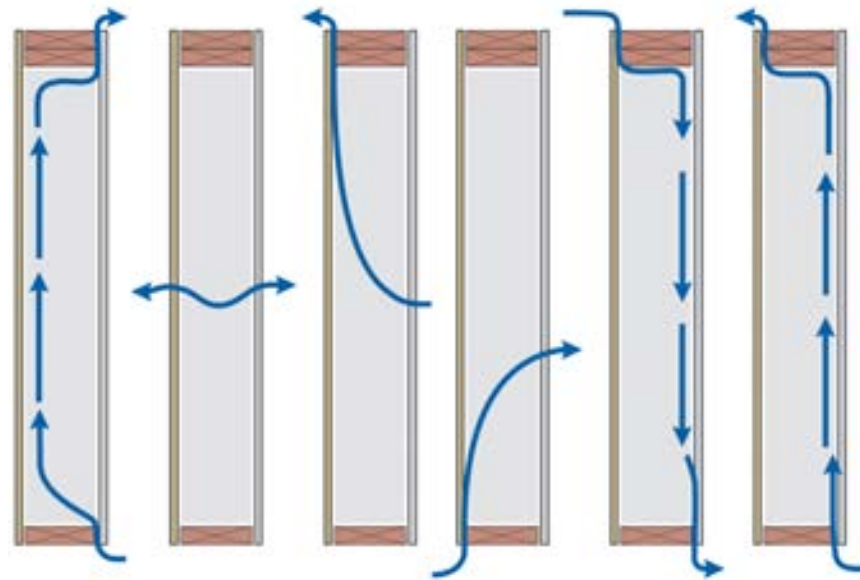
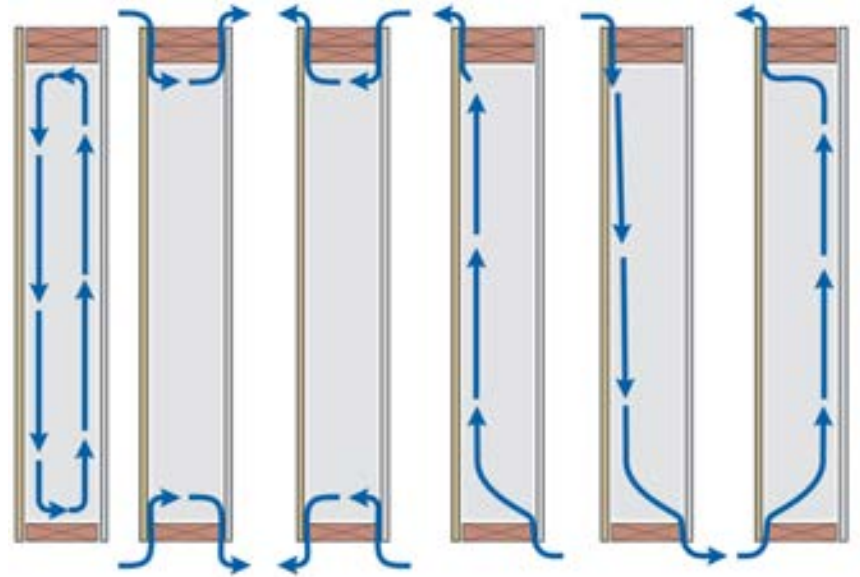


Insulated  
glazing unit

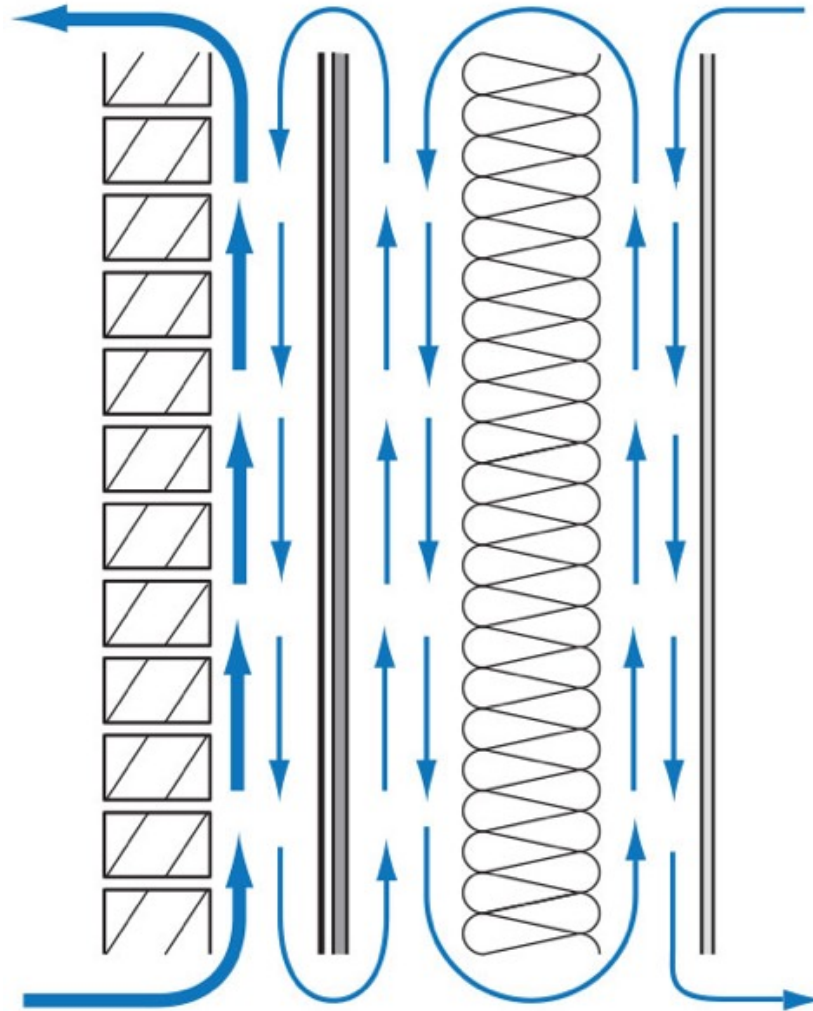


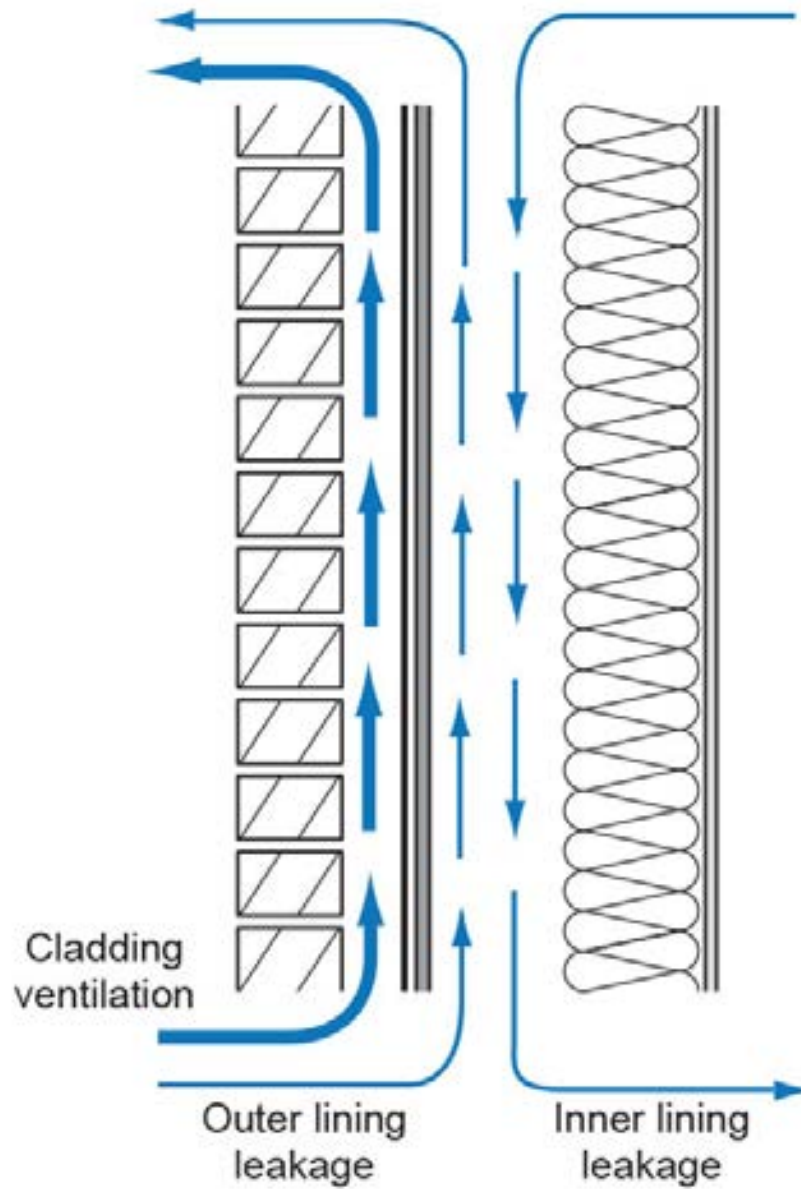


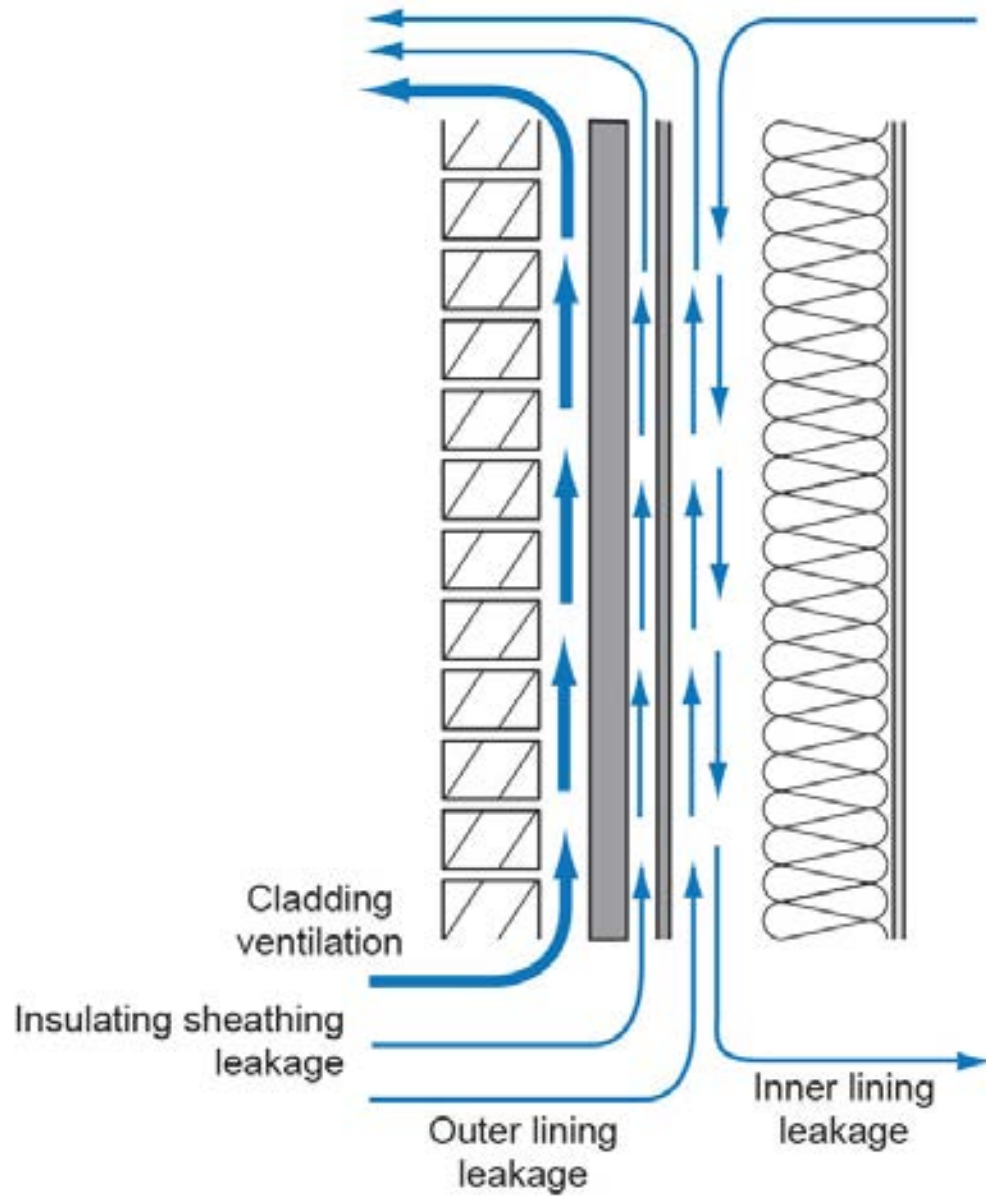






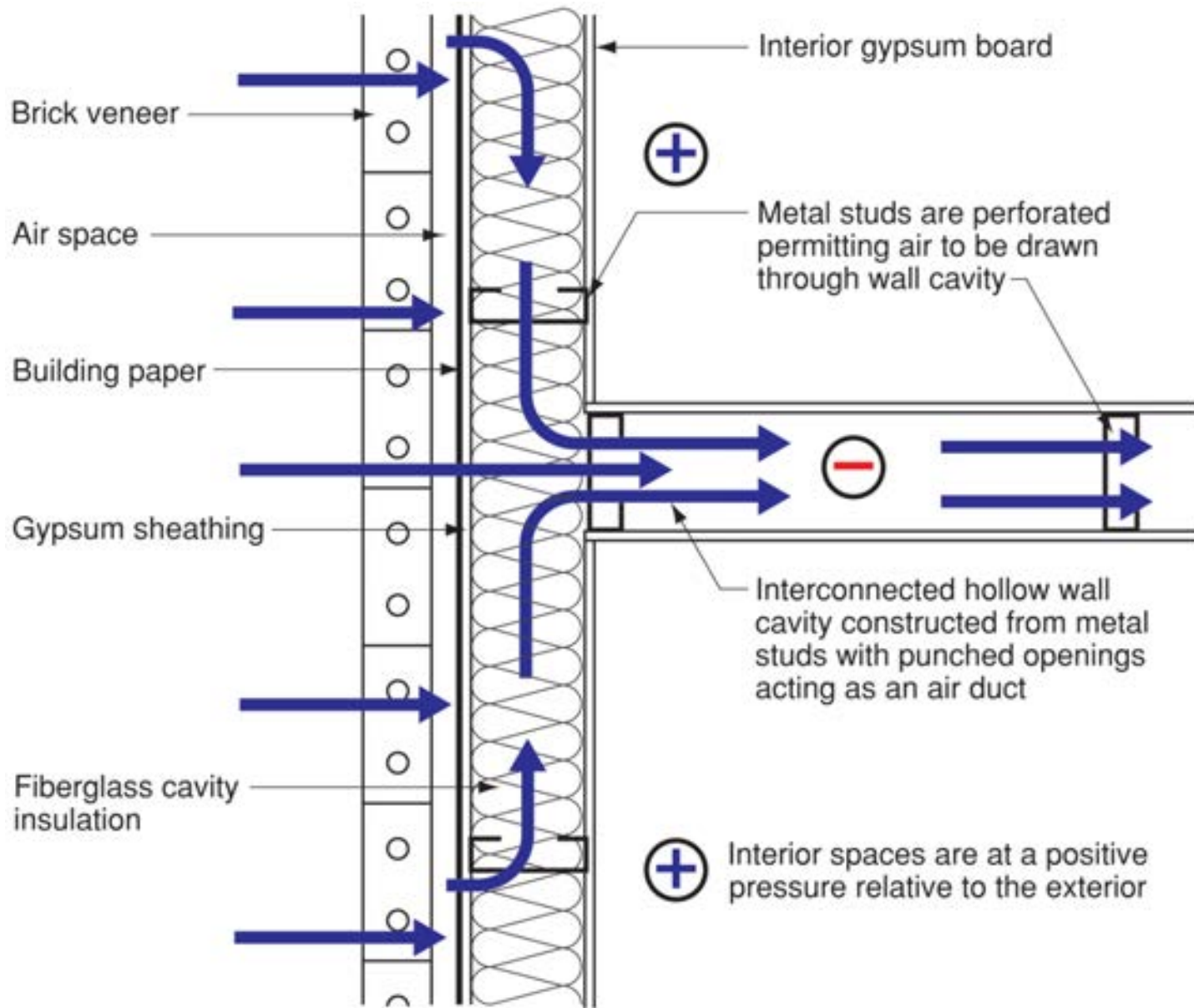




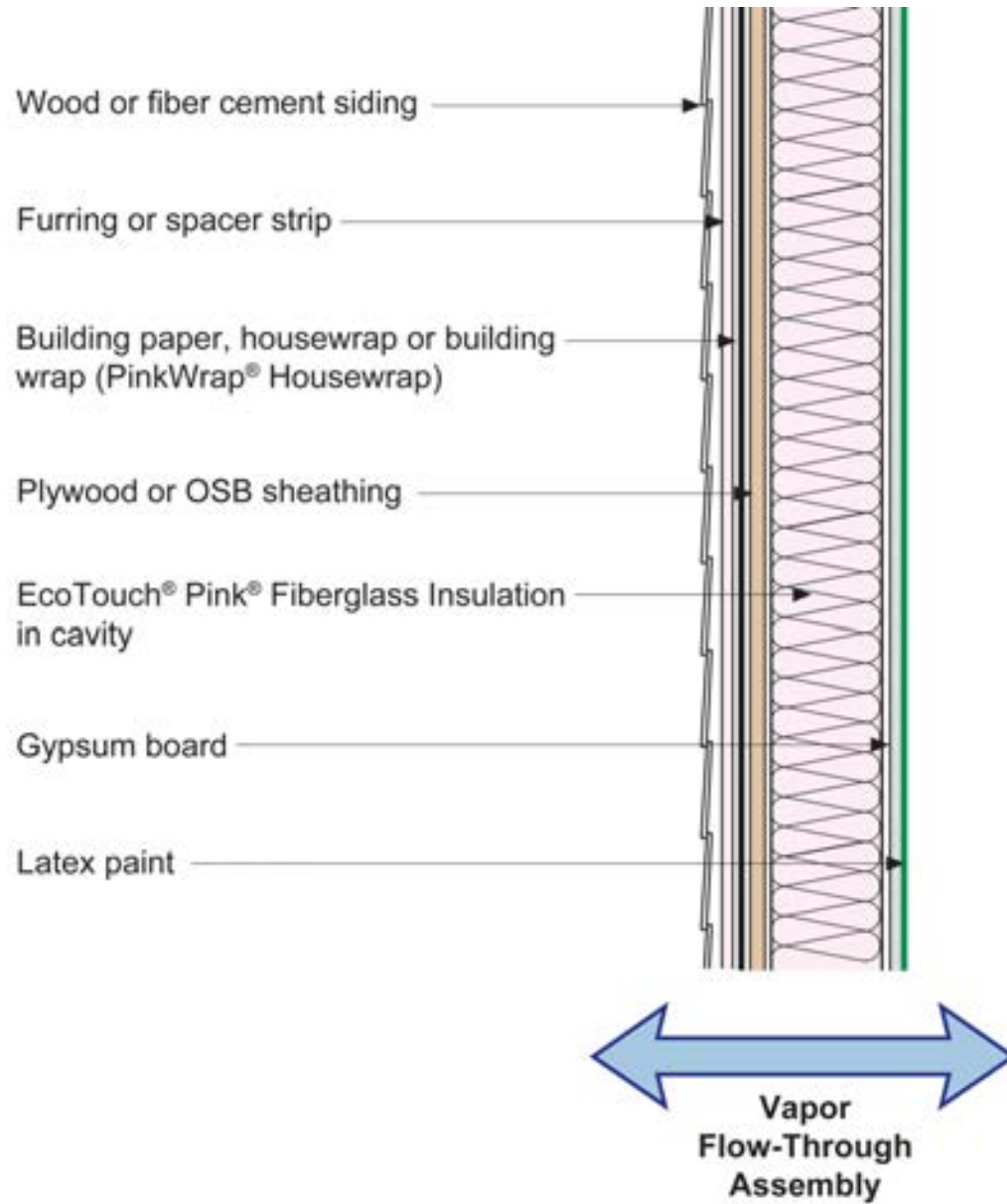


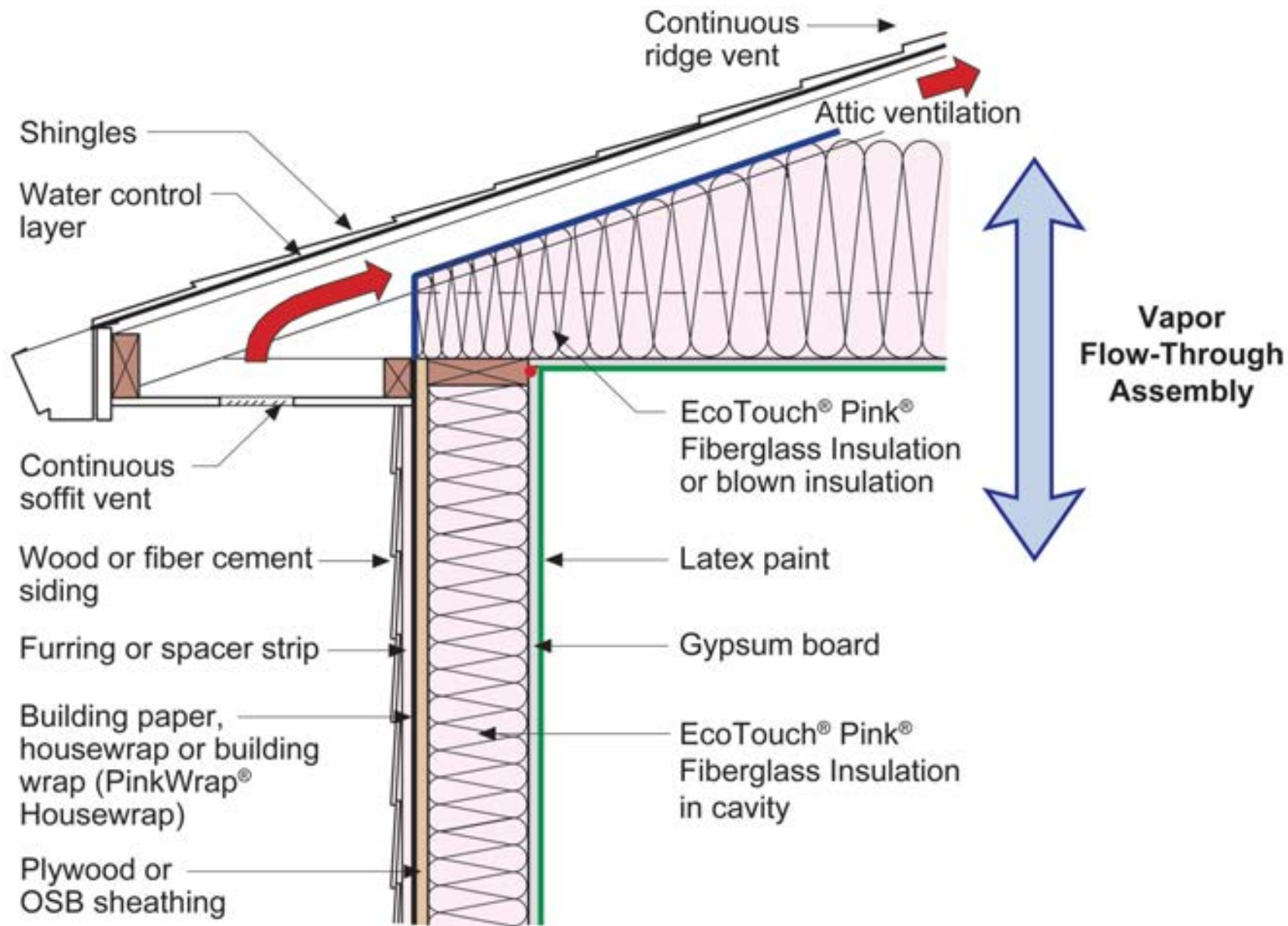
## Cladding Ventilation/ Sheathing Ventilation

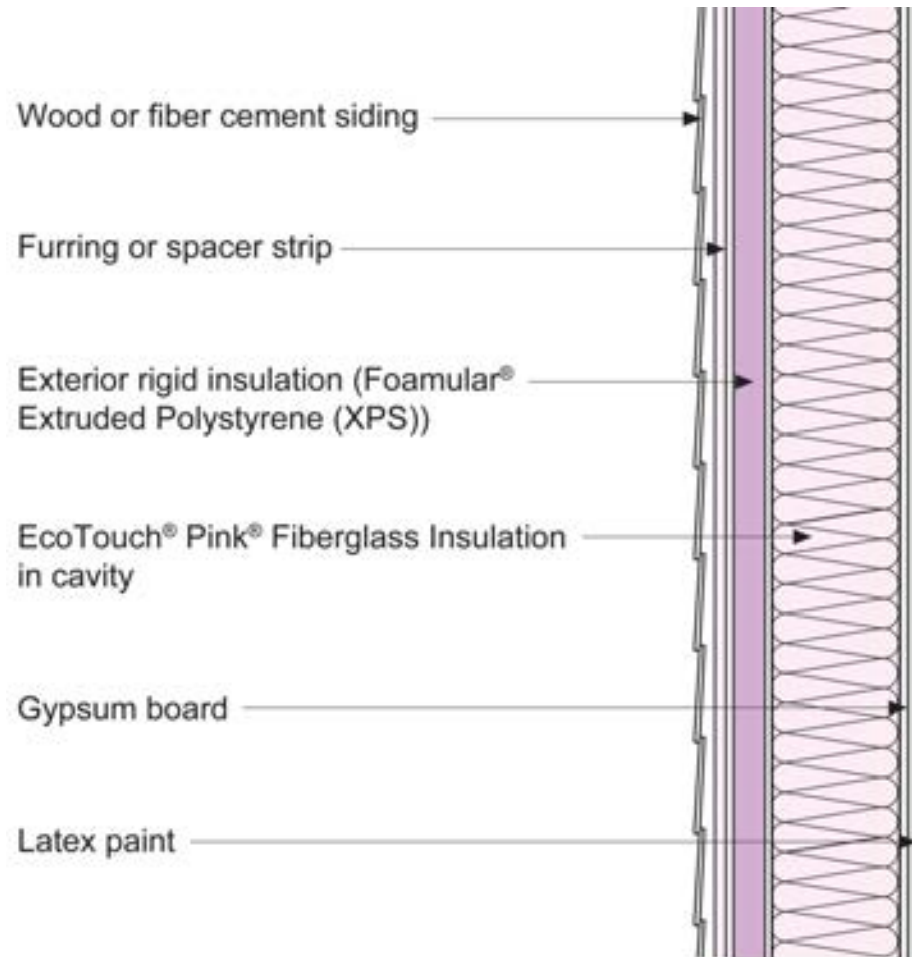
	Flow Rate	Gap	ACH
Wood Siding	0.1 cfm/sf	3/16"	20
Vinyl Siding	0.5 cfm/sf	3/16"	200
Brick Veneer	0.15 cfm/sf	1"	10
Stucco (vented)	0.1 cfm/sf	3/8"	10
Stucco (direct applied)	none	none	0
Sheathing flanking flow	0.05 cfm/sf	3/16"	10







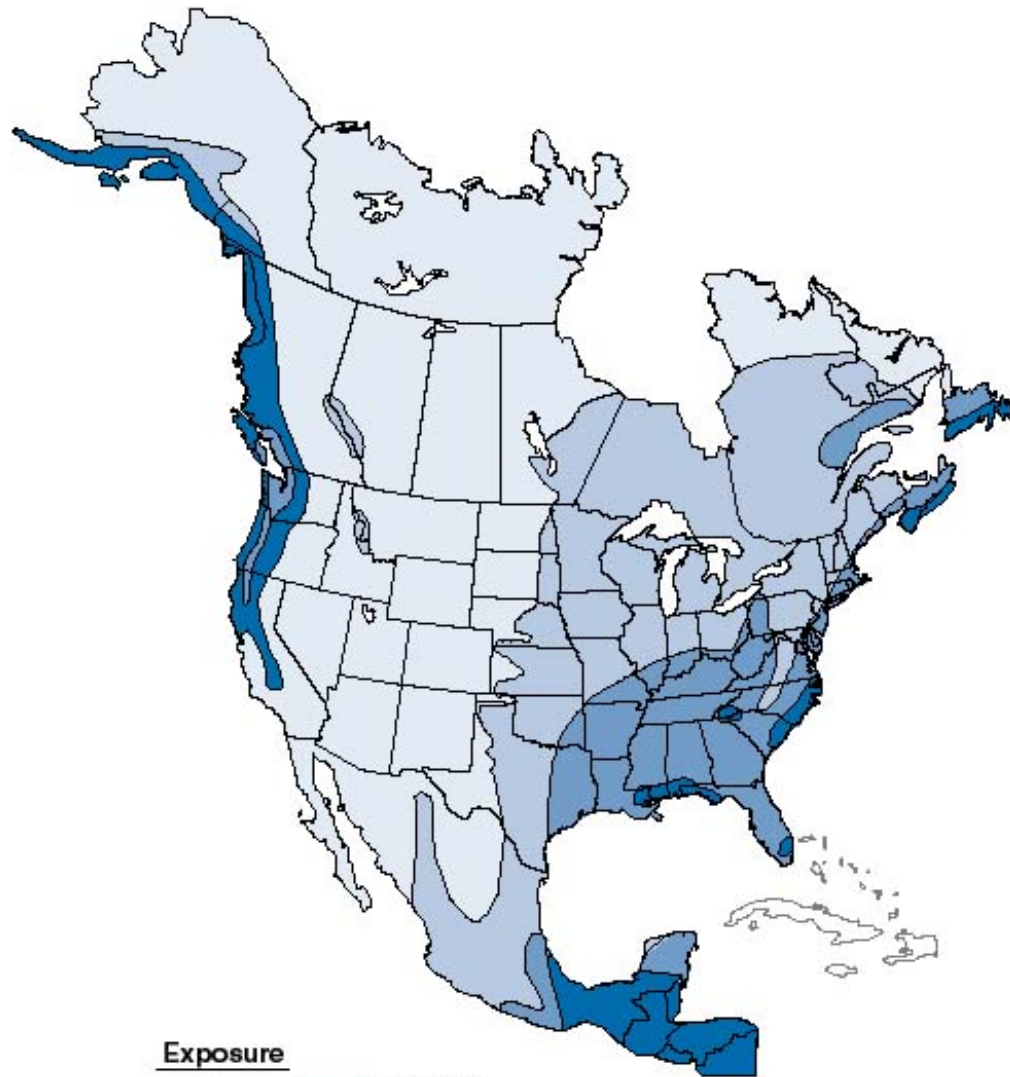








**Control of Condensing  
Surface Temperature  
Assembly**

The diagram consists of two blue arrows pointing horizontally outwards from a central vertical line. The arrows are positioned above the text 'Control of Condensing Surface Temperature Assembly'.



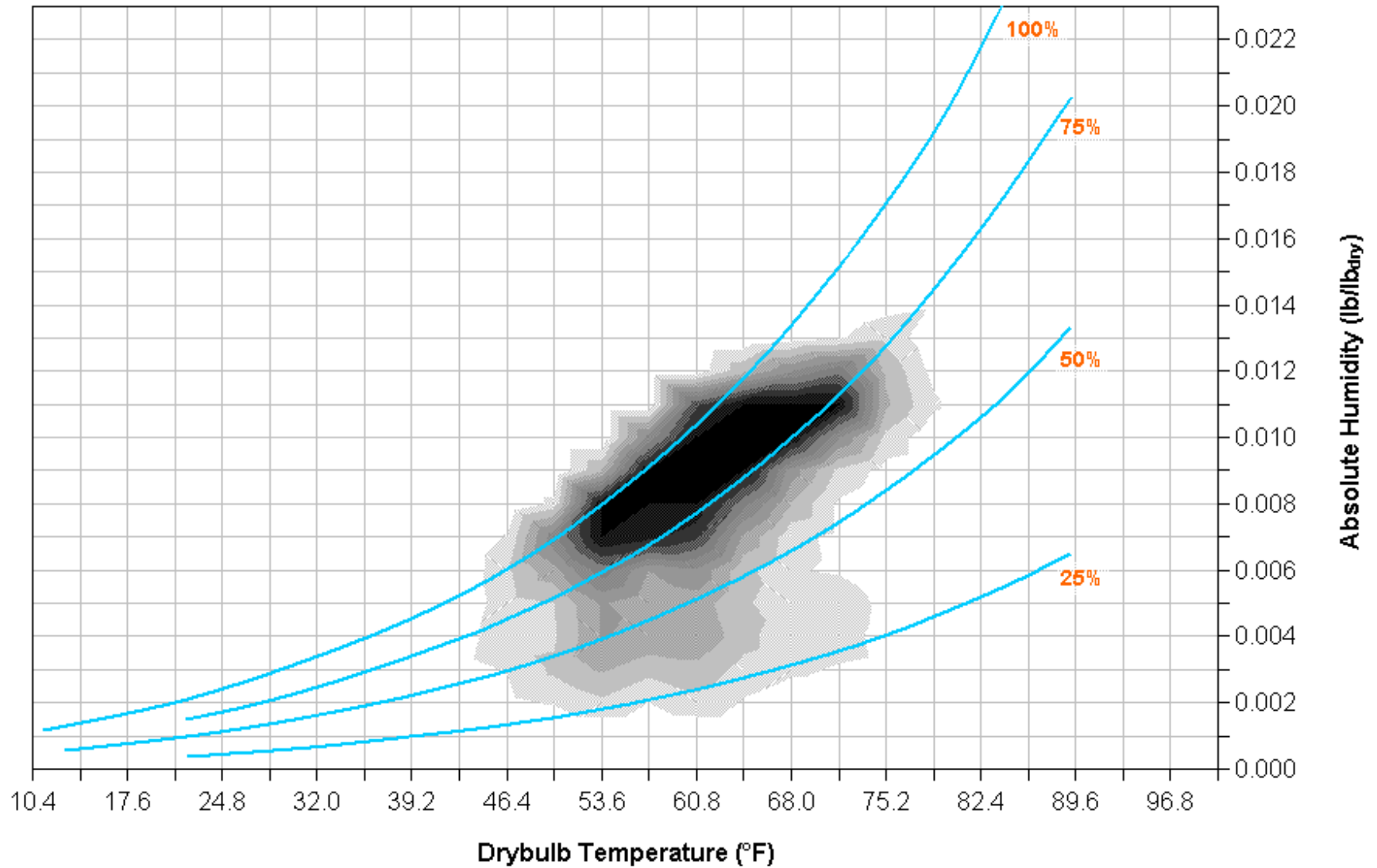


**Exposure**

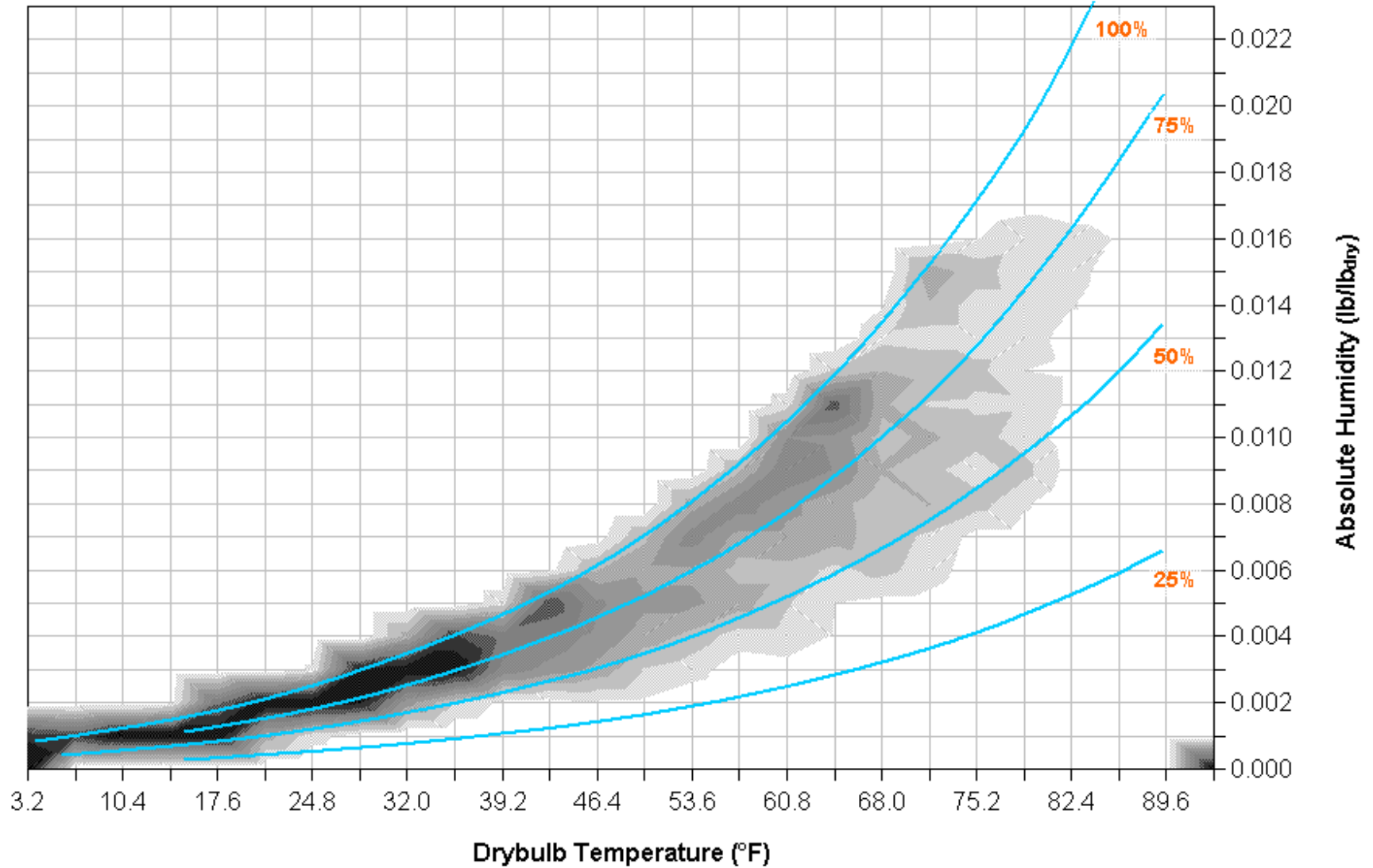
Extreme		Over 60'
High		40' - 60'
Moderate		20' - 40'
Low		Under 20'



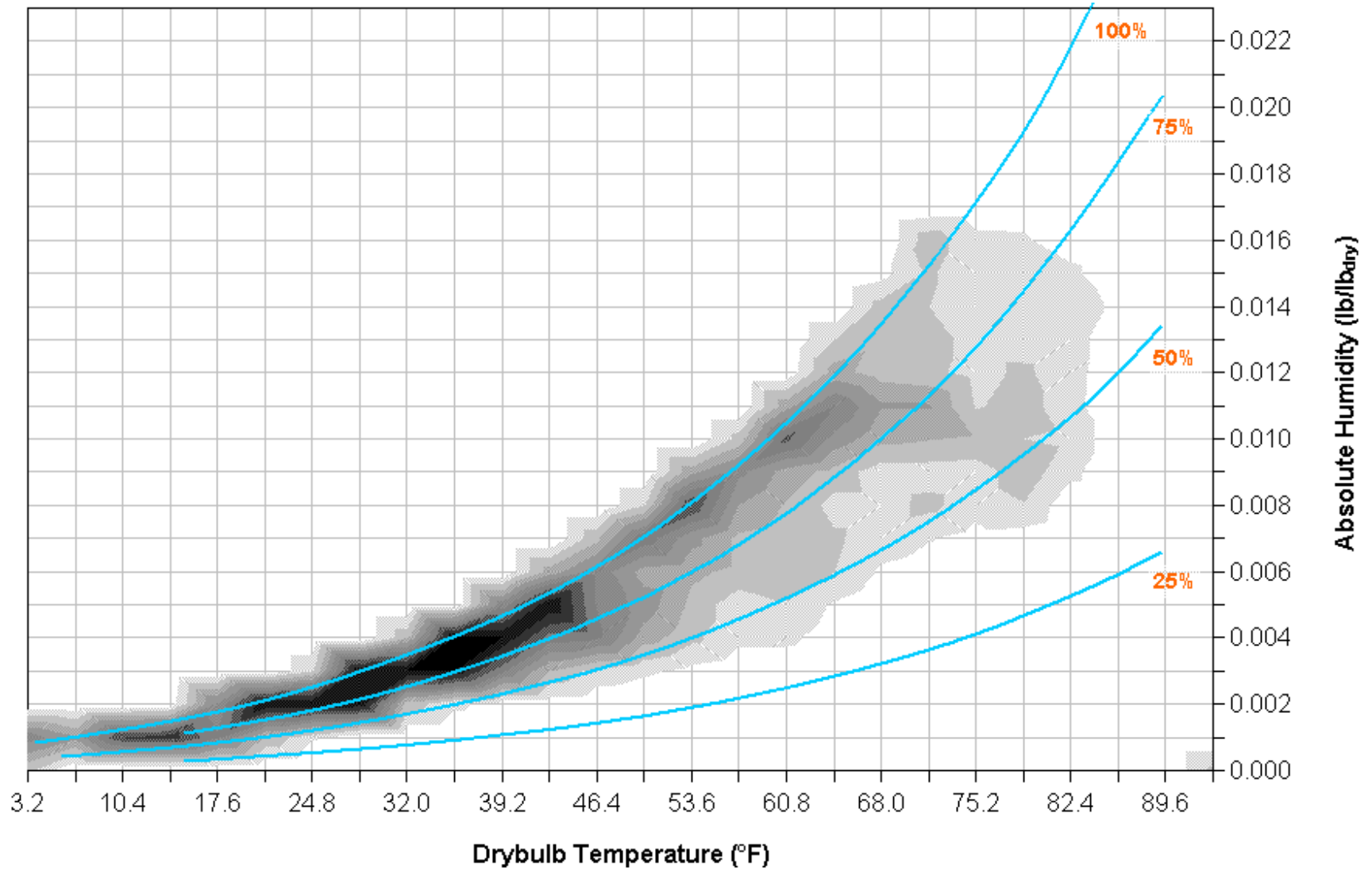
# Los Angeles, CA



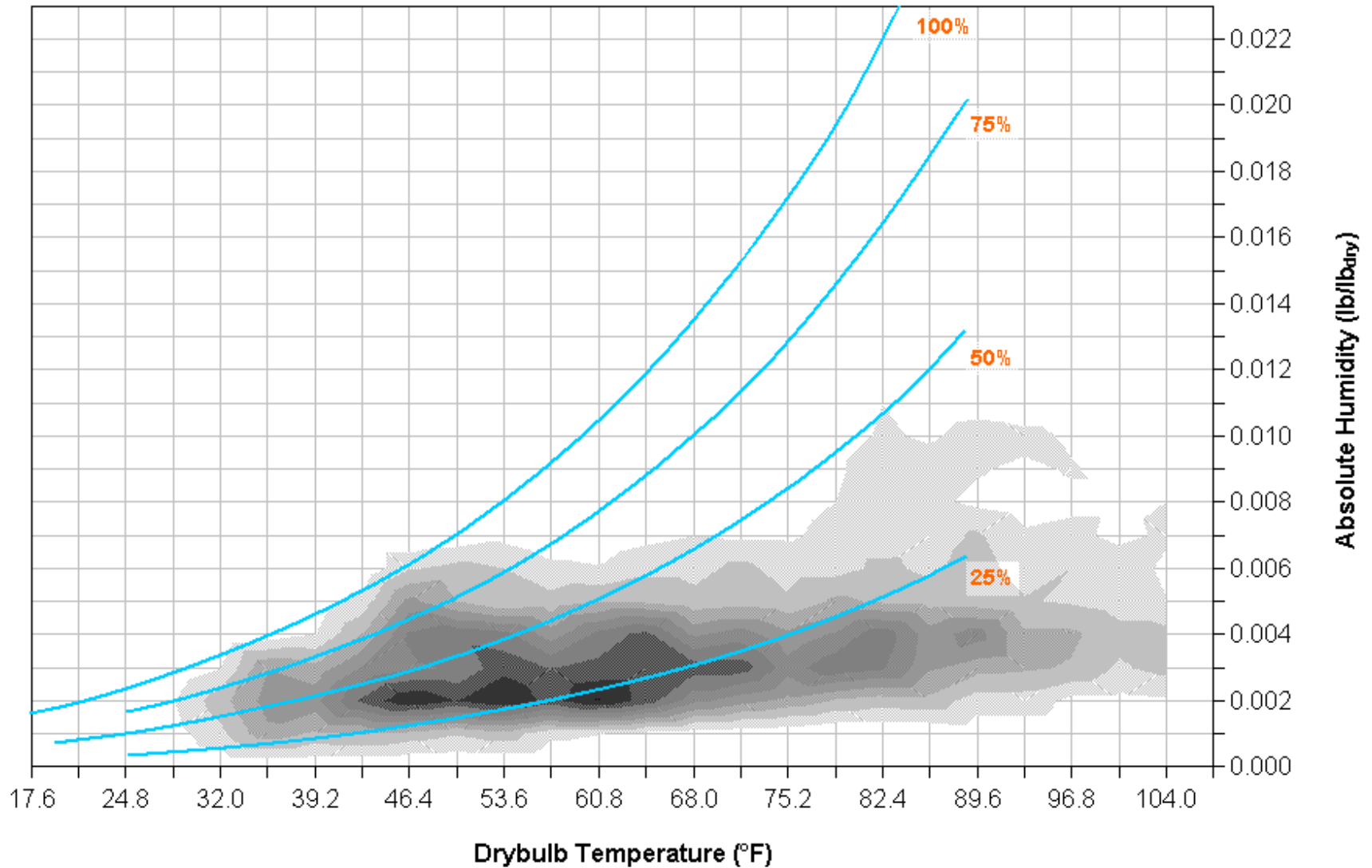
# Minneapolis, MN



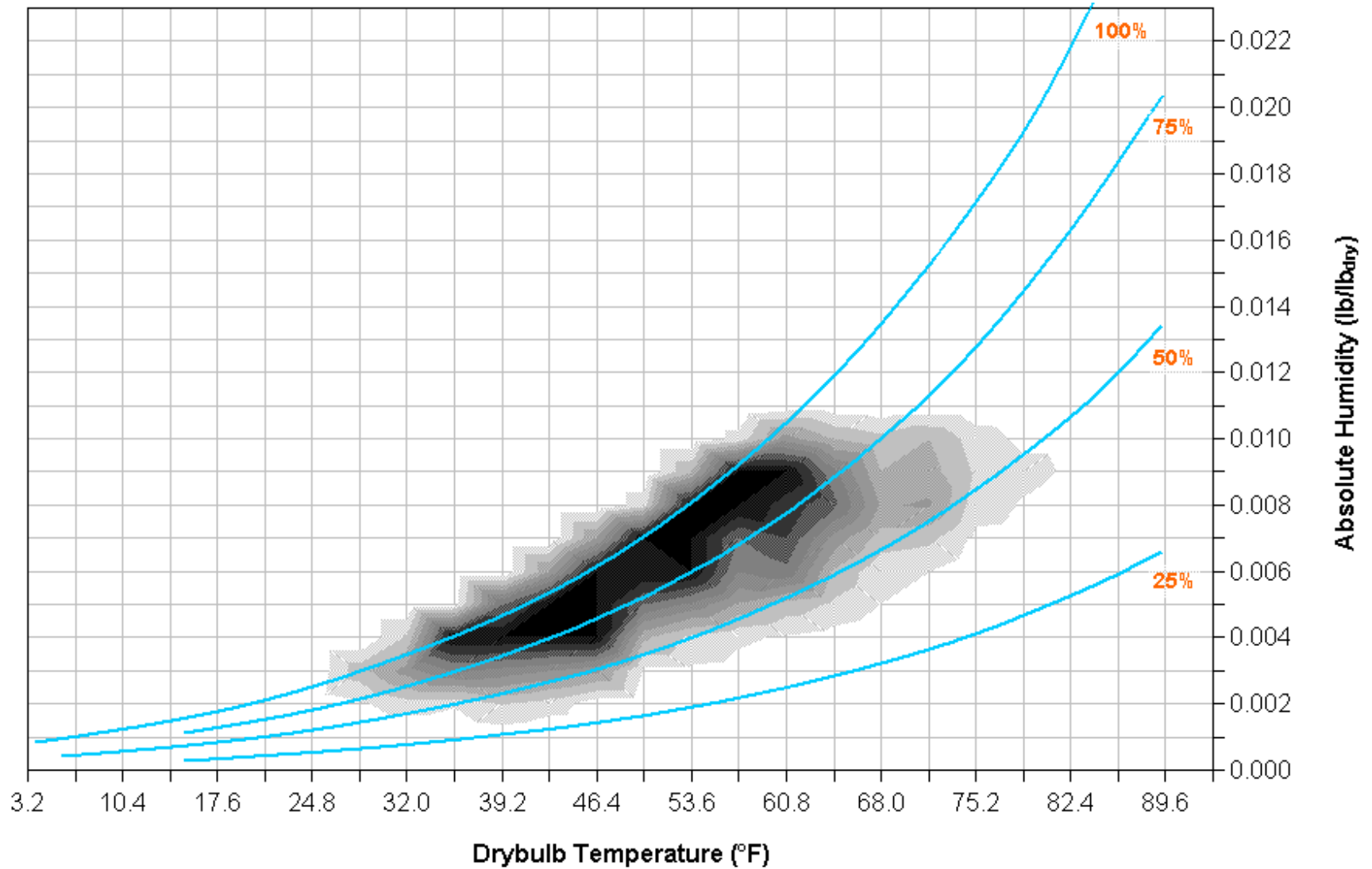
# Lansing, MI



# Las Vegas, NV



# Seattle, WA





# Don't Do Stupid Things



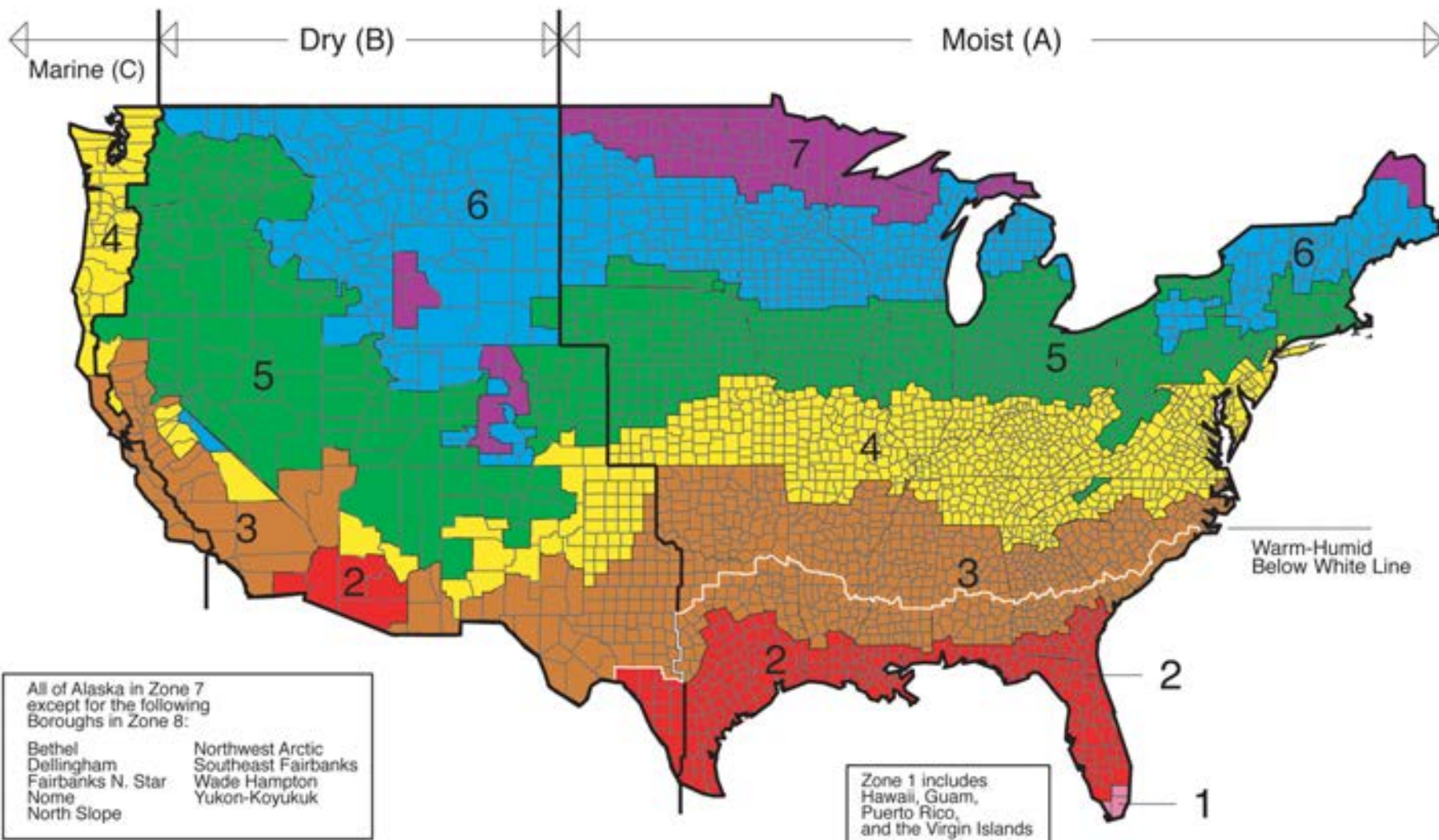












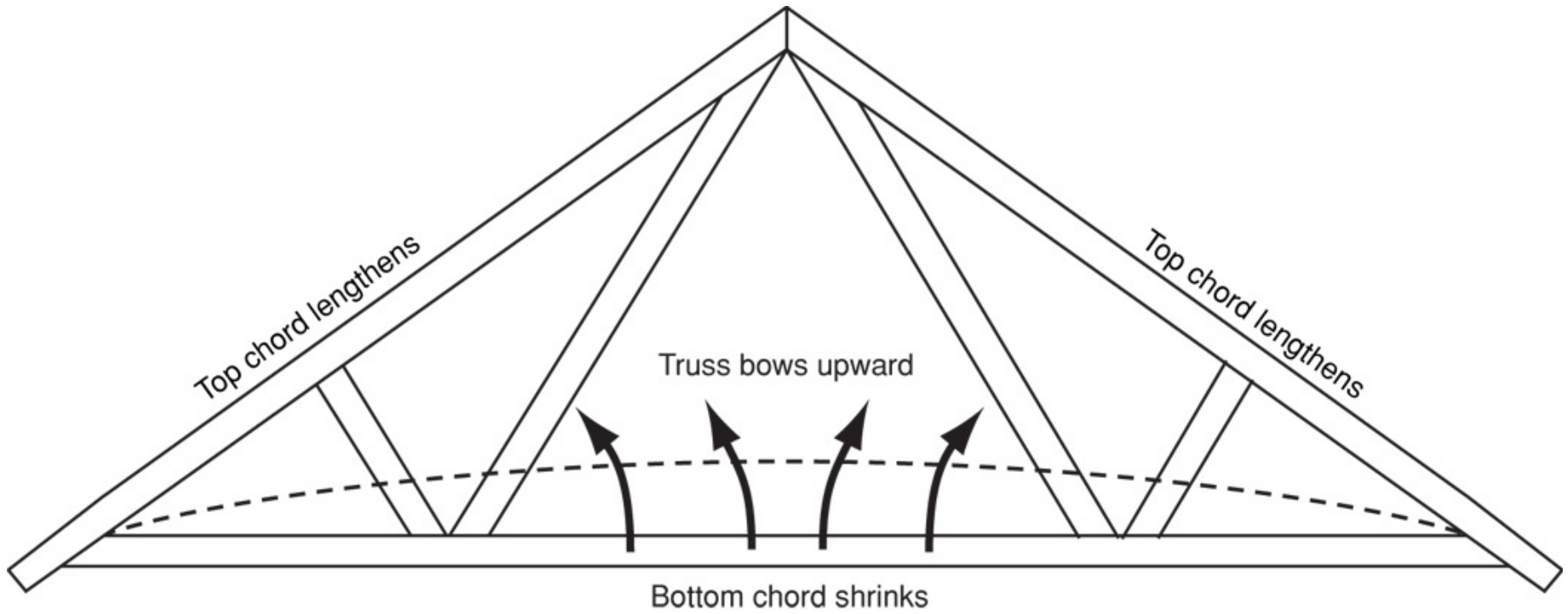




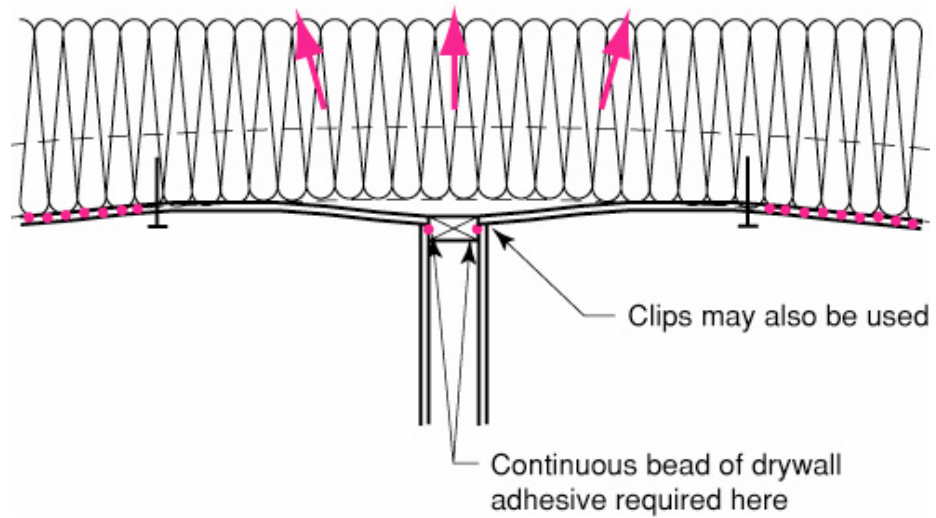
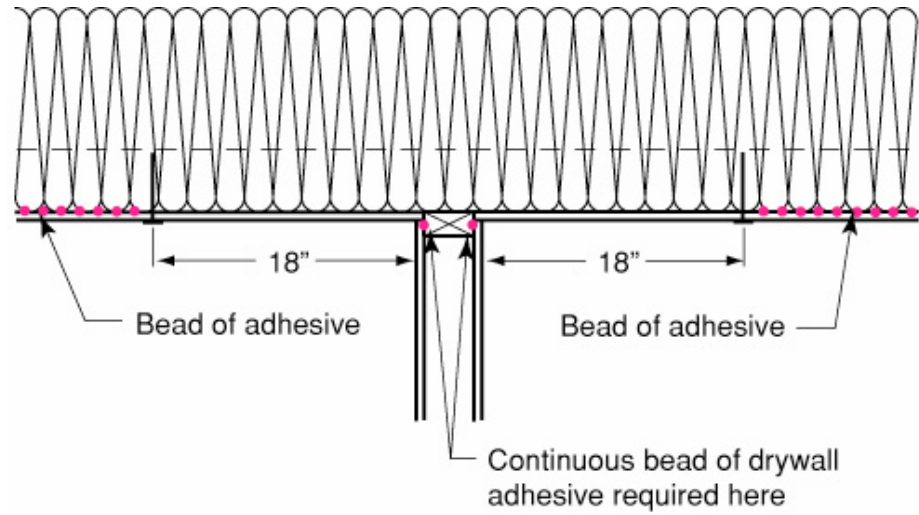


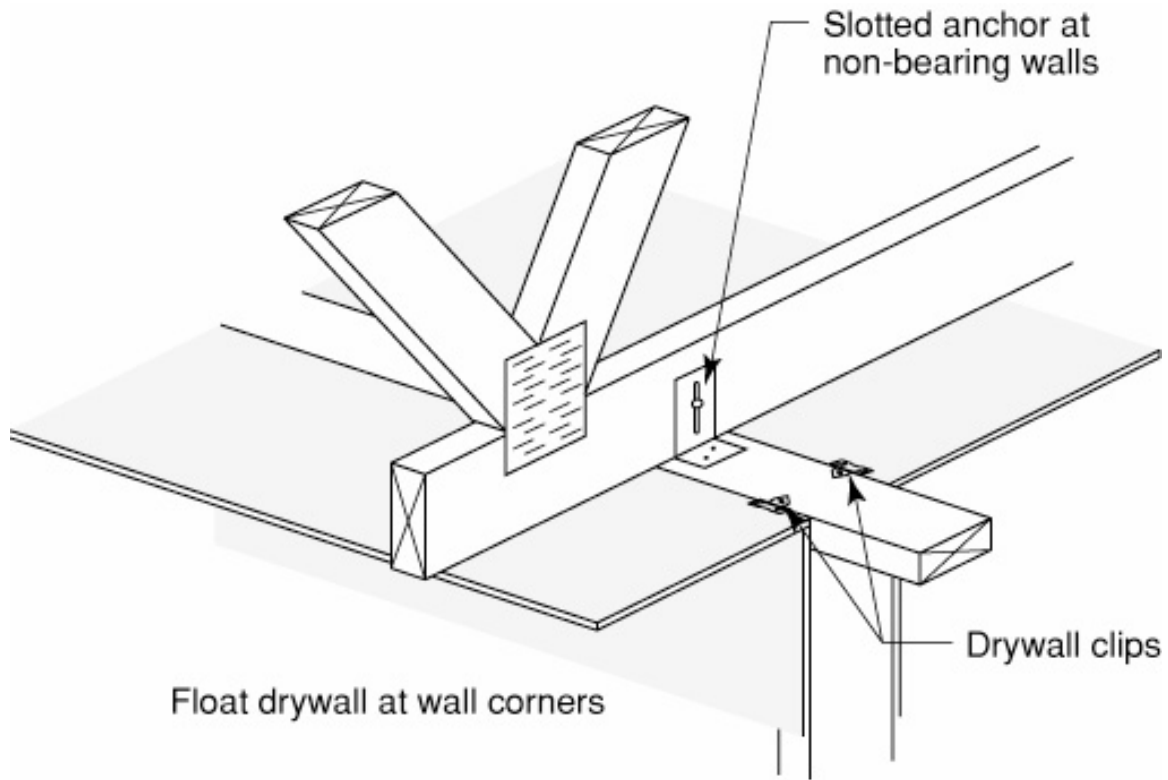








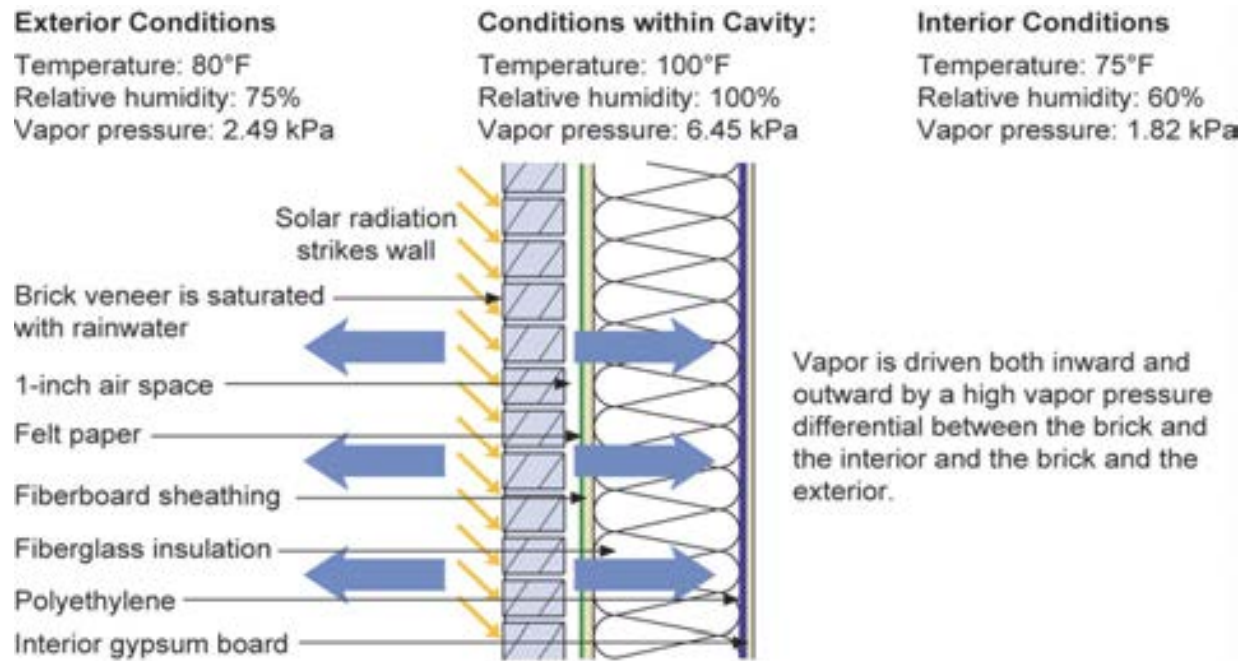






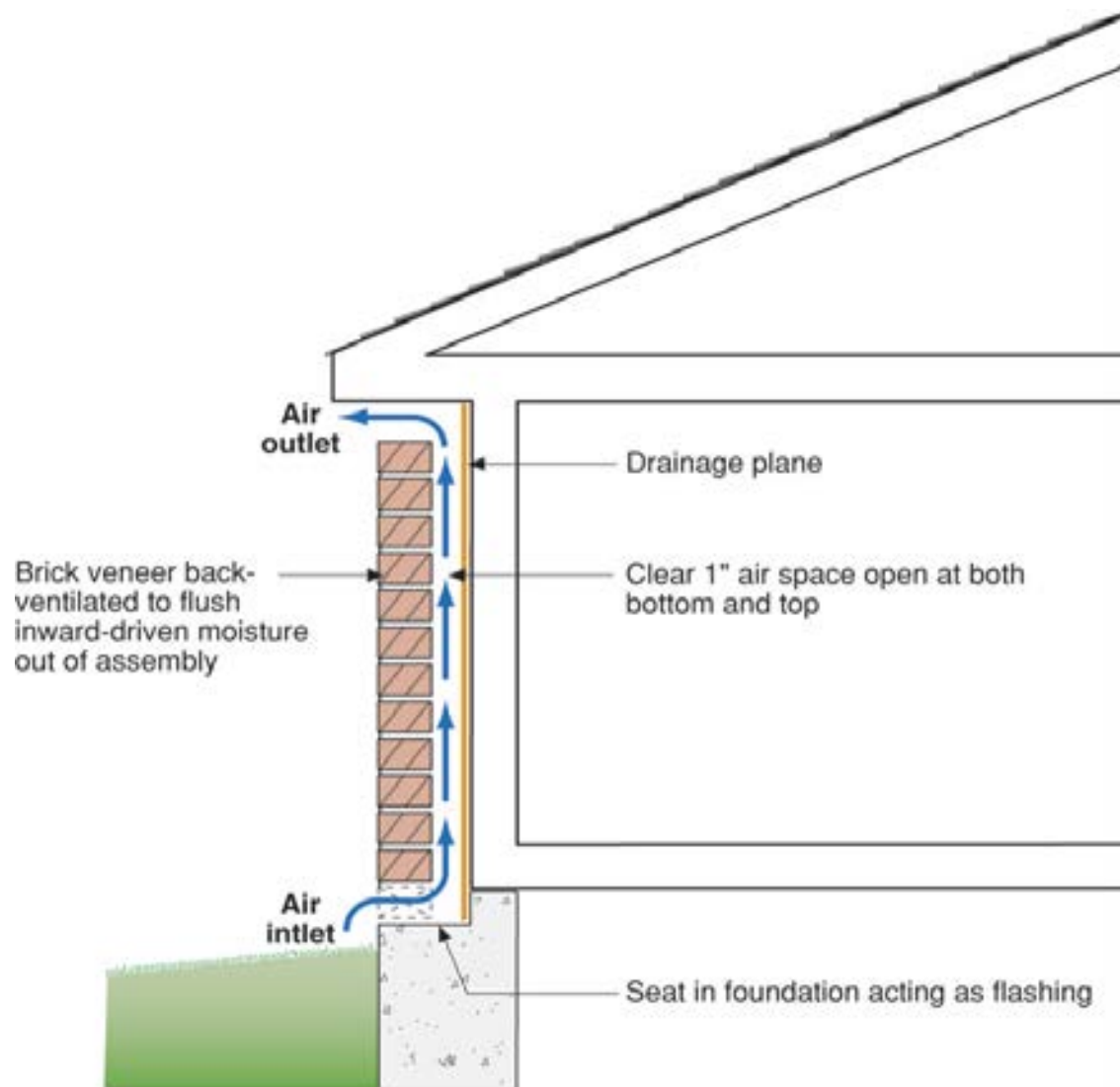




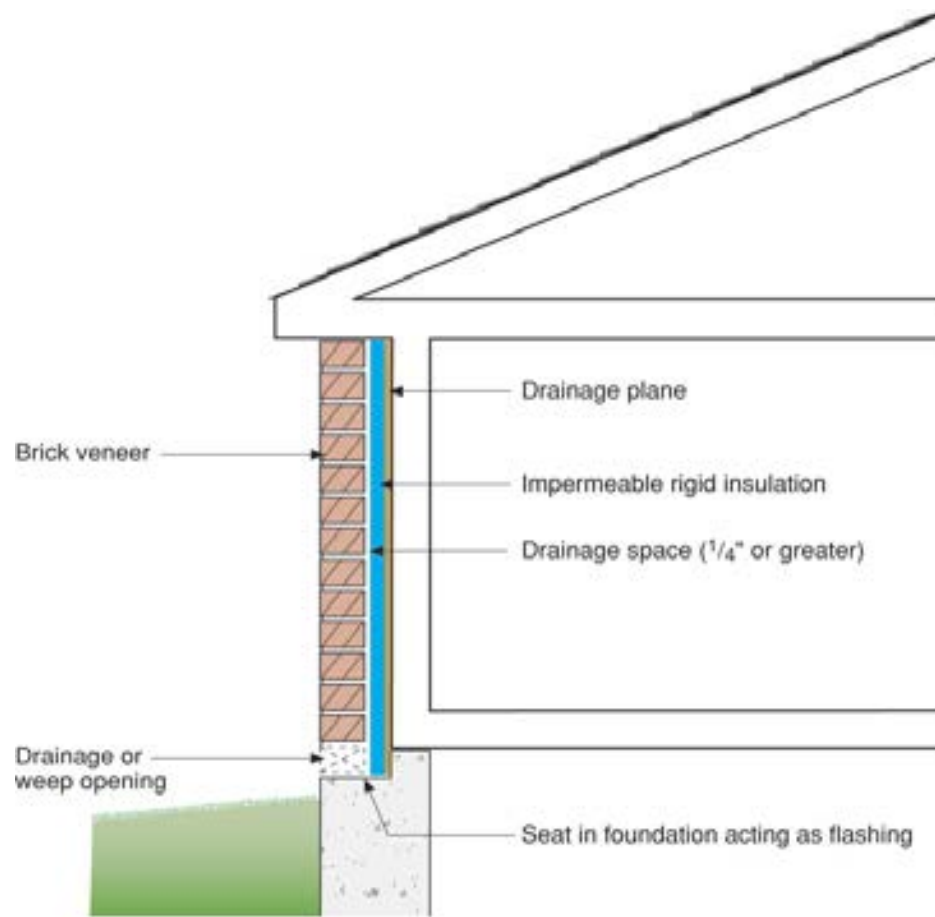


- It is not a good idea to install a vapor barrier (polyethylene) on the inside of an air conditioned assembly. Vinyl wall coverings and foil-backed batt cavity insulation should also be avoided.
- Vapor permeable exterior sheathings, housewraps or building papers should not be used with absorptive claddings 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.

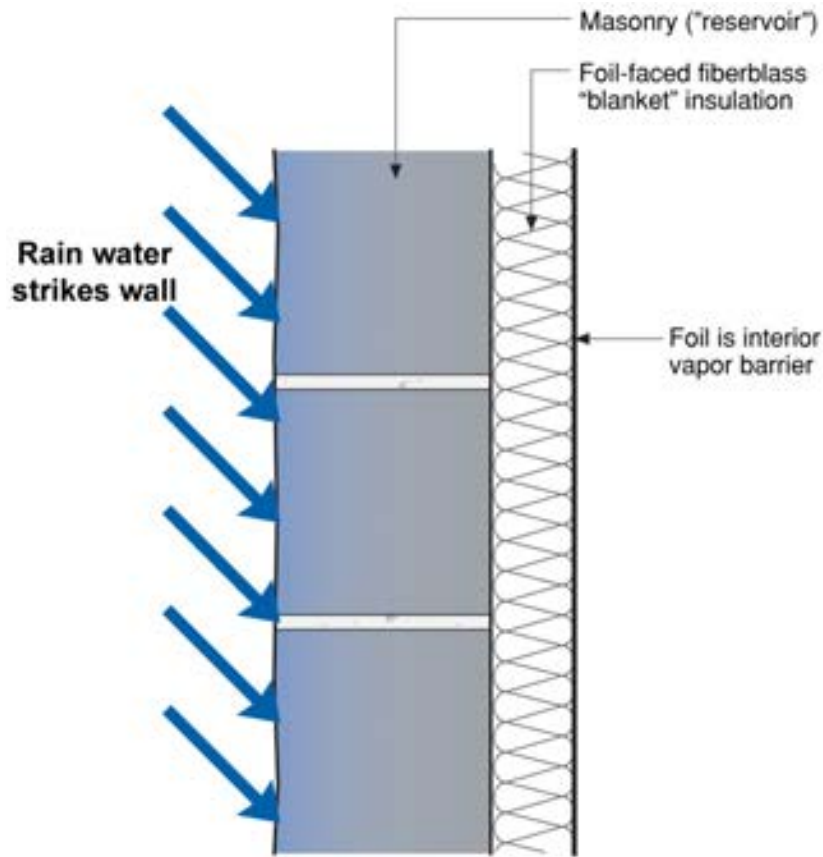






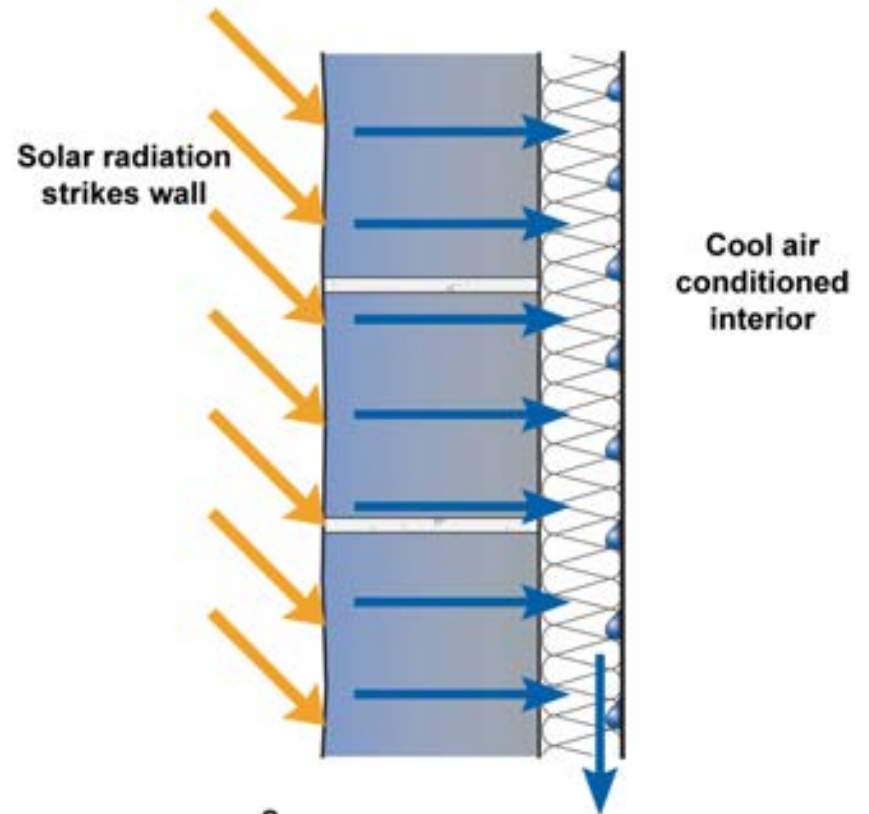






1.

- 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

