Building Science

Adventures In Building Science

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www.buildingscience.com
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
Arrhenius Equation
For Every 10 Degree K Rise
Reaction Rate Doubles

\[ k = A e^{-E_a/(RT)} \]
Damage Functions
Water
Heat
Ultra-violet Radiation
2\textsuperscript{nd} 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
Water Control Layer
Air Control Layer
Vapor Control Layer
Thermal Control Layer
Wall
Configurations of the Perfect Wall
Brick veneer/stone veneer

Drained cavity

Exterior rigid insulation — extruded polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, isocyanurate, rock wool, fiberglass

Membrane or trowel-on or spray applied drainage plane, air barrier and vapor retarder

Concrete block

Metal channel or wood furring

Gypsum board

Latex paint or vapor semi-permeable textured wall finish

Vapor Profile
Brick veneer/stone veneer

Drained cavity

Exterior rigid insulation — extruded polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, isocyanurate, rock wool, fiberglass

Membrane or trowel-on or spray applied drainage plane, air barrier and vapor retarder

Non paper-faced exterior gypsum sheathing, plywood or oriented strand board (OSB)

Uninsulated steel stud cavity

Gypsum board

Latex paint or vapor semi-permeable textured wall finish

Vapor Profile
Brick veneer/stone veneer
Drained cavity
Exterior rigid insulation — extruded polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, isocyanurate, rock wool, fiberglass
Membrane or trowel-on or spray applied drainage plane, air barrier and vapor retarder
Non paper-faced exterior gypsum sheathing, plywood or oriented strand board (OSB)
Insulated wood stud cavity
Gypsum board
Latex paint or vapor semi-permeable textured wall finish

Vapor Profile
Commercial Enclosure: Simple Layers

- Structure
- Rain/Air/Vapor
- Insulation
- Finish
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