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Building Science

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

Heat

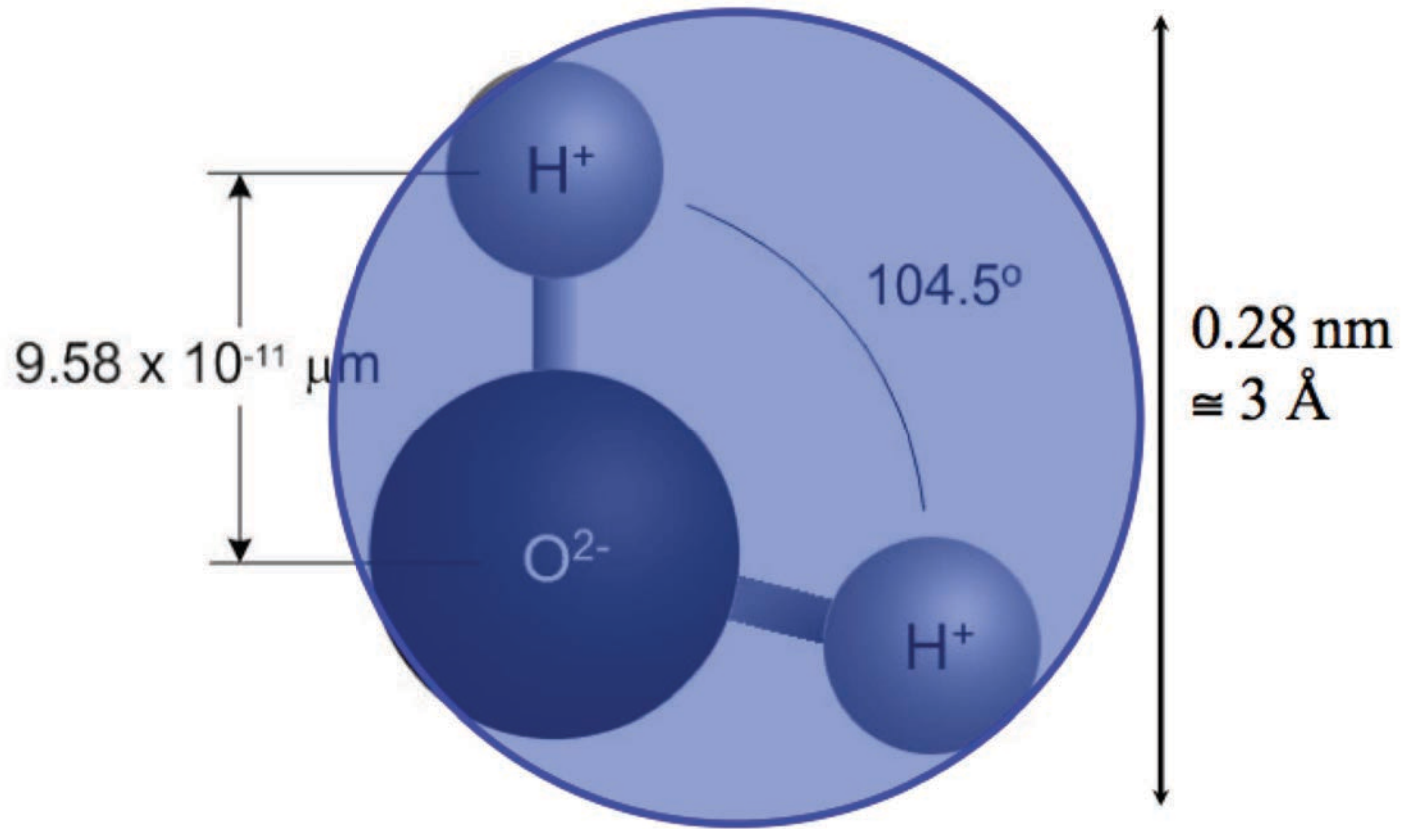
Air

Moisture

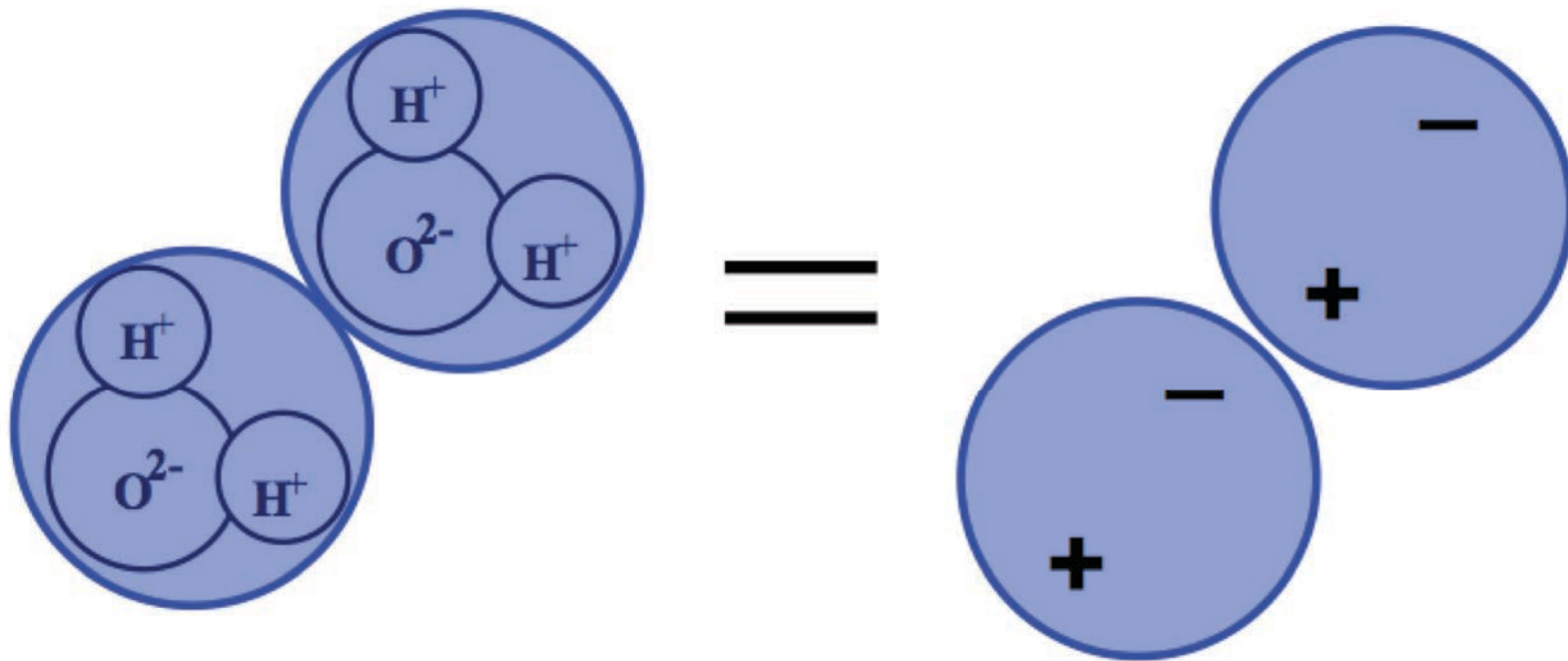
HAM

Hygrothermal Analysis

Water Molecules



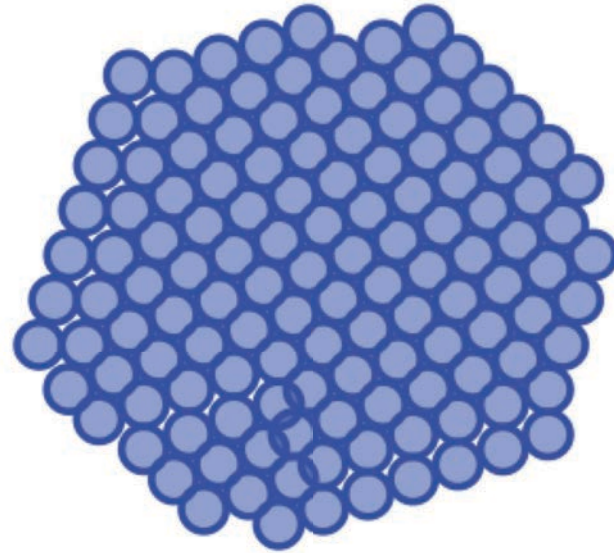
Polar Molecule



Size Matters



Vapor



Liquid

Periodic Table

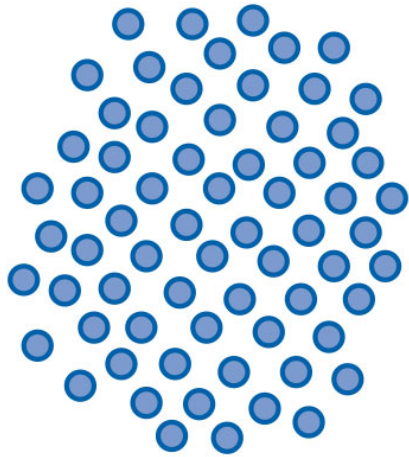
Group →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Period ↓	1																		2
	1 H												5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F		10 Ne
	2	3 Li	4 Be										13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl		18 Ar
	3	11 Na	12 Mg									30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br		36 Kr
	4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
	5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
	6	55 Cs	56 Ba	57 La *	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
	7	87 Fr	88 Ra	89 Ac *	104 Rf *	105 Db *	106 Sg *	107 Bh *	108 Hs *	109 Mt *	110 Ds *	111 Rg *	112 Cn *	113 Nh *	114 Fl *	115 Mc *	116 Lv *	117 Ts *	118 Og *
				* 58 Ce	* 59 Pr	* 60 Nd	* 61 Pm	* 62 Sm	* 63 Eu	* 64 Gd	* 65 Tb	* 66 Dy	* 67 Ho	* 68 Er	* 69 Tm	* 70 Yb	* 71 Lu		
				* 90 Th	* 91 Pa	* 92 U	* 93 Np	* 94 Pu	* 95 Am	* 96 Cm	* 97 Bk	* 98 Cf	* 99 Es	* 100 Fm	* 101 Md	* 102 No	* 103 Lr		

Nitrogen 14

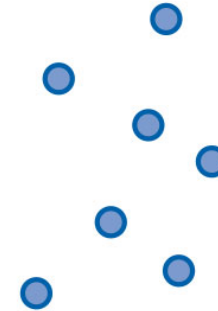
Oxygen 16

Nitrogen	14	N ₂	28
Oxygen	16	O ₂	32
		H ₂ O	18

Vapor Diffusion
Air Transported Moisture
Vapor Barriers
Air Barriers



DIFFUSION

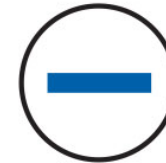


**Higher Dewpoint Temperature
Higher Water Vapor Density
or Concentration
(Higher Vapor Pressure)
on Warm Side of Assembly**

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

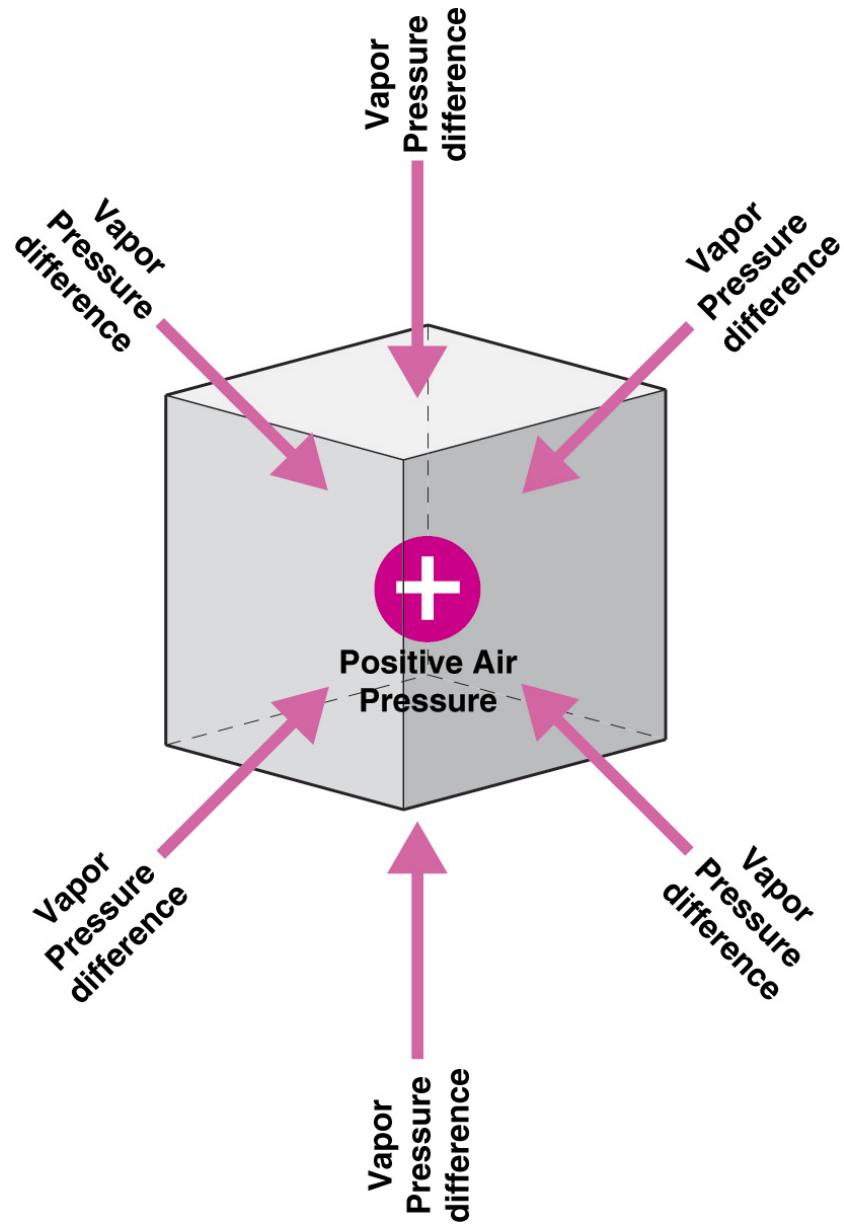


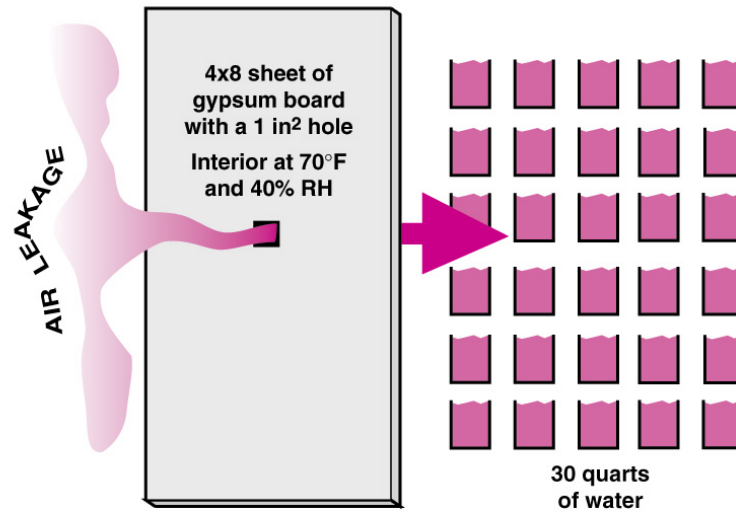
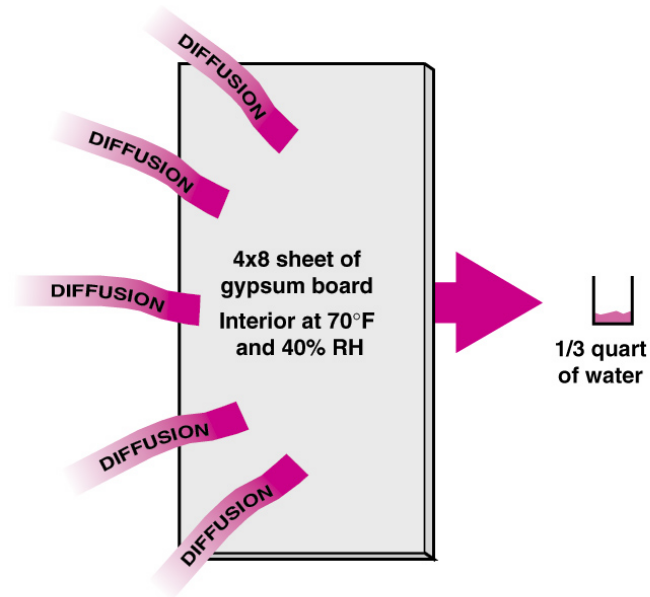
AIR TRANSPORT

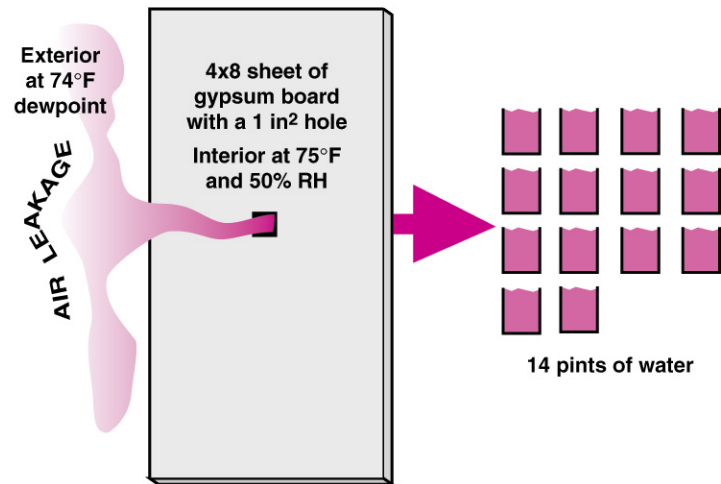
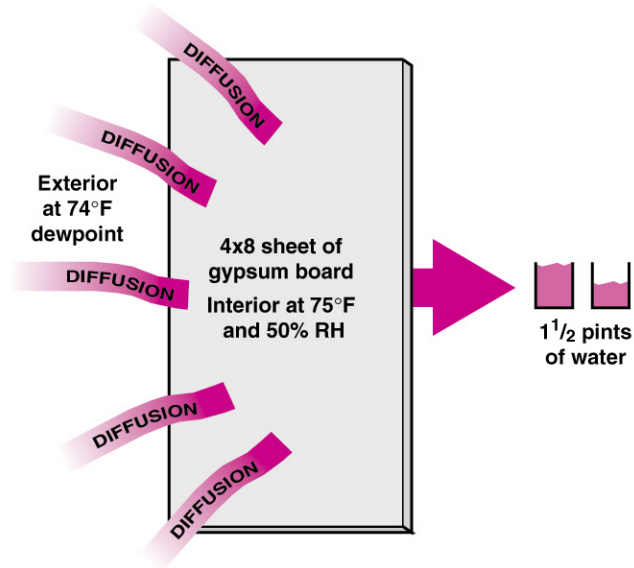


**Higher Air
Pressure**

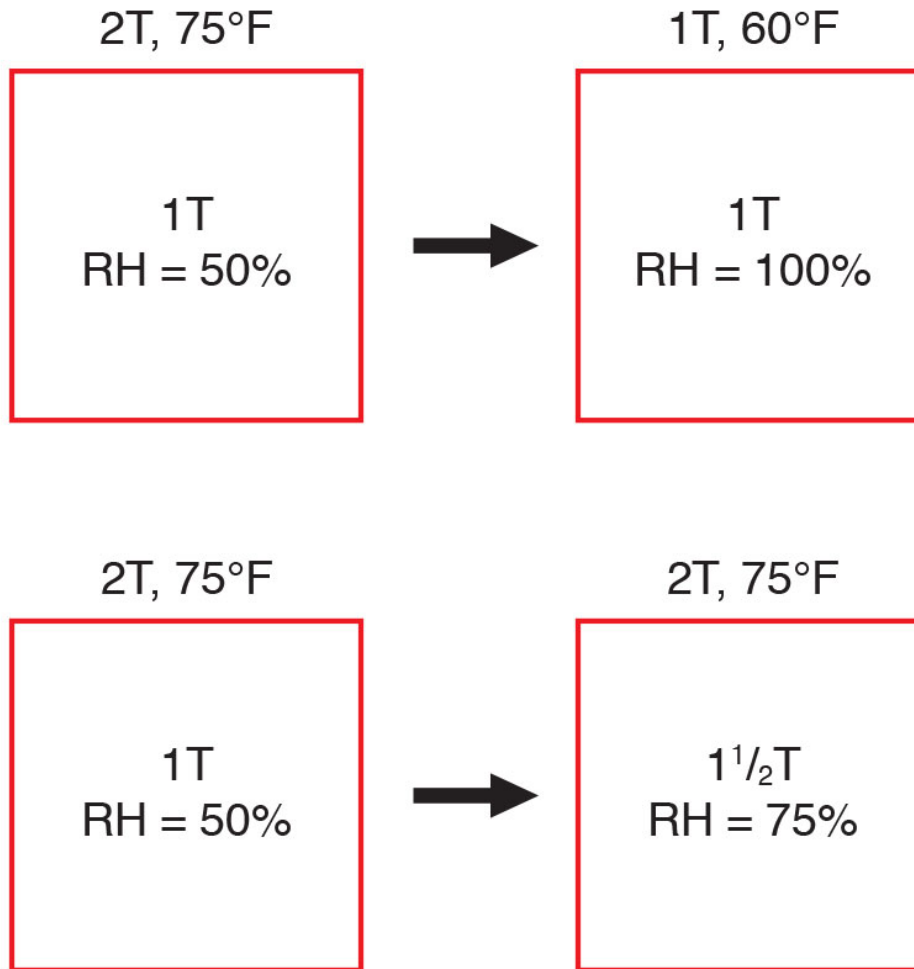
**Lower Air
Pressure**

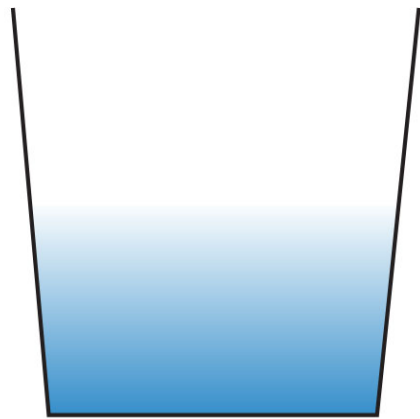




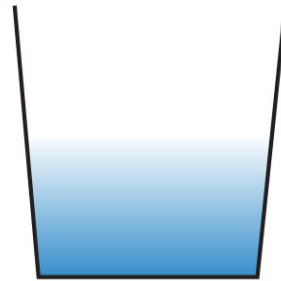


Relative Humidity Vapor Pressure

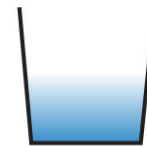




90°F
50% RH



75°F
50% RH



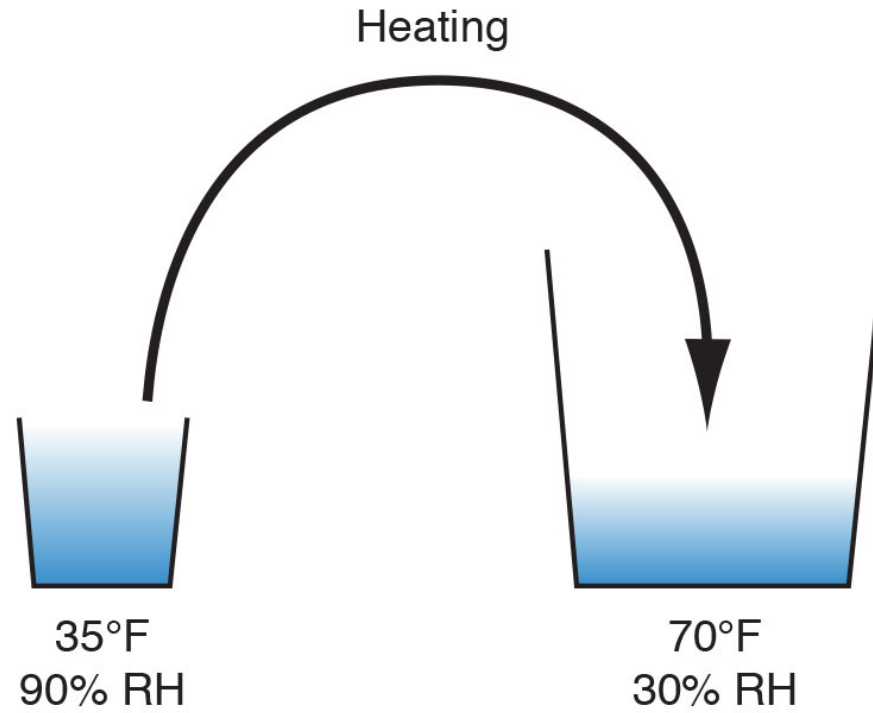
60°F
50% RH

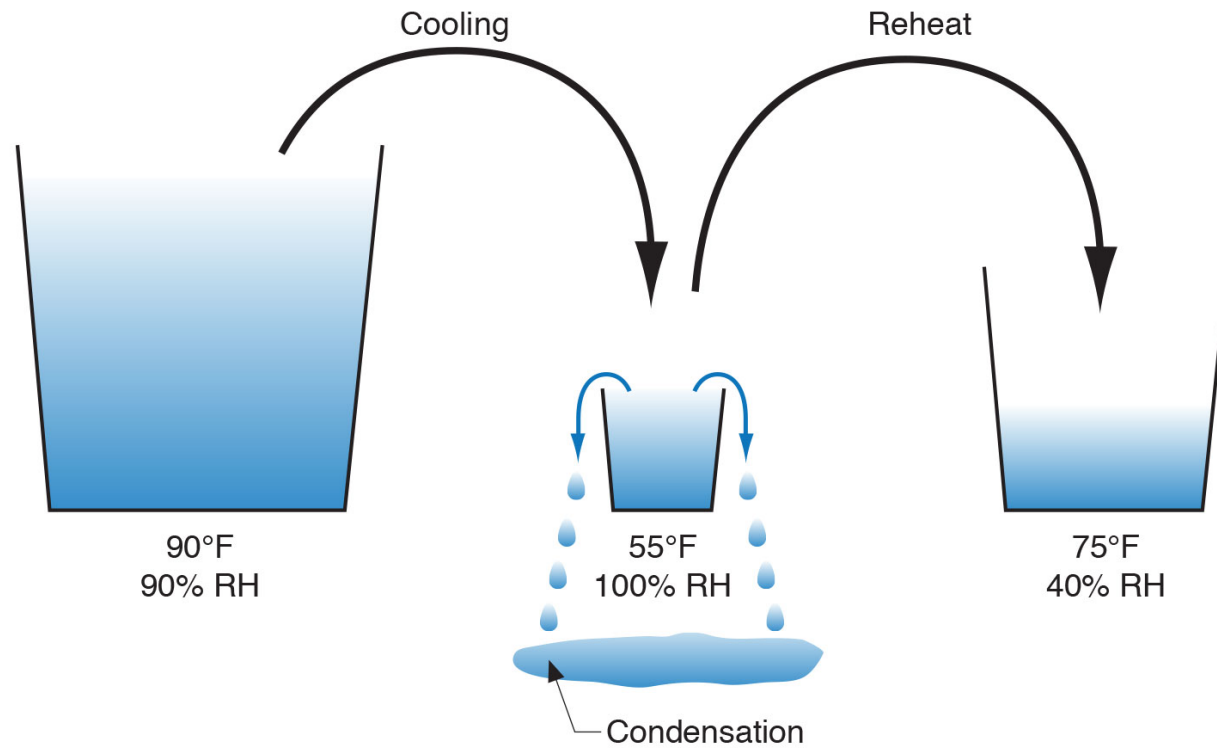


45°F
50% RH



30°F
50% RH







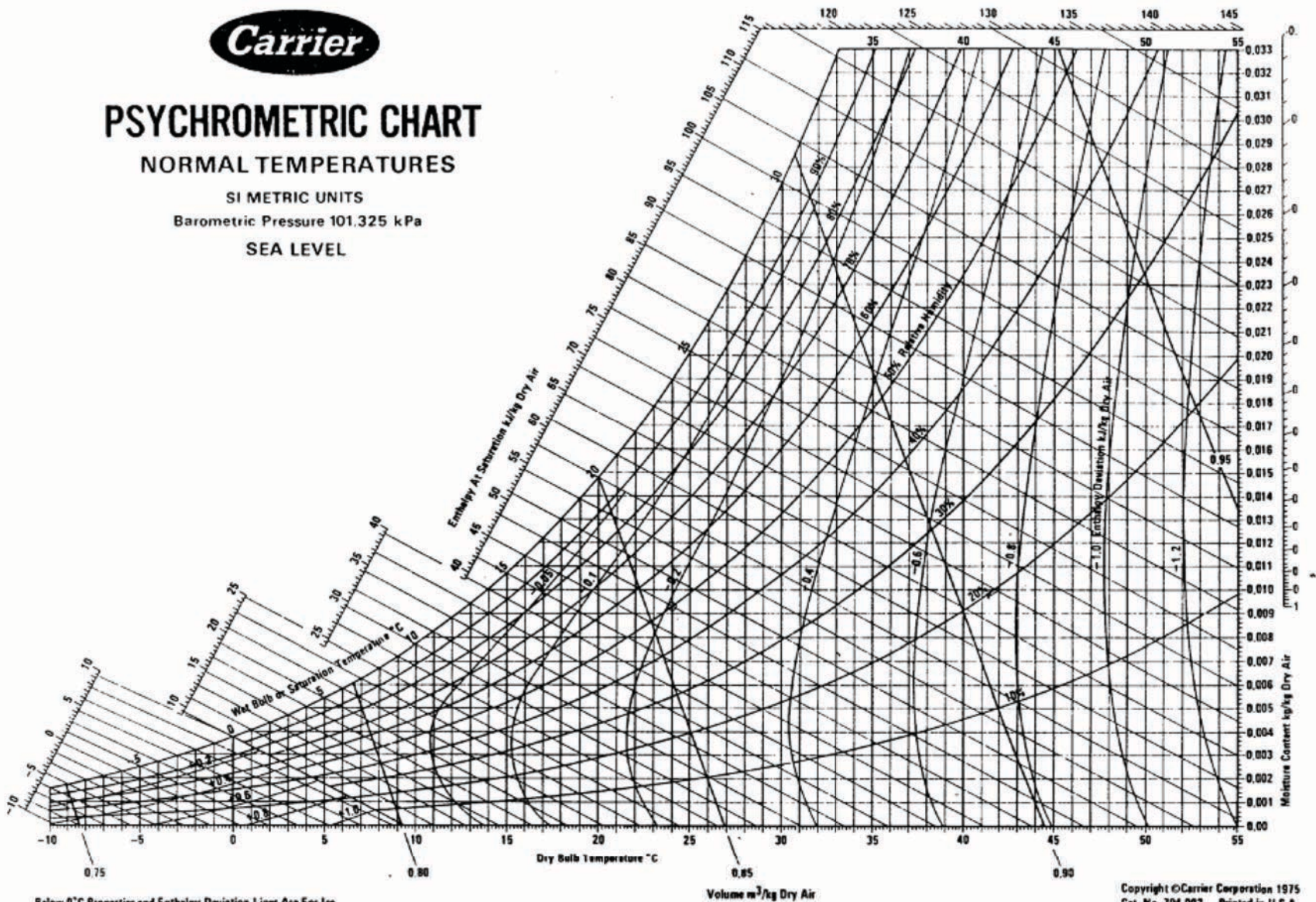
PSYCHROMETRIC CHART

NORMAL TEMPERATURES

SI METRIC UNITS

Barometric Pressure 101.325 kPa

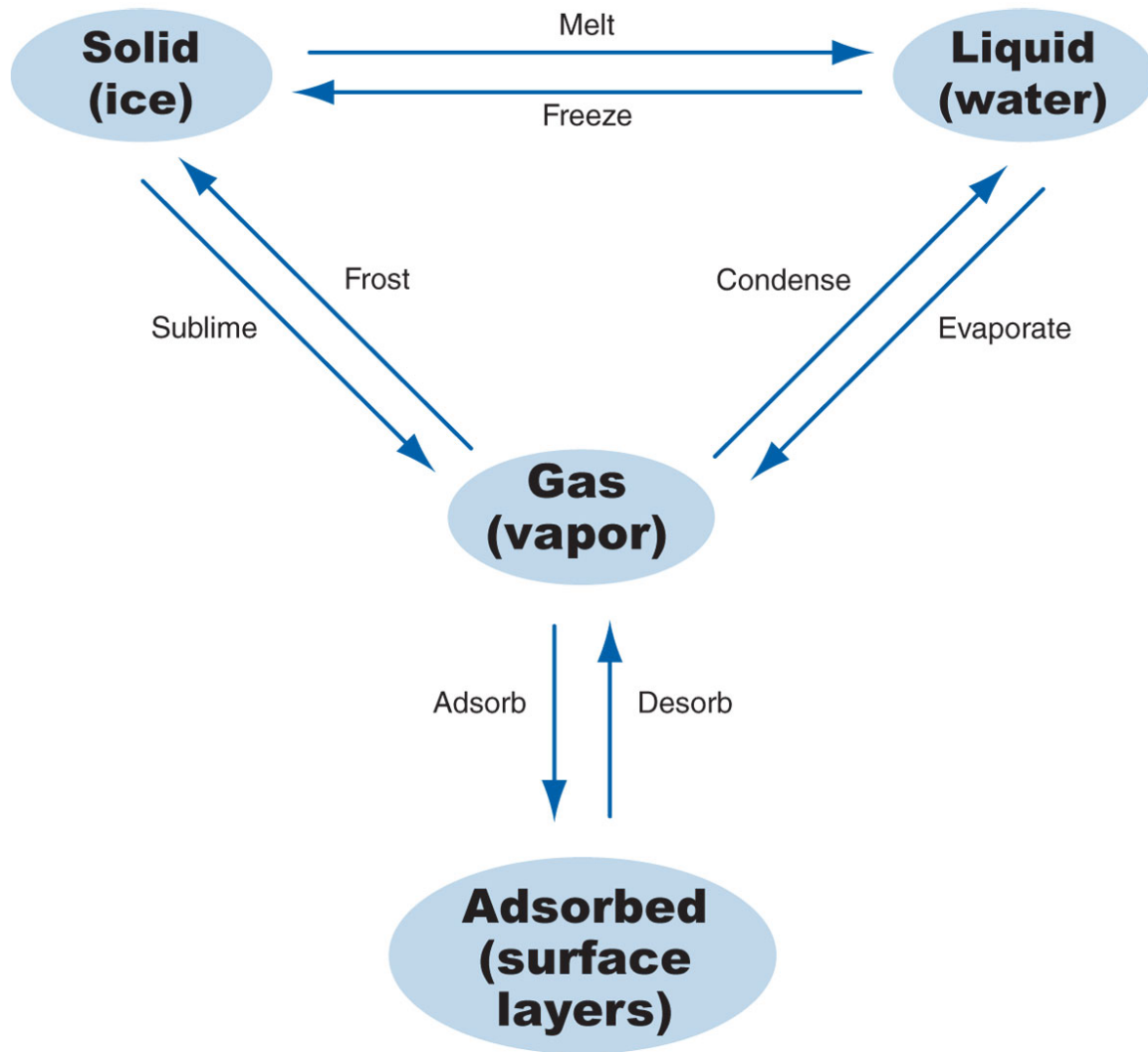
SEA LEVEL

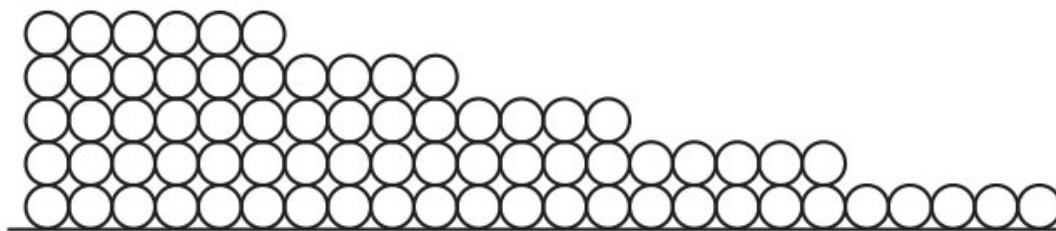


Below 0°C Properties and Enthalpy Deviation Lines Are For Ice

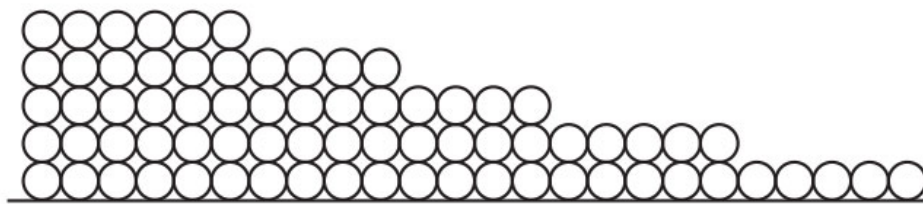
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Cat. No. 794 002 Printed in U.S.A.

States of Matter



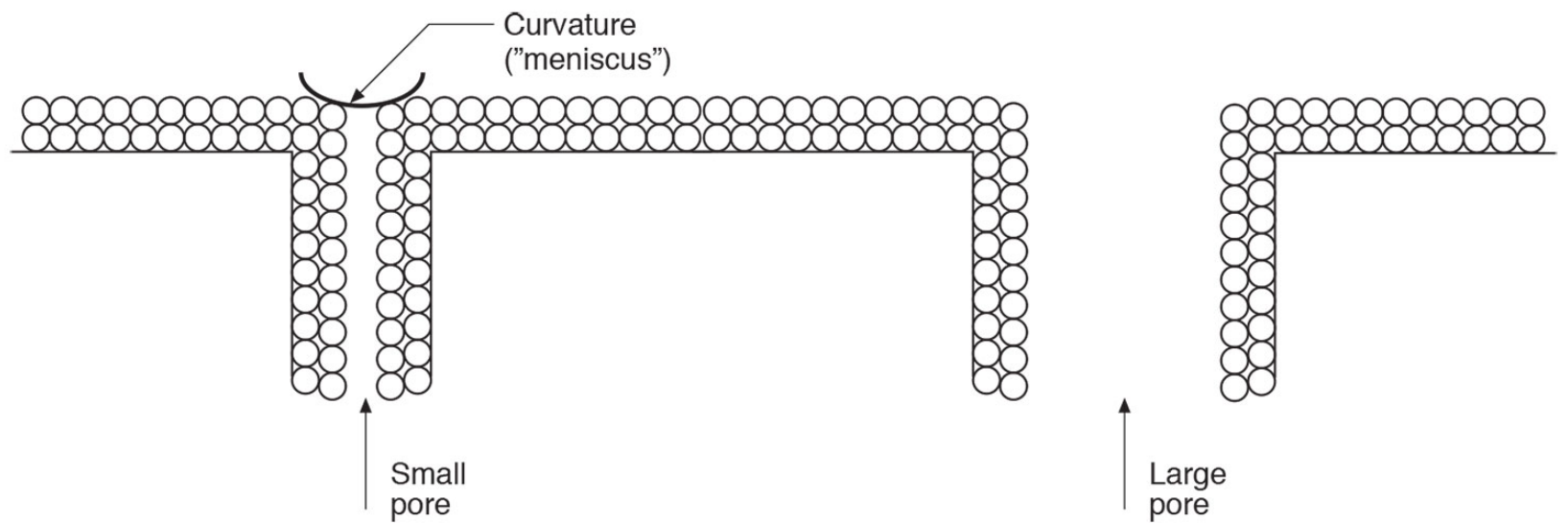


Monolayers of adsorbed water increase with increasing RH



Monolayers
flow along surface
following concentration gradient



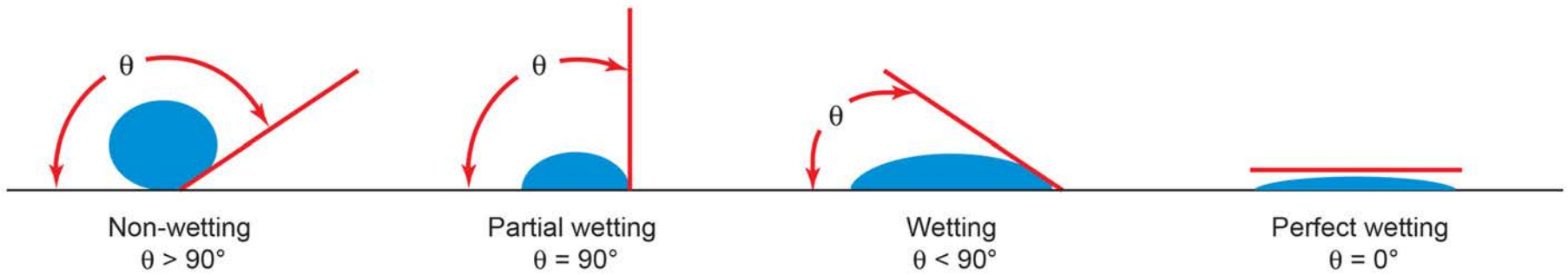






- “non-wetable” surface
- water repellent surface
- hydrophobic surface
- water more attracted to itself than to surface
- surface energy of water greater than surface energy of surface
- water “beads up”
- “greasy” surface
- high contact angle “θ”

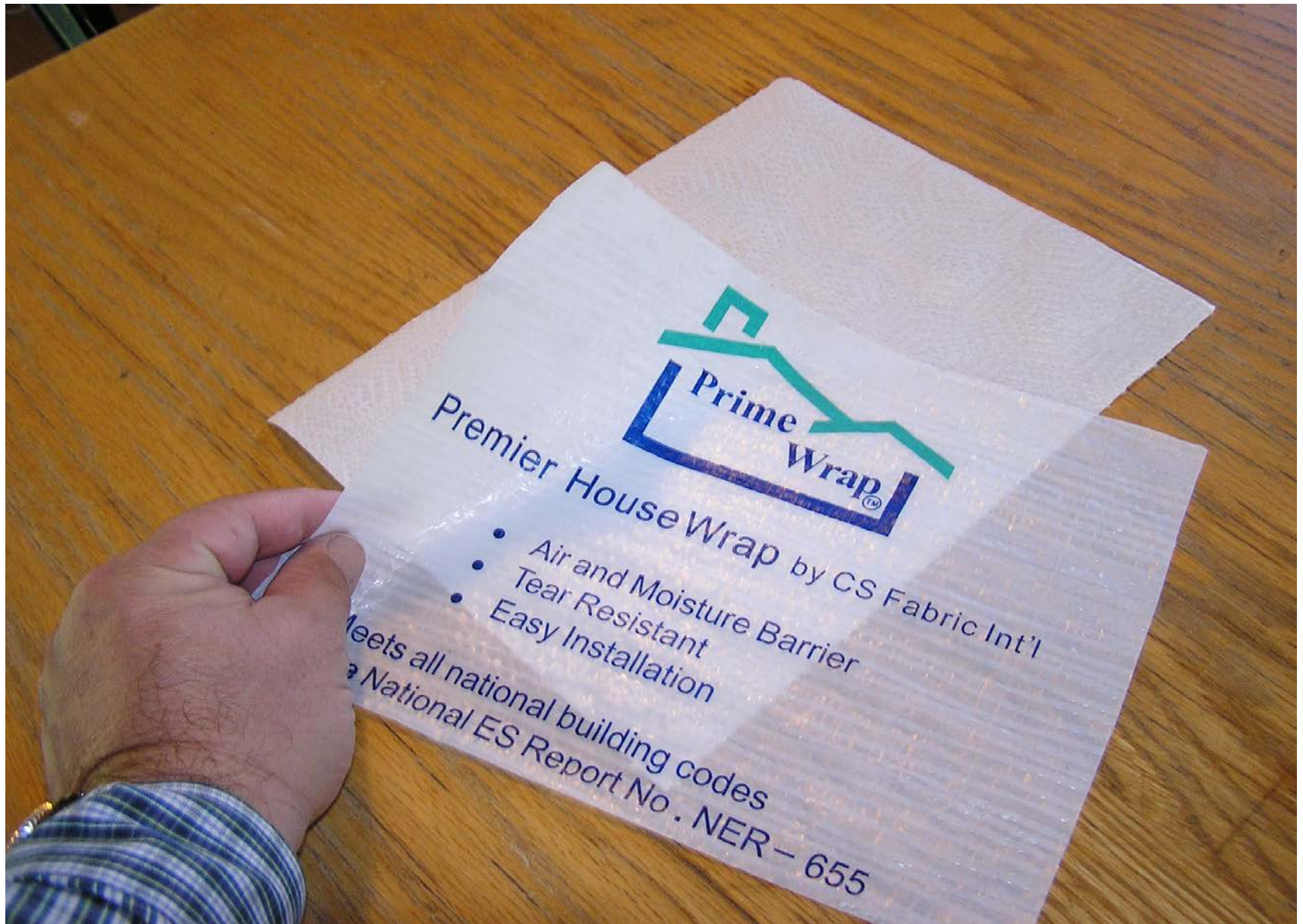
- “wetable” surface
- non-water repellent surface
- hydrophilic surface
- water more attracted to surface than itself
- surface energy of surface greater than surface energy of water
- water “spreads out”
- “non-greasy” surface
- low contact angle “θ”

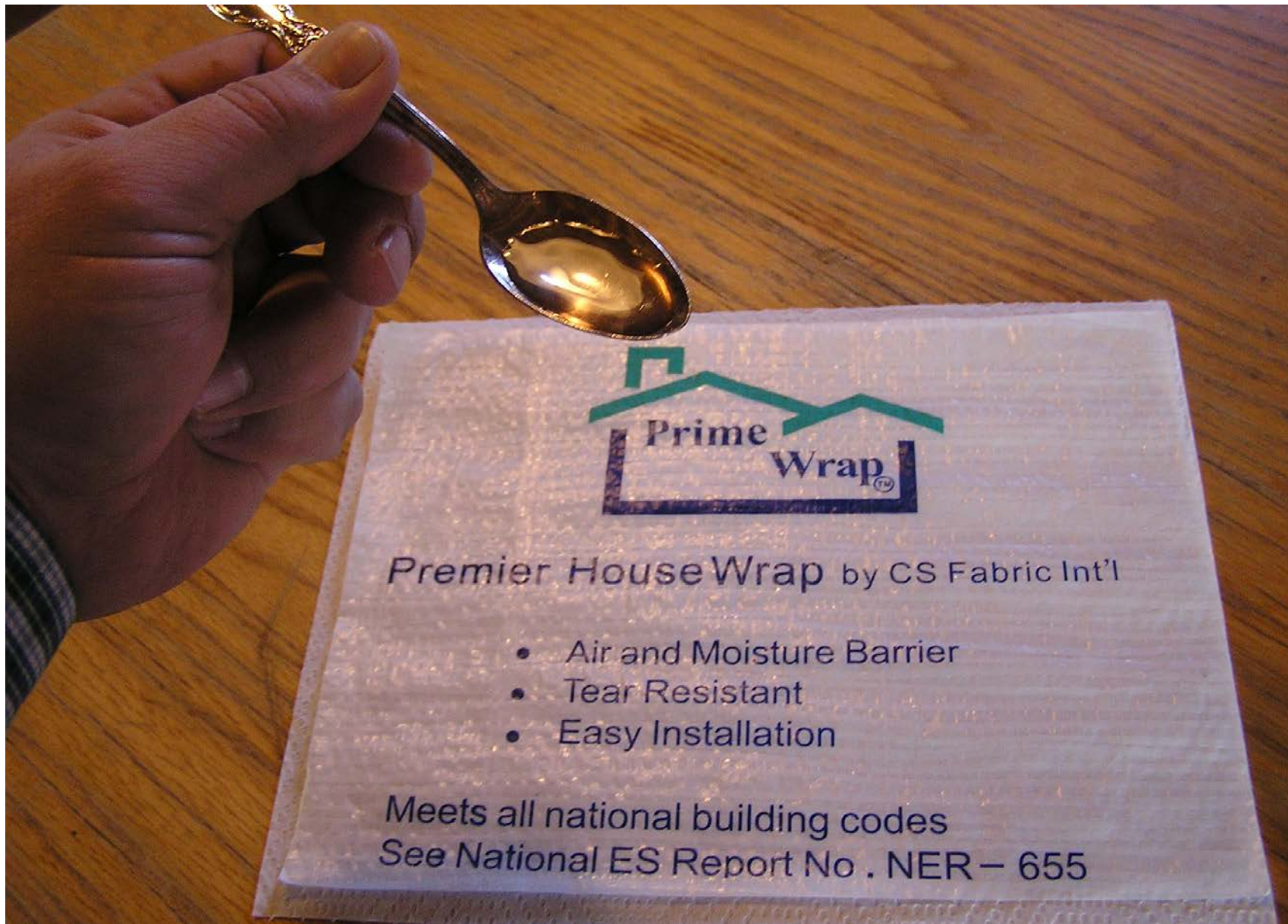
















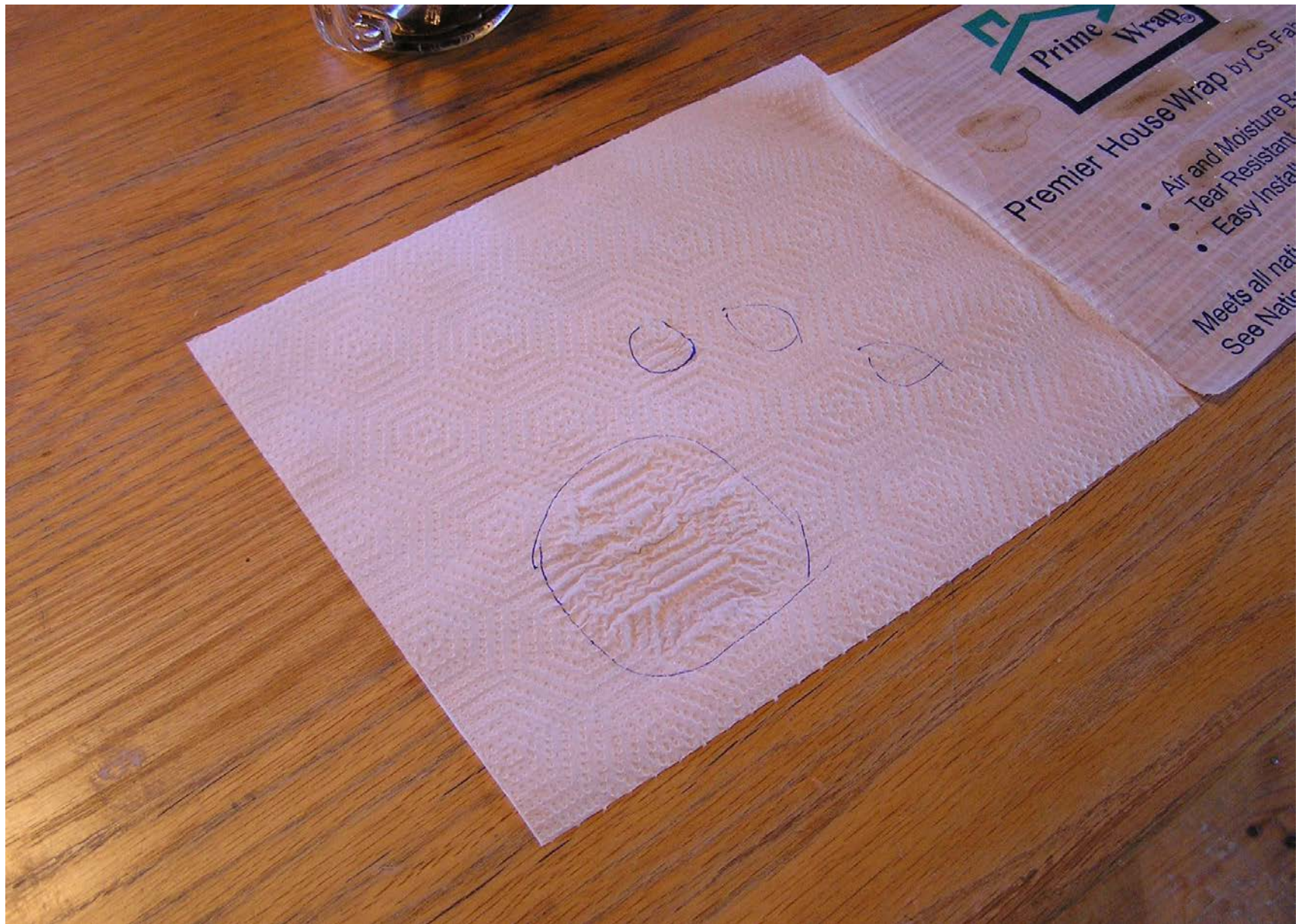




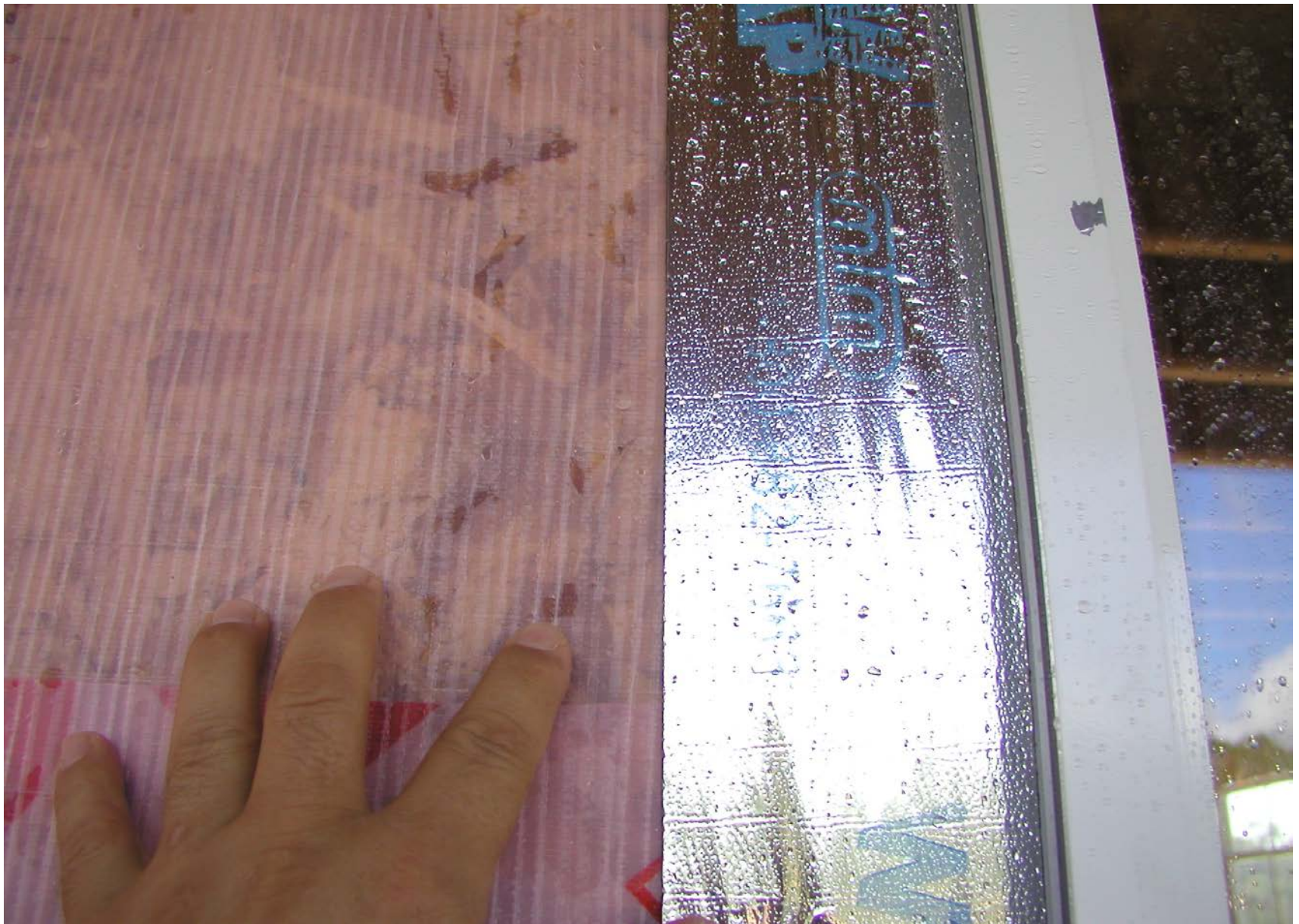
Premier House Wrap by CS Fabric Int'l

- Air and Moisture Barrier
- Tear Resistant
- Easy Installation

Meets all national building codes
See National ES Report No. NER-655





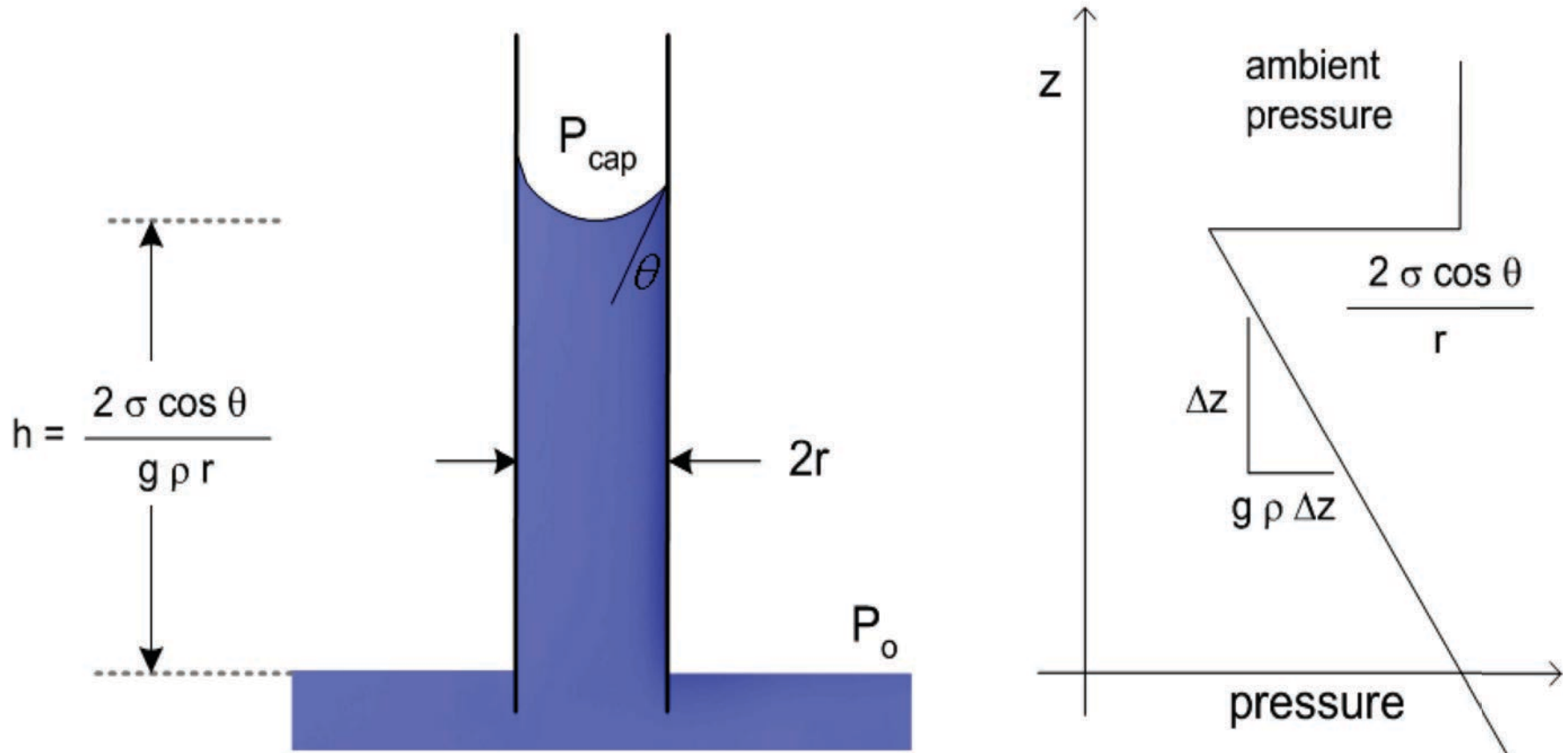




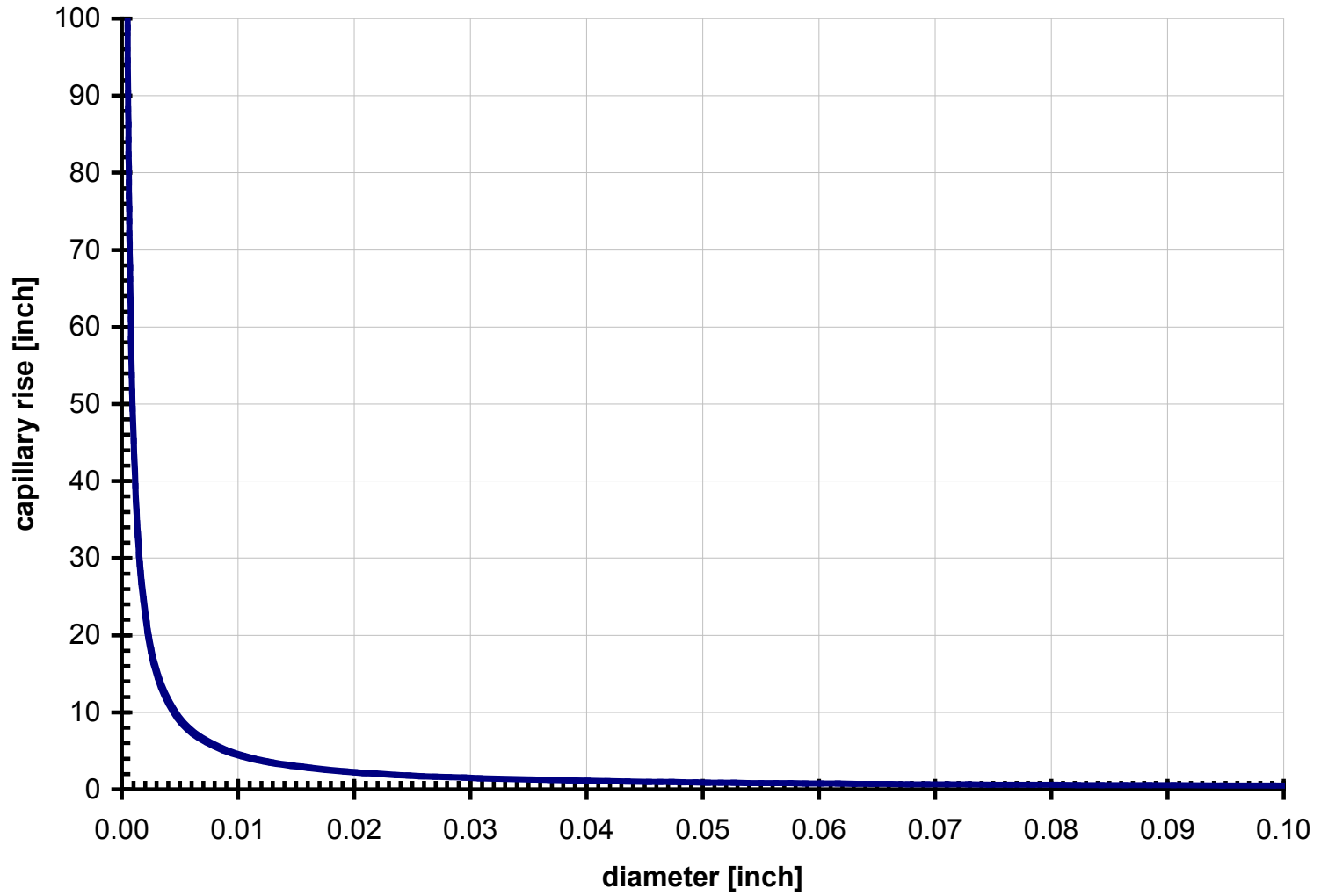
Surface Energy

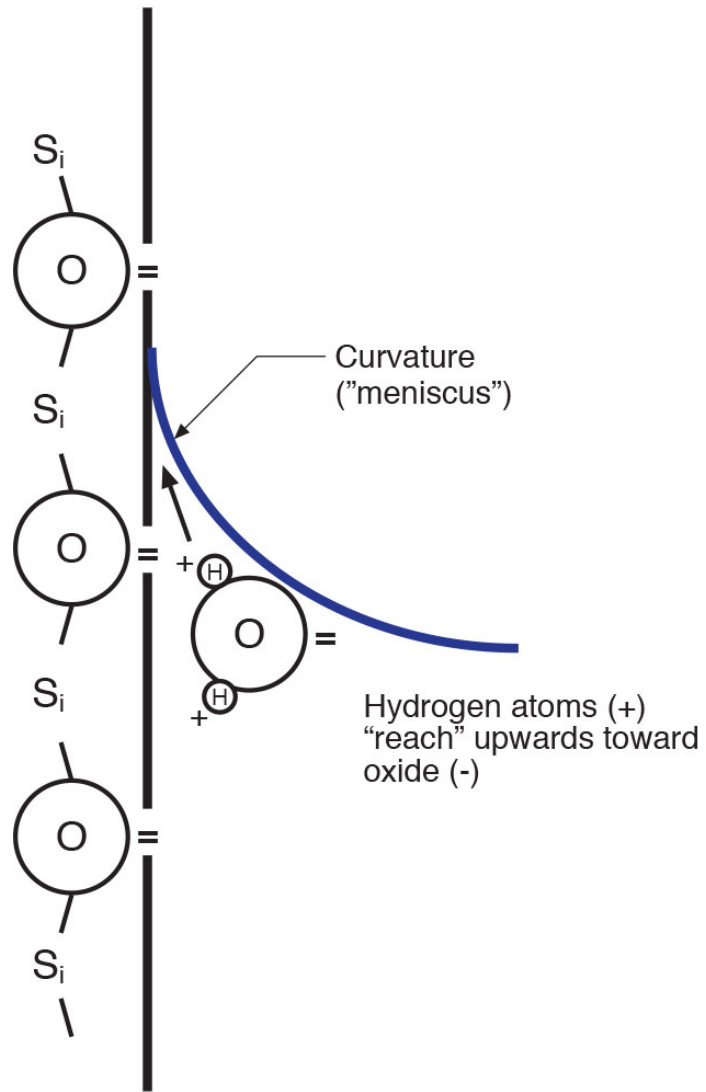
Water (20 C)	73 dynes/cm
Water (100 C)	59 dynes/cm
Epoxy	46 dynes/cm
Polyethylene	31 dynes/cm
Soapy water	30 dynes/cm
Paraffin wax	25 dynes/cm
Silicone	24 dynes/cm
Teflon	18 dynes/cm

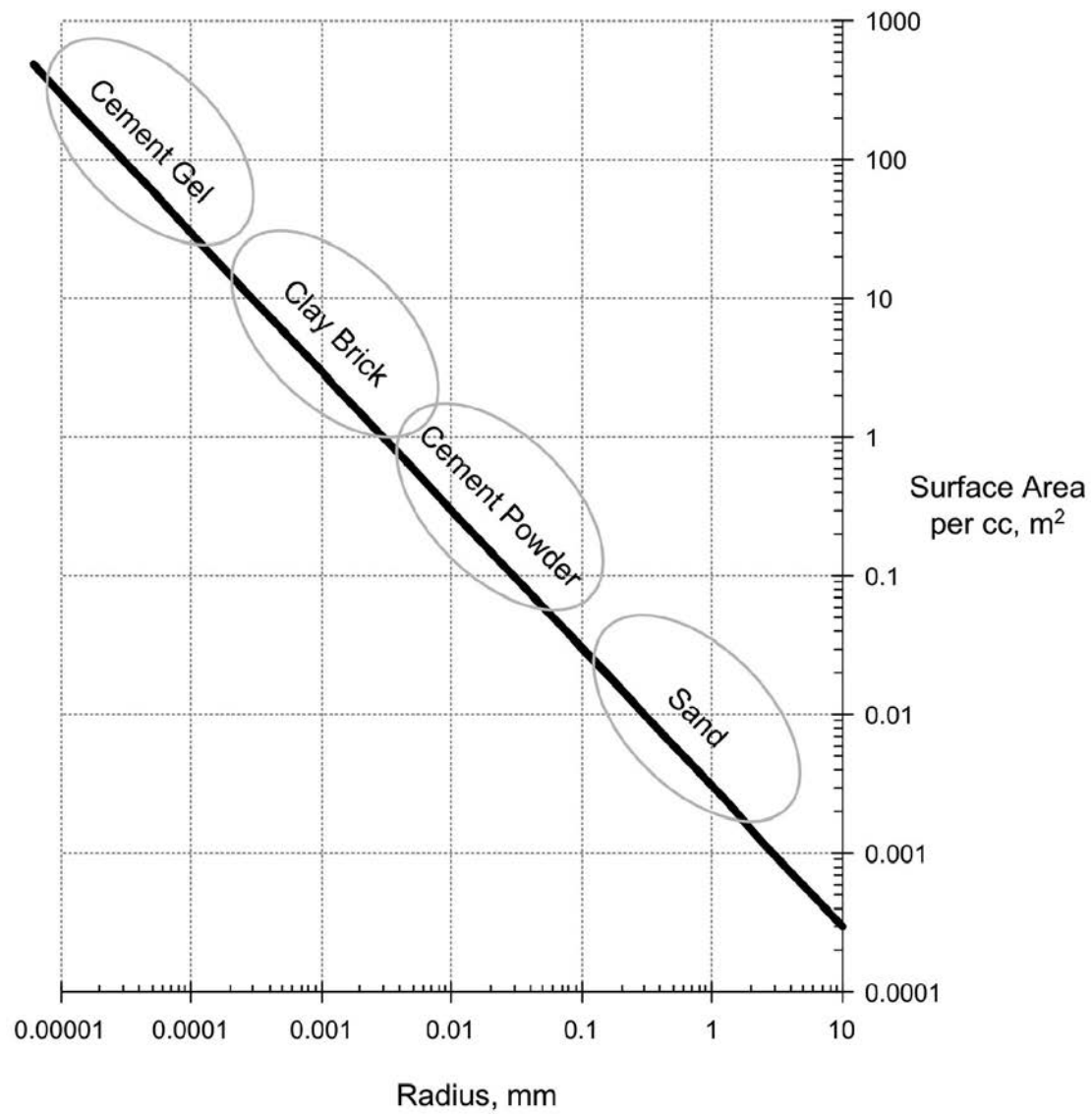
Calculating capillary rise



Capillary rise versus diameter







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

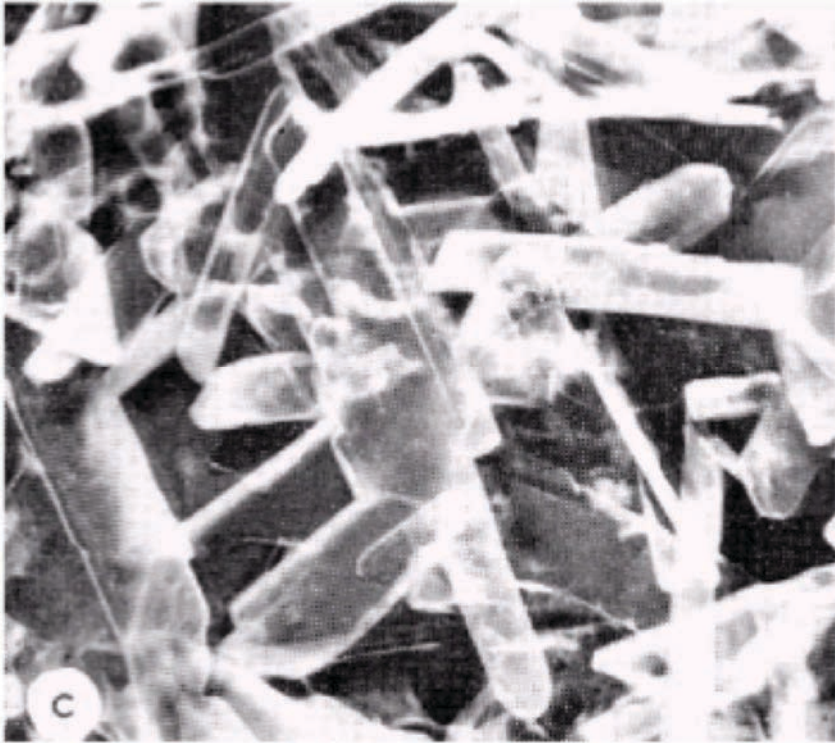


Figure 1c. Gypsum, hydrated from plaster of paris and water, porosity 30 per cent.

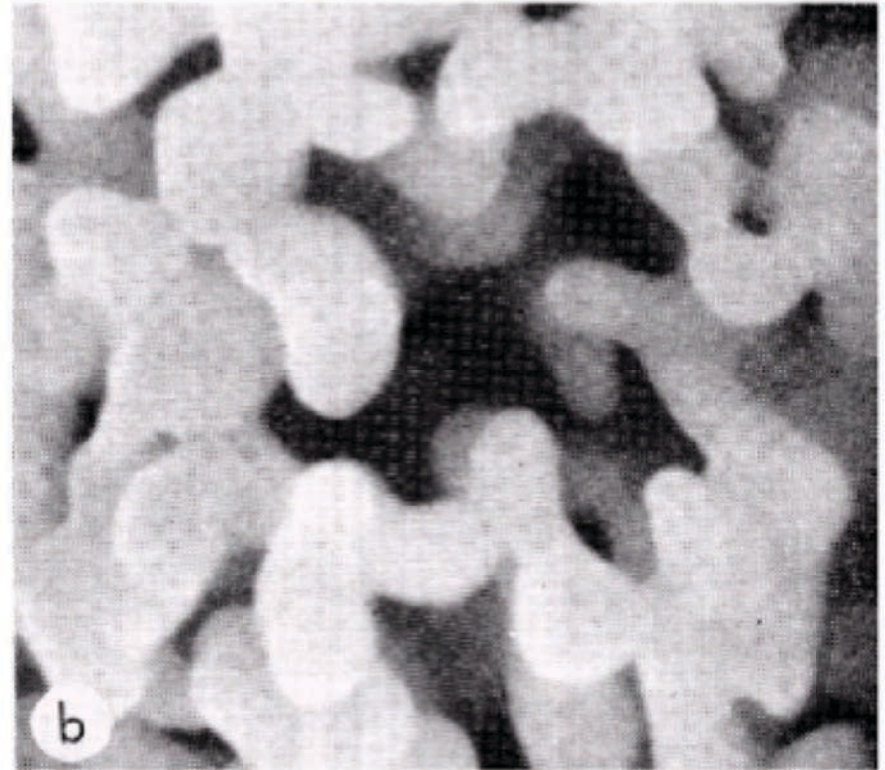
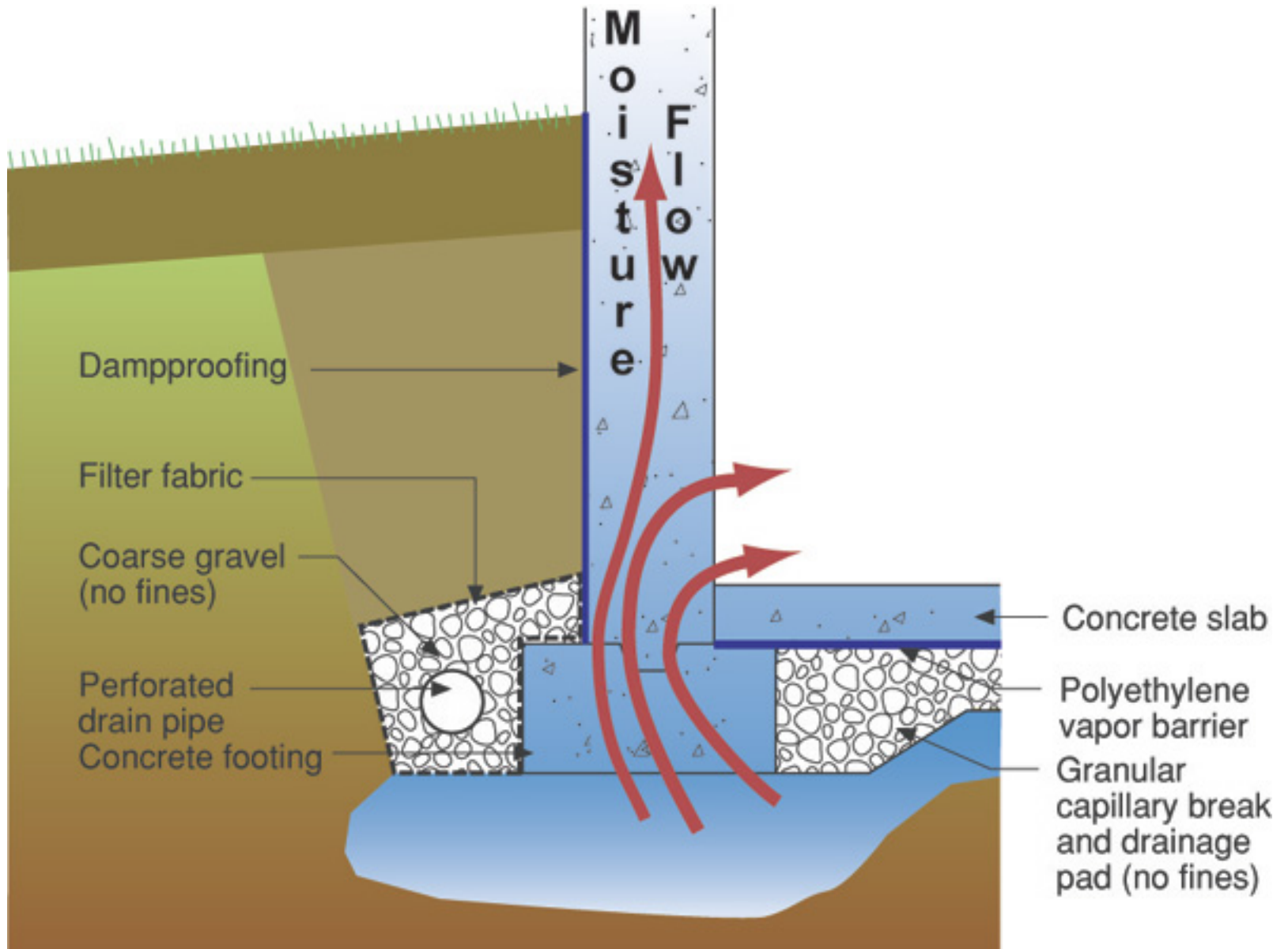
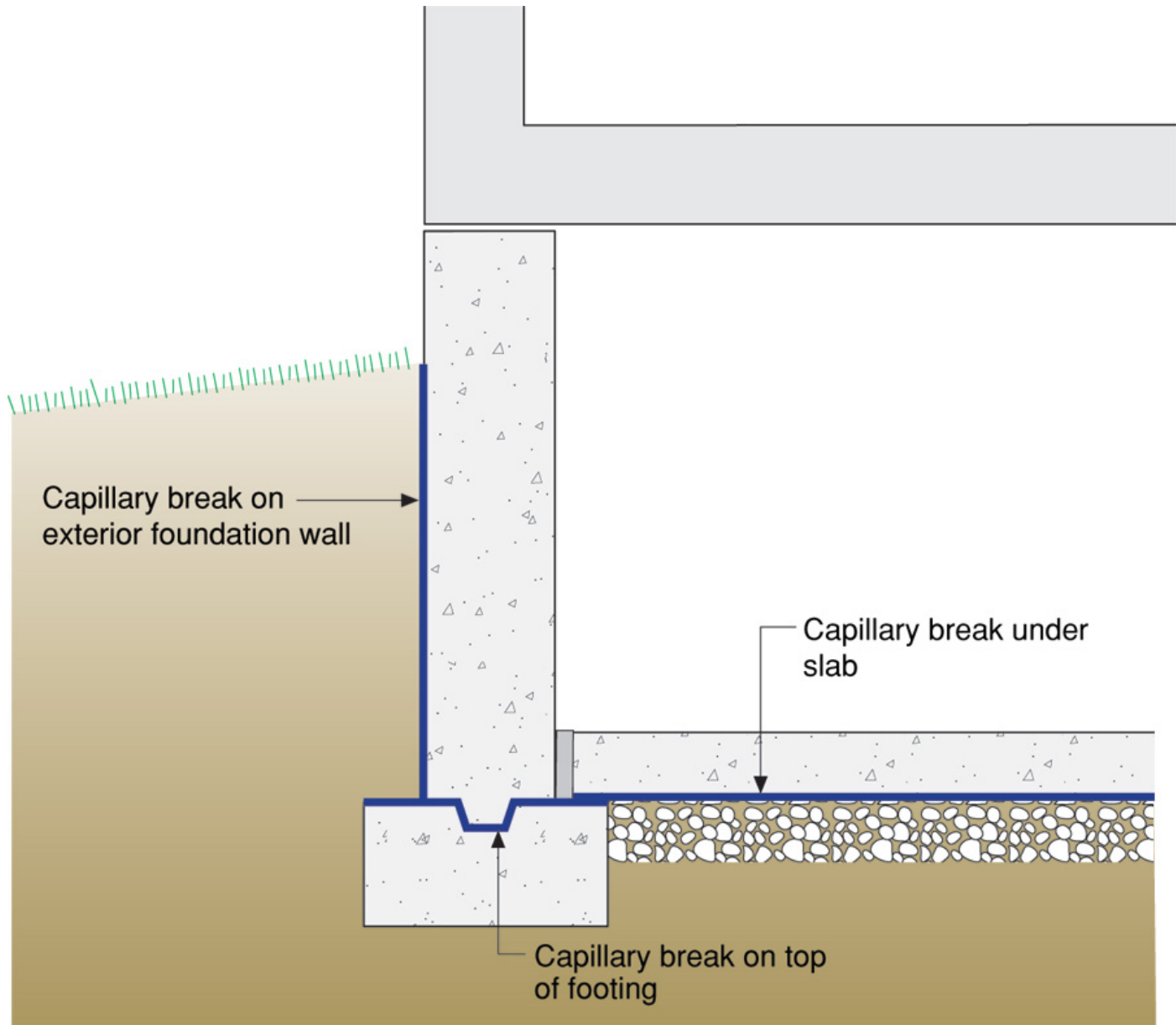


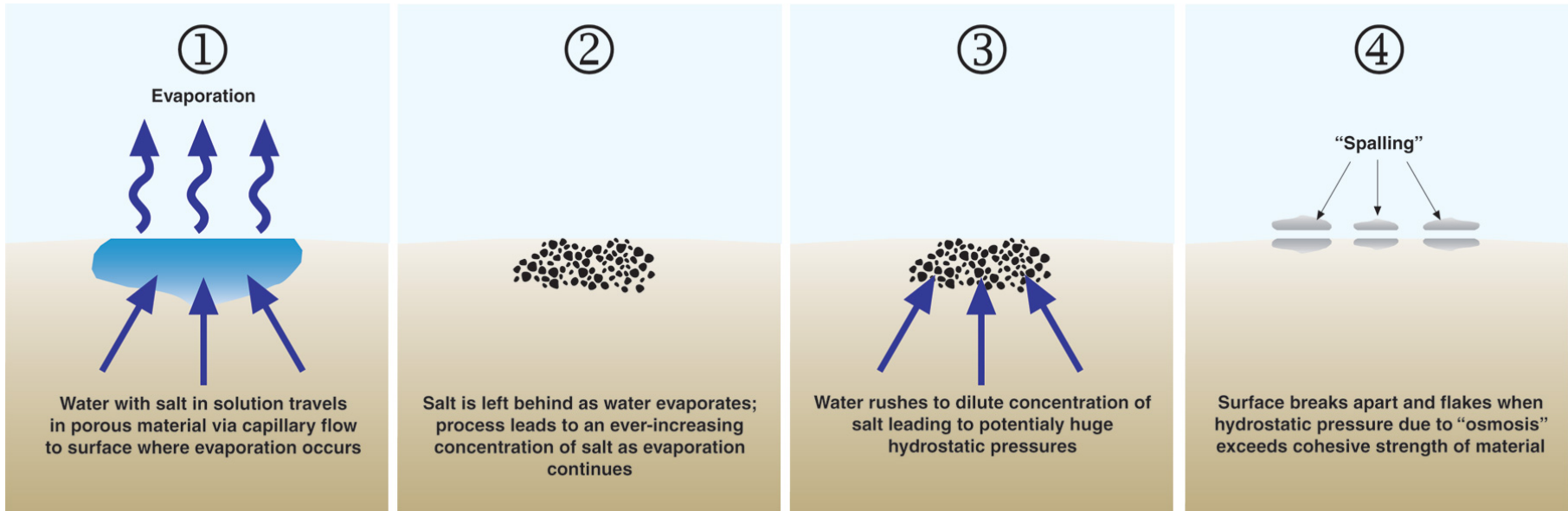
Figure 1b. Brick, sintered clay, porosity 40 per cent.





Capillarity + Salt = Osmosis

- Mineral salts carried in solution by capillary water
- When water evaporates from a surface the salts left behind form crystals in process called efflorescence
- When water evaporated beneath a surface the salts crystallize within the pore structure of the material in called sub-efflorescence
- The salt crystallization causes expansive forces that can exceed the cohesive strength of the material leading to spalling

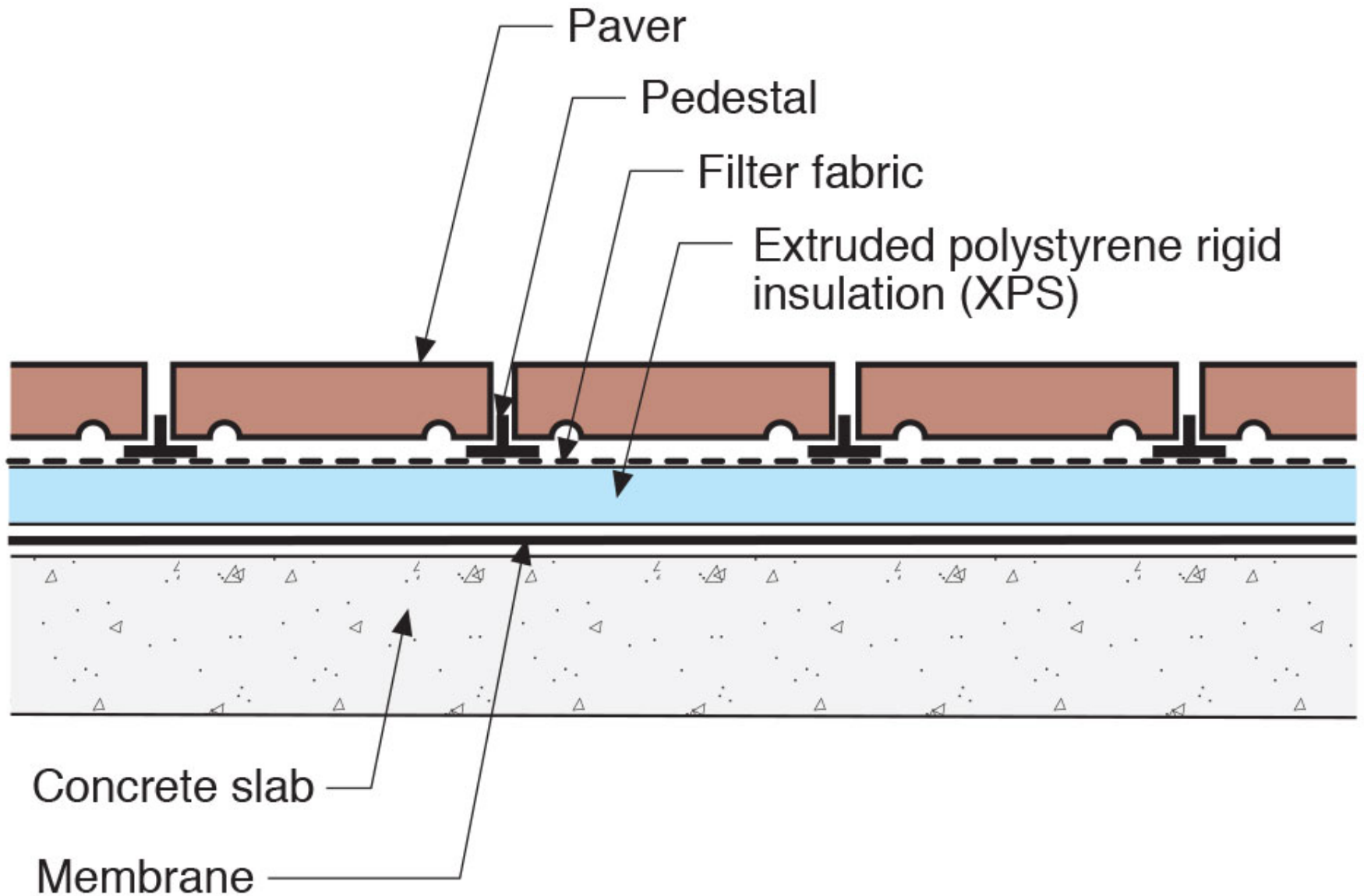


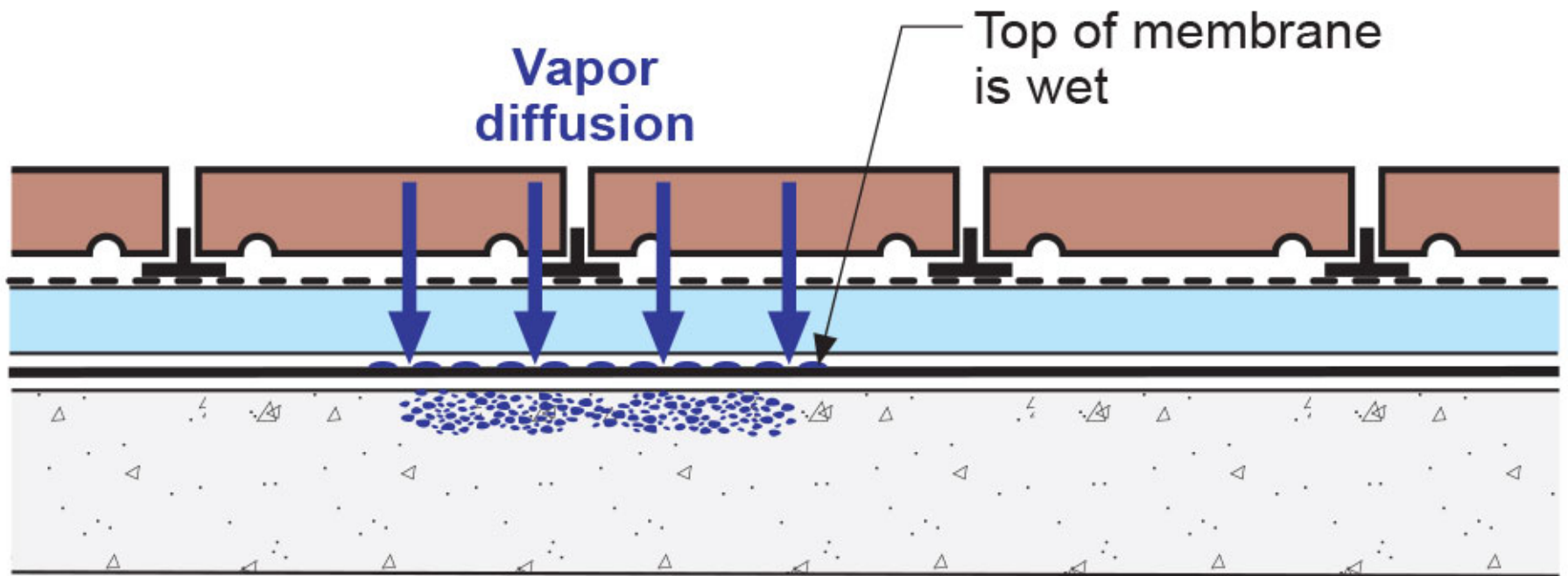
Pressures

- Diffusion Vapor Pressure 3 to 5 psi
- Capillary Pressure 300 to 500 psi
- Osmosis Pressure 3,000 to 5,000 psi

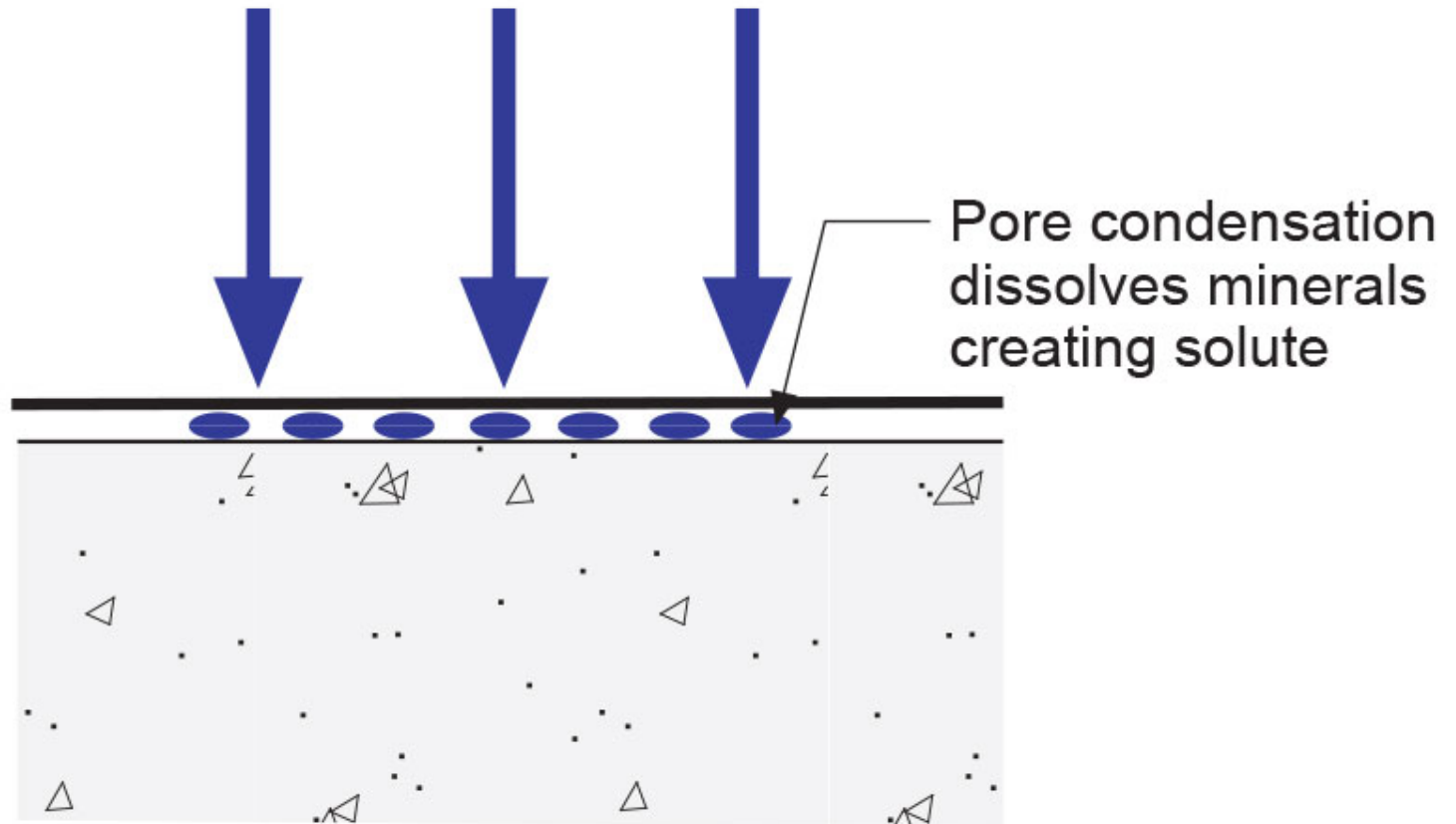


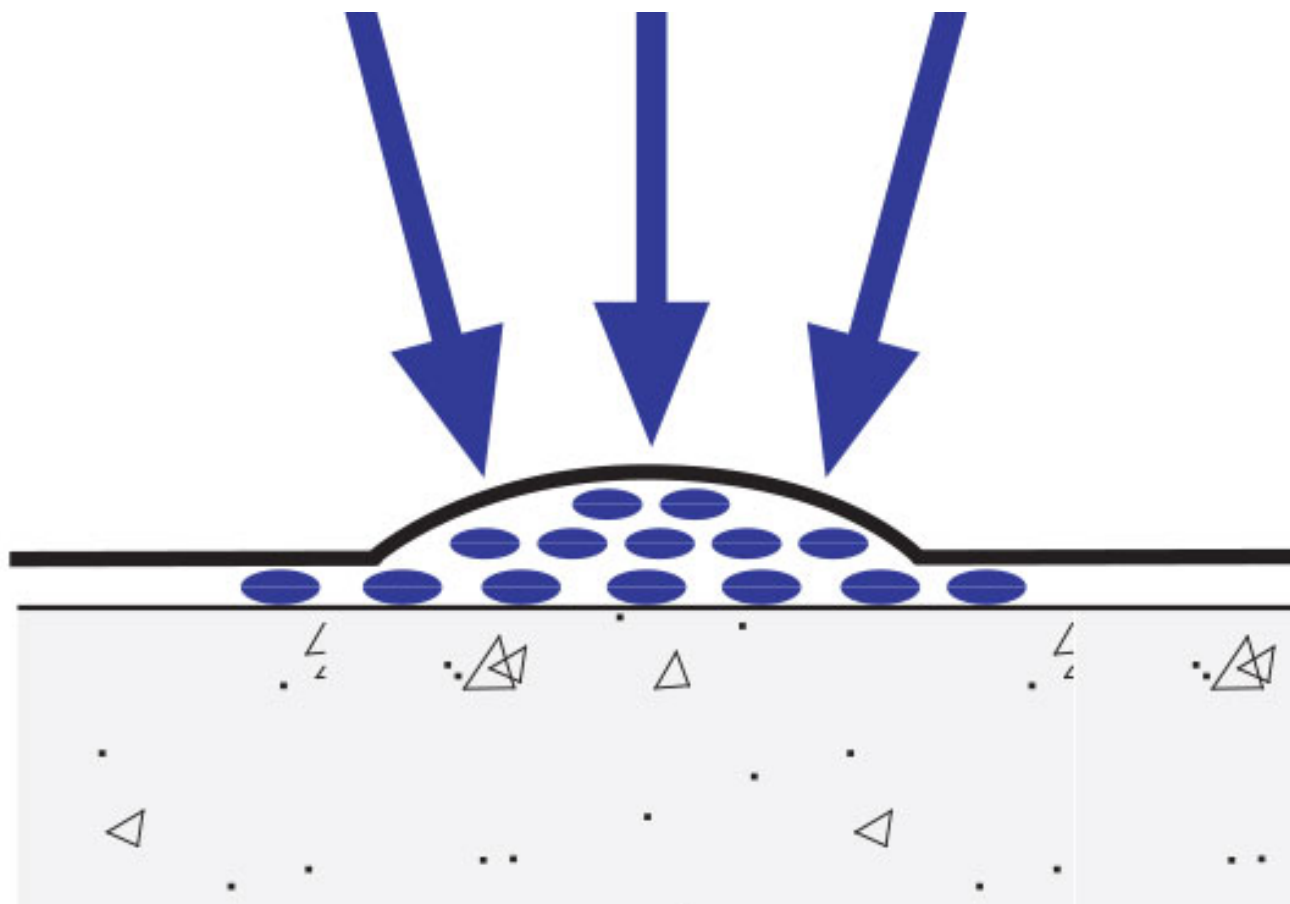
More Osmosis





Vapor diffusion

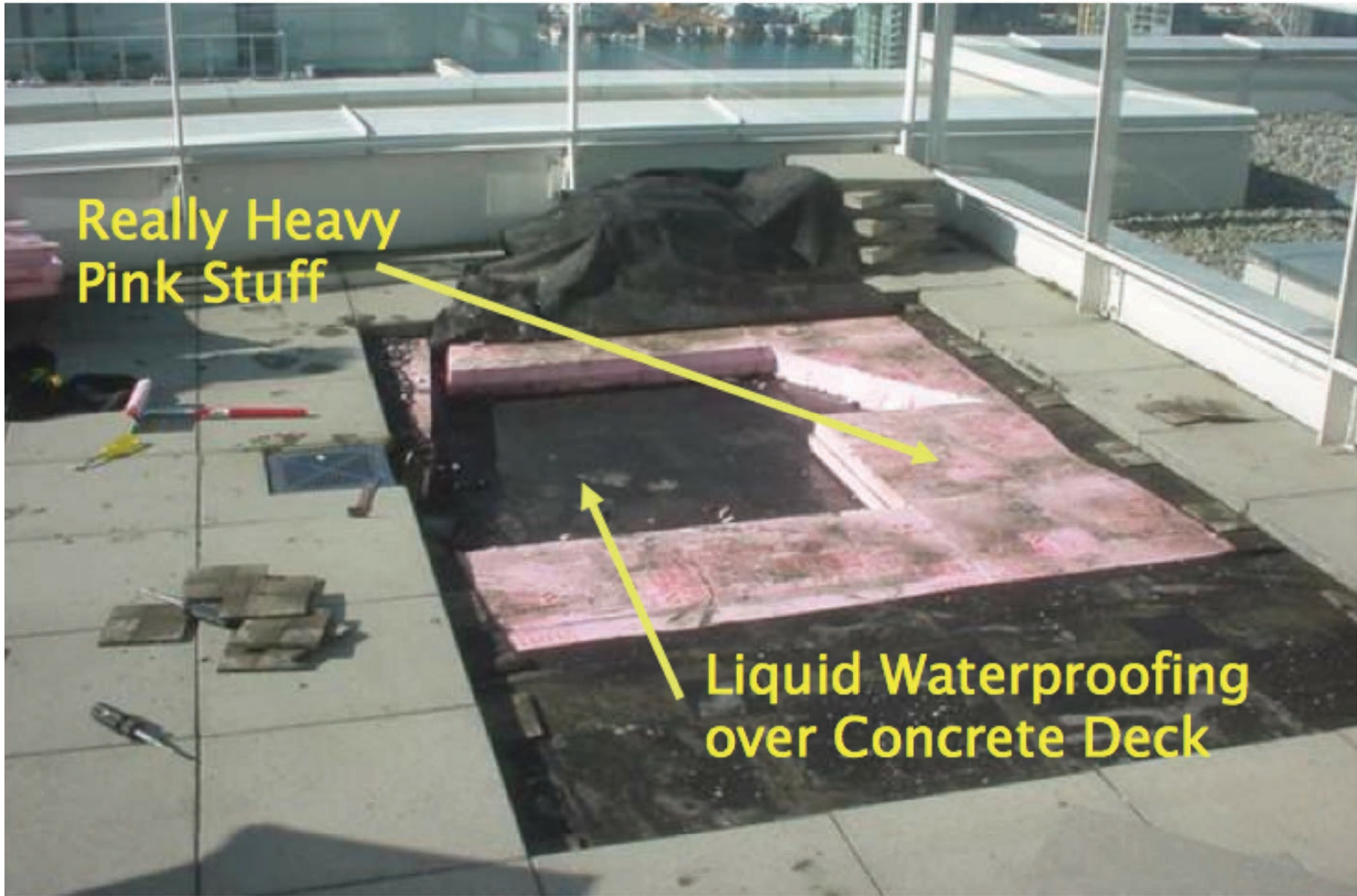






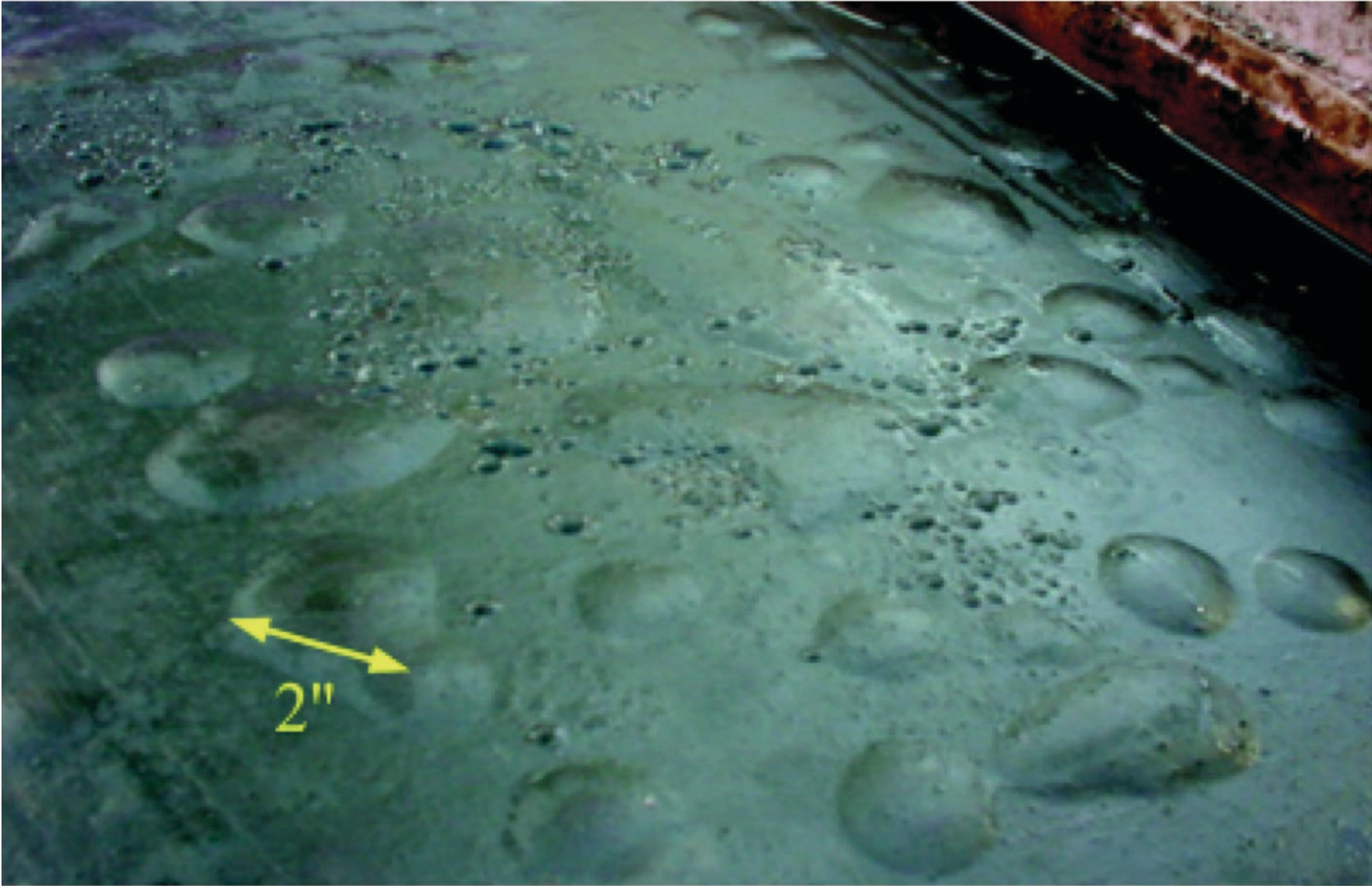
Paver Water Beds!



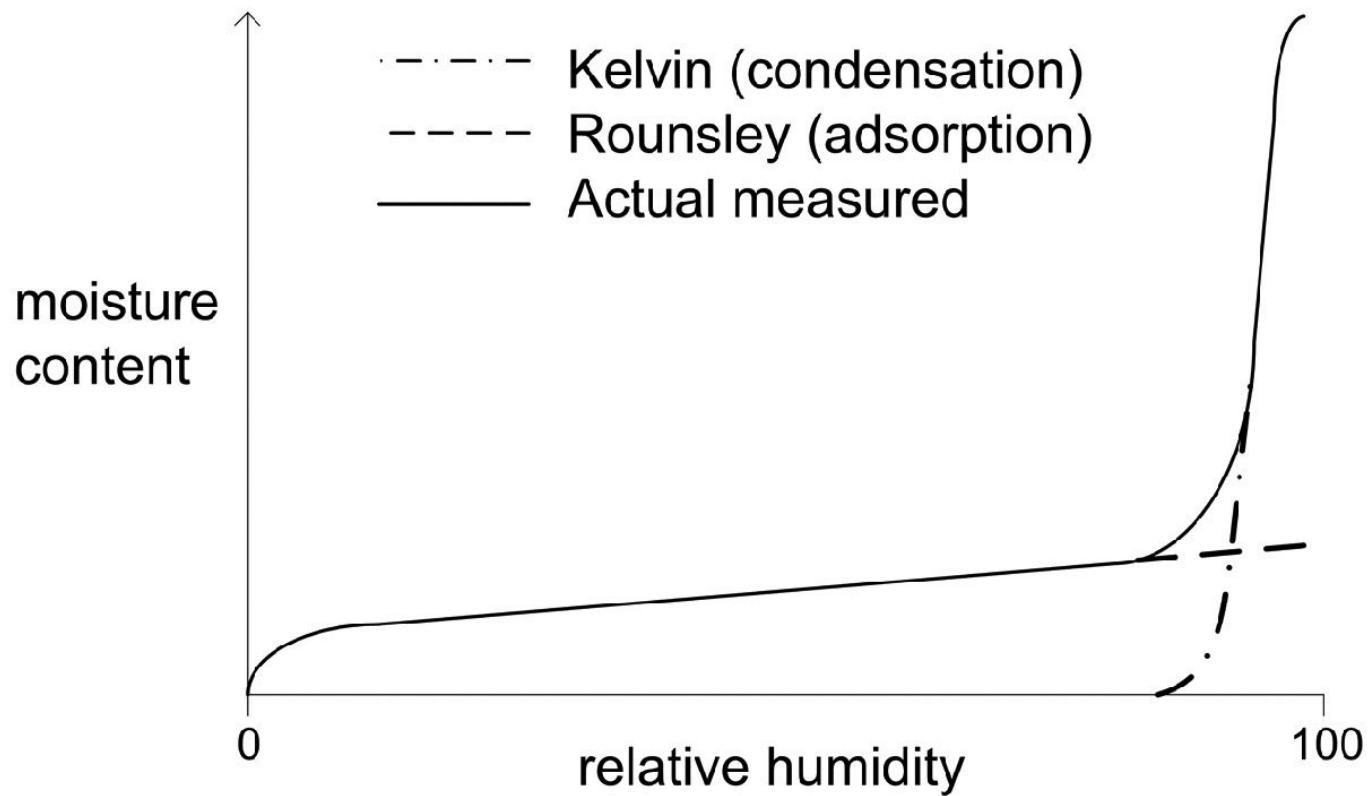


Really Heavy
Pink Stuff

Liquid Waterproofing
over Concrete Deck

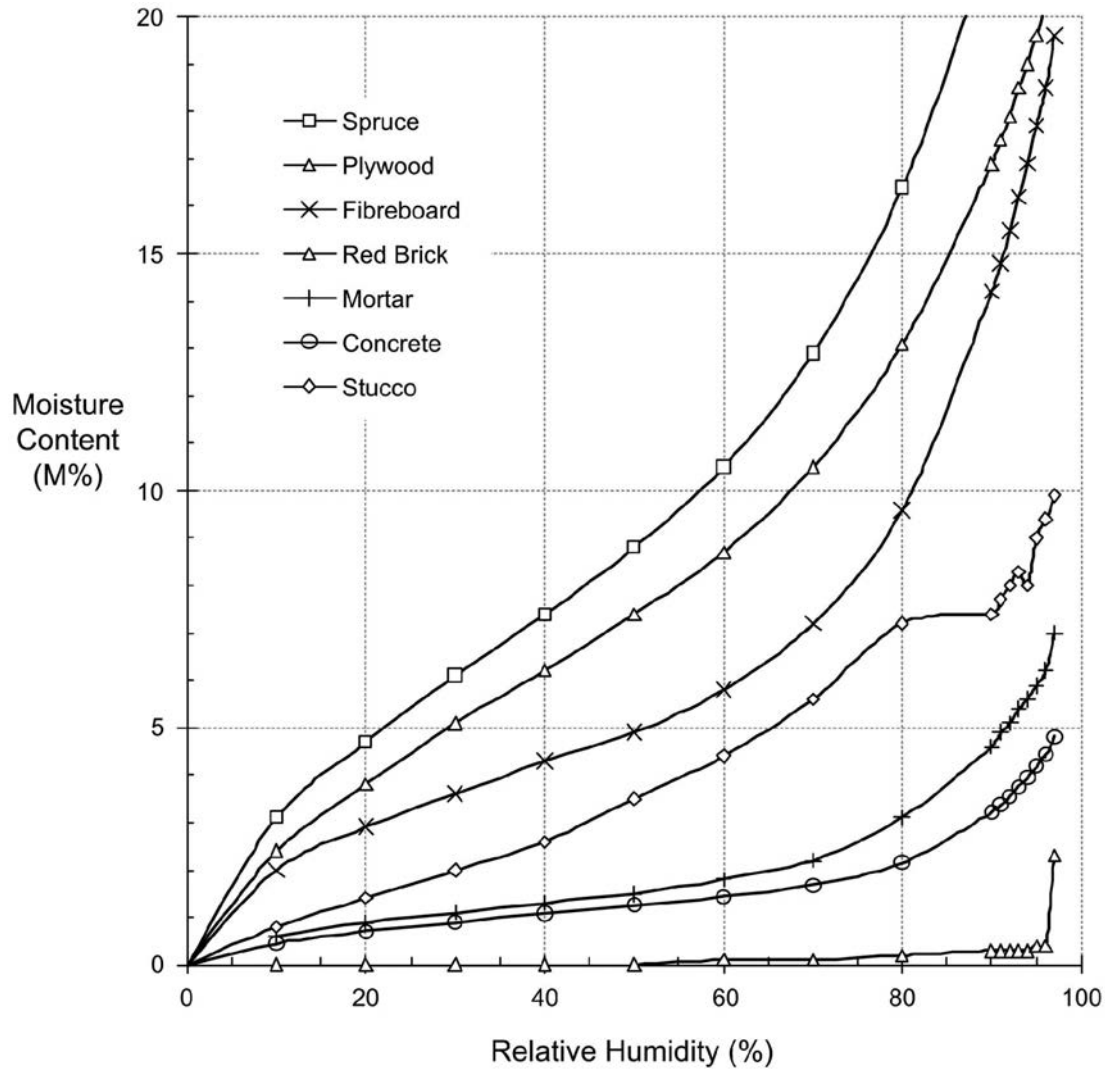




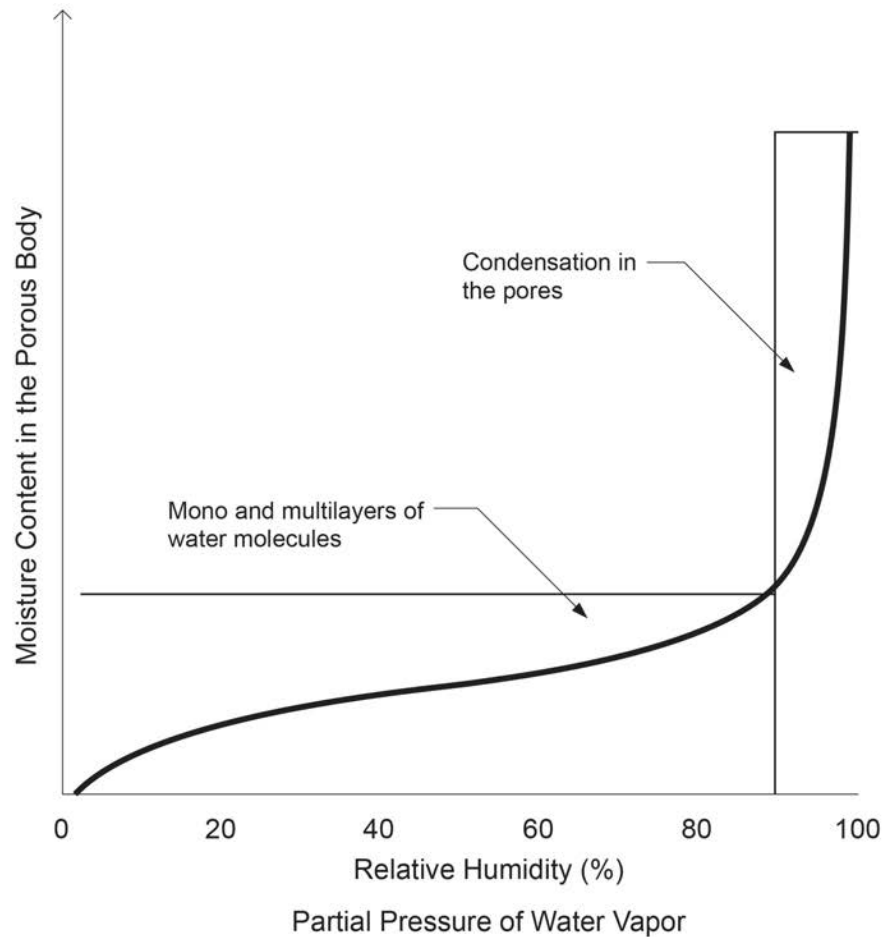


**Typical predicted sorption isotherm according to Kelvin equation
and modified BET theory**

From Straube & Burnett, 2005



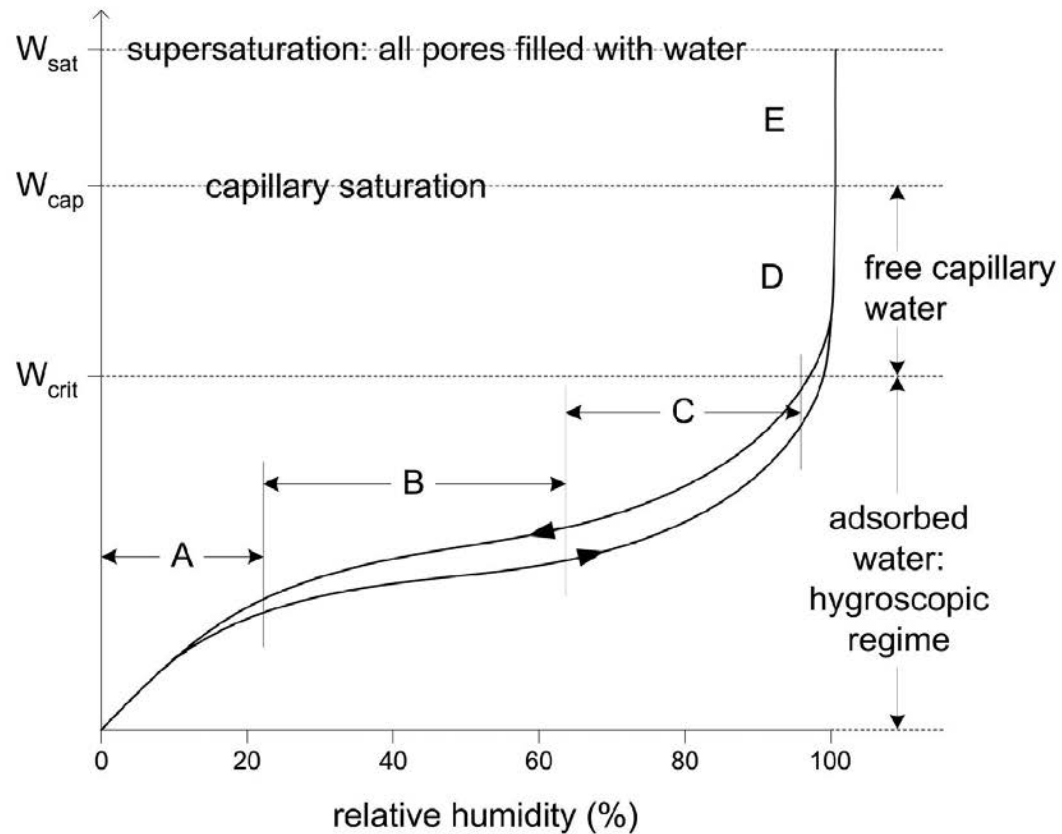
Sorption isotherm for several building materials [Kumaran 2002]
From Straube & Burnett, 2005



Change in the storage of moisture in a porous building material as the partial pressure of water vapor in the ambient air increases from zero to full saturation value at a given temperature.

Sorption Curve

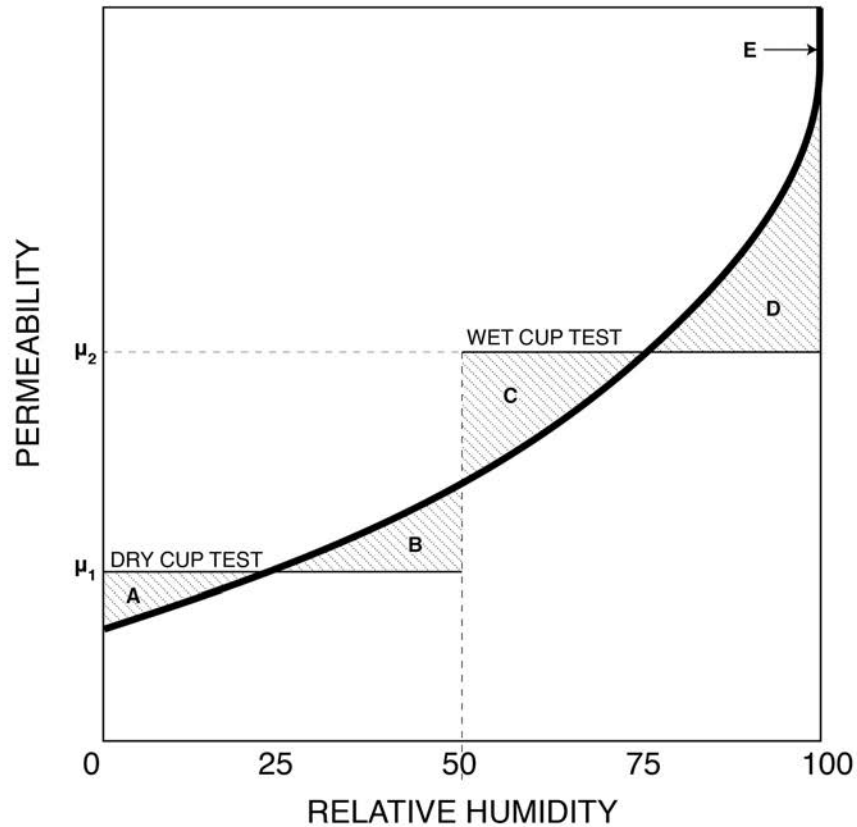
From M.K. Kumaran, ASTM MNL 18-2nd Edition,
Moisture Control in Buildings, 2009



- A: Single-layer of adsorbed molecules
- B: Multiple layers of adsorbed molecules
- C: Interconnected layers (internal capillary condensation)
- D: Free water in Pores, capillary suction
- E: Supersaturated Regime

Regimes of moisture storage in a hygroscopic porous material

From Straube & Burnett, 2005

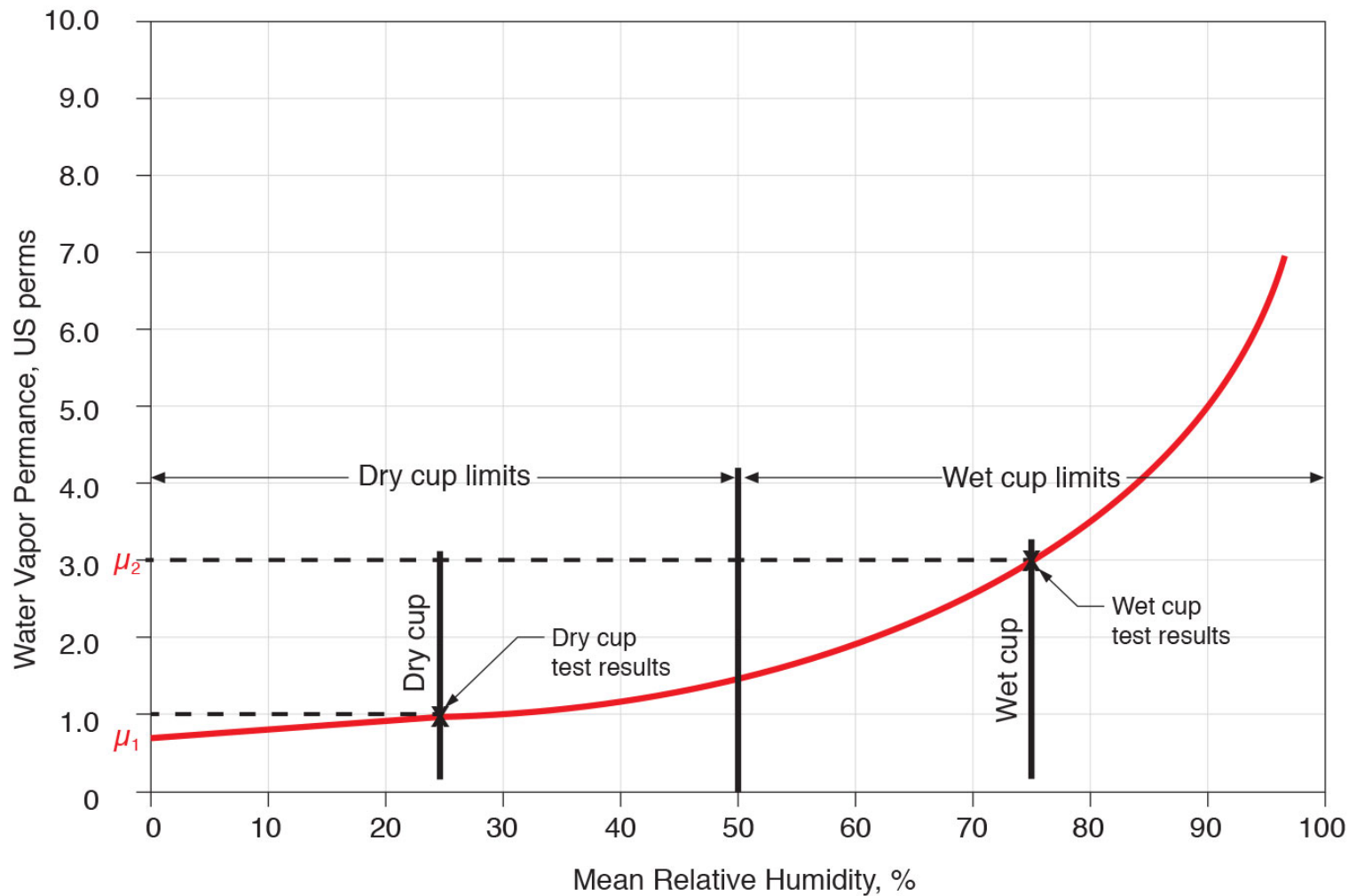


- A - Single-layer of absorbed molecules
- B - Multiple layers of absorbed molecules
- C - Interconnected layers (internal capillary condensation)
- D - Free water in pores, capillary suction
- E - Supersaturated regime

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



Water Vapor Permeance vs. Relative Humidity

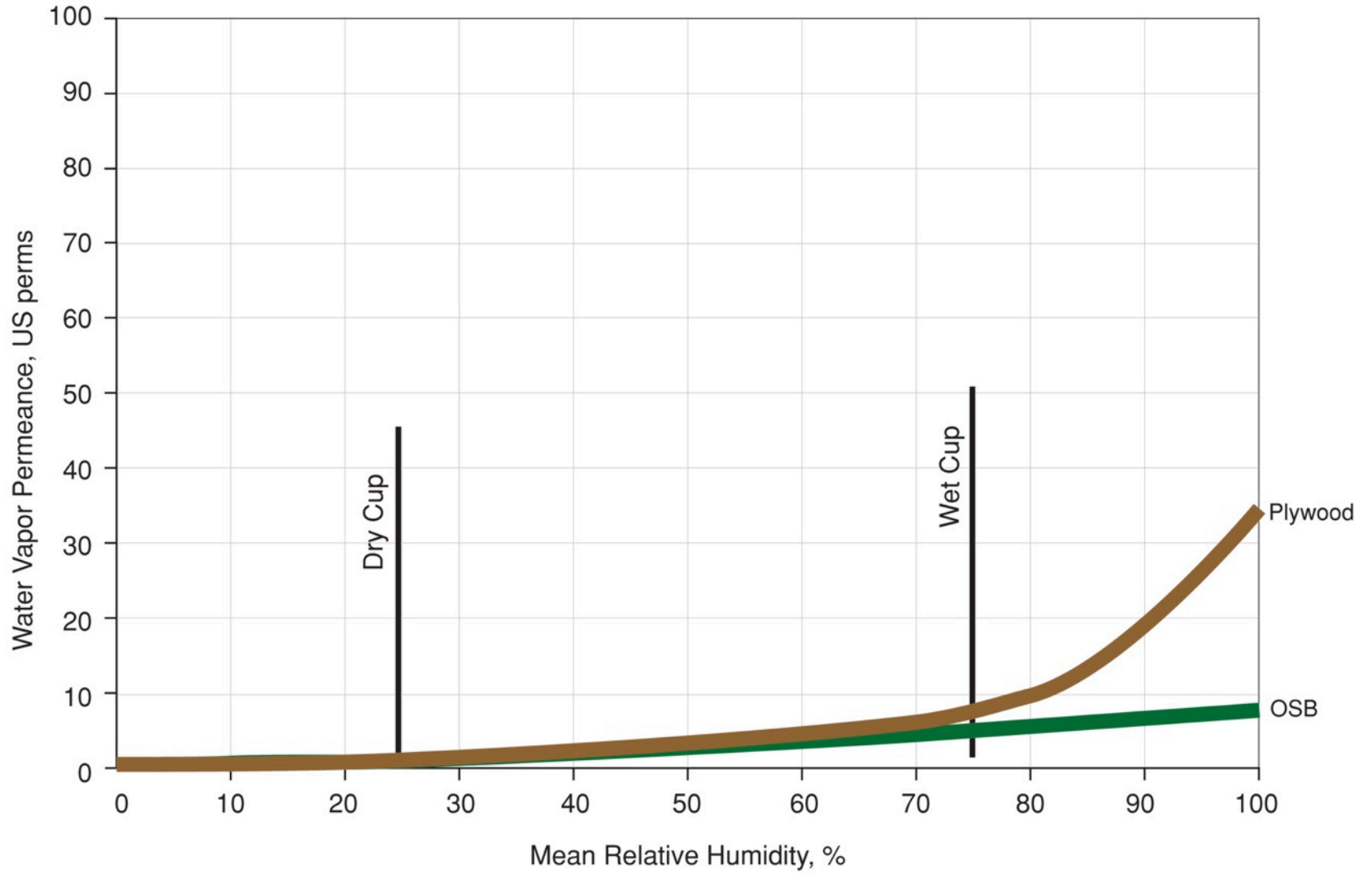


μ_1 = Dry cup permeance
 μ_2 = Wet cup permeance

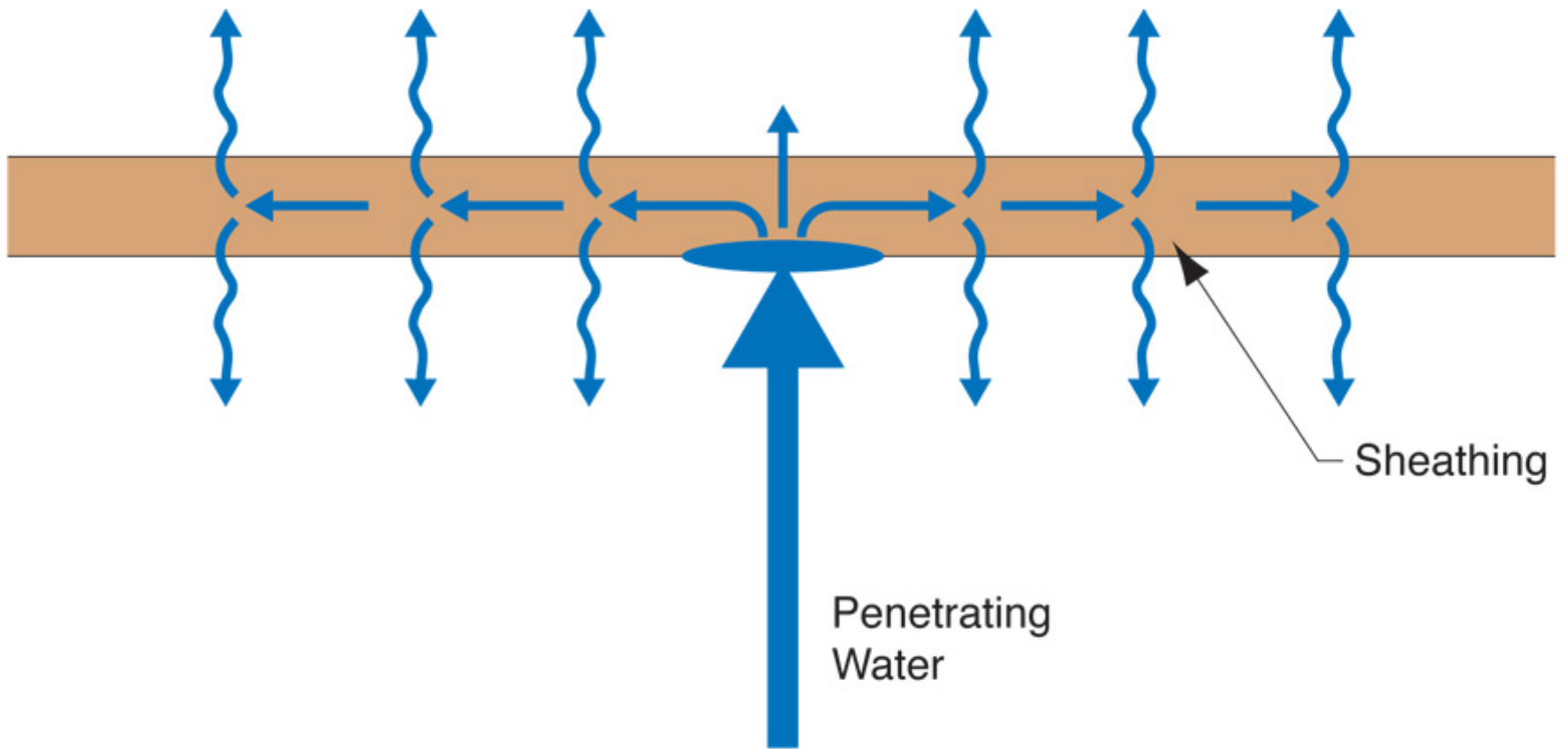


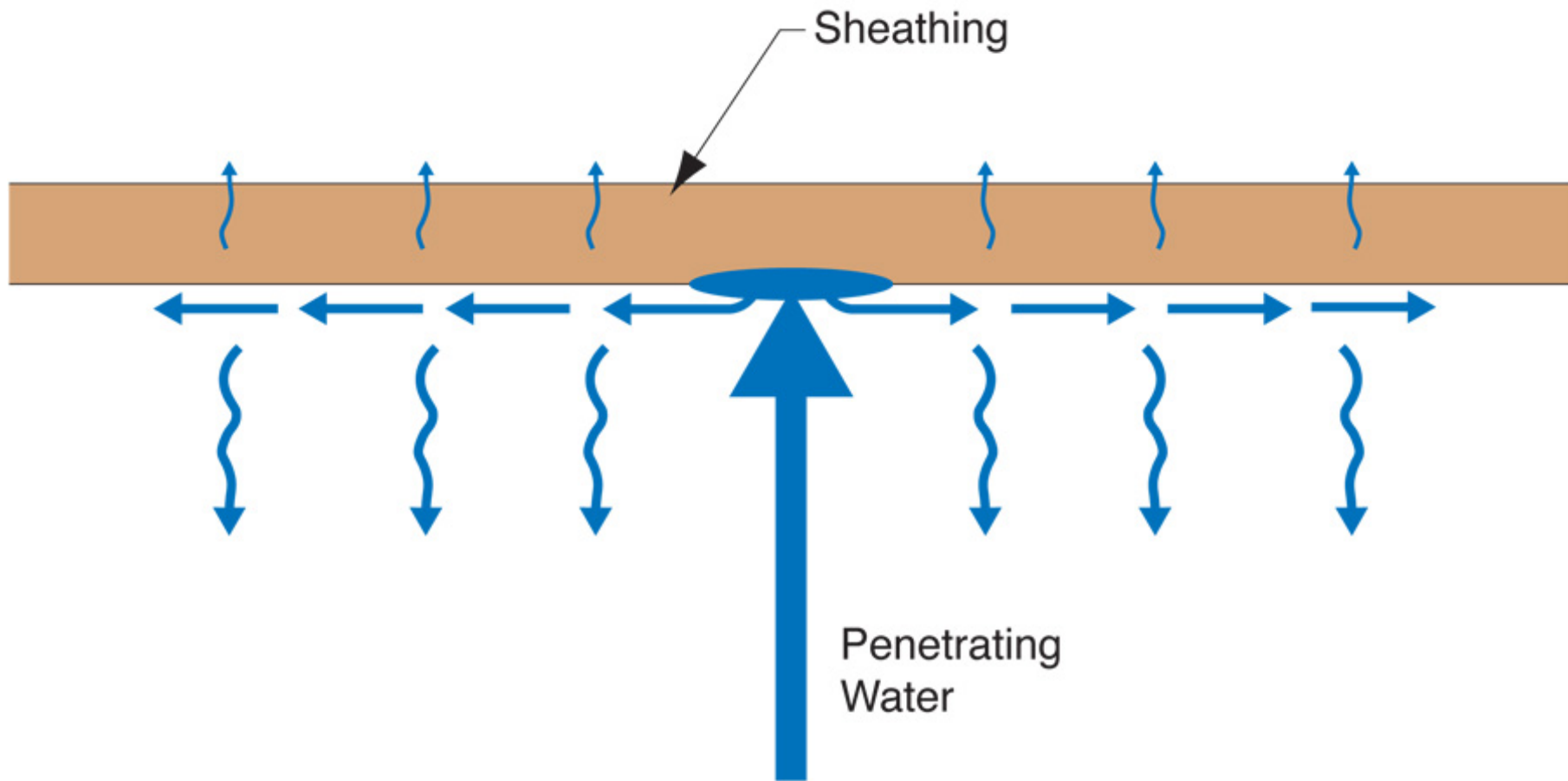


Water Vapor Permeance of Sheathing Materials













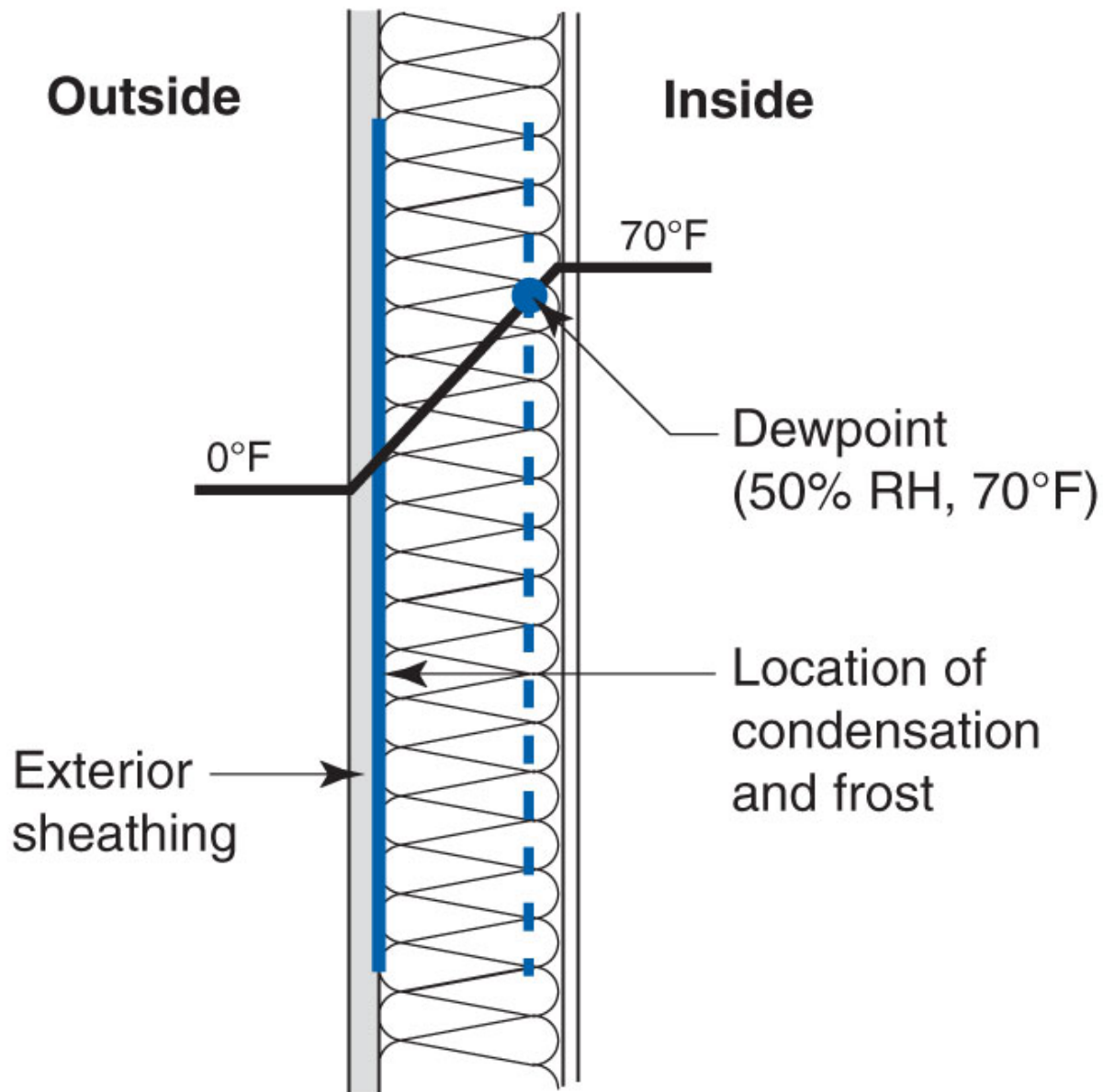




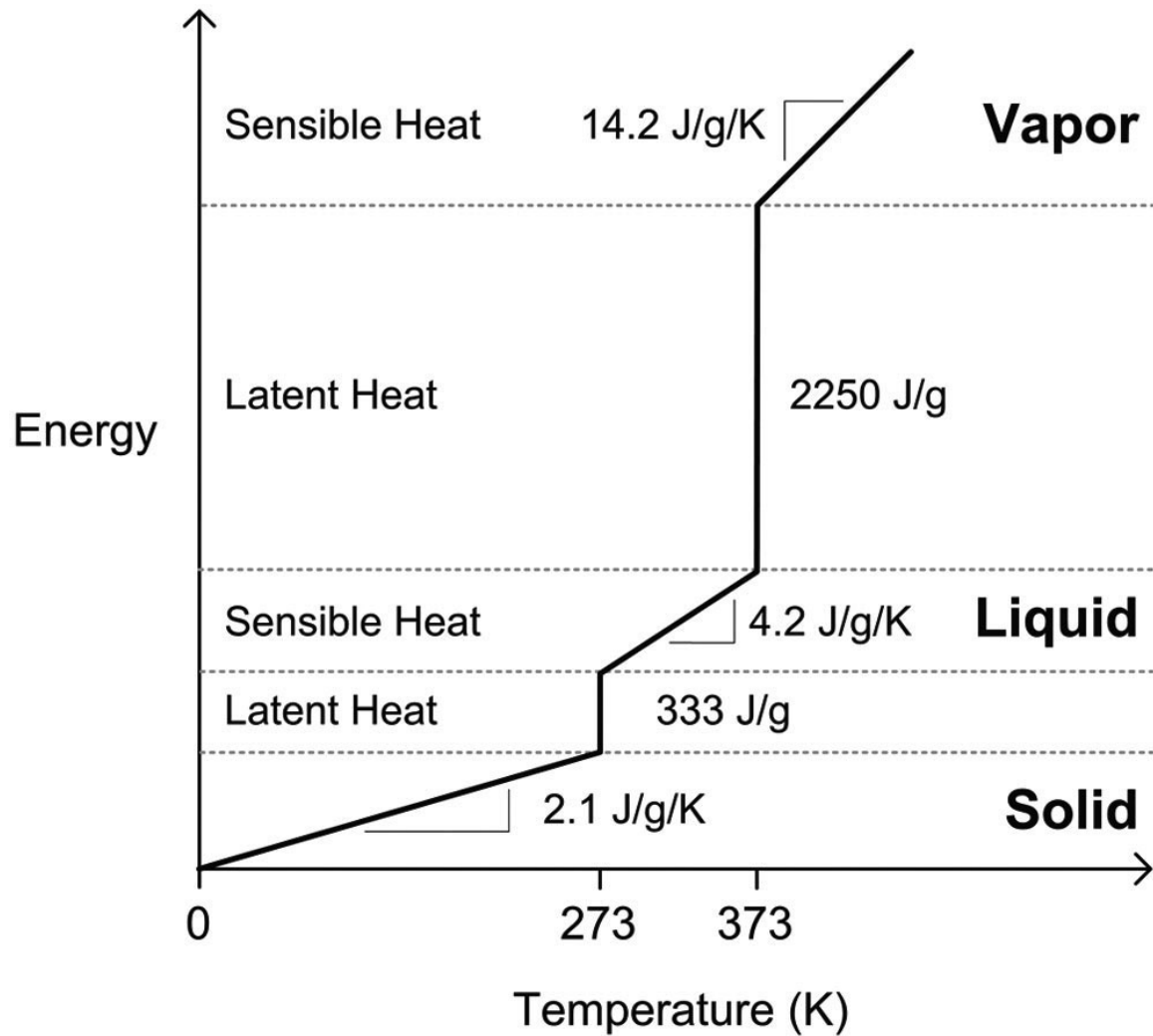










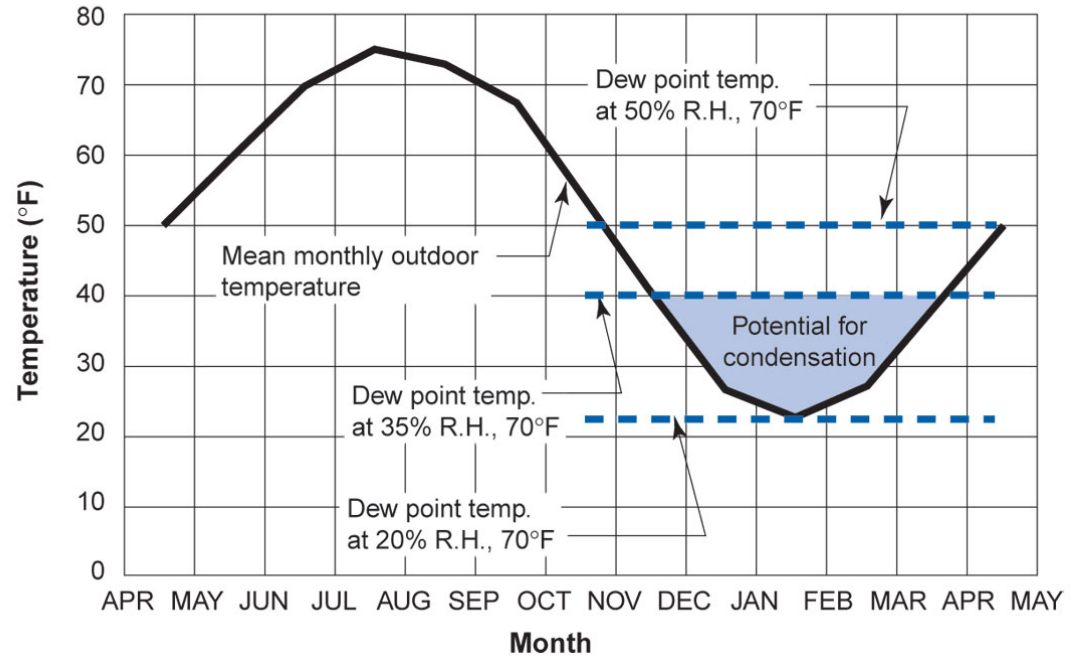
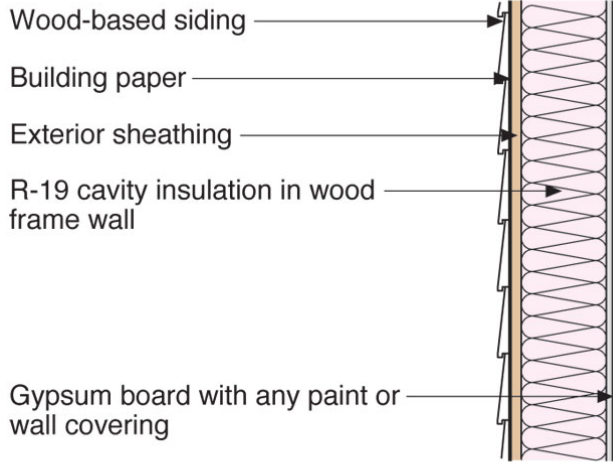


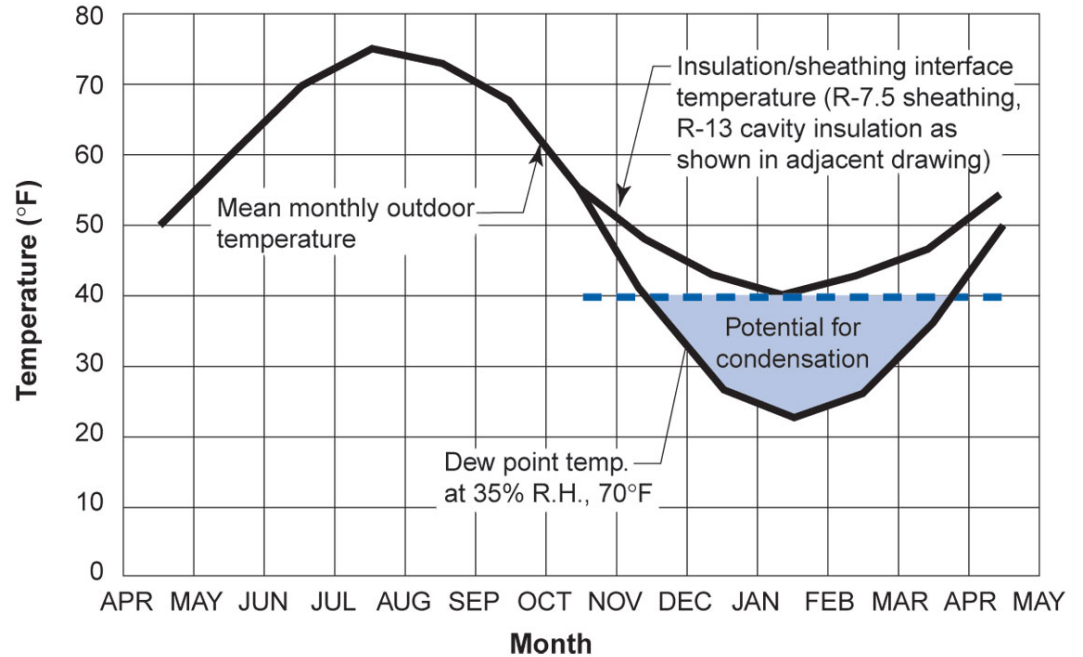
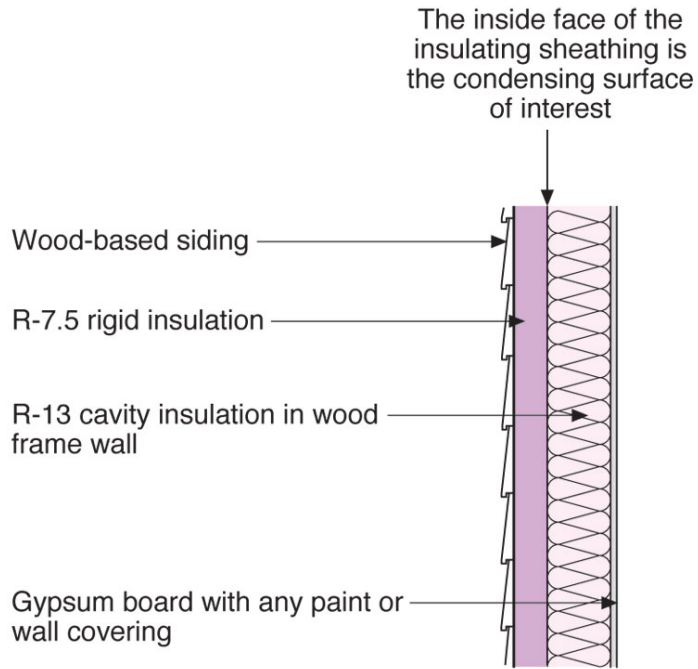
Simple linearized energy-temperature relation for water

From Straube & Burnett, 2005



The inside face of the exterior sheathing is the condensing surface of interest





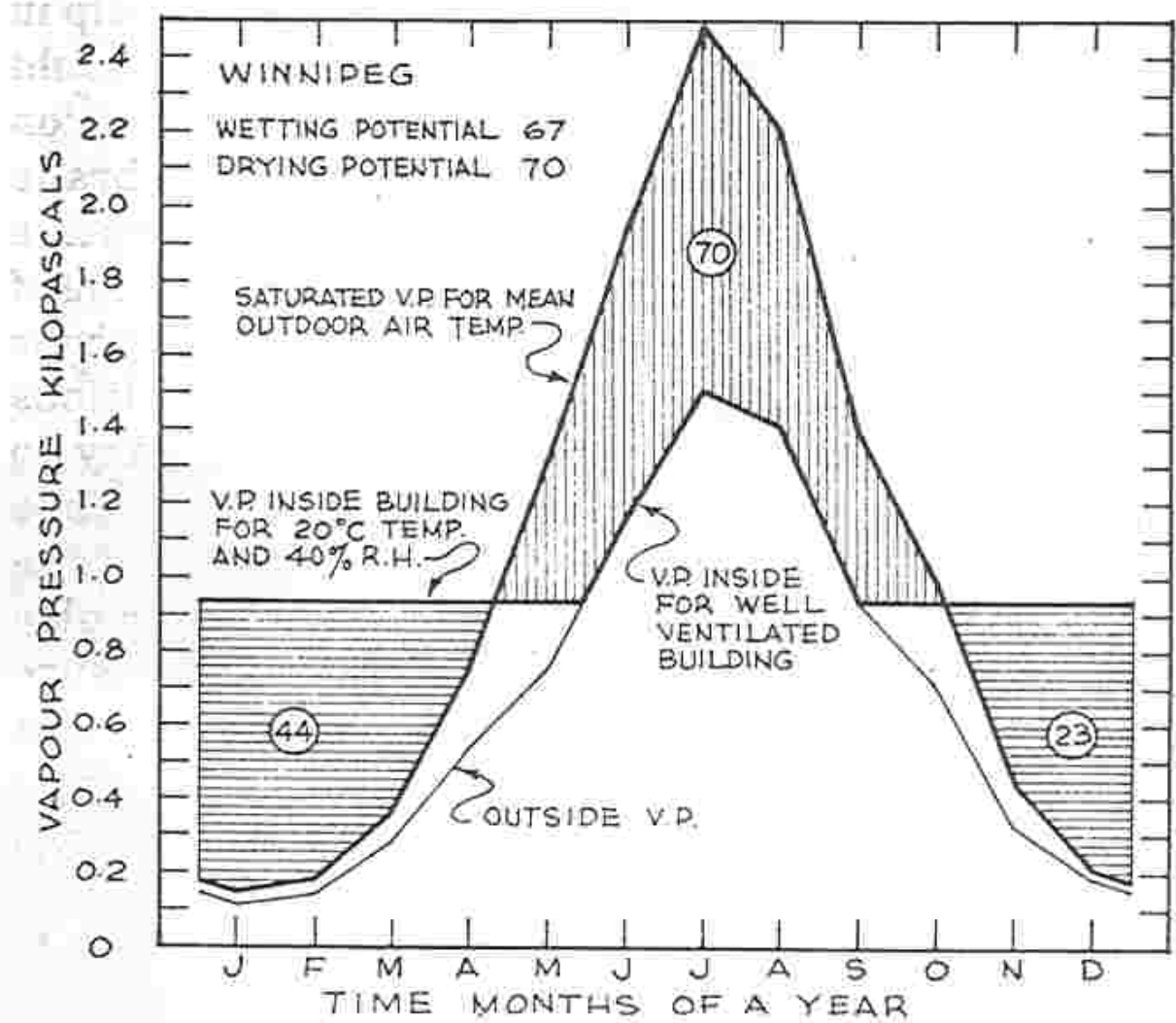
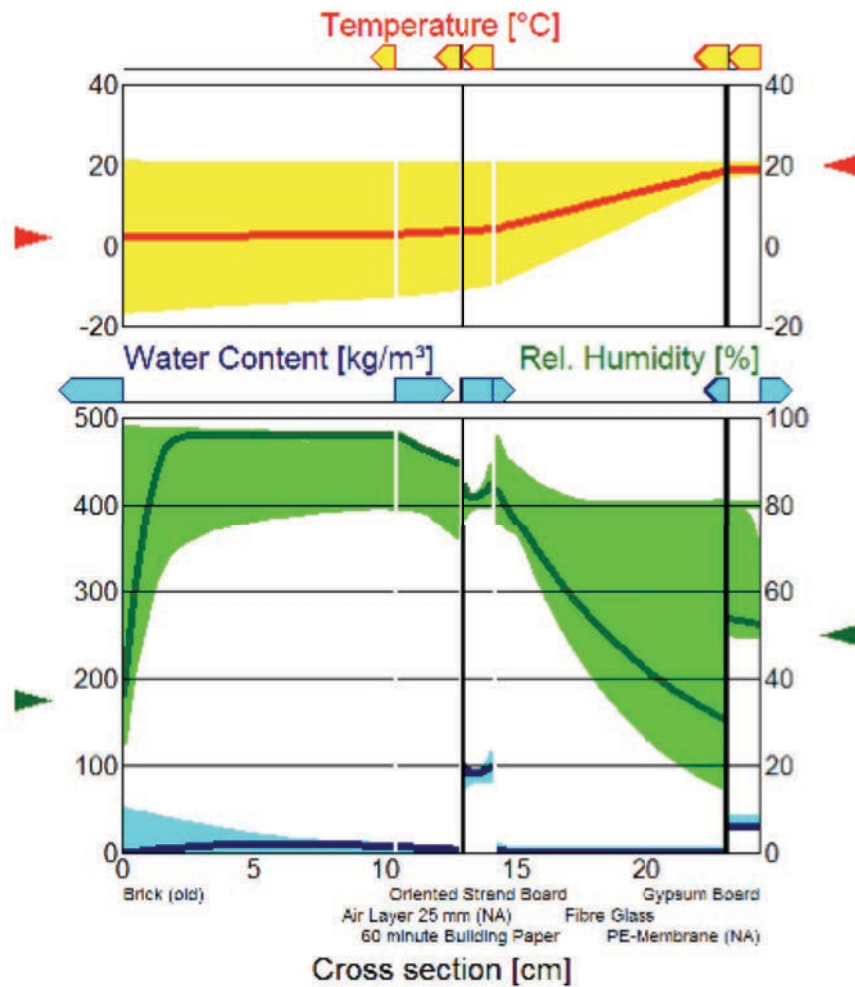


Figure 8-7. Outside vapour pressure, saturated vapour pressure and inside vapour pressure for Winnipeg.



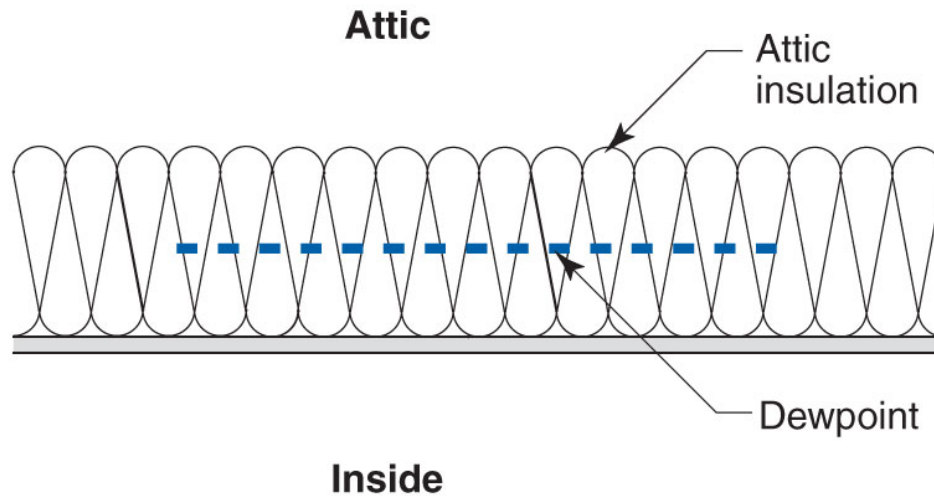
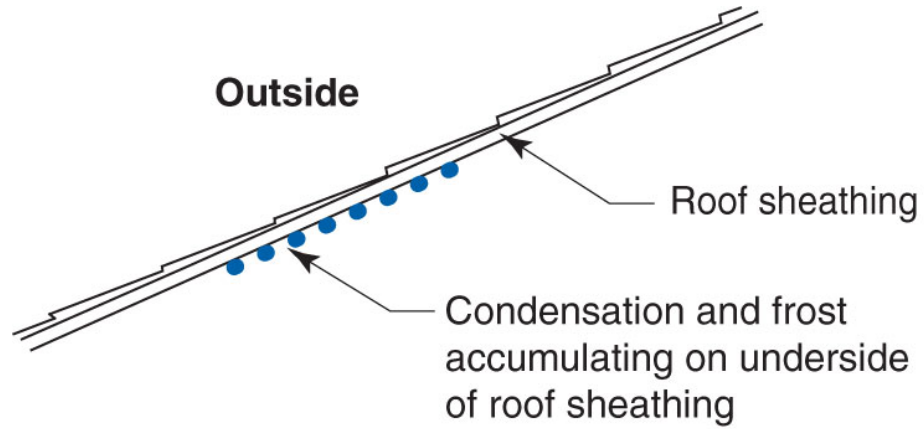
WUFI® 3.3 Pro. IBP
Run

16 Feb
2001

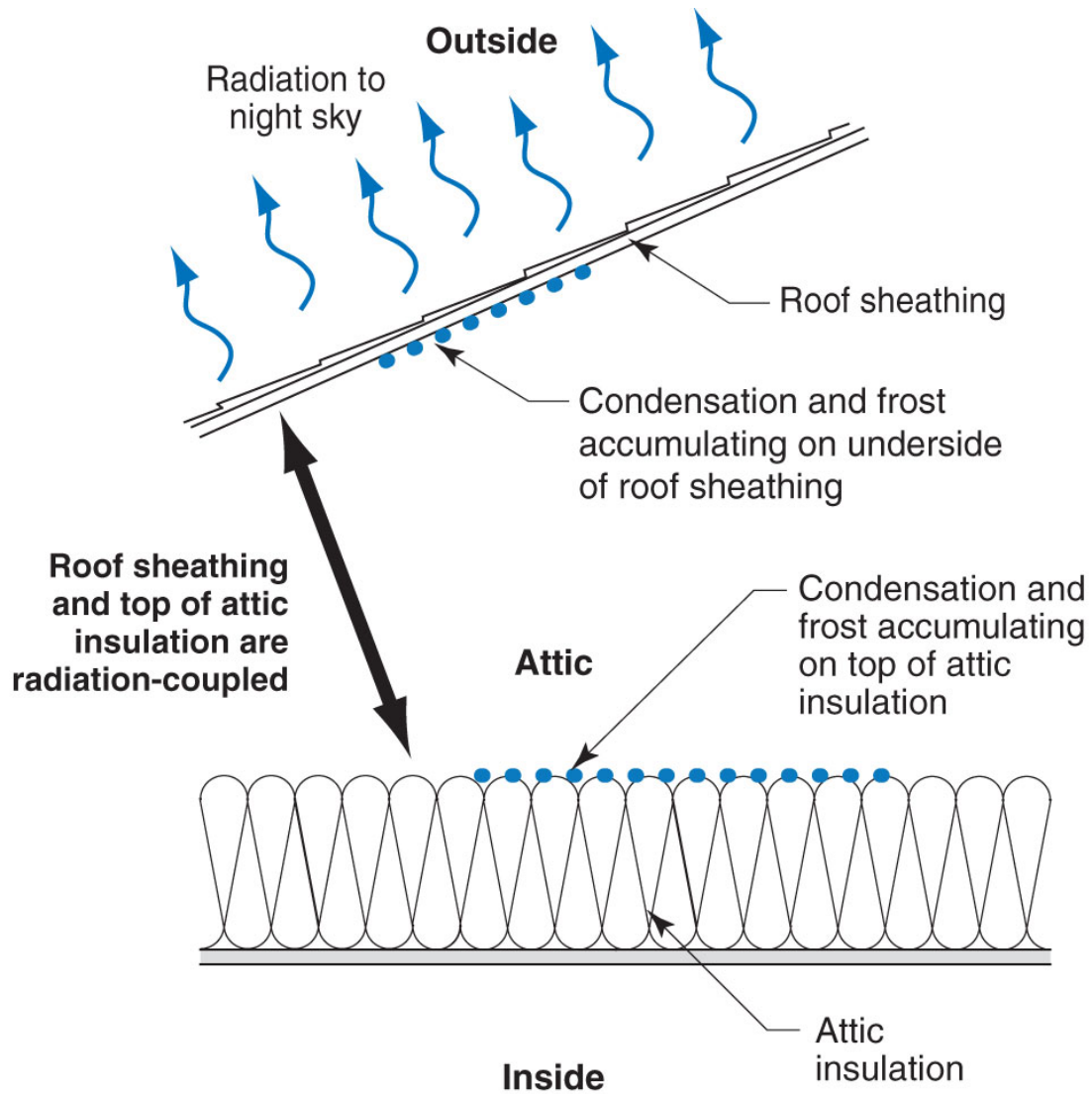
0% 100%

0% 100%

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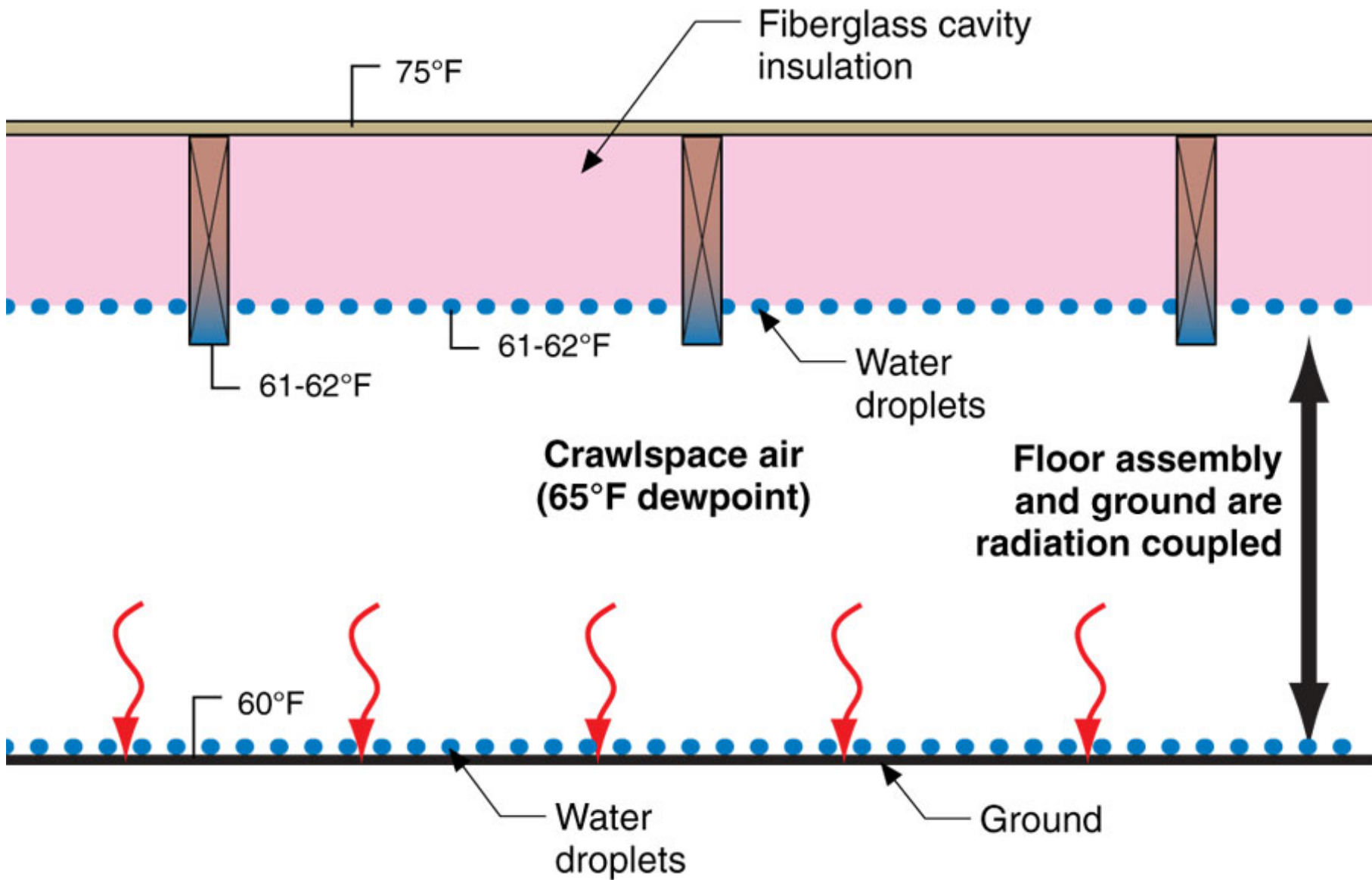


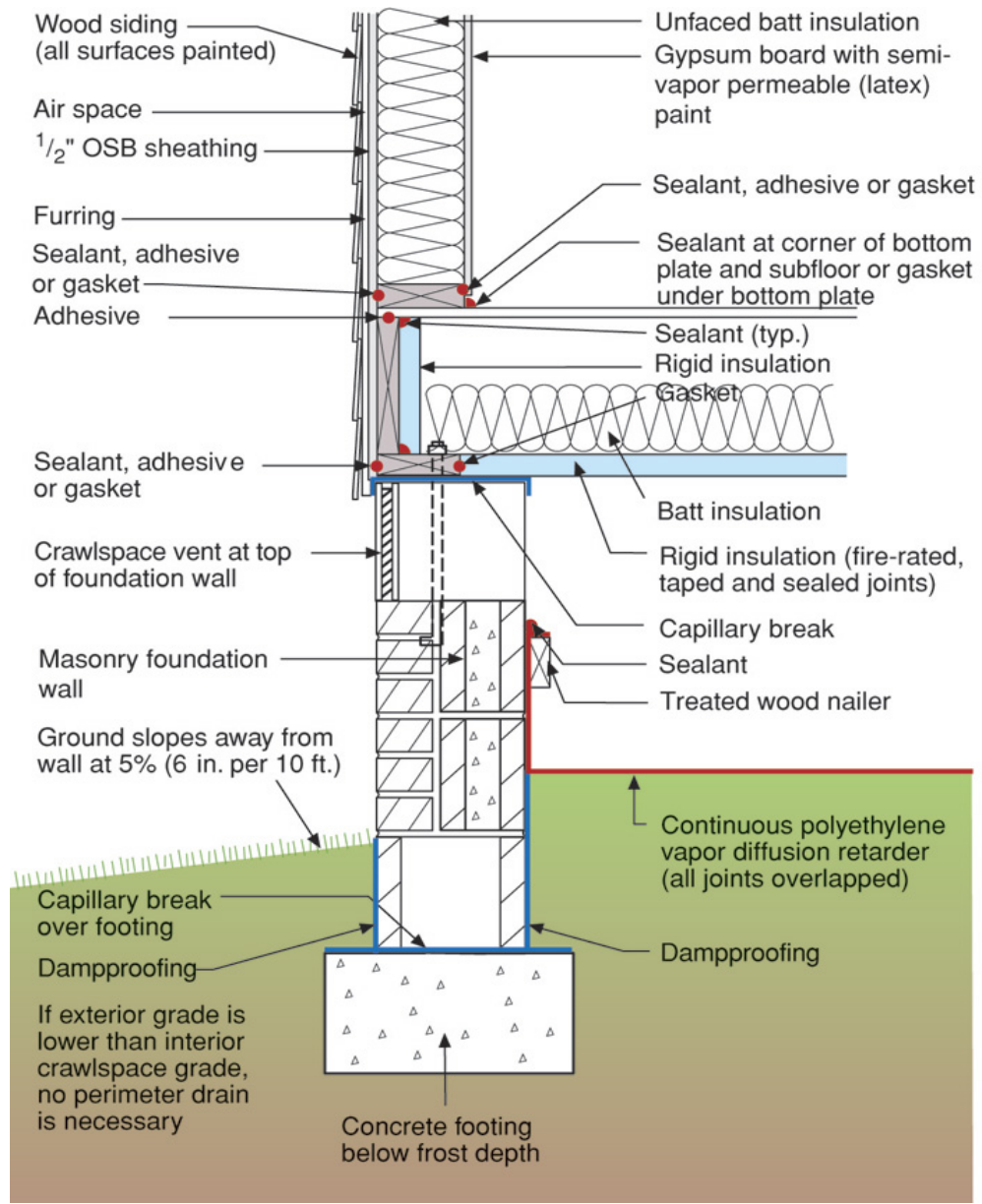


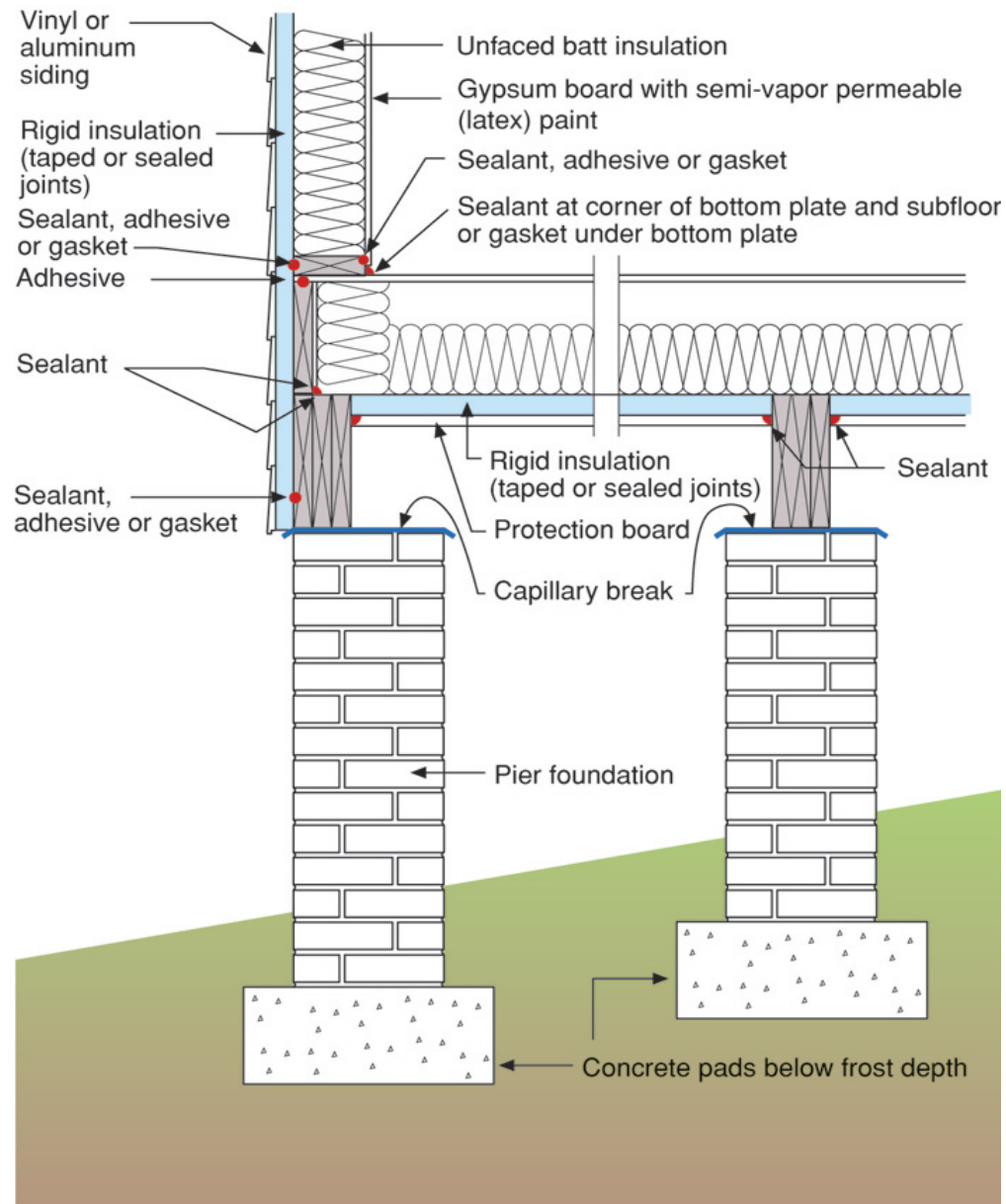


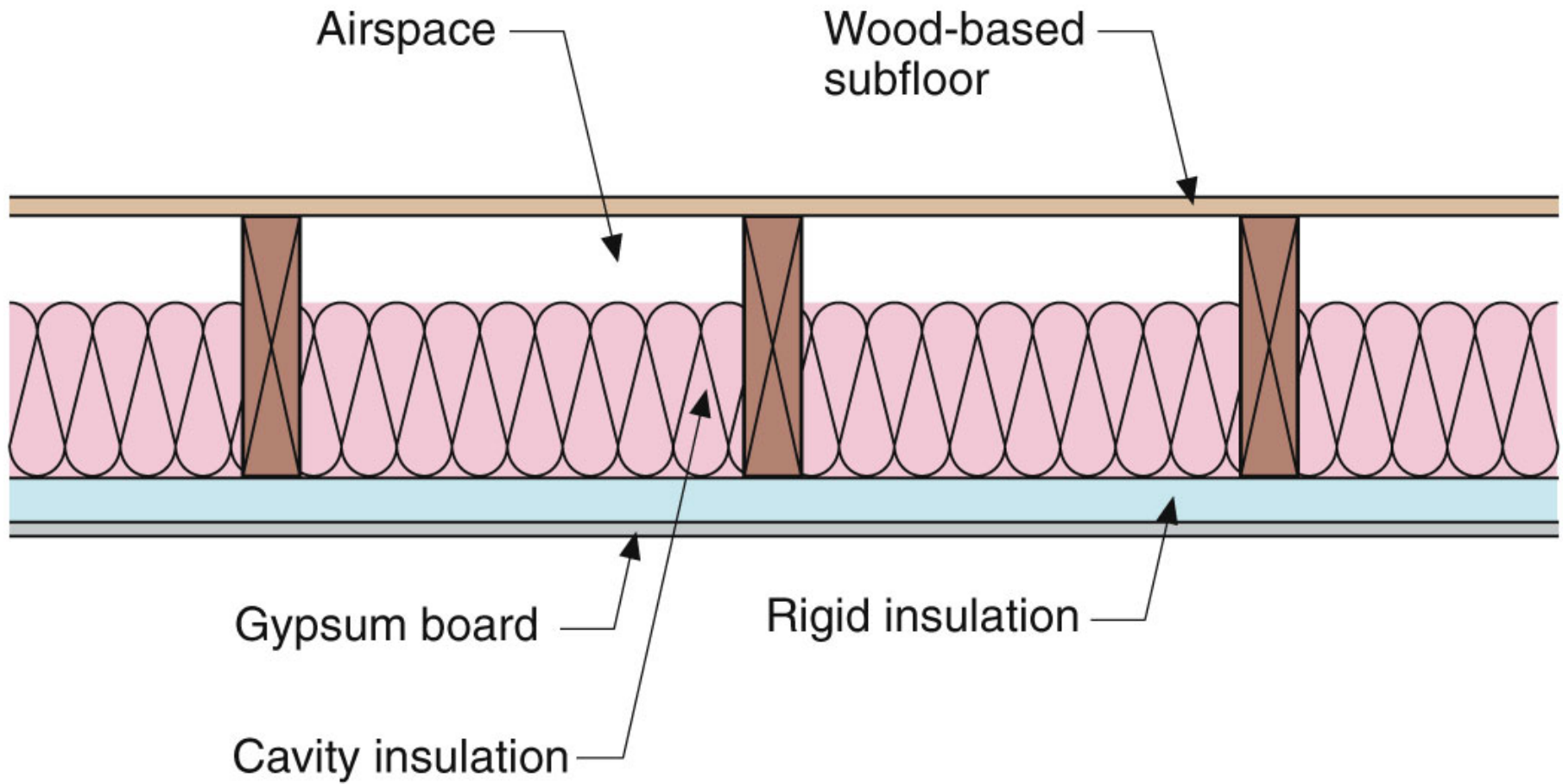


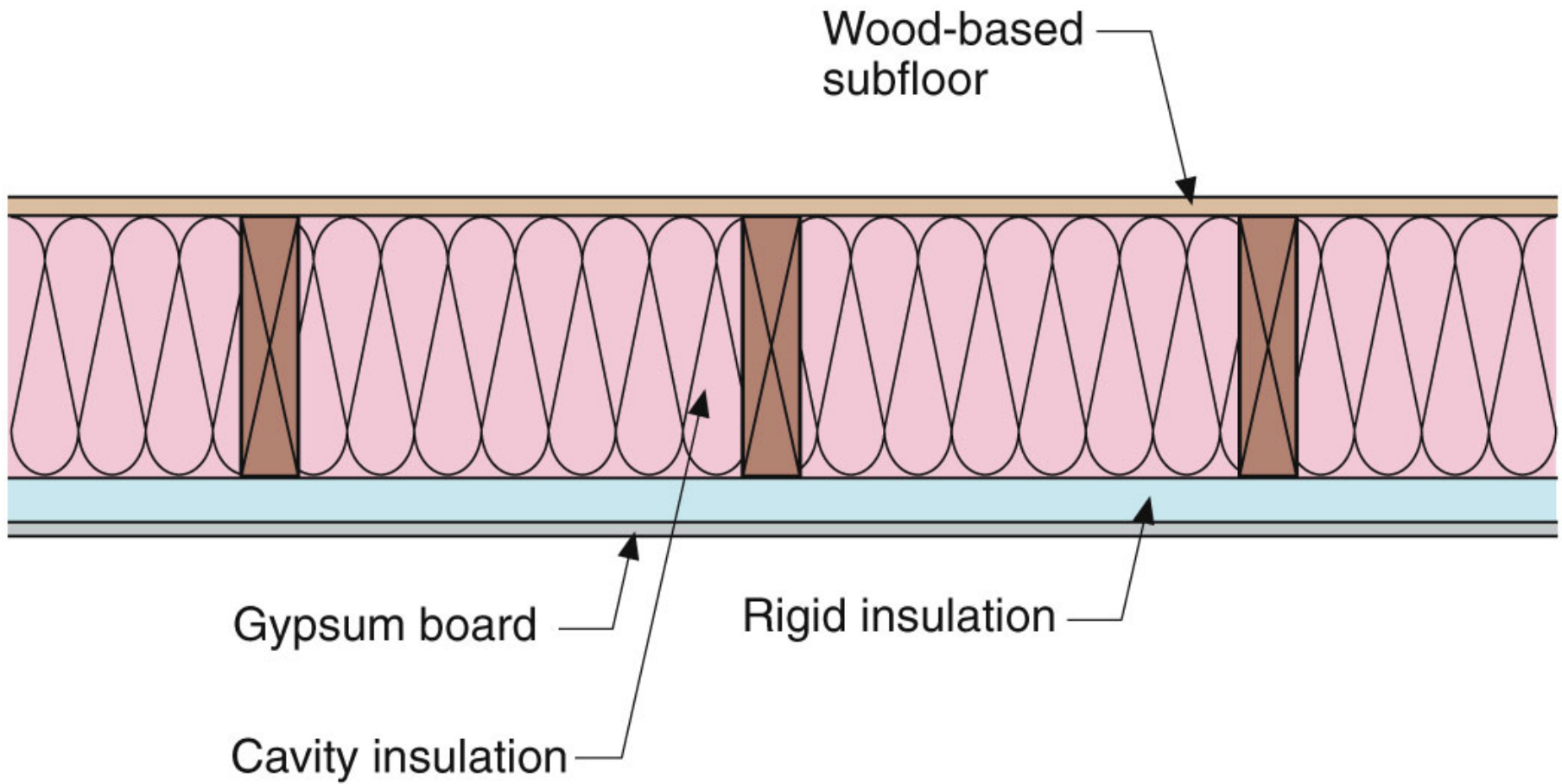


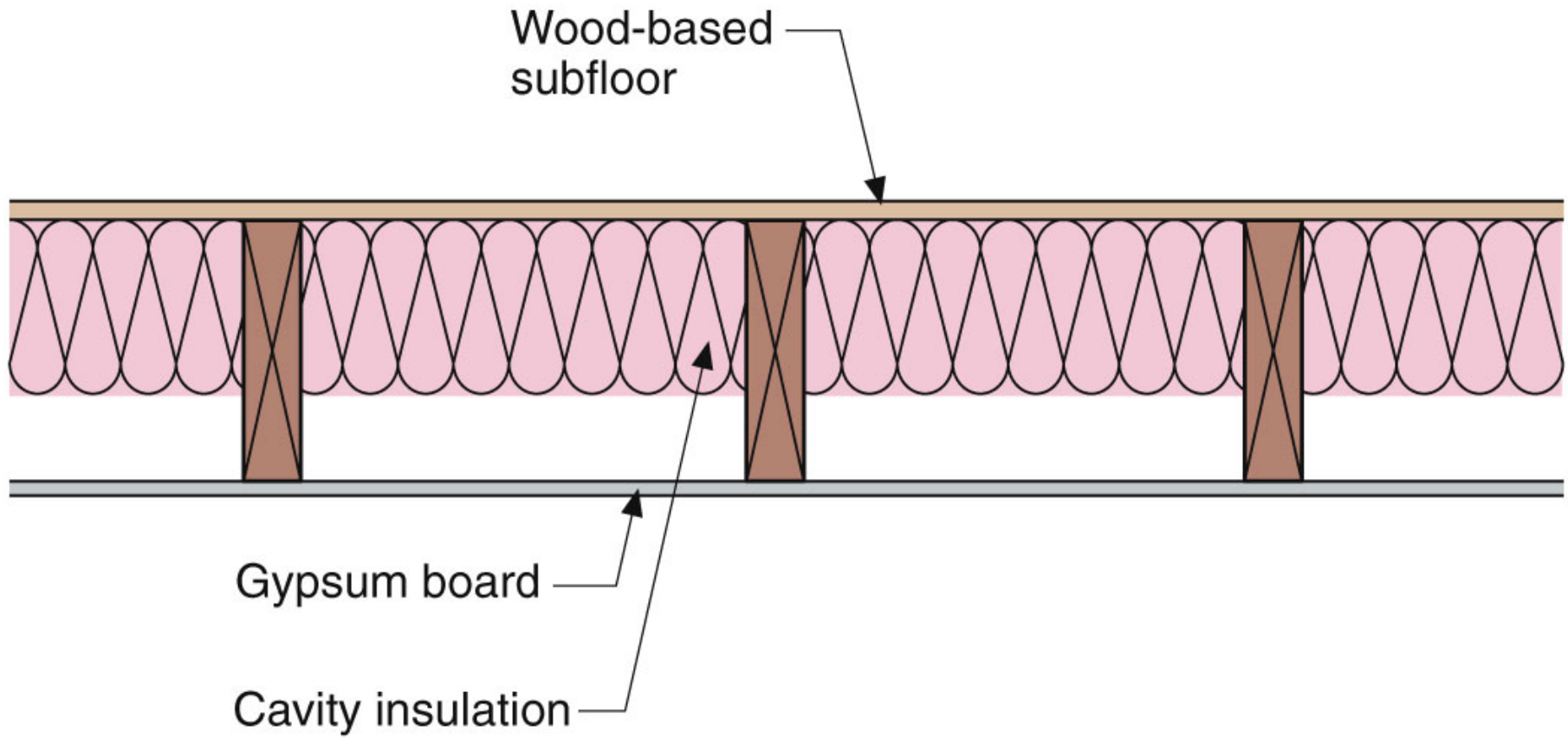


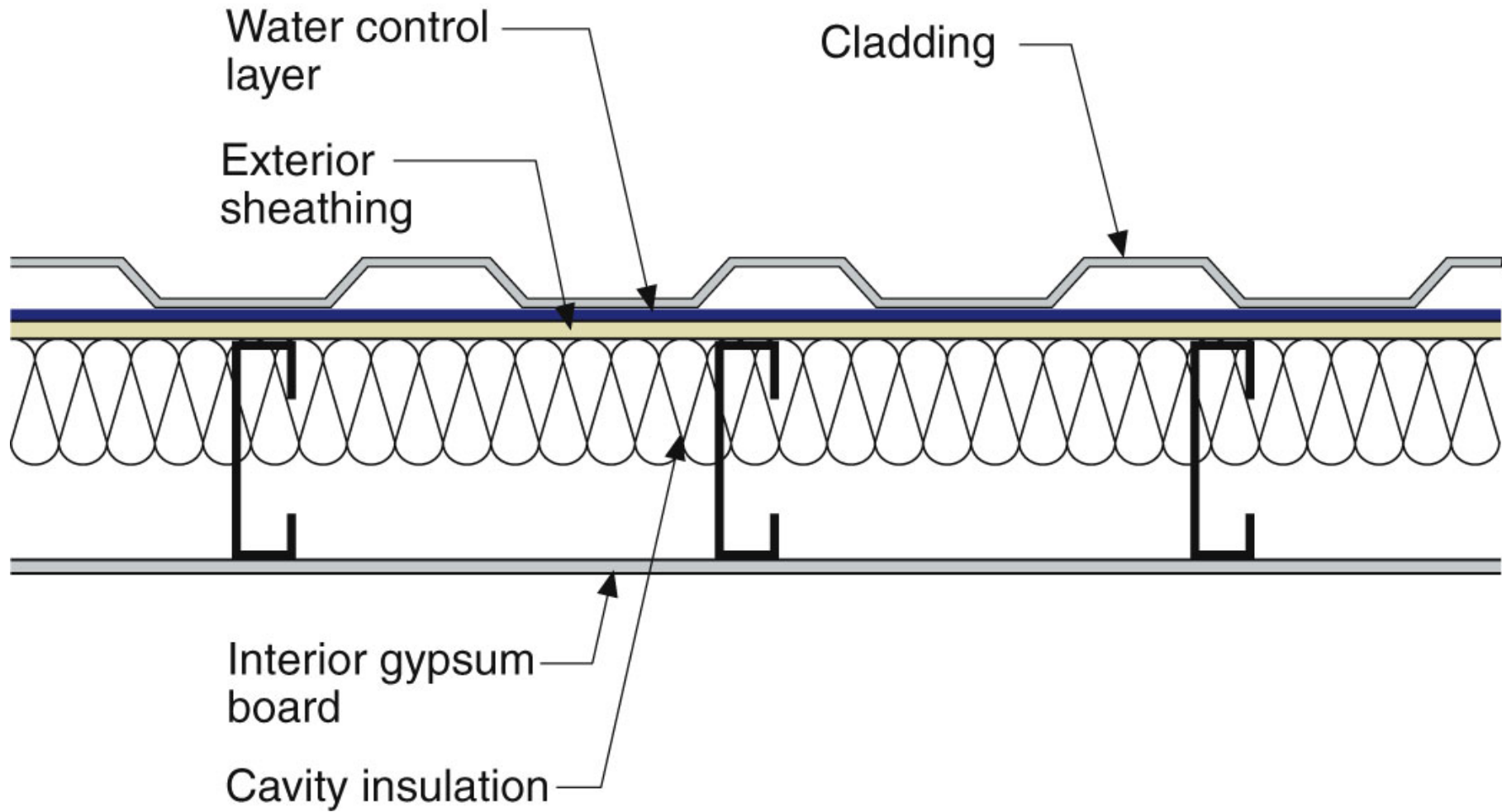


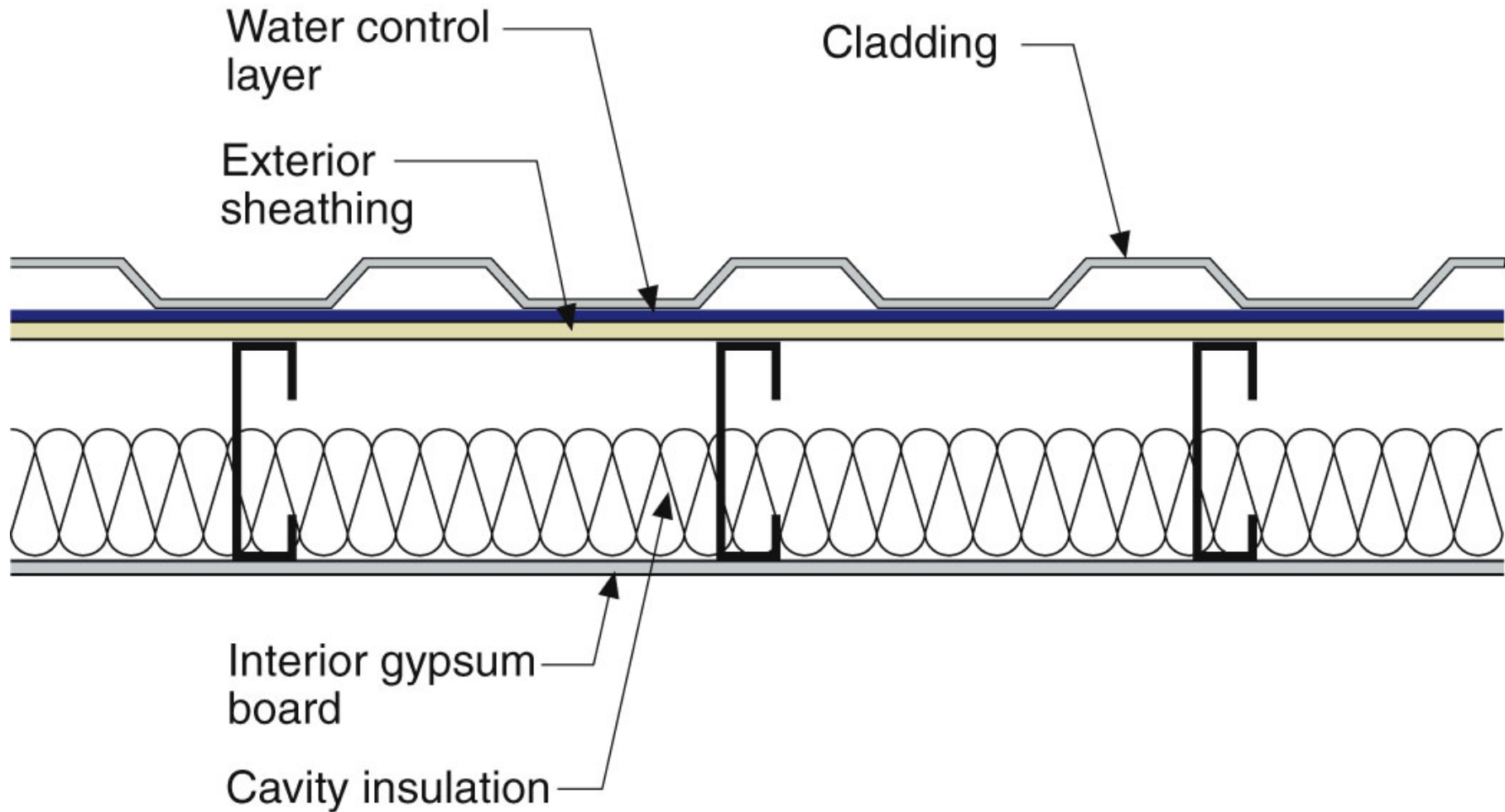


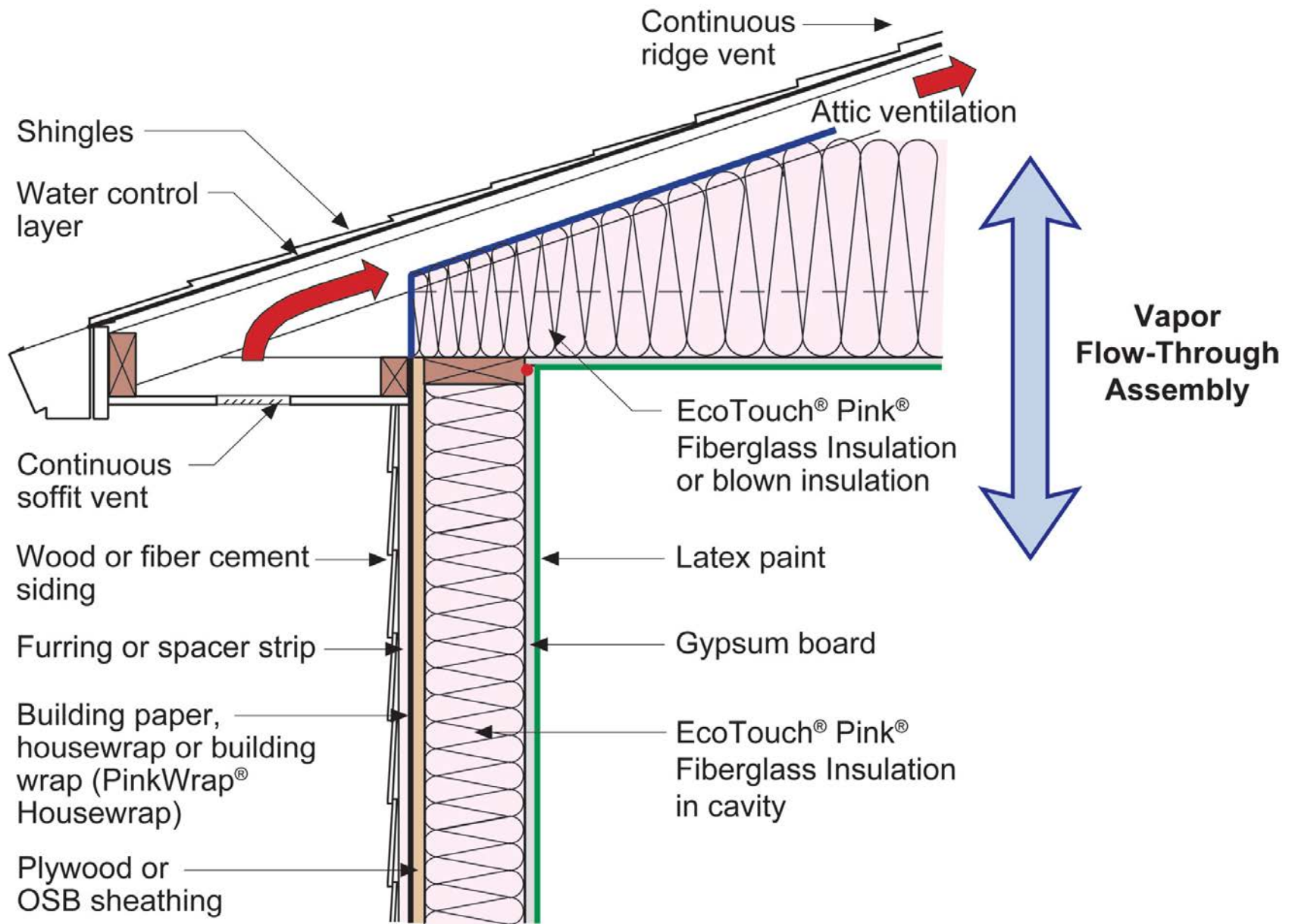


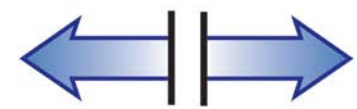
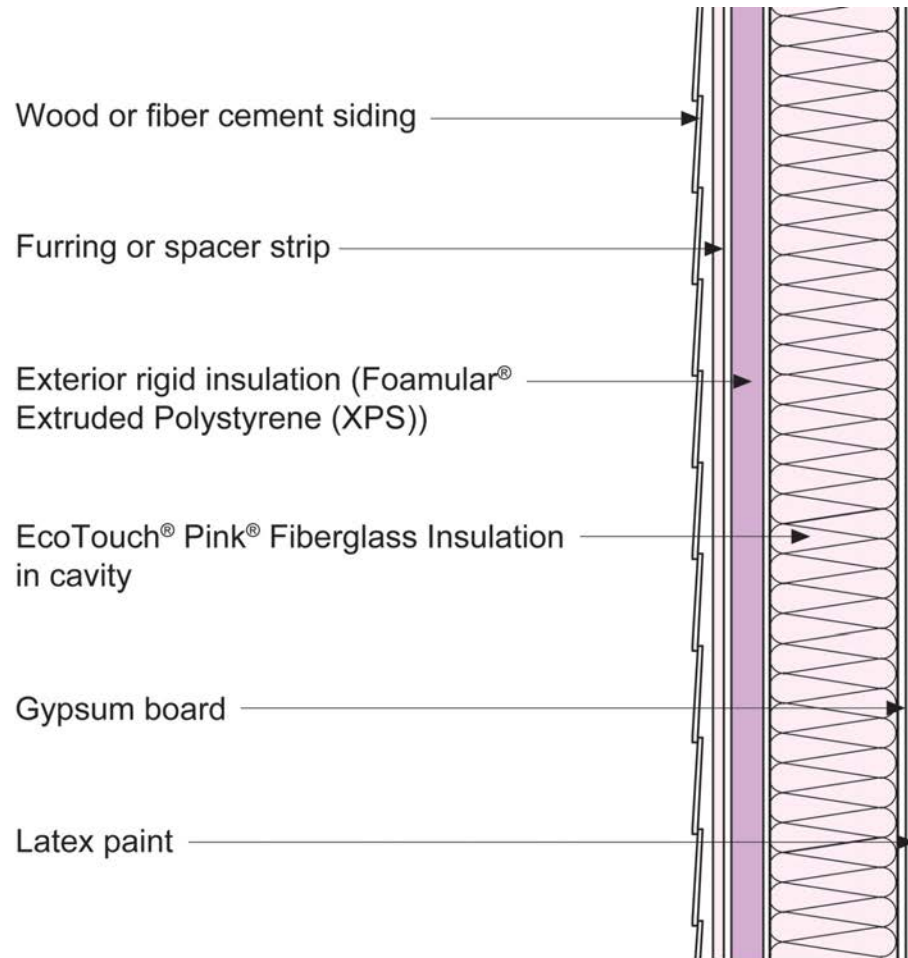






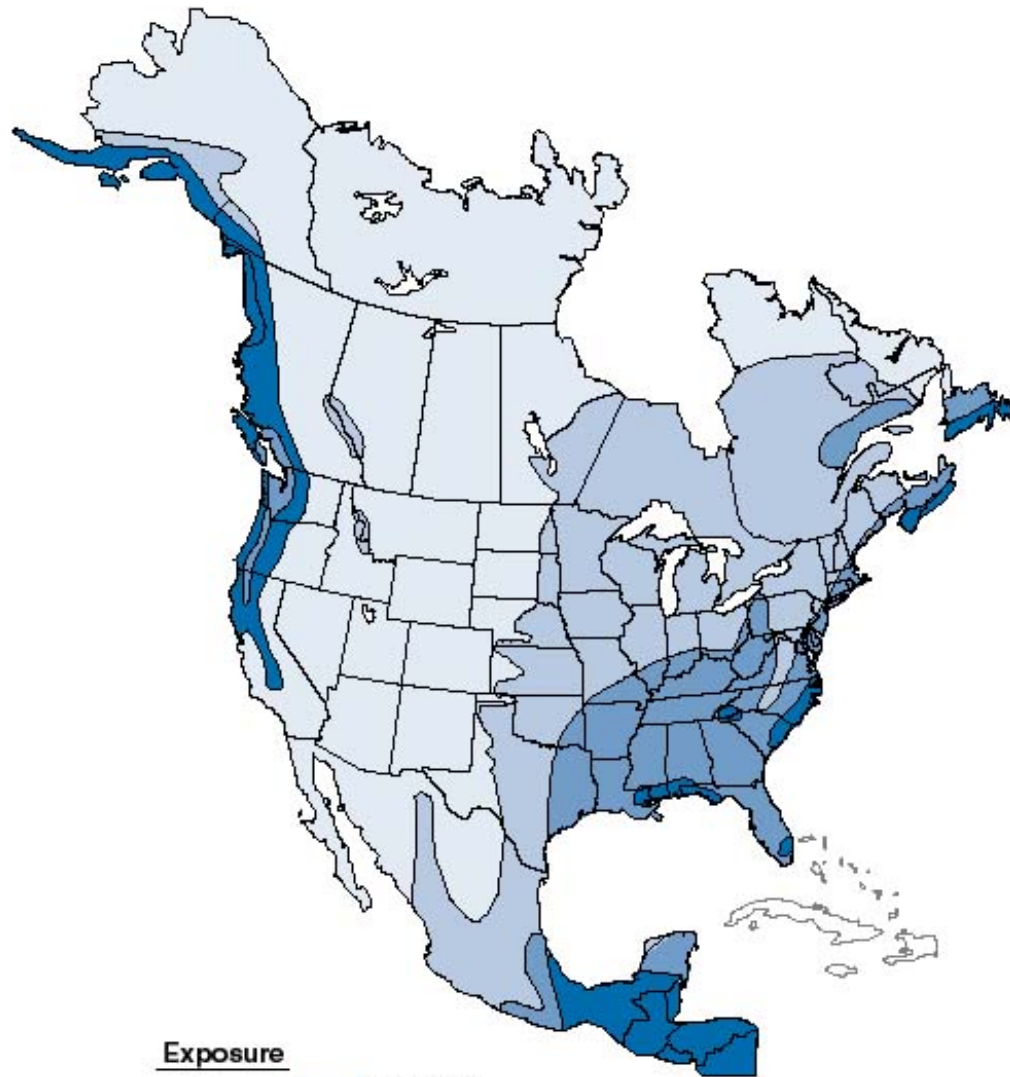






**Control of Condensing
Surface Temperature
Assembly**

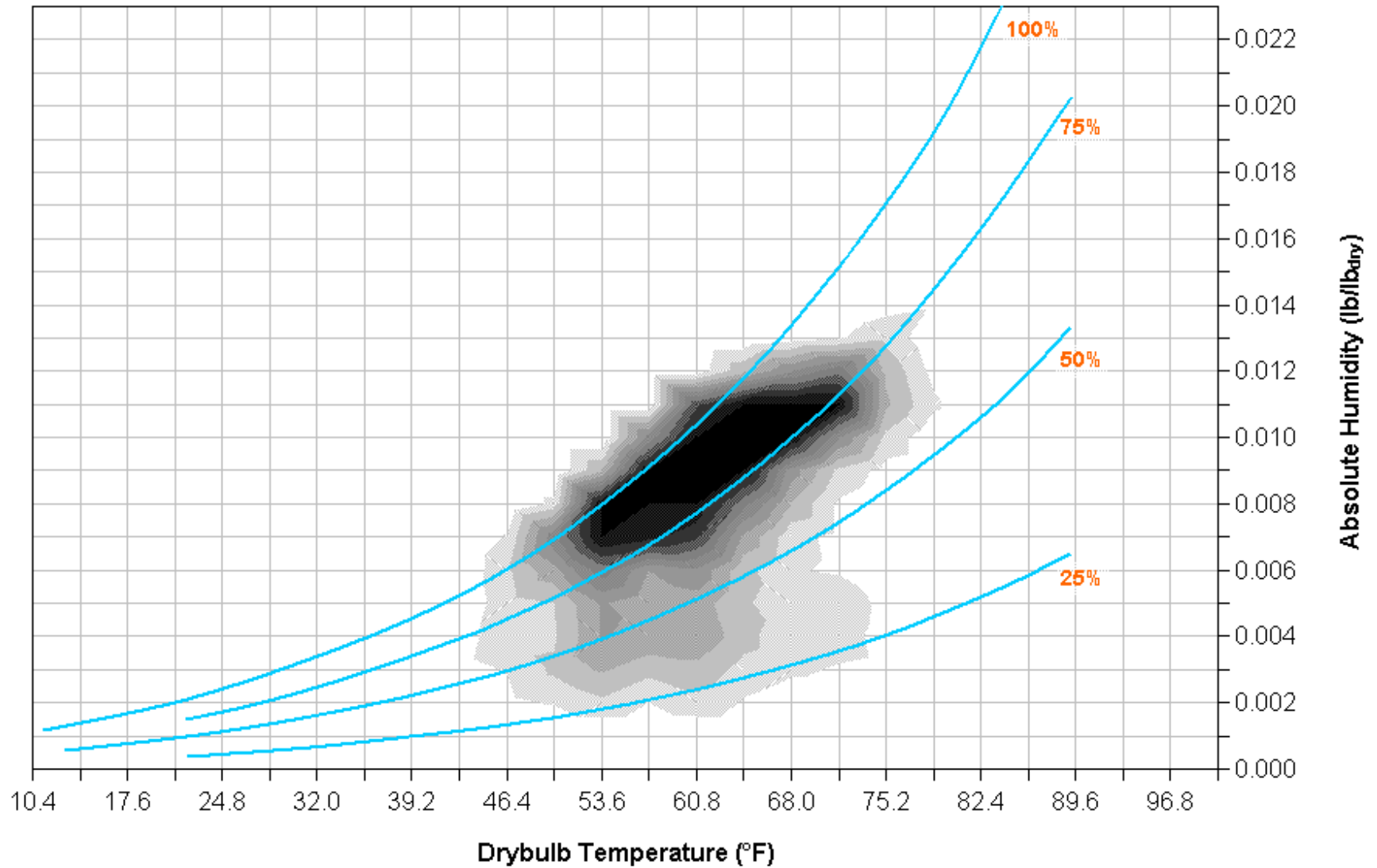




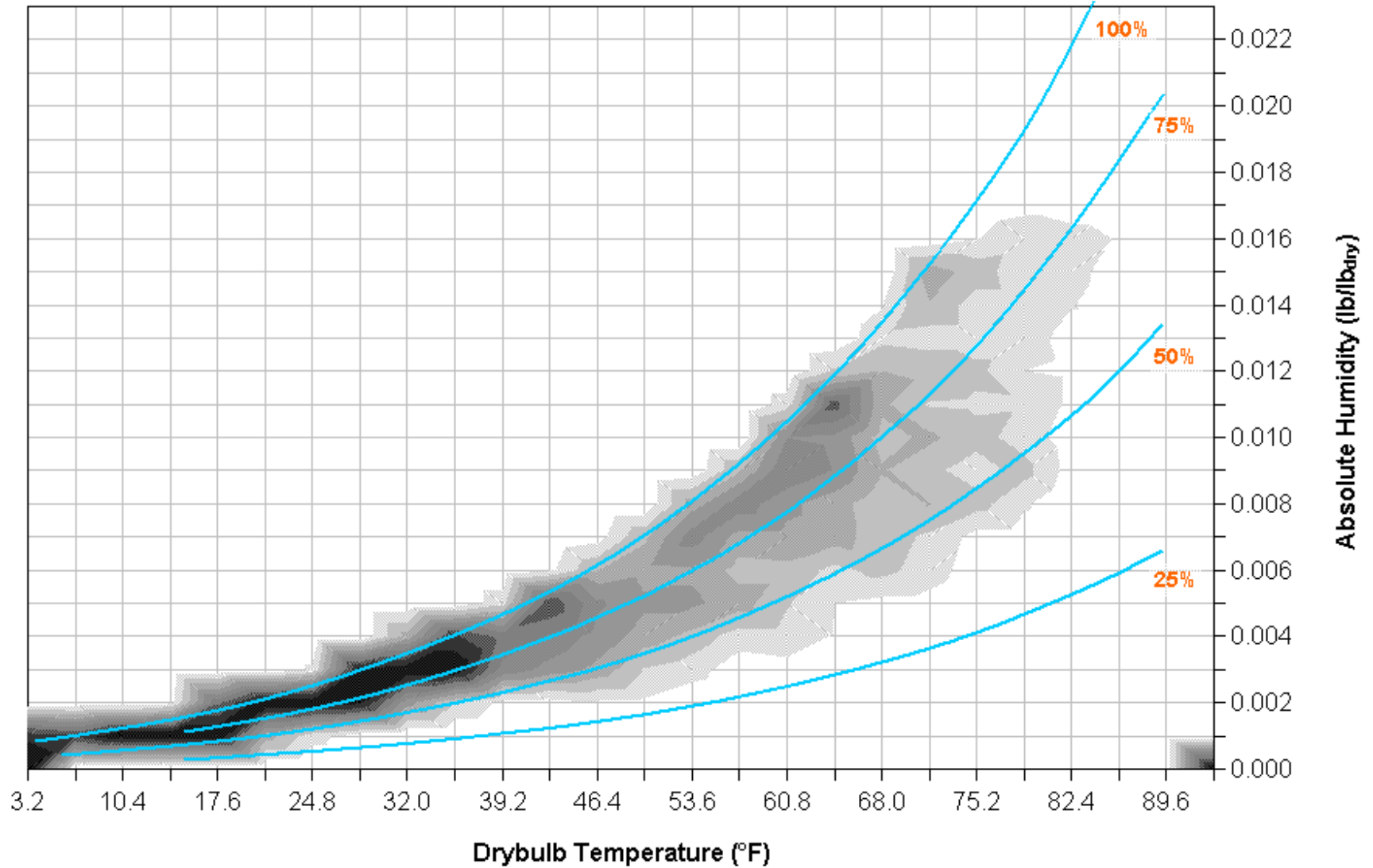
Exposure

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

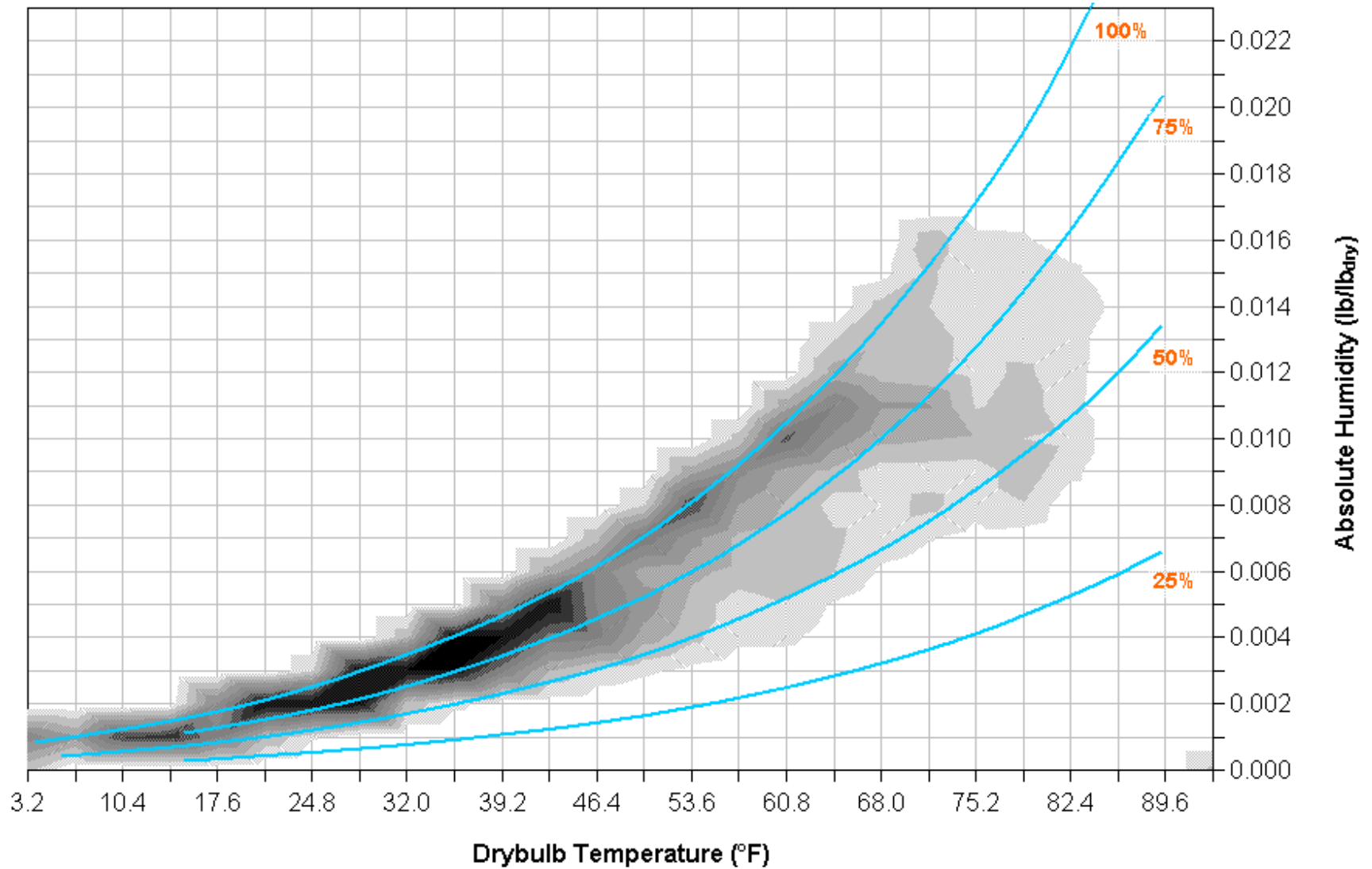
Los Angeles, CA



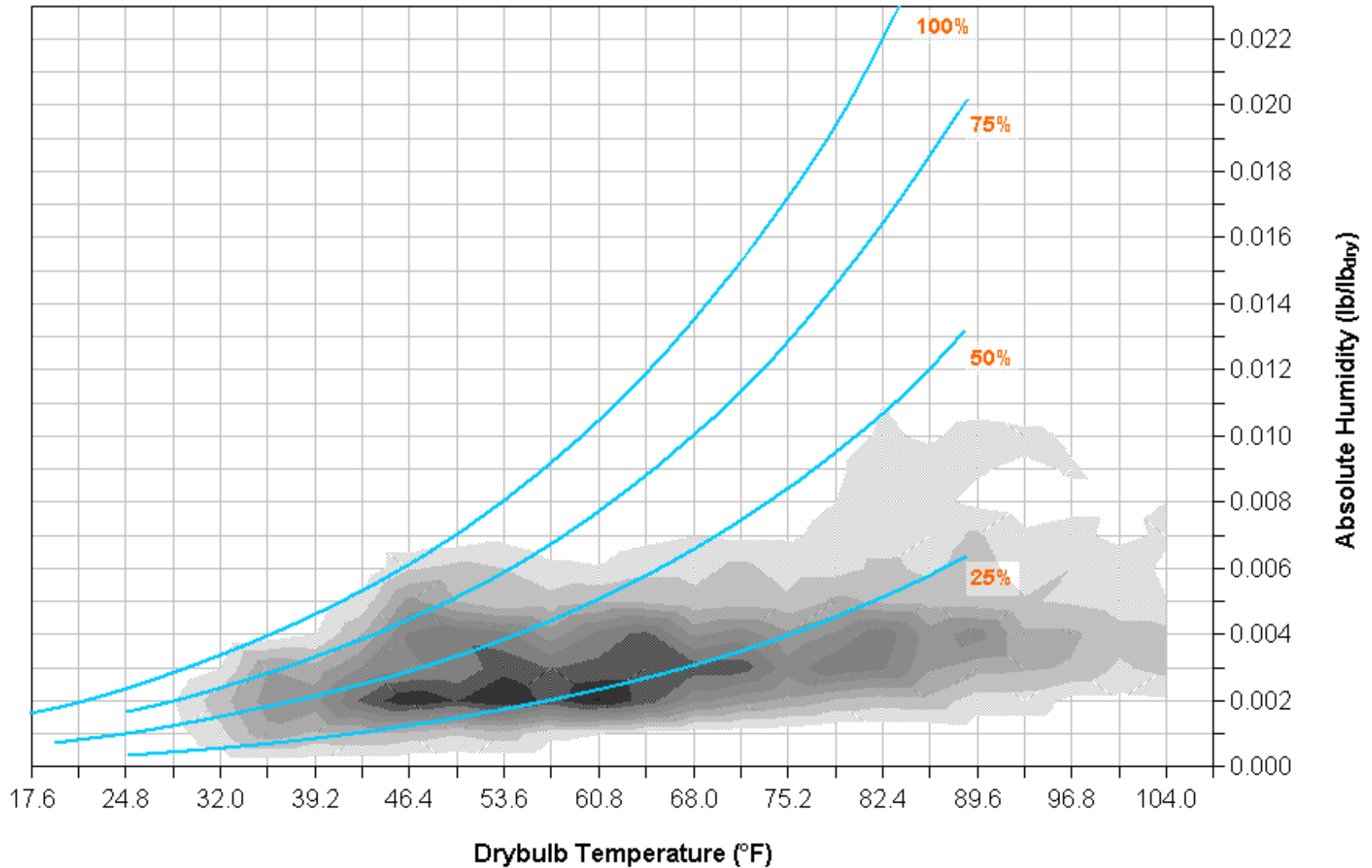
Minneapolis, MN



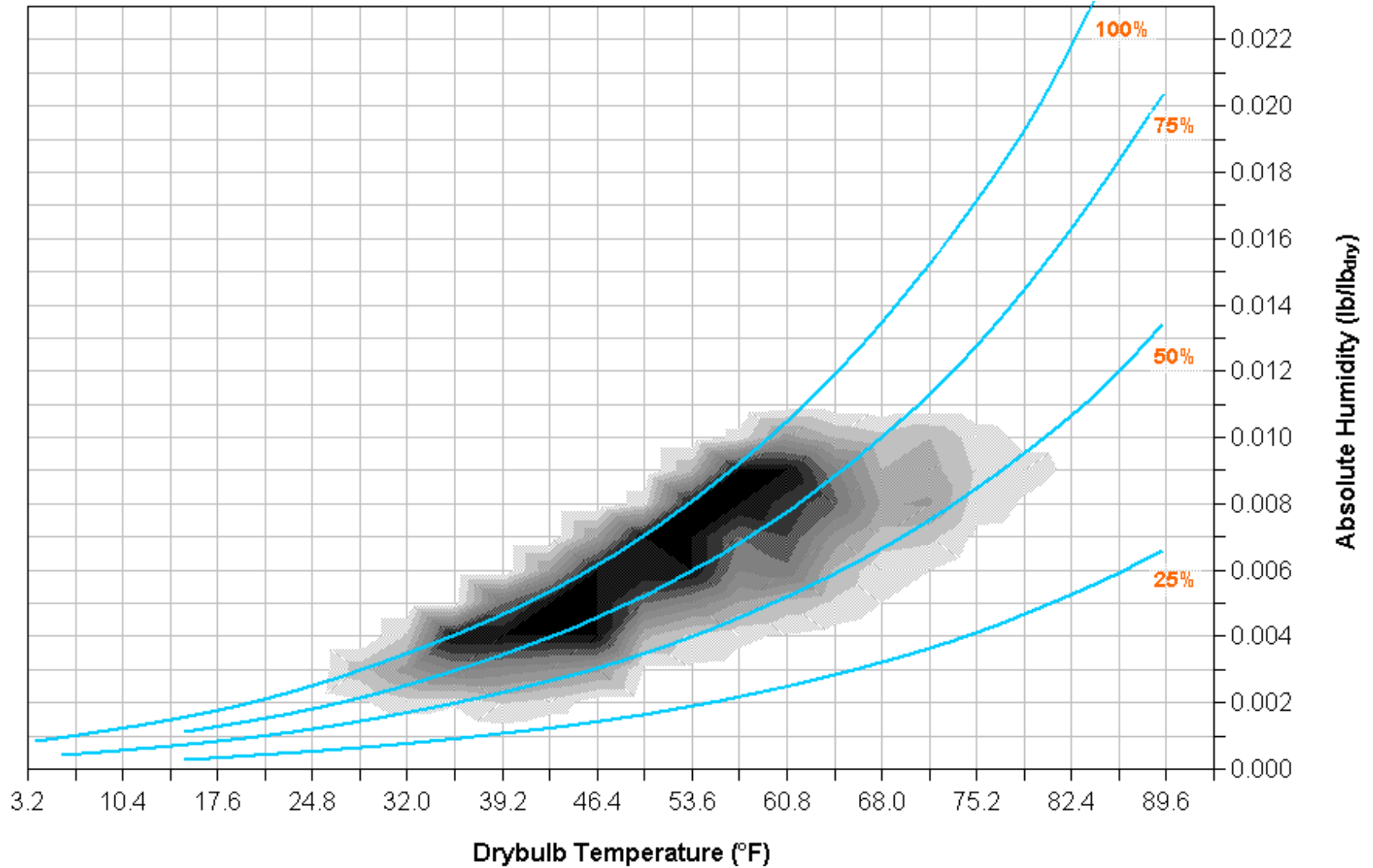
Lansing, MI



Las Vegas, NV



Seattle, WA



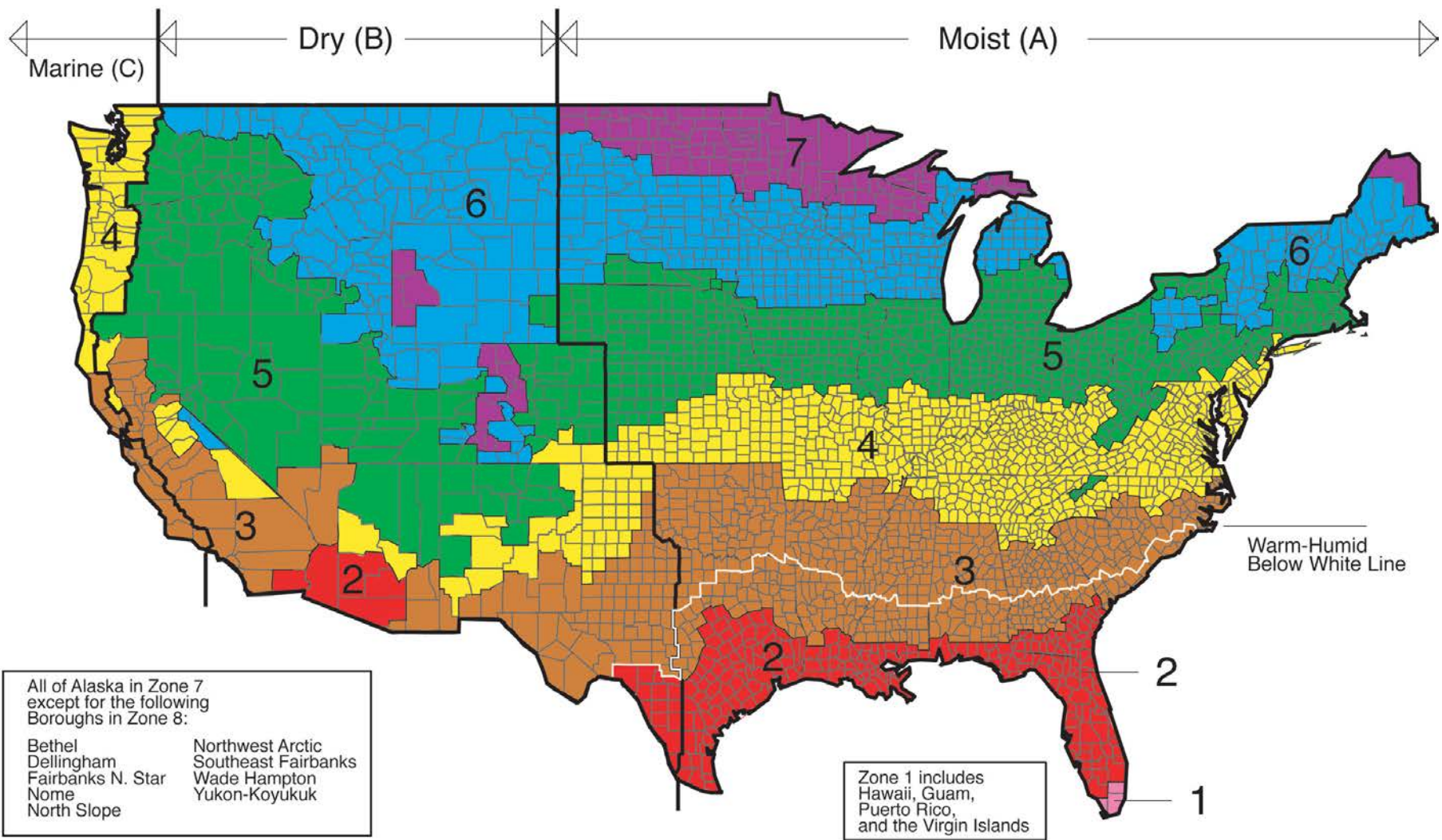
Don't Do Stupid Things







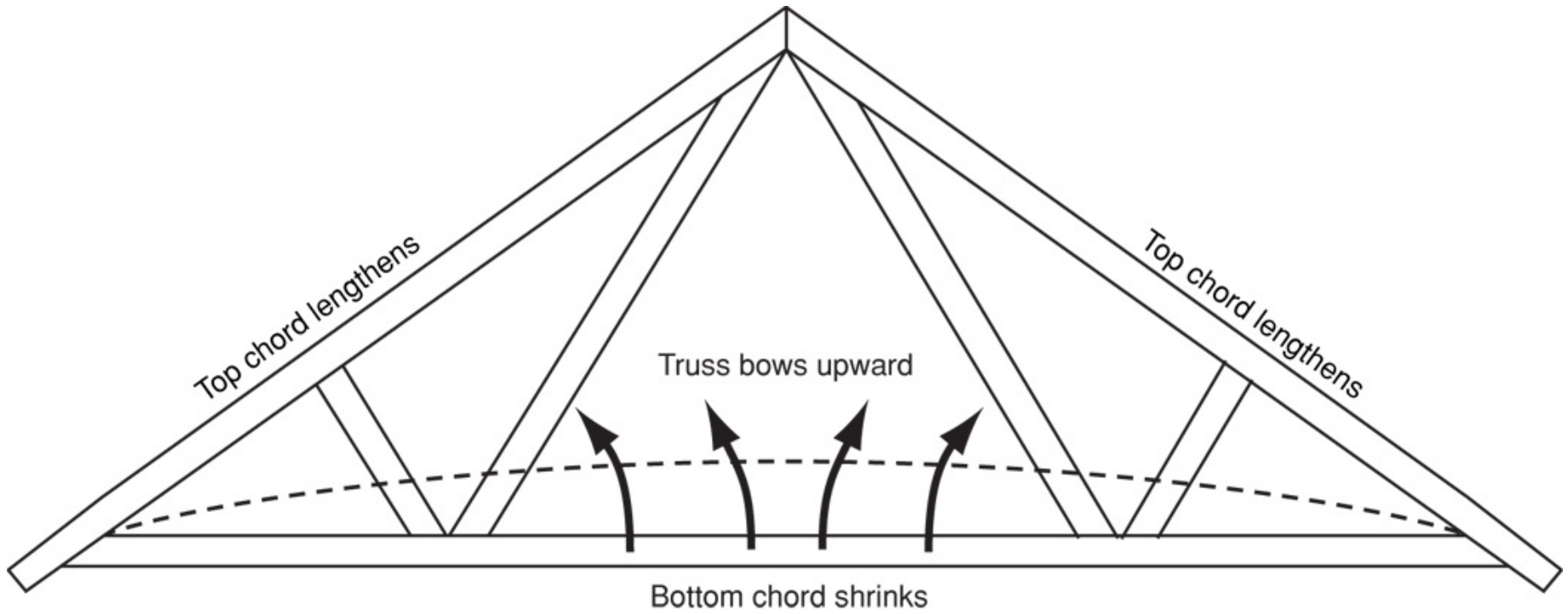


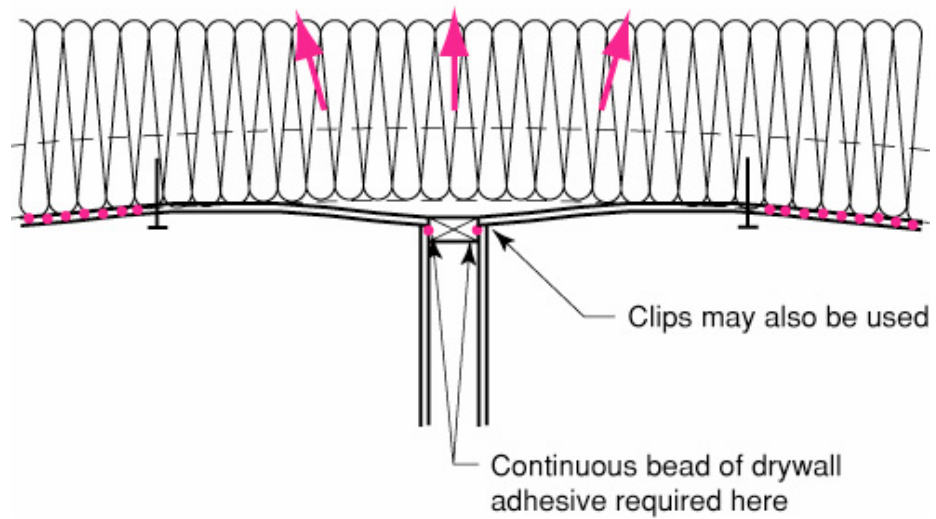
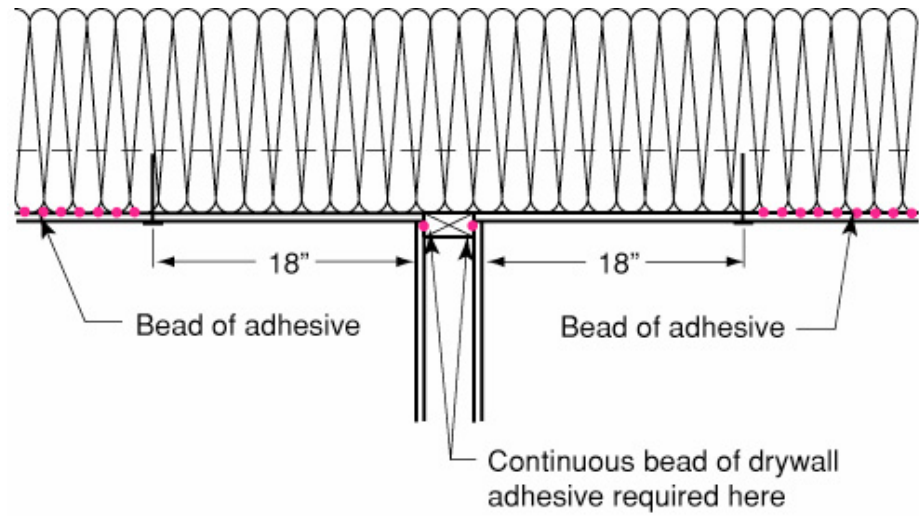


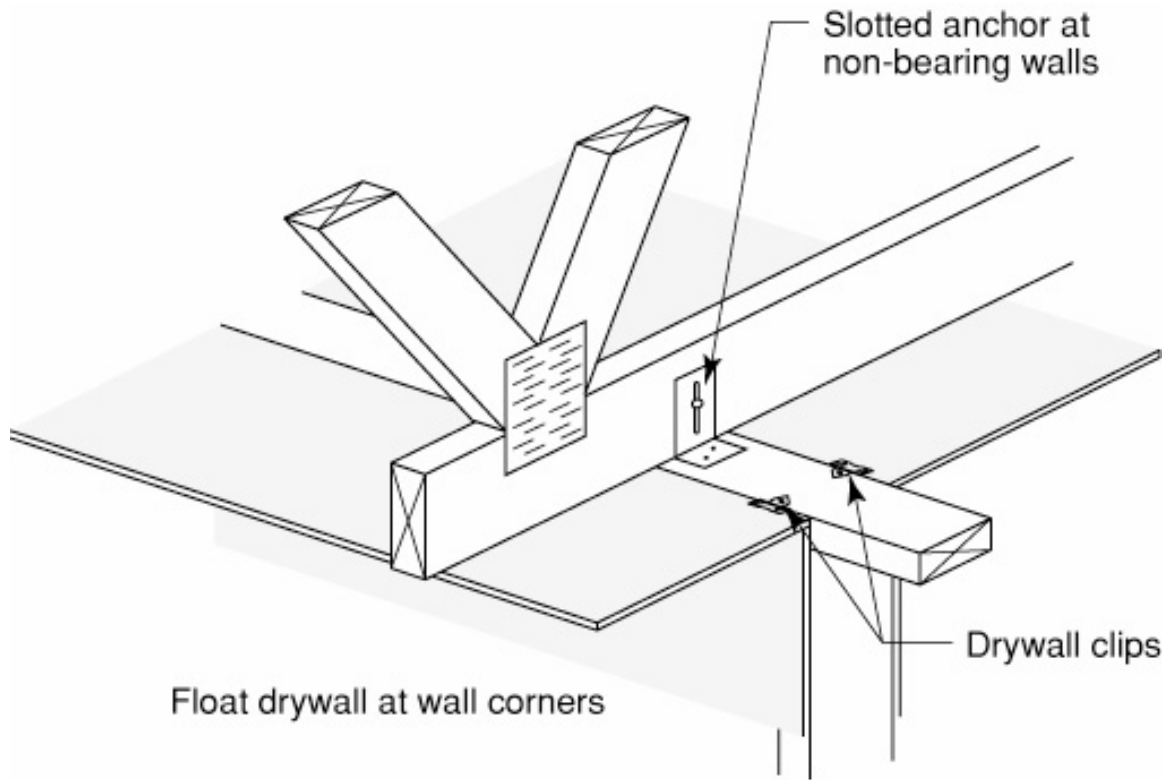
















Exterior Conditions

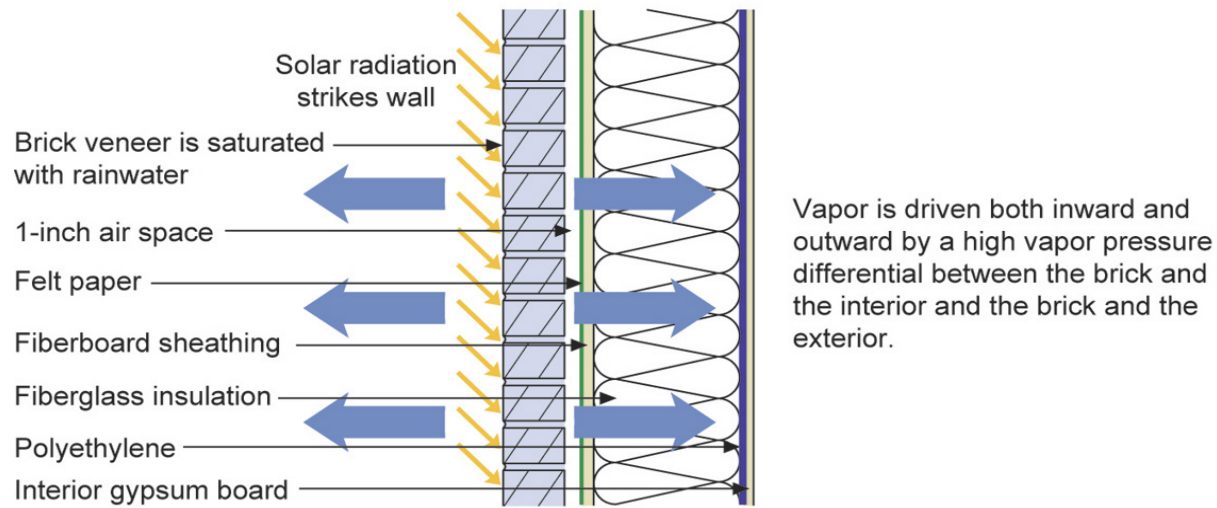
Temperature: 80°F
Relative humidity: 75%
Vapor pressure: 2.49 kPa

Conditions within Cavity:

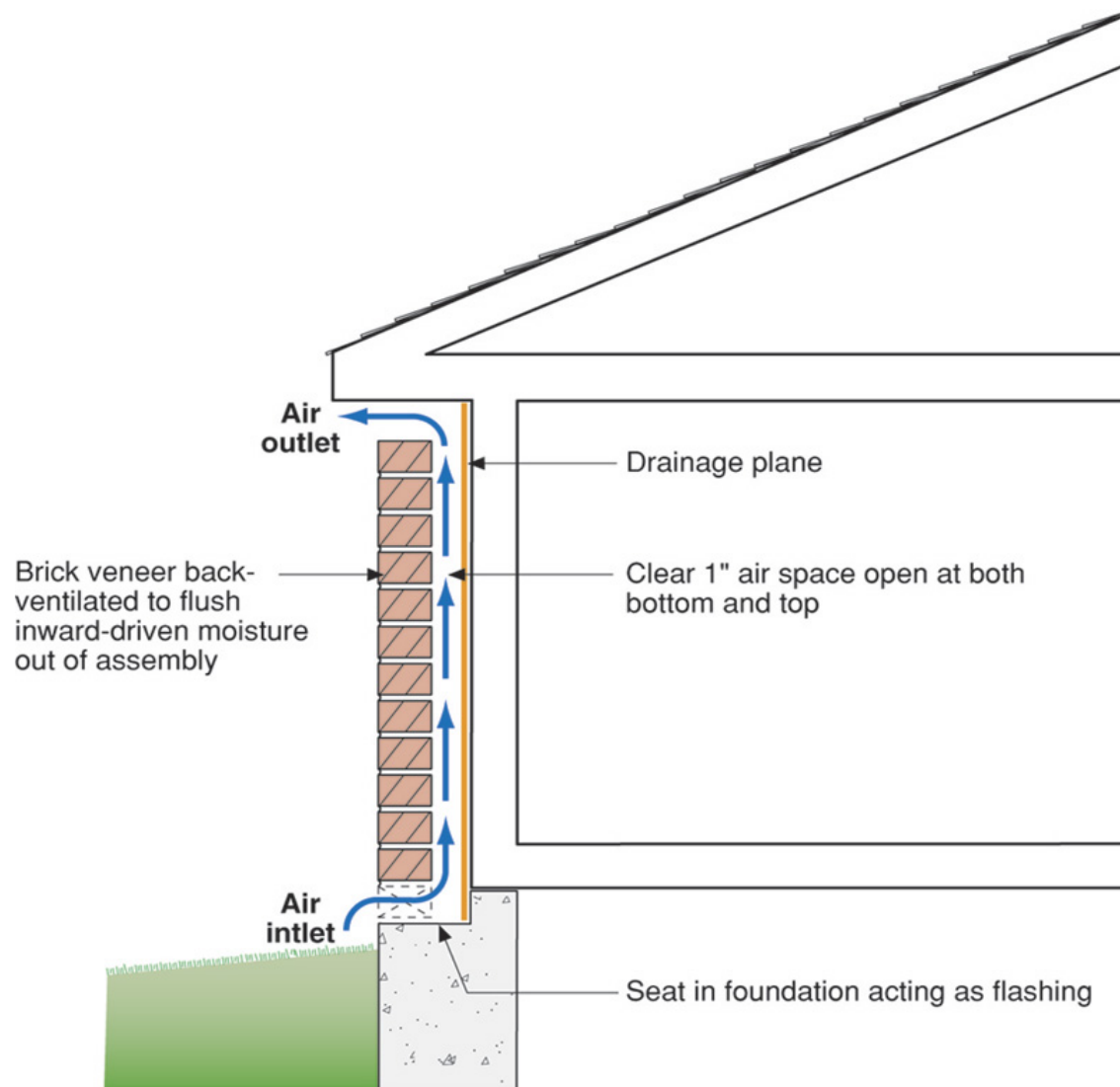
Temperature: 100°F
Relative humidity: 100%
Vapor pressure: 6.45 kPa

Interior Conditions

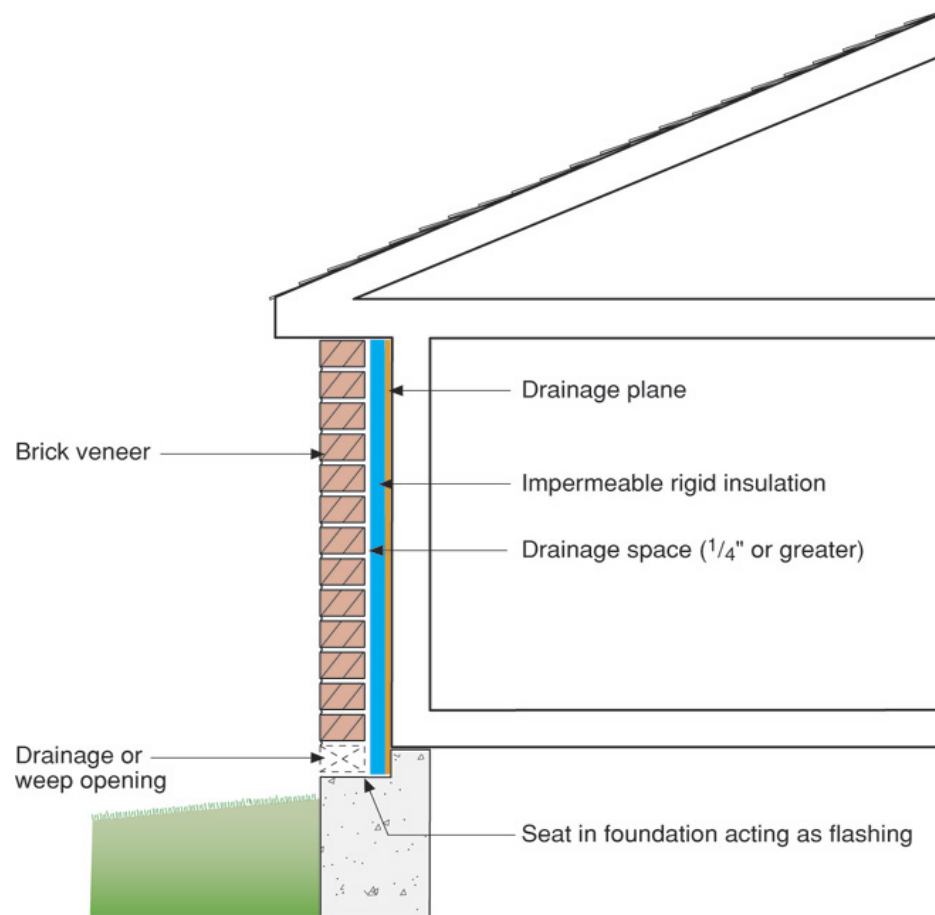
Temperature: 75°F
Relative humidity: 60%
Vapor pressure: 1.82 kPa



- 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

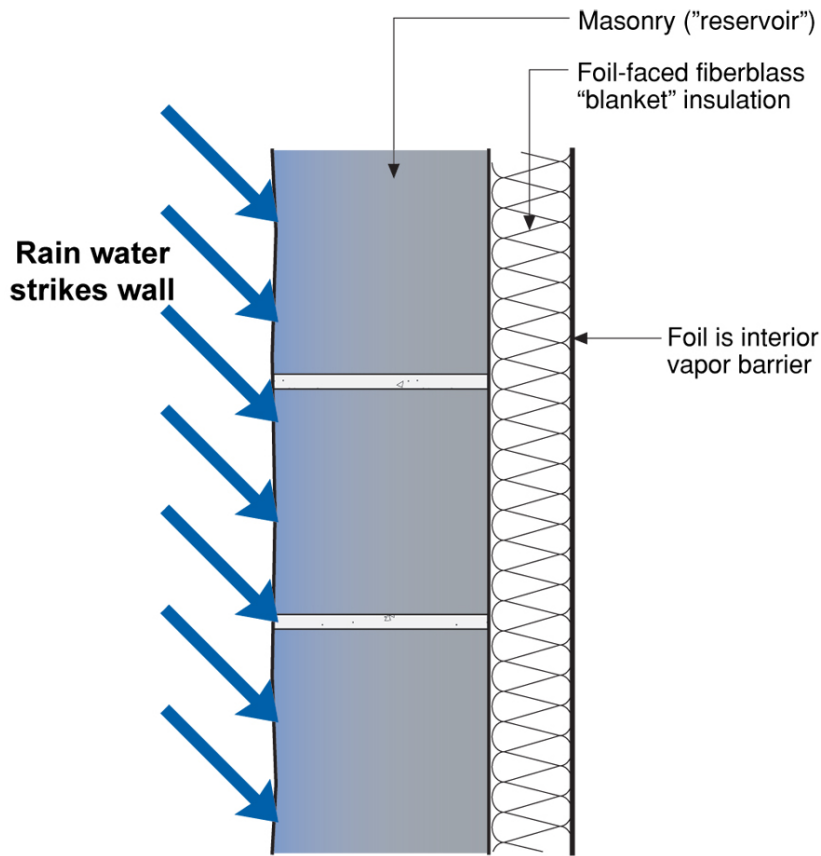


- To effectively uncouple a brick veneer from a wall system by using a condensing surface, the drainage plane must also be a vapor barrier or a vapor impermeable layer (i.e. rigid insulation) must be installed between the drainage plane and the brick veneer. Alternatively, the rigid insulation can be 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.



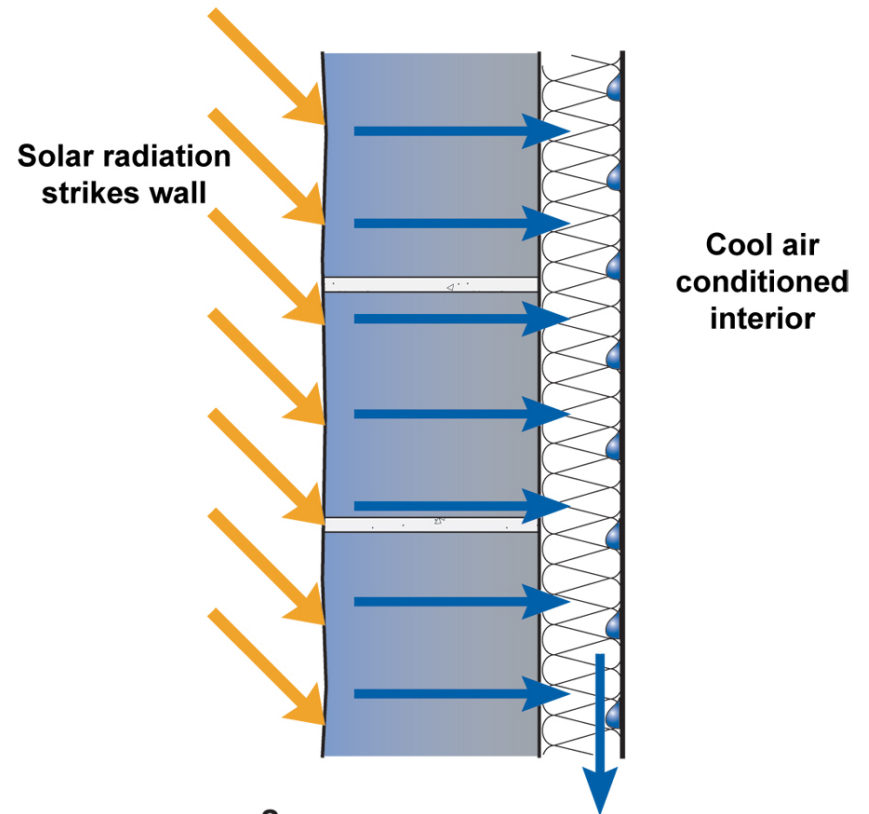






1.

- 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

