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# Building Science

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Renovation and Rehabilitation

presented by [www.buildingscience.com](http://www.buildingscience.com)

# Presentation Overview

- Building Physics
- Foundations
- Mass Masonry
- Walls
- Roofs

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# Building Physics

August 8, 2019

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

Damage Functions

Water

Heat

Ultra-violet Radiation

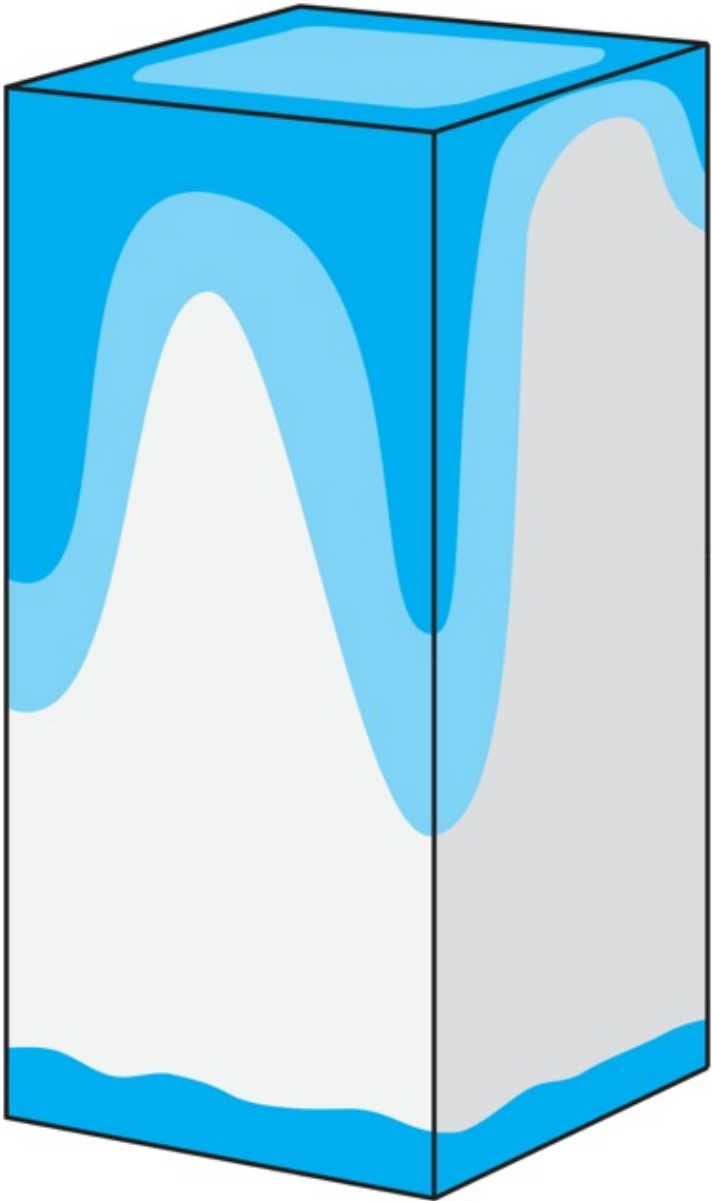


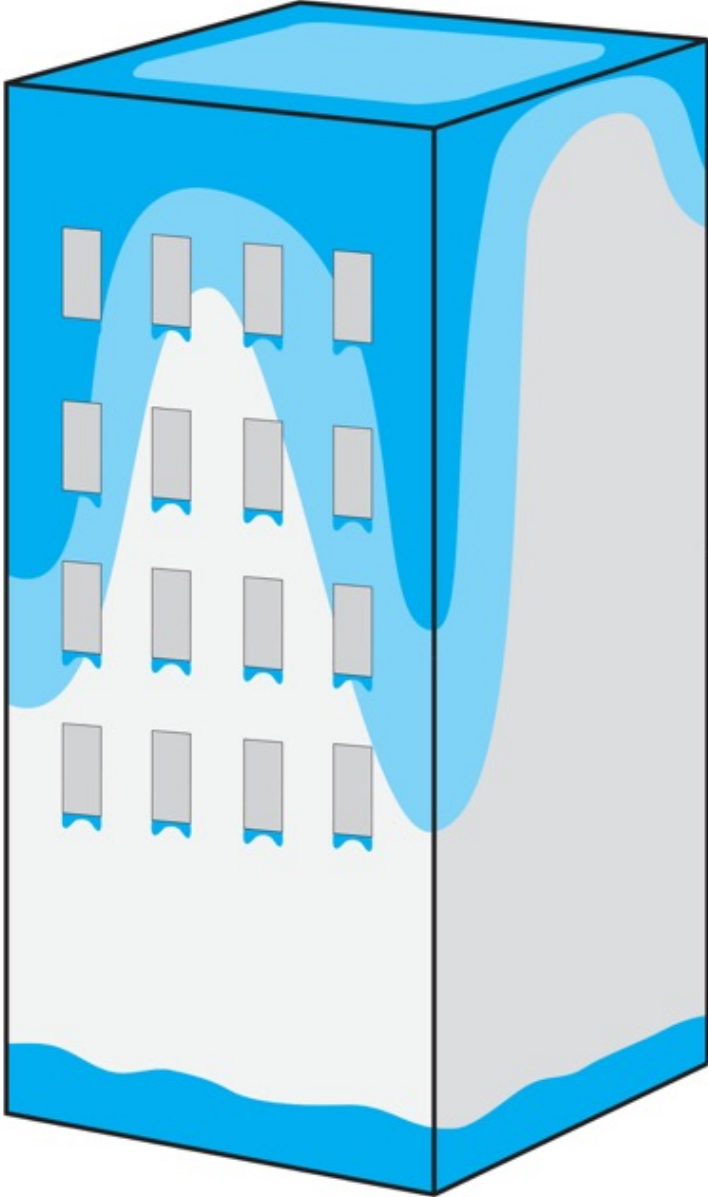




Exposure

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



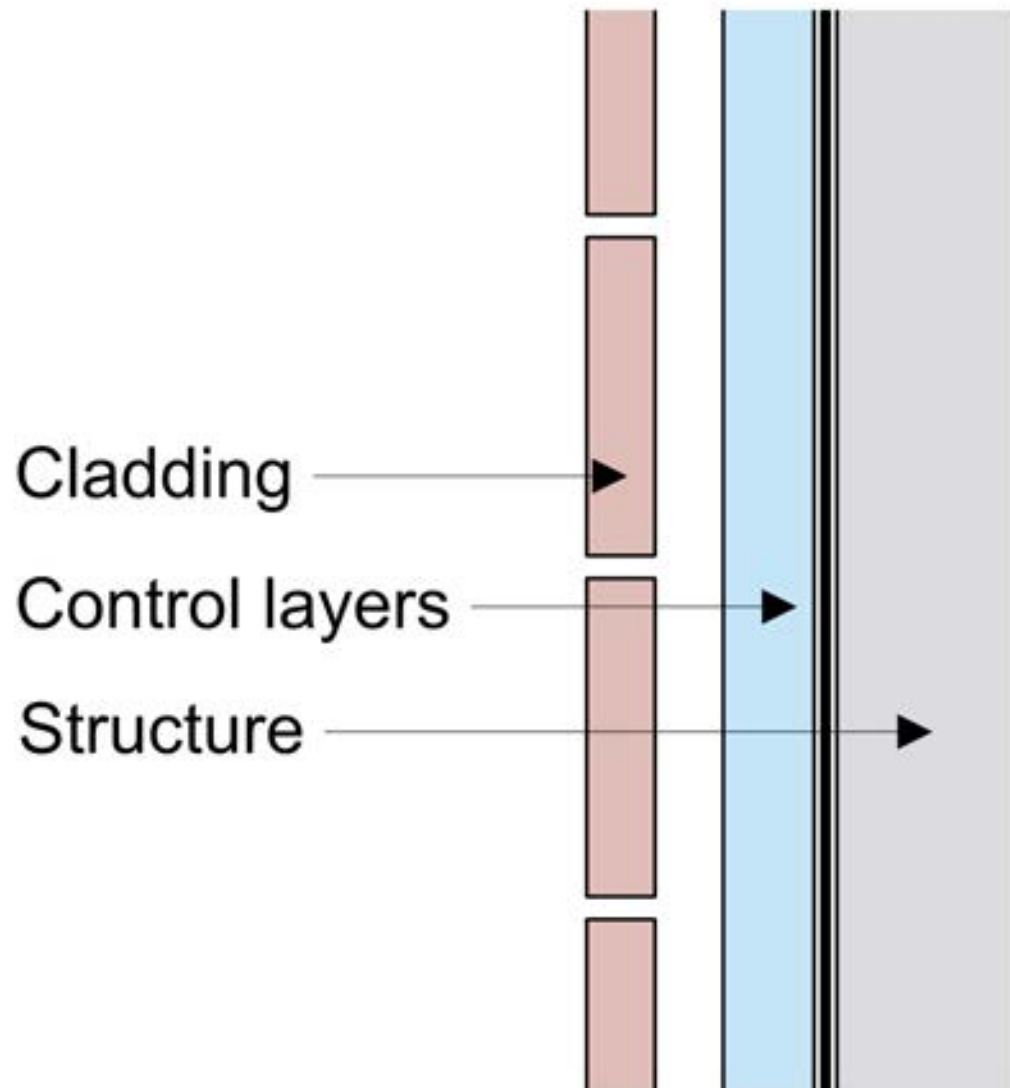


Water Control Layer

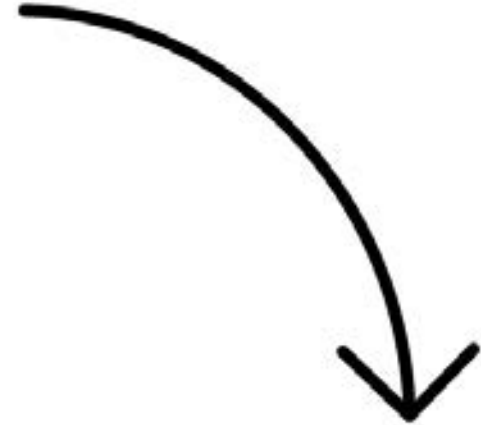
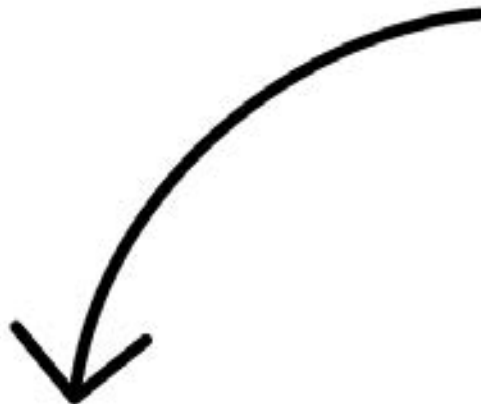
Air Control Layer

Vapor Control Layer

Thermal Control Layer



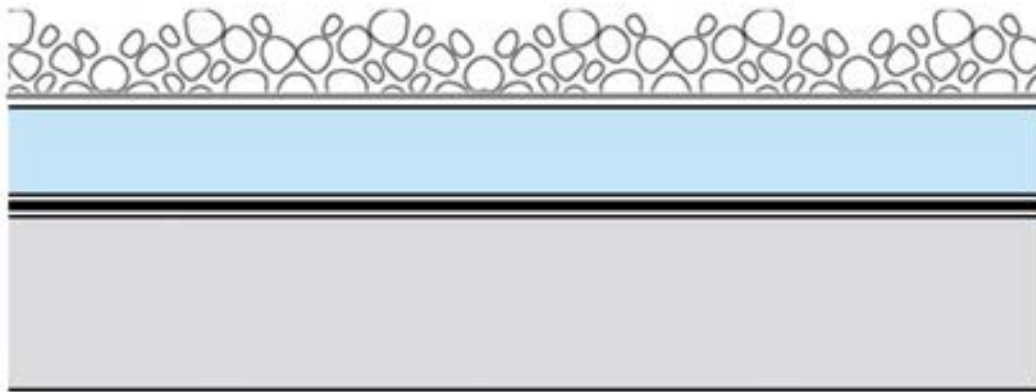
**Wall**



**Slab**



**Roof**

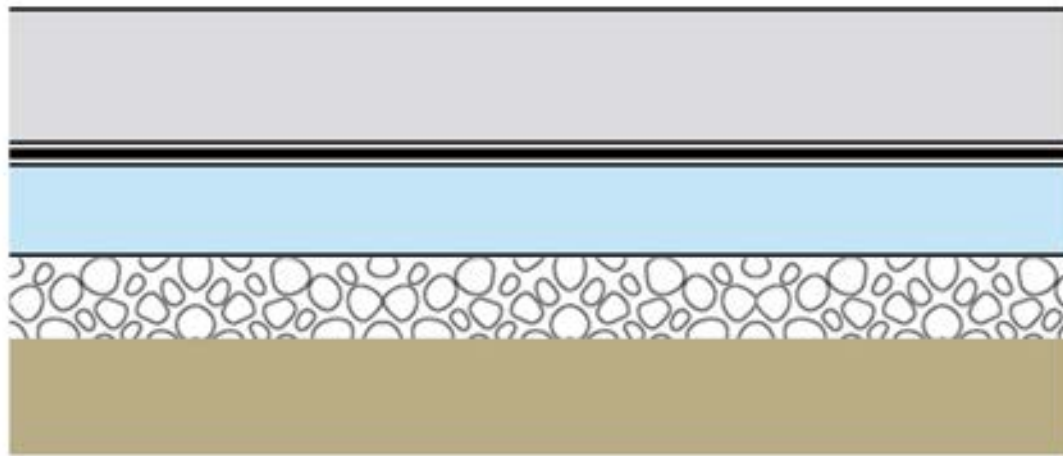


Ballast

Filter fabric

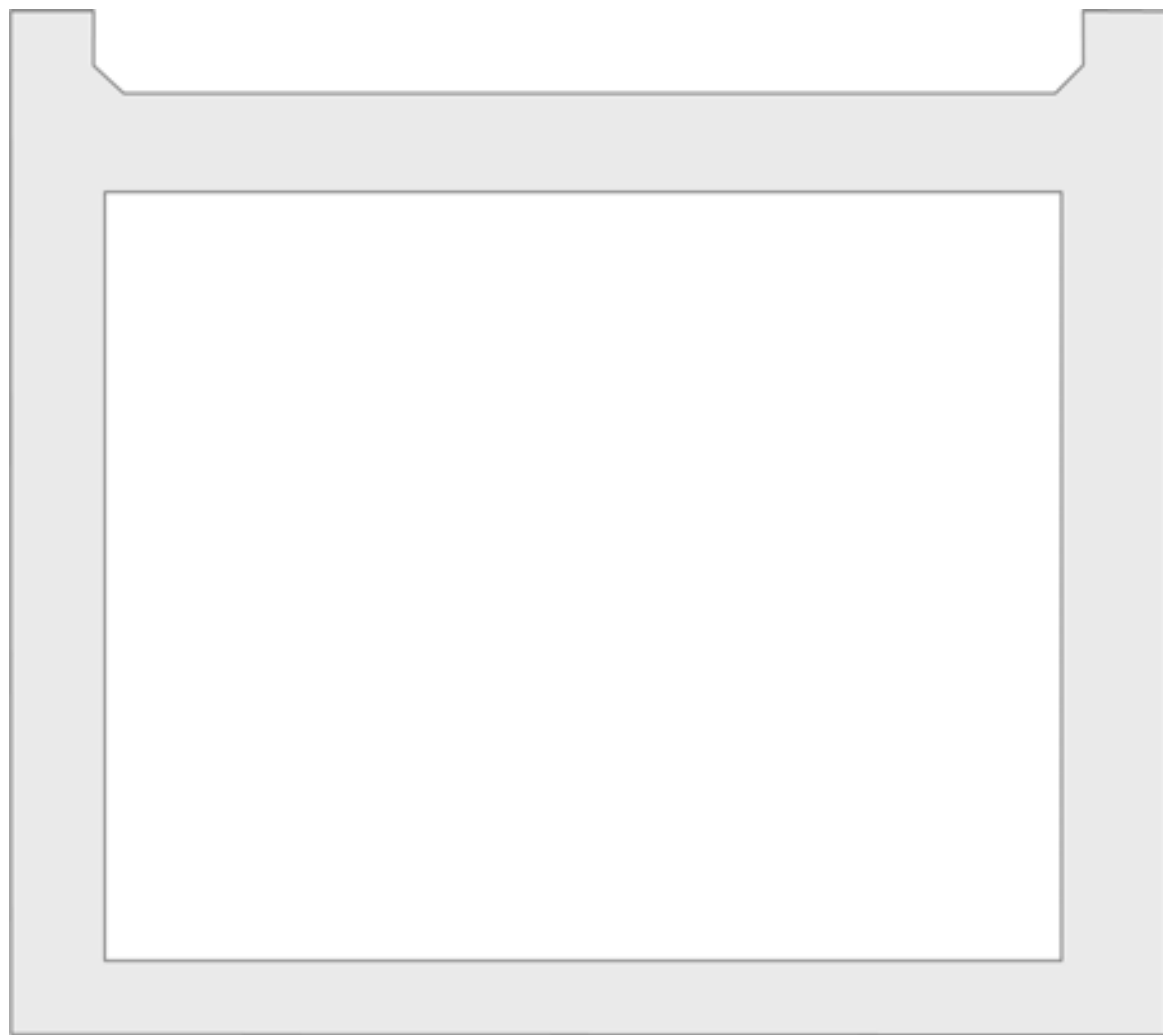
Control layers

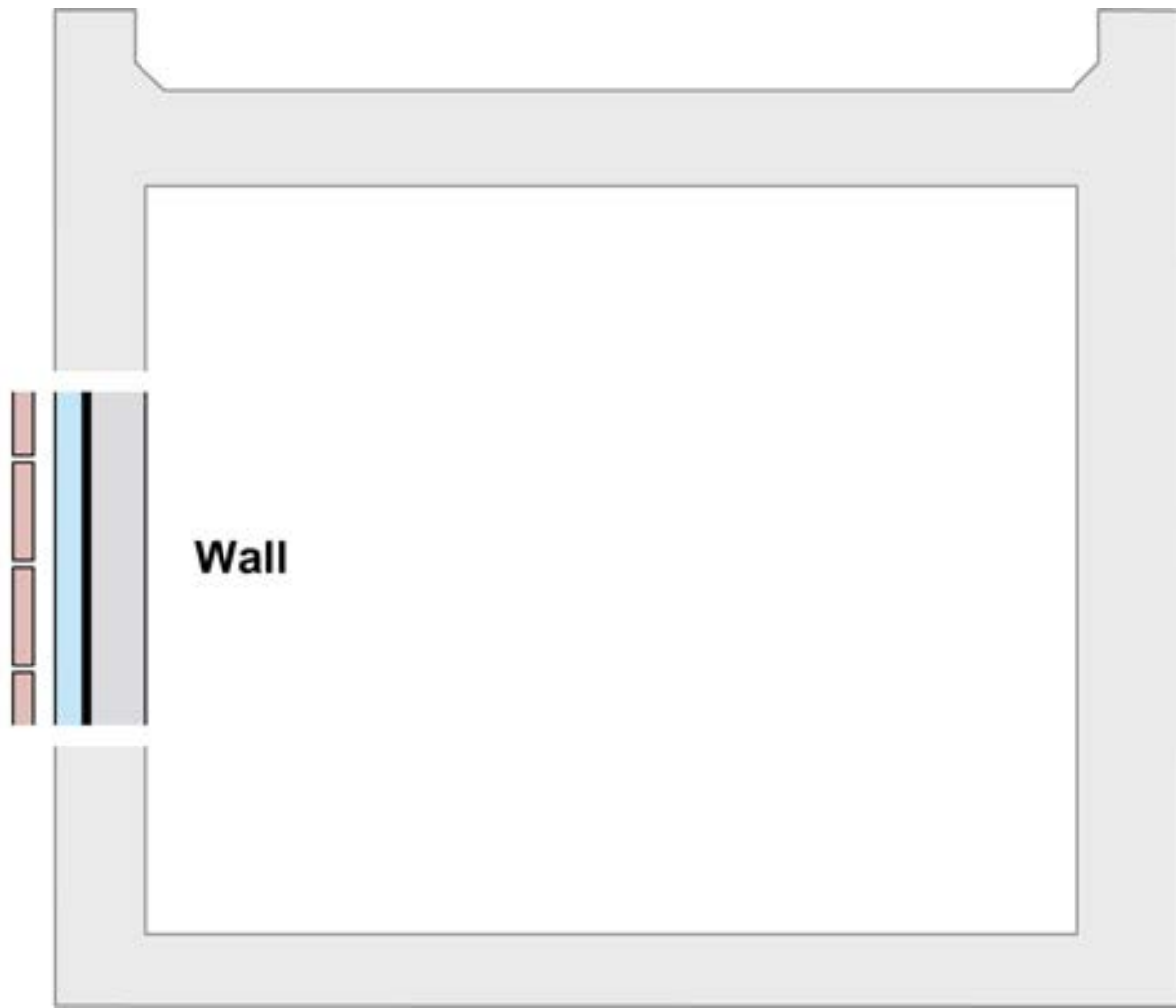
Roof structure



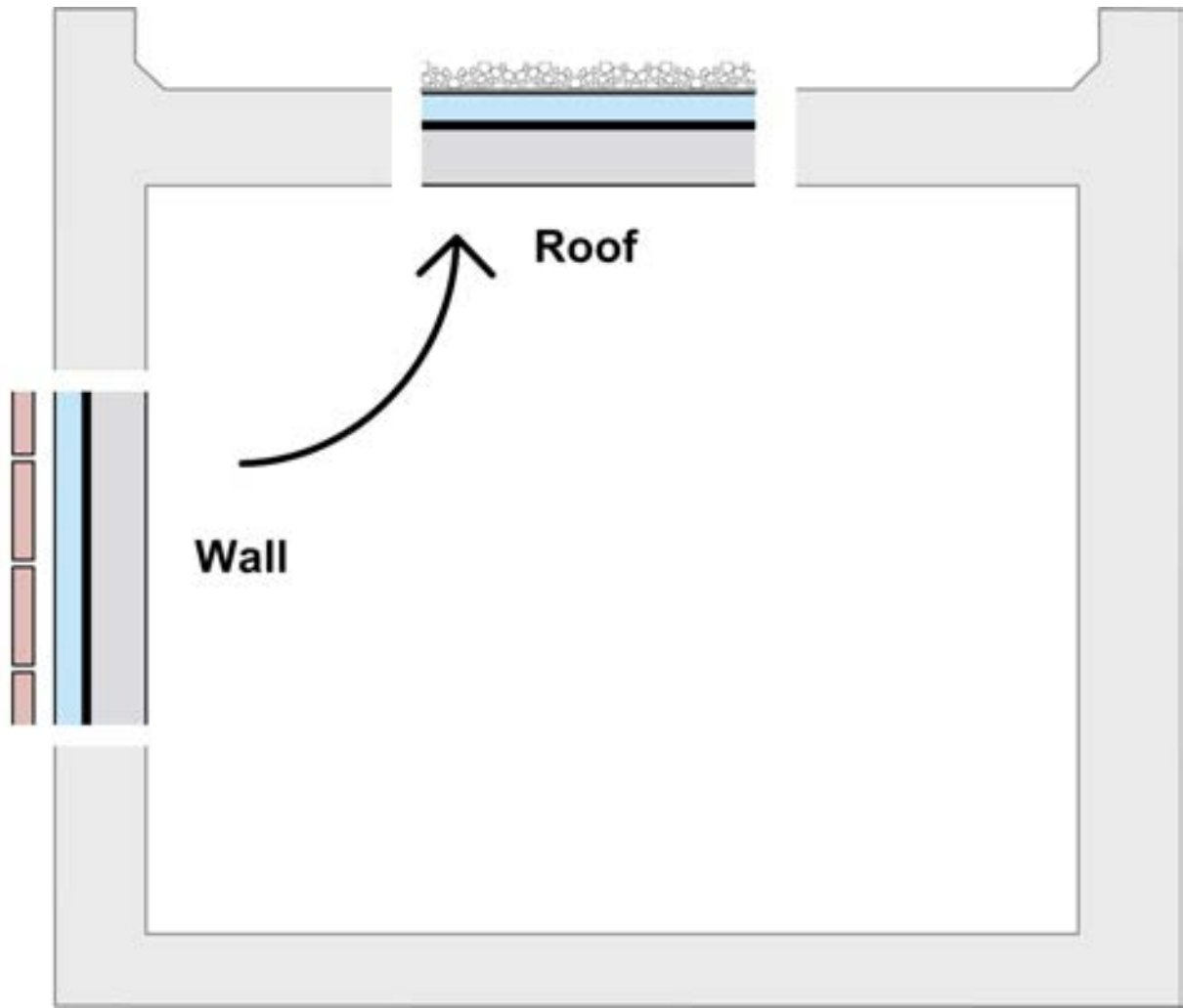
- ← Slab
- ← Control layers
- ← Stones
- ← Earth

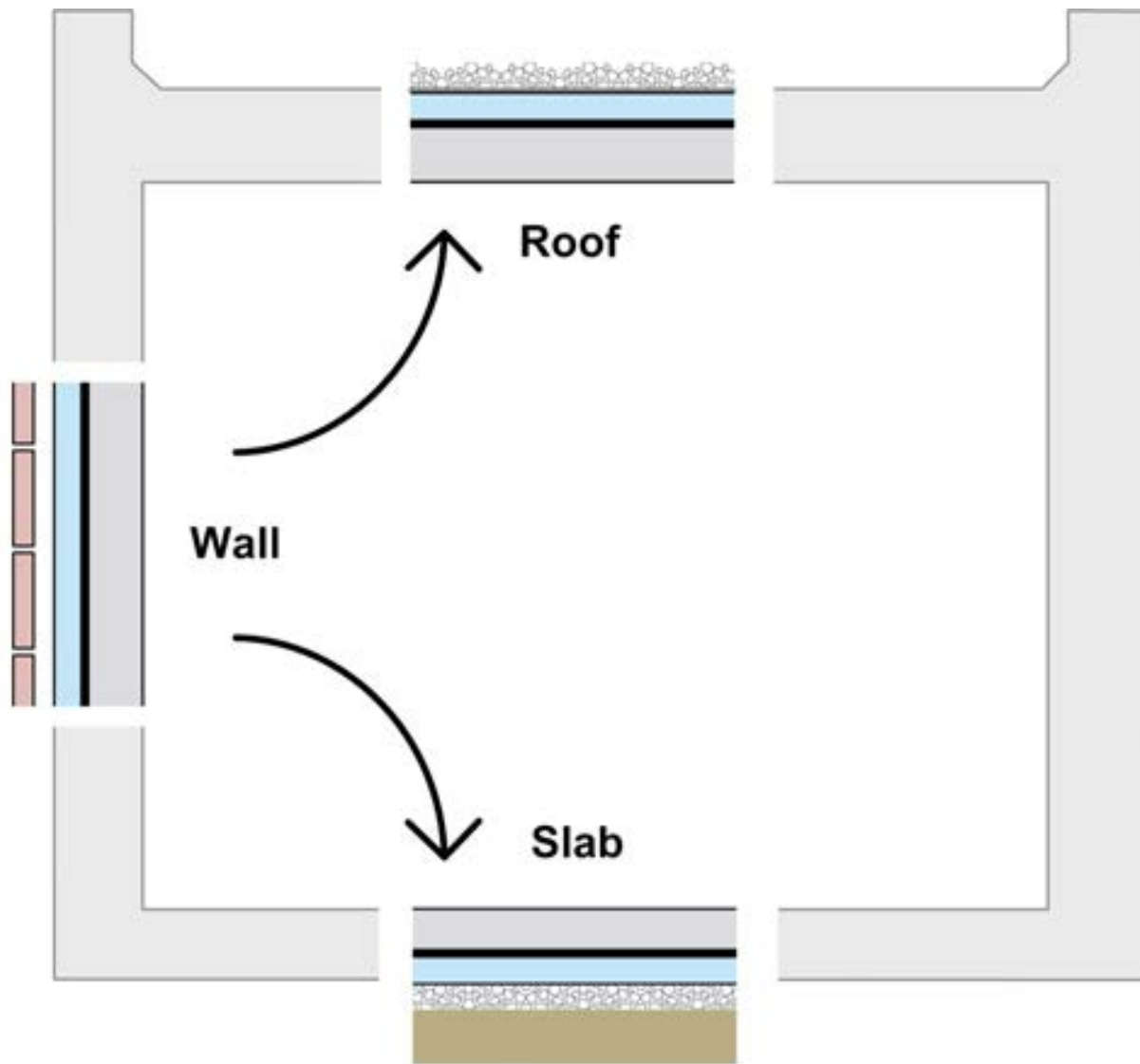


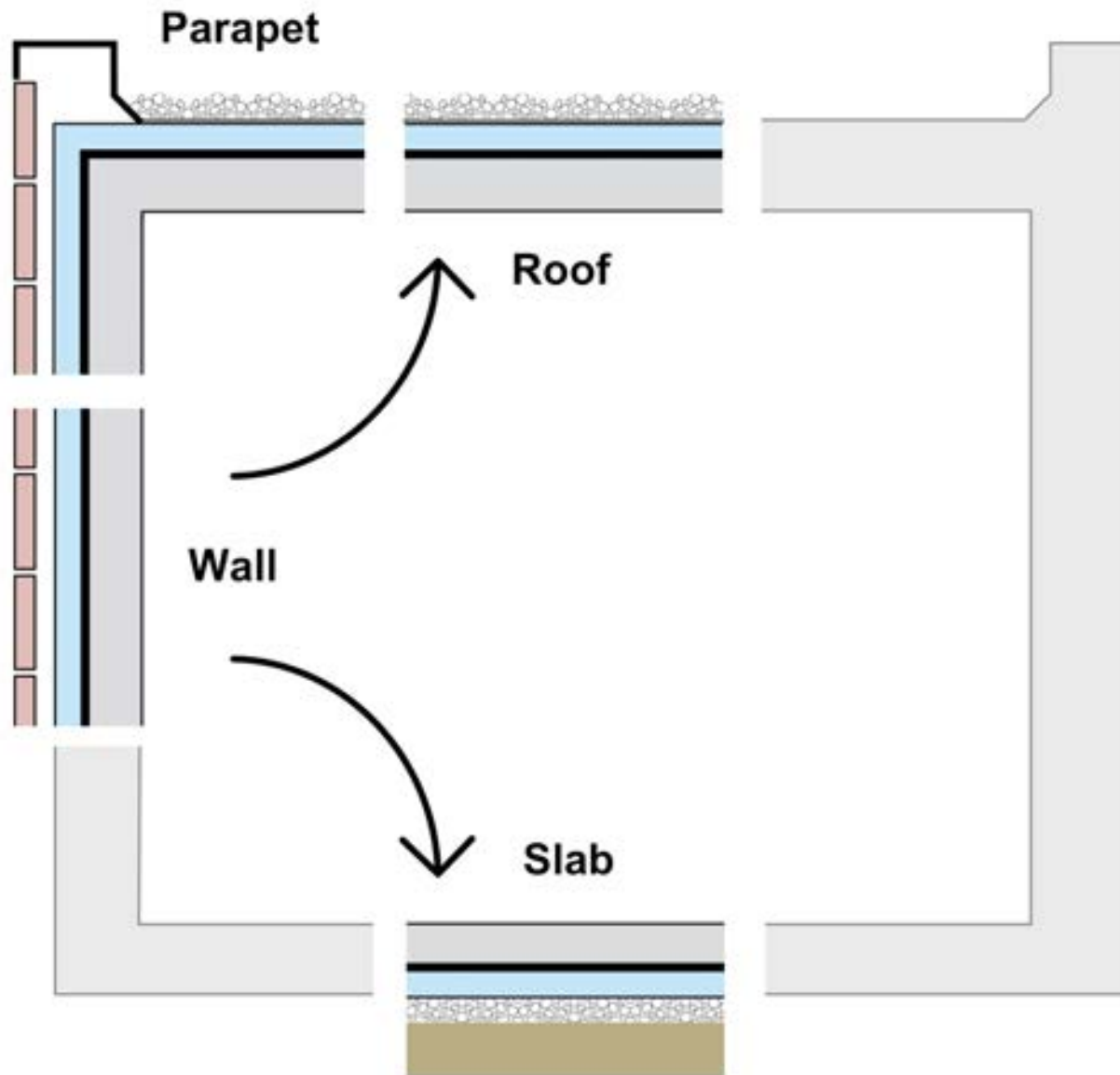


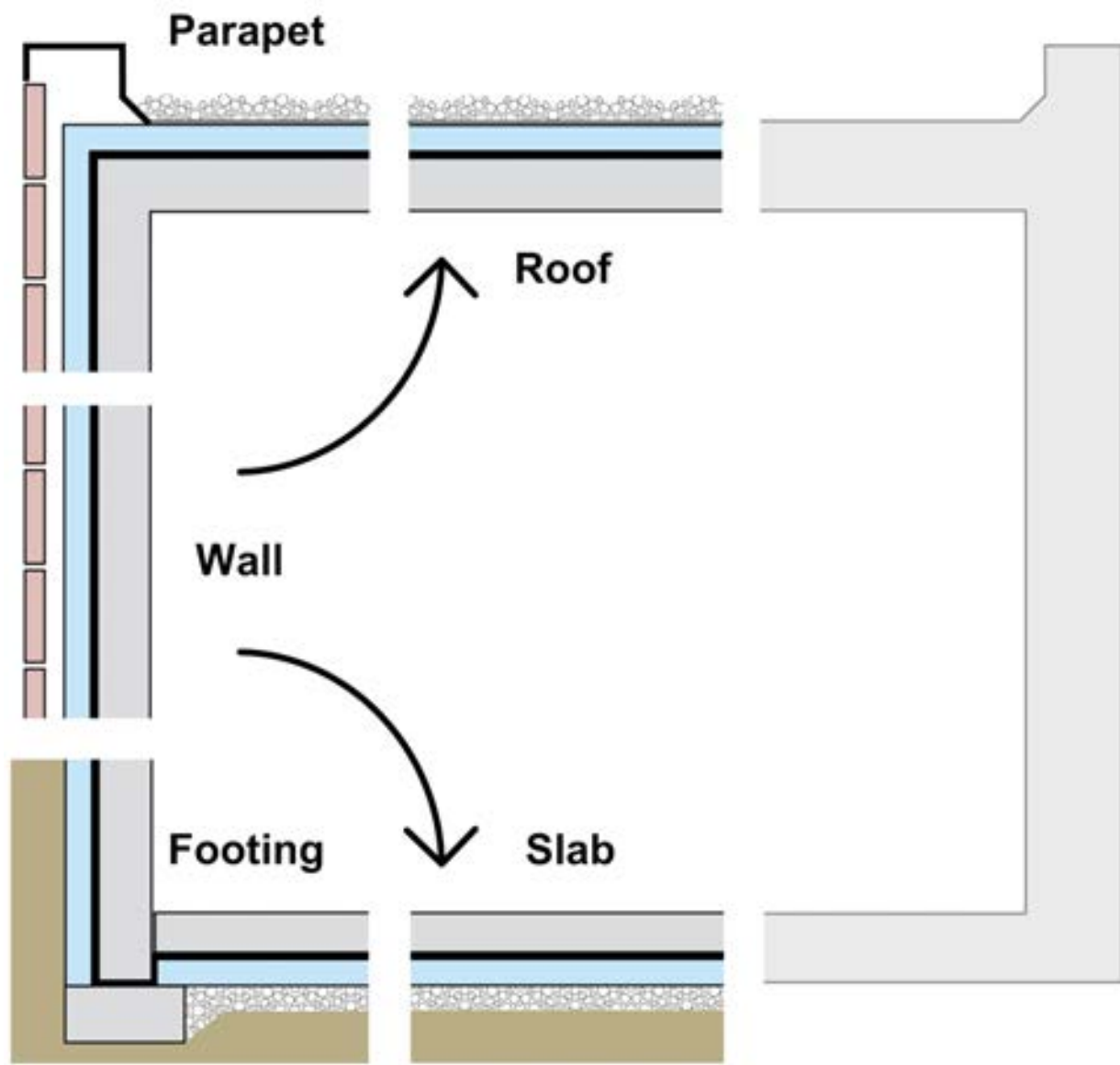


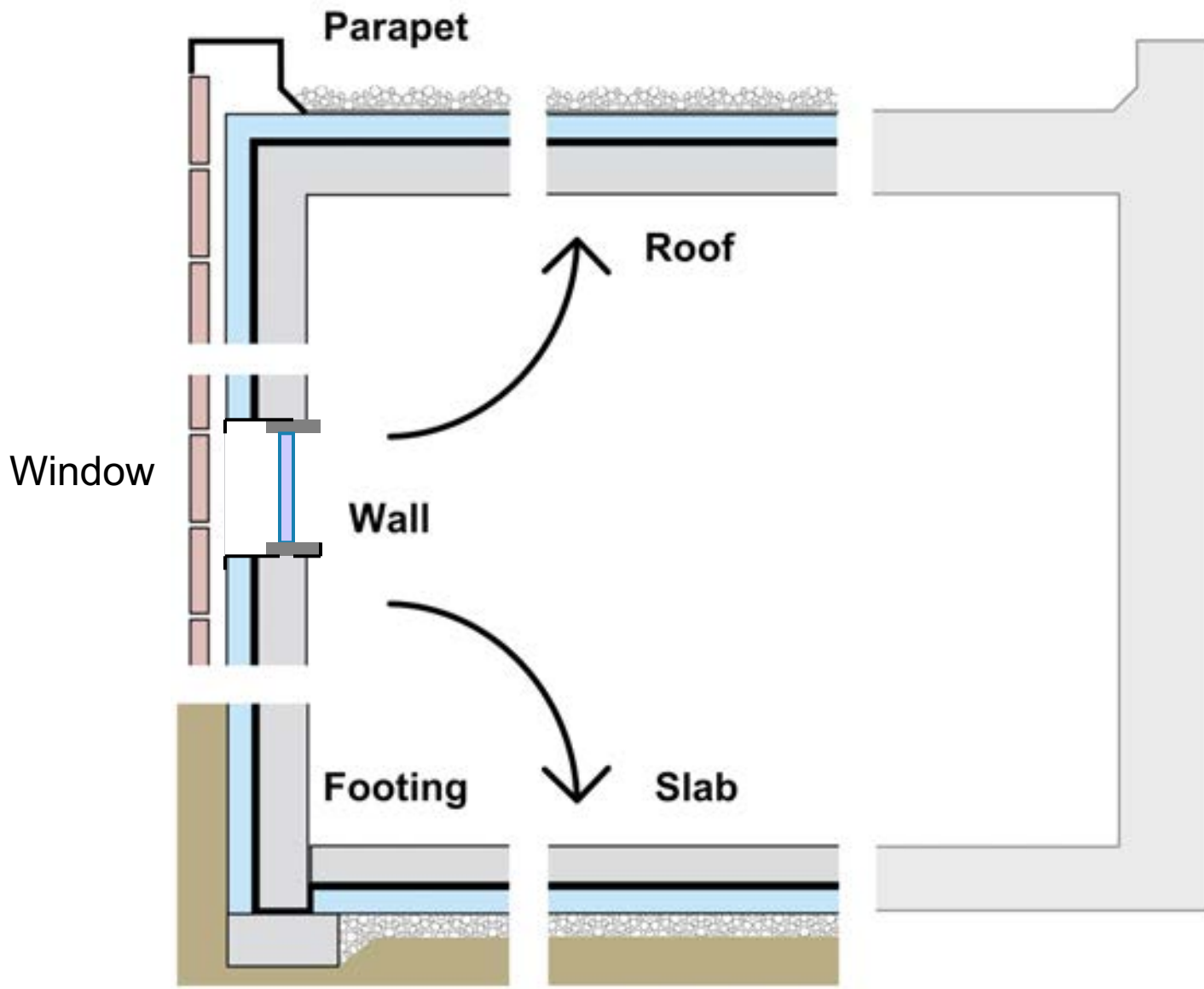
Wall





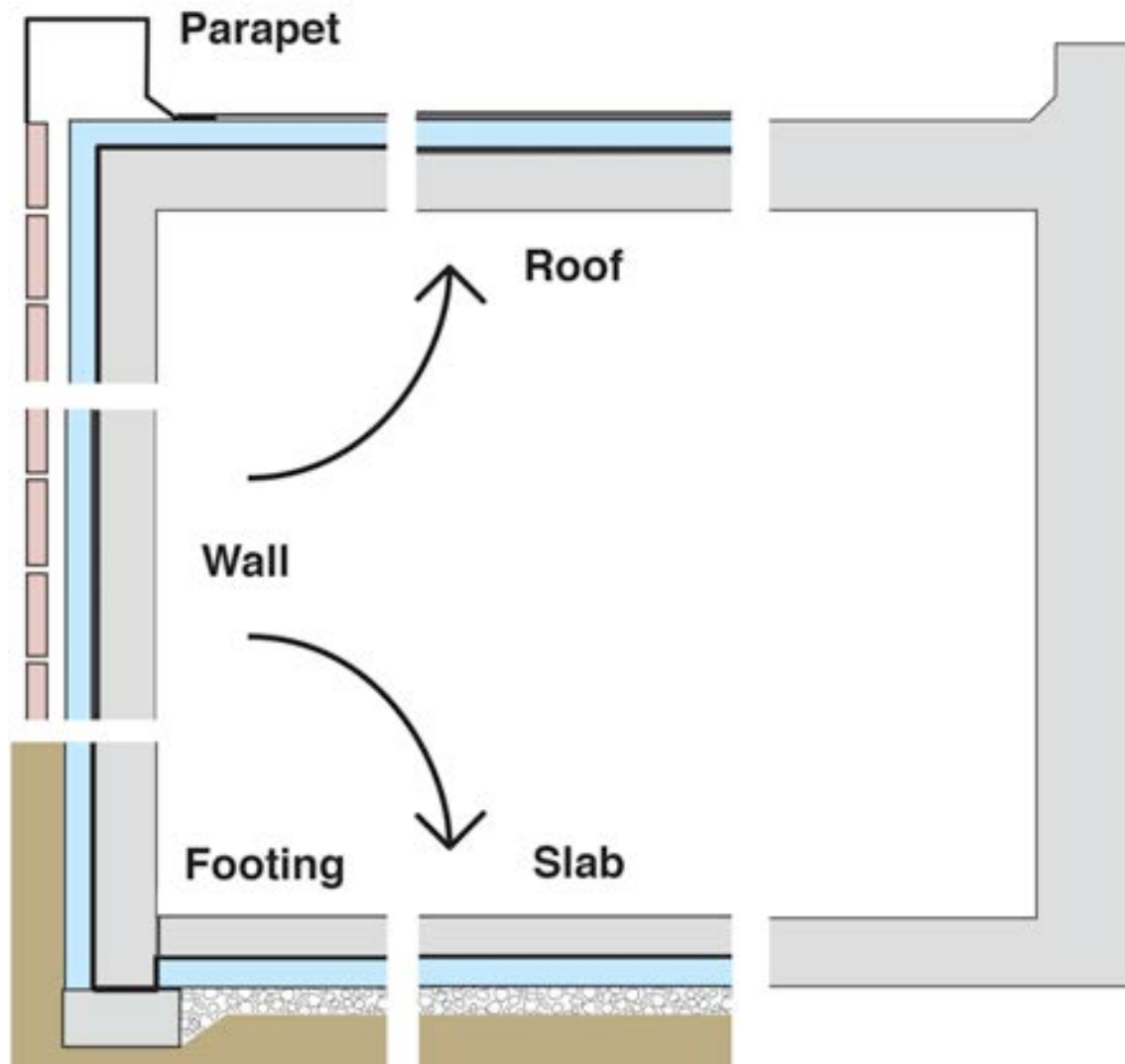


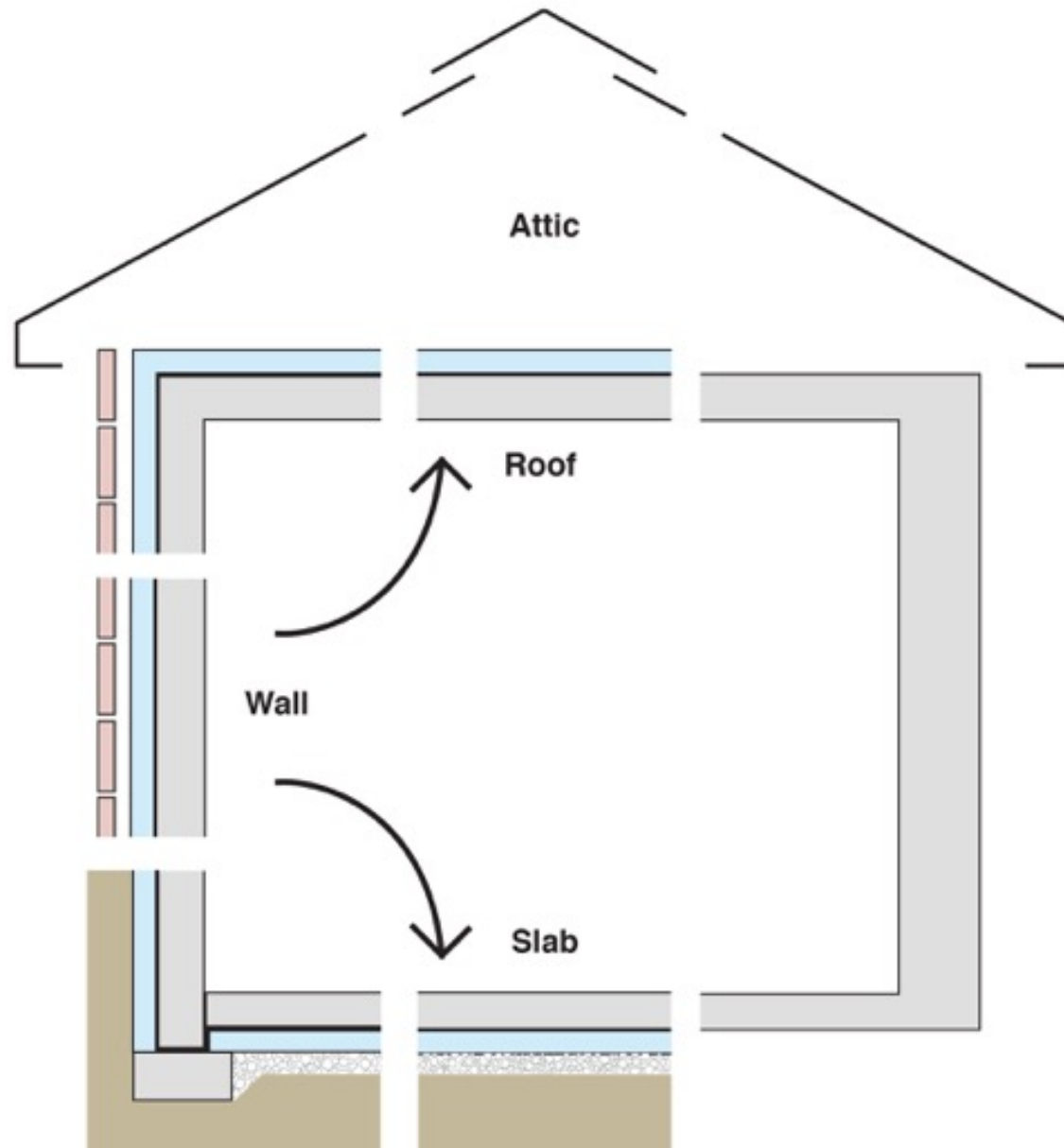


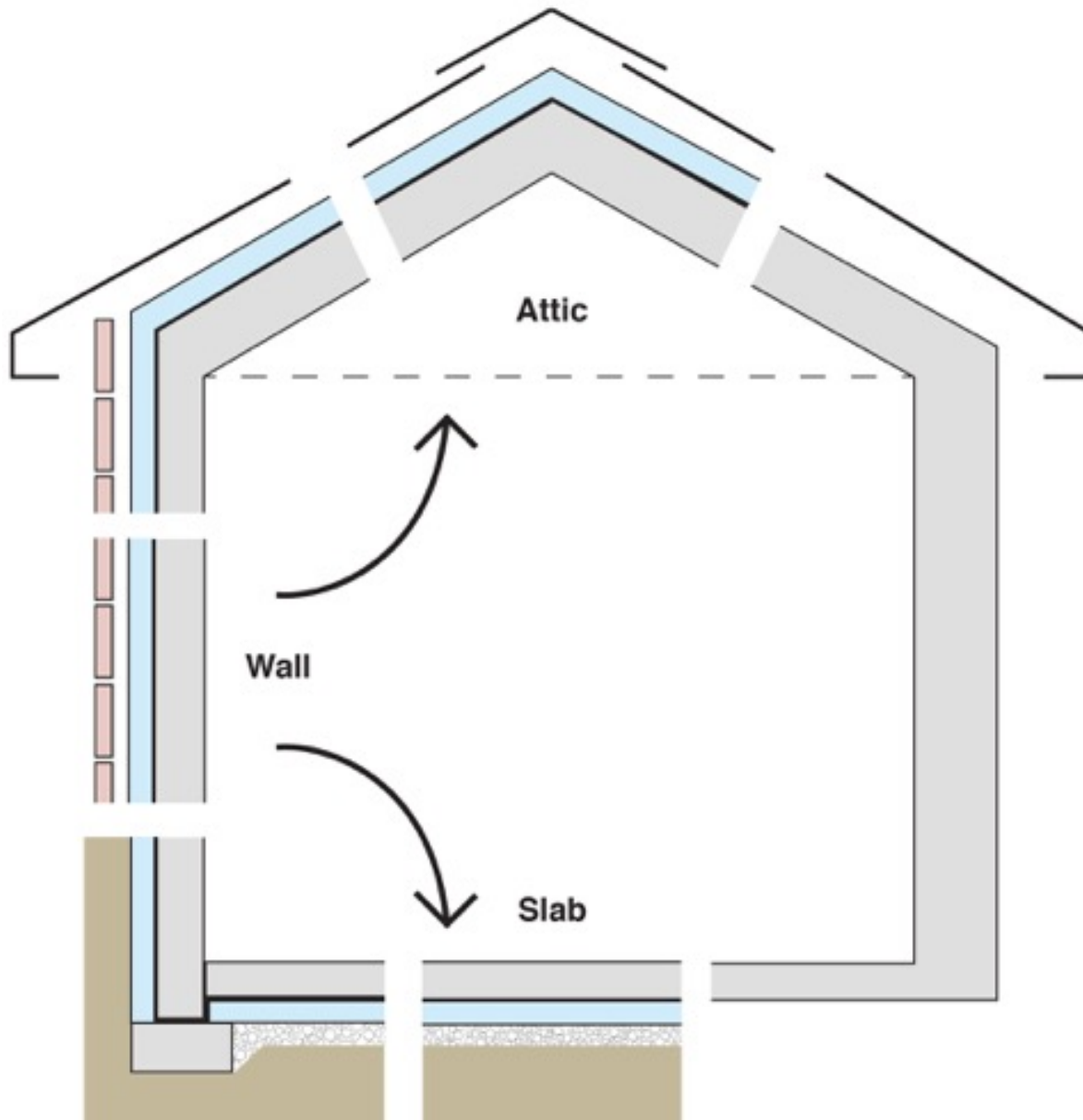


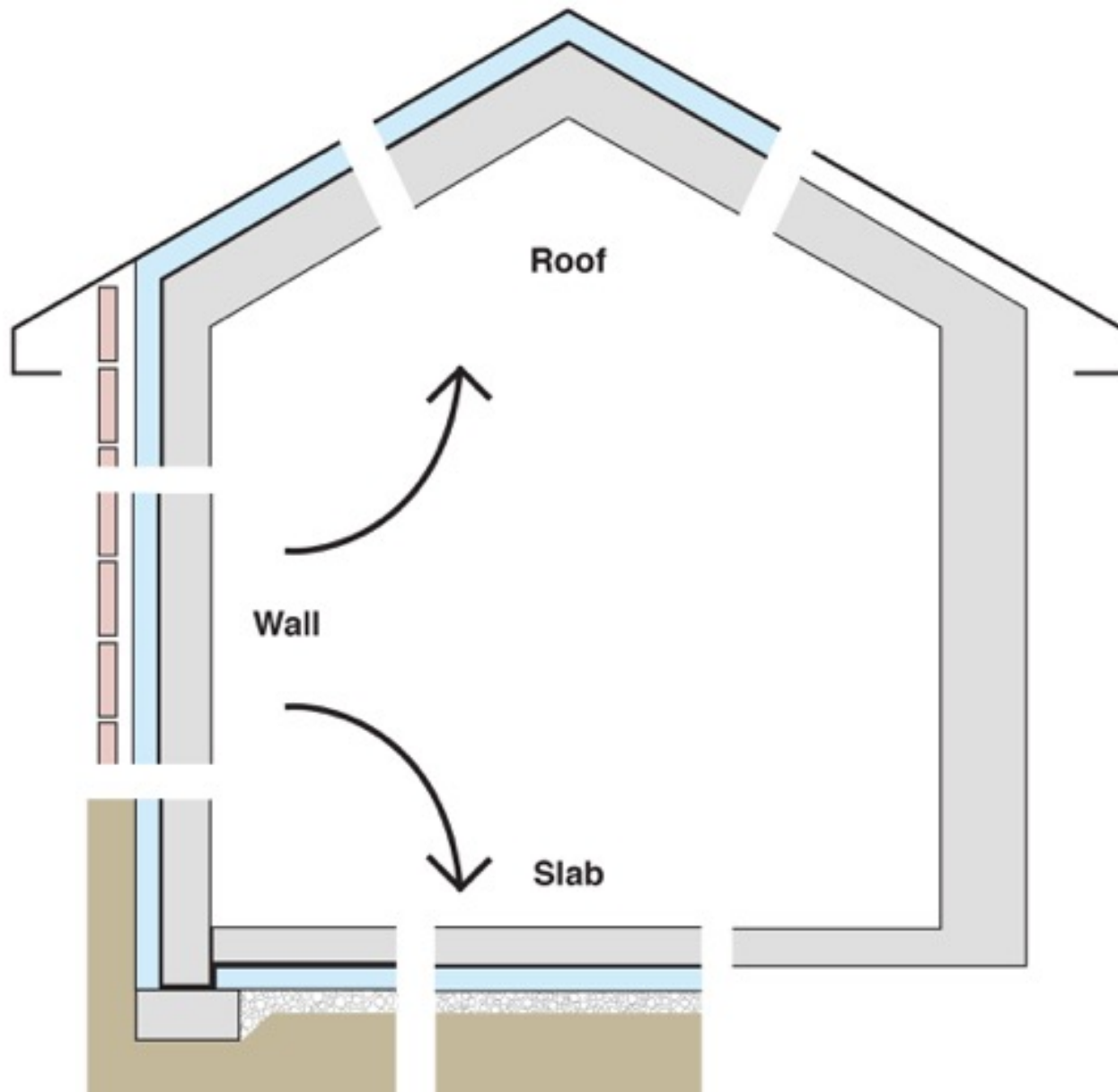


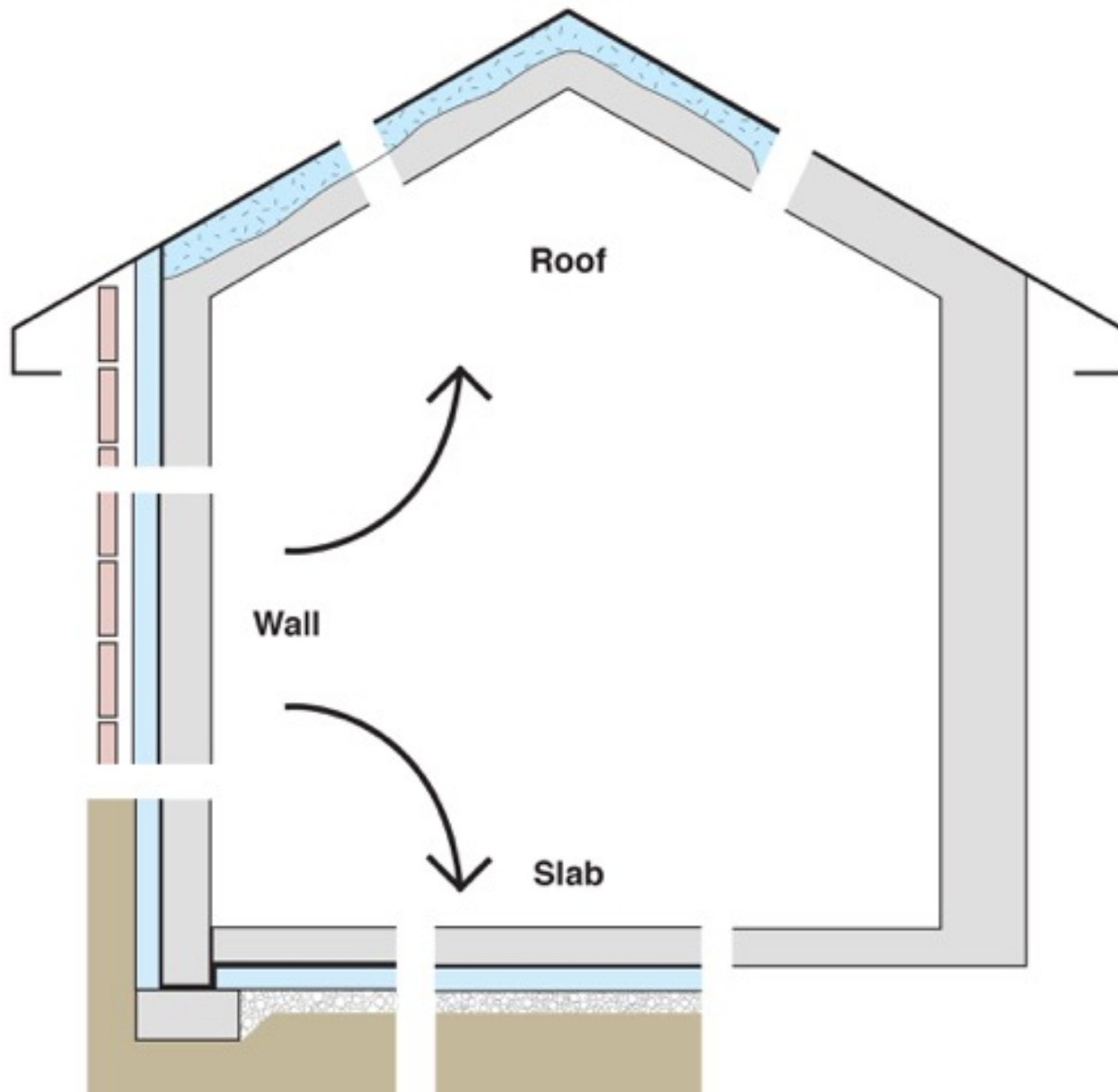


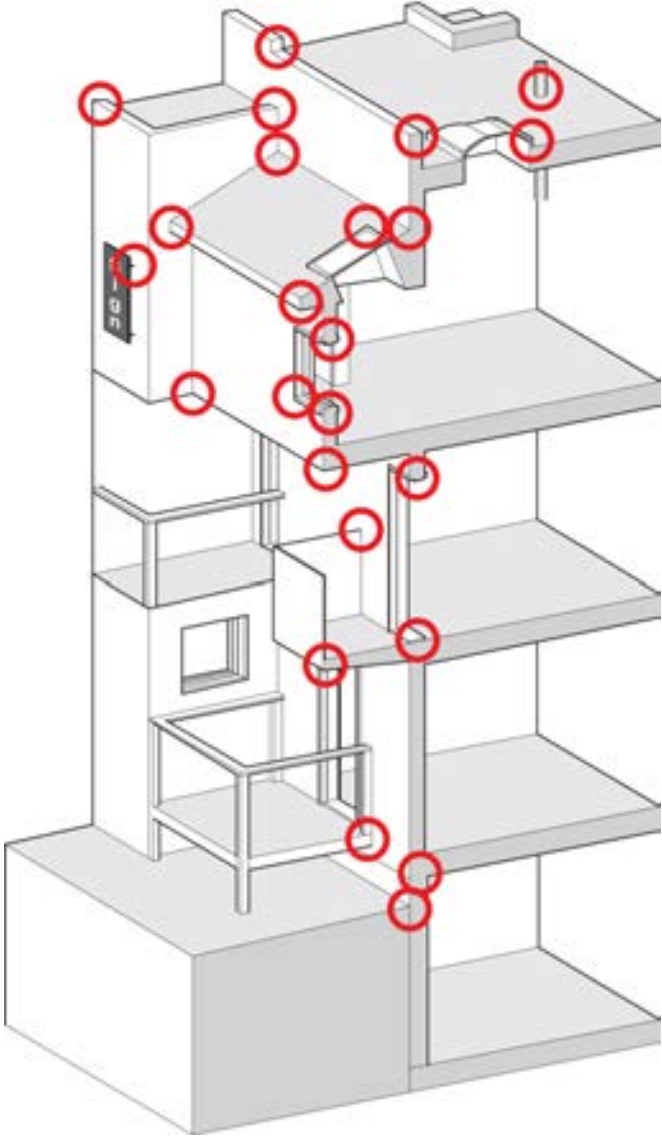




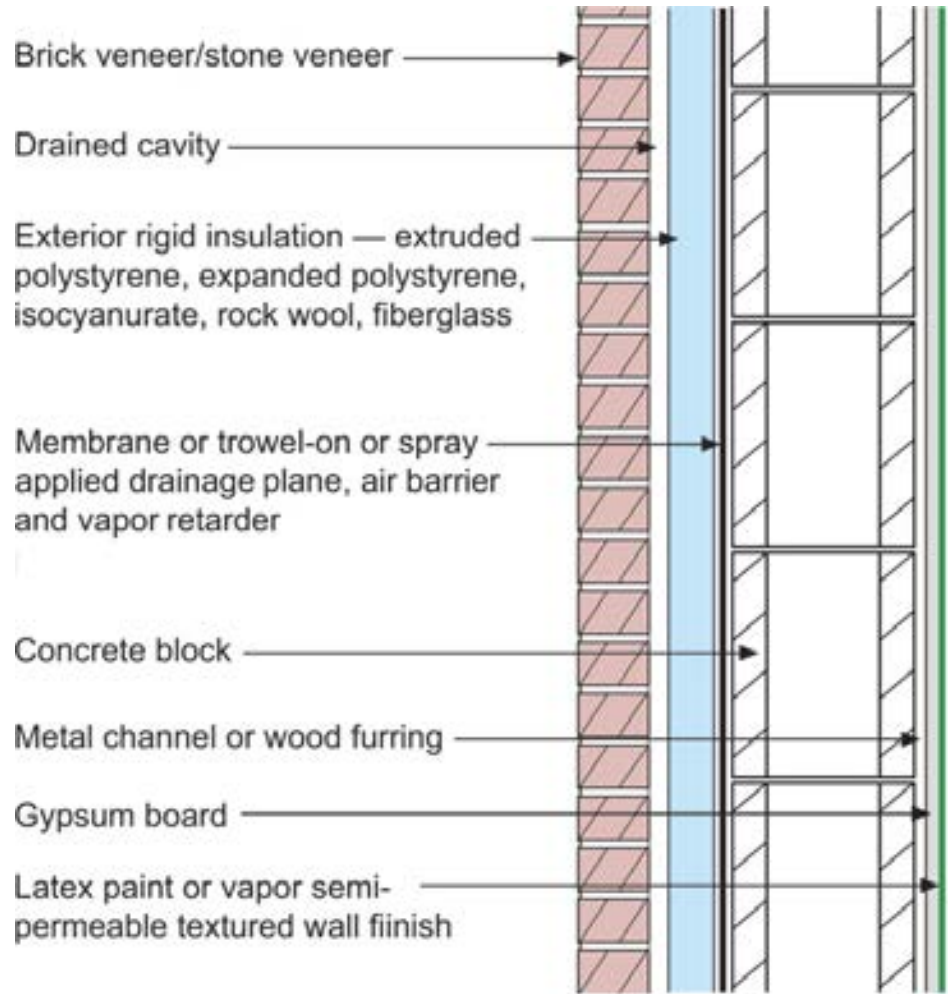






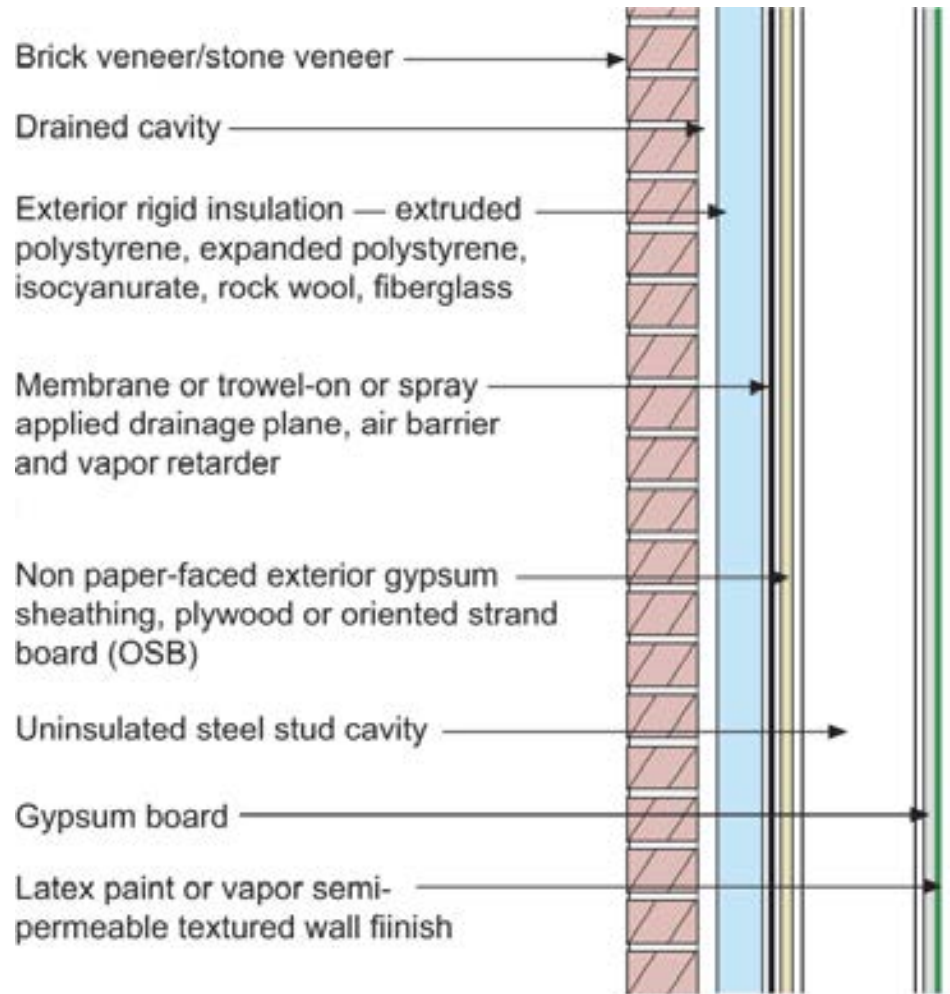


# Configurations of the Perfect Wall



Vapor Profile



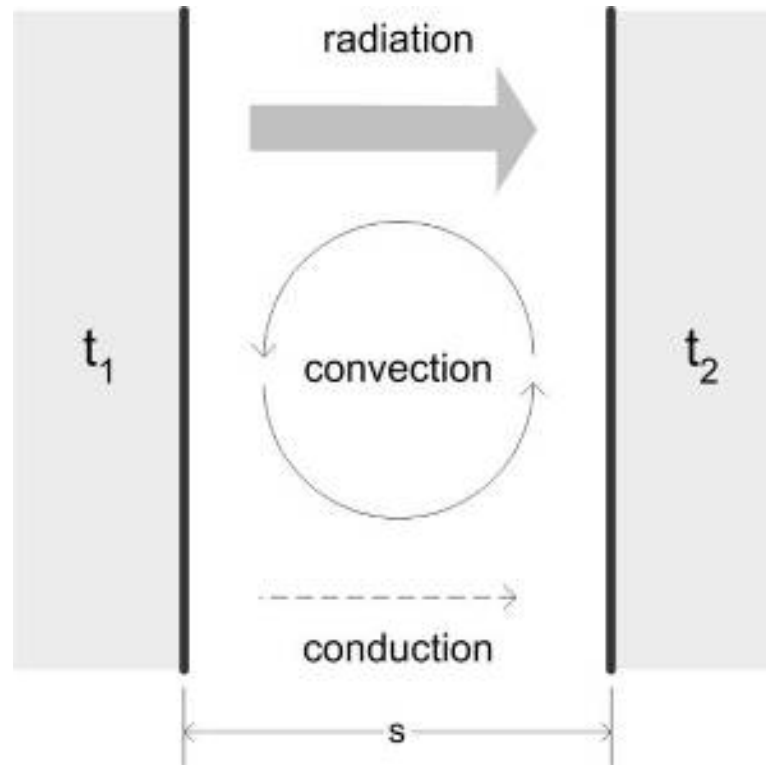


Vapor Profile

Conduction

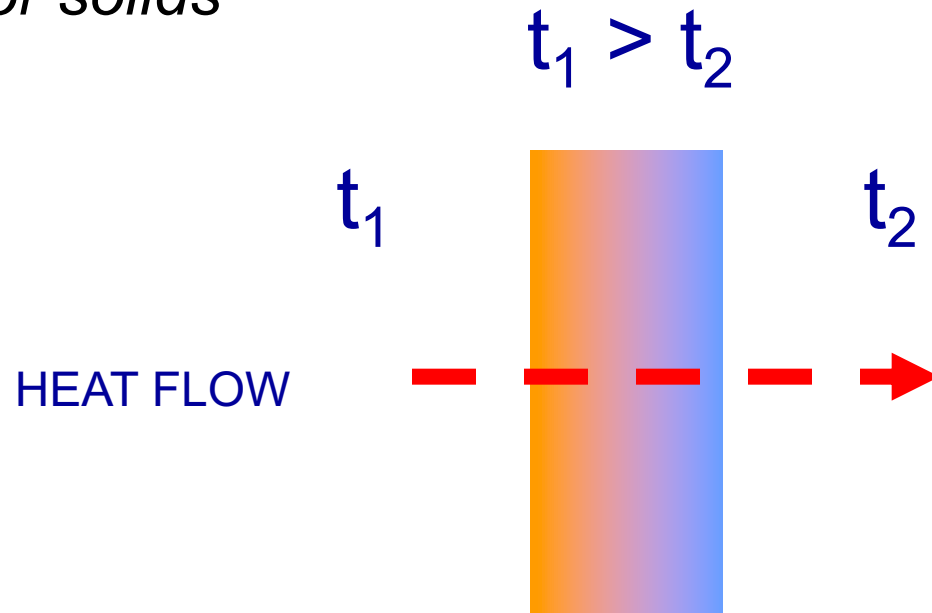
Convection

Radiation



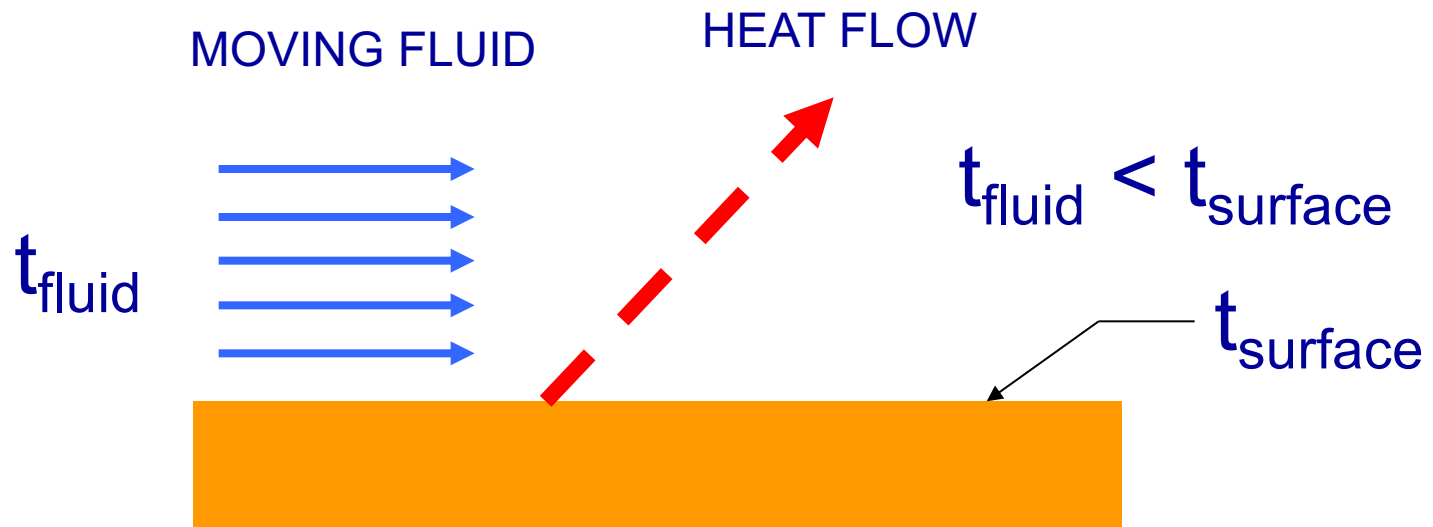
# Conduction

- *Heat Flow by direct contact*
- *Vibrating molecules*
- *Most important for solids*



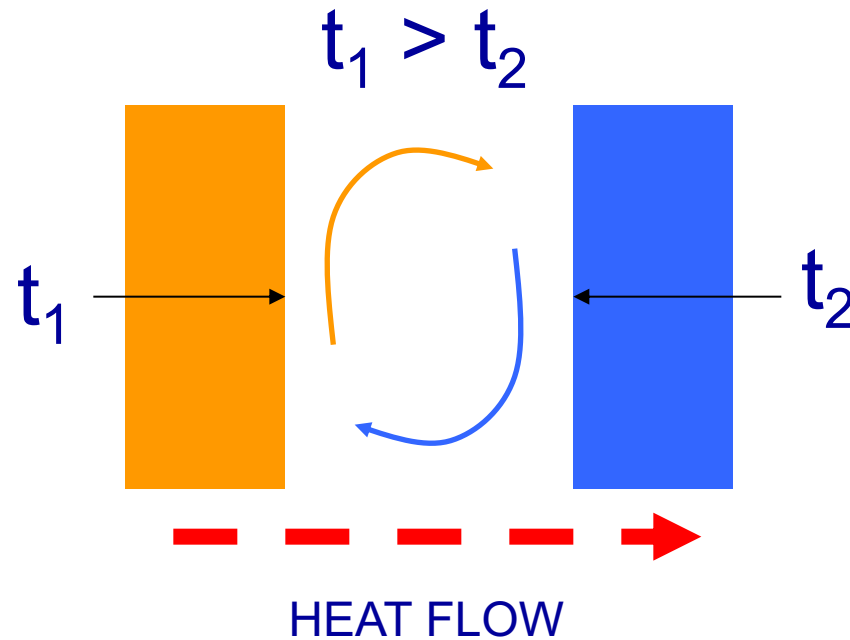
# Forced Convection

- *Heat Flow by bulk movement of molecules*
- *Most important for liquids and gases*
- *Movement driven by fans or wind*



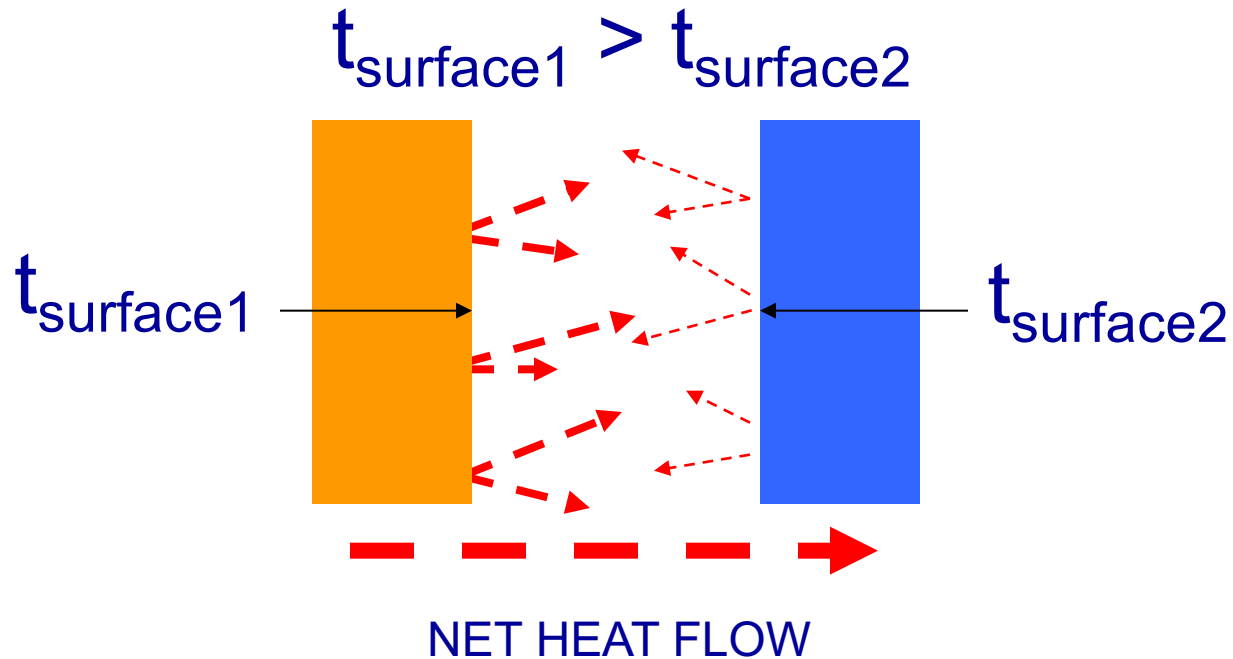
# Natural Convection

- *Heat Flow by bulk movement of molecules*
- *Most important for liquids and gases*
- *Natural buoyancy drives movement*



# Radiation

- Heat flow by electromagnetic waves
- Heat radiates from all materials, e.g. campfire
- Passes through gases and vacuum (NOT Solid)

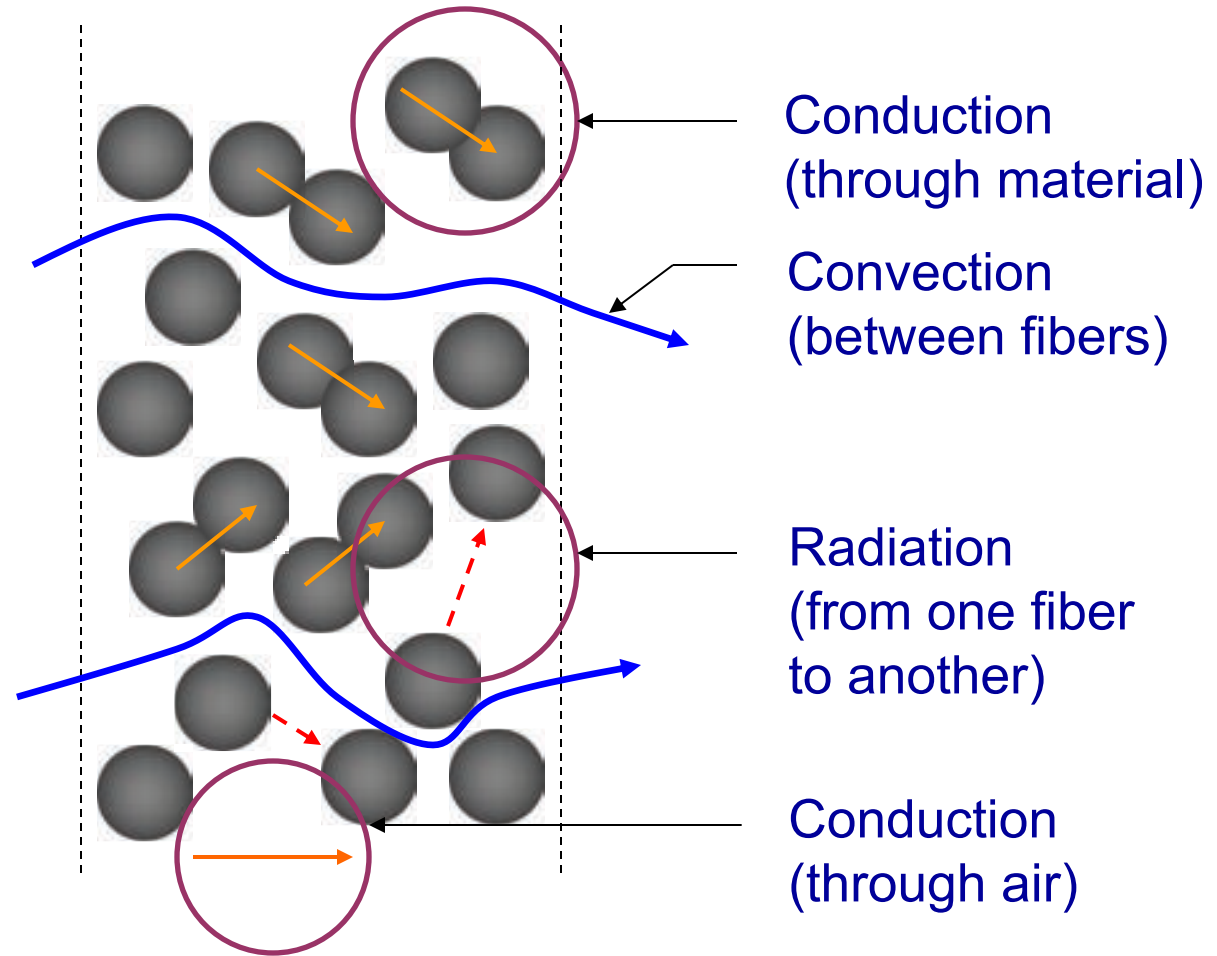


## Function of:

- *Material Type*
- *Density and pore structure*
- *Moisture content*
- *Temperature difference*

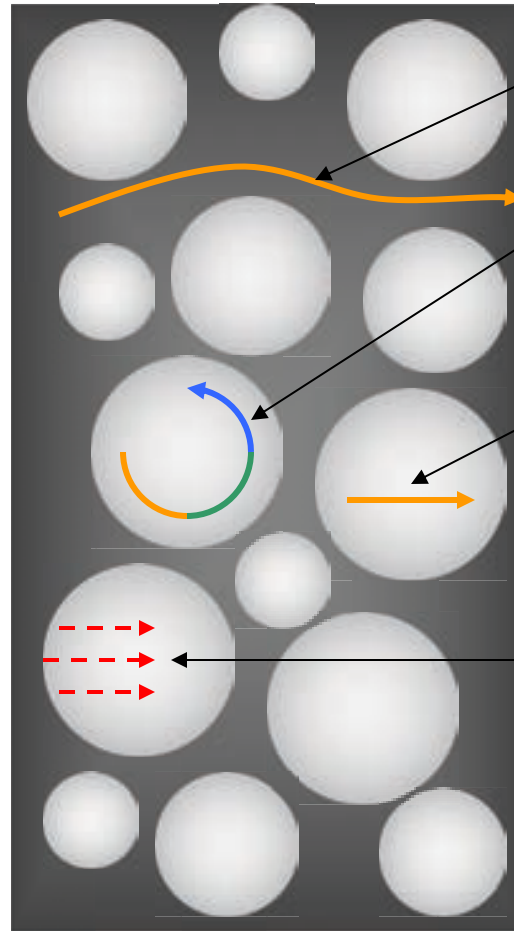
## Combination of:

- *Conduction through material and air (or other gas)*
- *Convection in pores*
- *Radiation through pores*



HYPOTHETICAL FIBEROUS MATERIAL





Conduction  
(through material)

Convection  
(within pores)

Conduction  
(through pore gas)

Radiation  
(from one pore wall  
to the other pore wall)

HYPOTHETICAL POROUS MATERIAL

## Thermal Conductivity (k)

- *Material property*
- *Time rate of heat flow through a unit thickness and unit area of material under a unit temperature difference*

*Units: Btu•in/(ft<sup>2</sup>•hr•° F) or W/(m•K)*

## Thermal Conductance (C)

- *Layer property*
- *Time rate of heat flow through a unit area of a material layer (or the conductivity of a material for a given thickness)*

*Formula:  $C = k/L$*

*Units:  $\text{Btu}/(\text{ft}^2 \cdot \text{hr} \cdot ^\circ \text{F})$  or  $\text{W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$*

# Thermal Resistance

- *Layer property*
- *Reciprocal of conductance*
- *A measure of how well a material resists heat flow*

*Formula:* Resistance =  $1/C$

*Units:*  $\text{ft}^2 \cdot \text{hr} \cdot ^\circ \text{F} / \text{Btu}$  or  $\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K} / \text{W}$

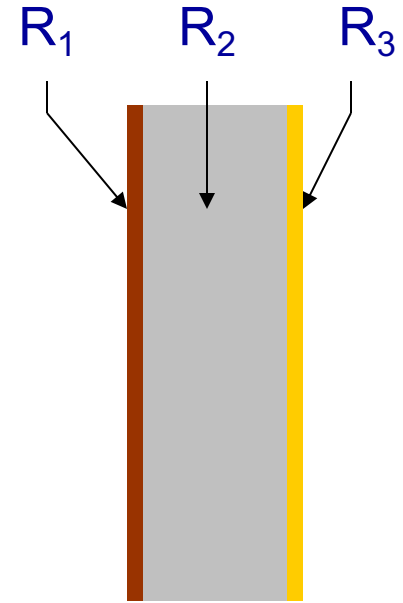
## R-Value or RSI

- *Gives heat flow as “equivalent conductance”*
- *Includes all three modes of heat transfer*
- *Rarely includes thermal bridging or three dimensional heat flow*
- *Never intended to include airtightness or mass*

# Conductance through the enclosure assemblies

*Total thermal resistance  $R_T$  is a sum of the thermal resistance of all the materials in the enclosure assembly.*

*Materials such as gypsum, plywood, OSB, wood studs, metal studs all contribute to the overall thermal resistance.*

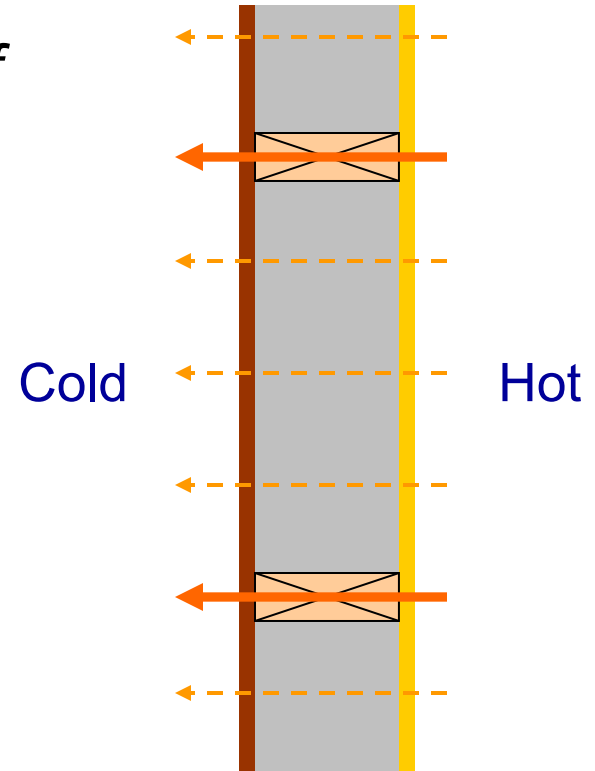


$$R_T = R_1 + R_2 + R_3$$

# Conductance through the enclosure assemblies

*Materials of lower thermal resistance create pathways of increased conductance losses, or “thermal bridges” through layers of greater thermal resistance*

*Thermal bridging can reduce the effective R-value of a wall assembly.*

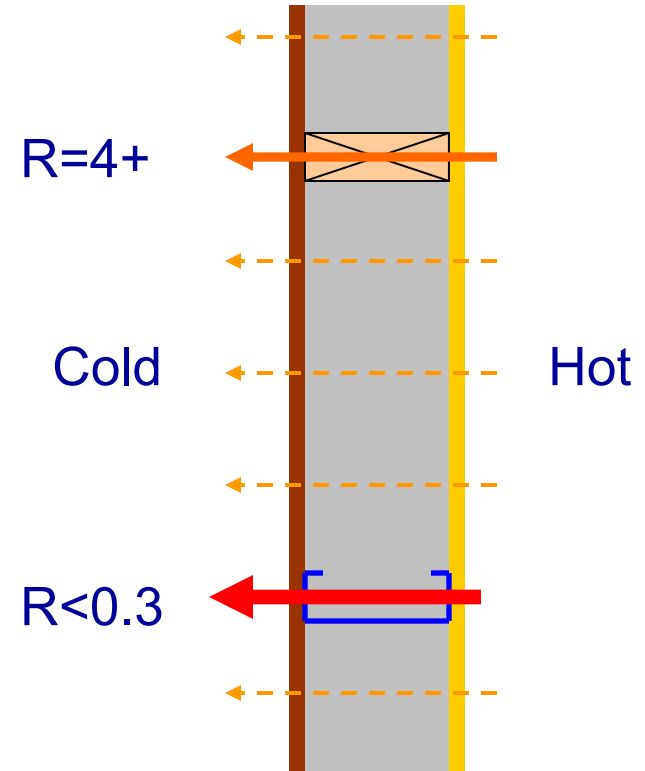


*A 2x6 wood stud wall 16" OC with R-19 Fiberglass Batt = effective R-13 wall assembly.*

# Conductance through the enclosure assemblies

*Steel is 400 times more conductive than wood*

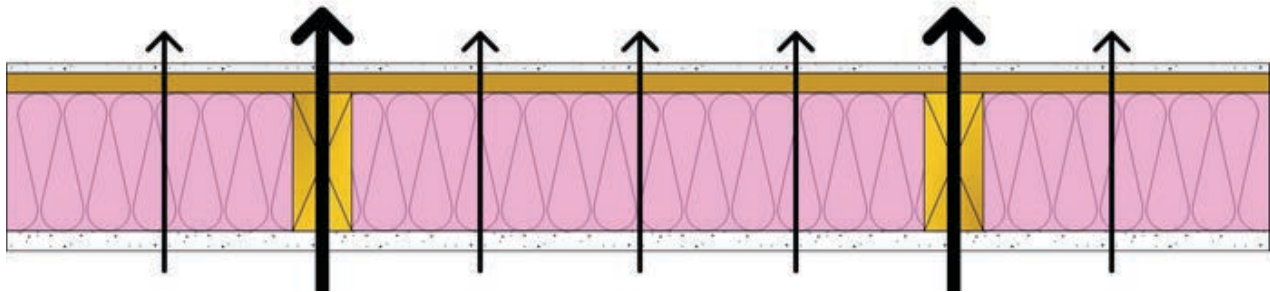
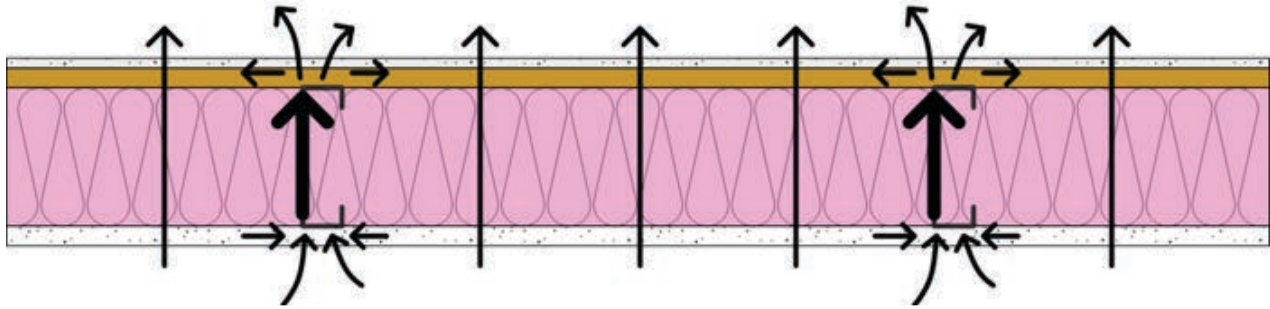
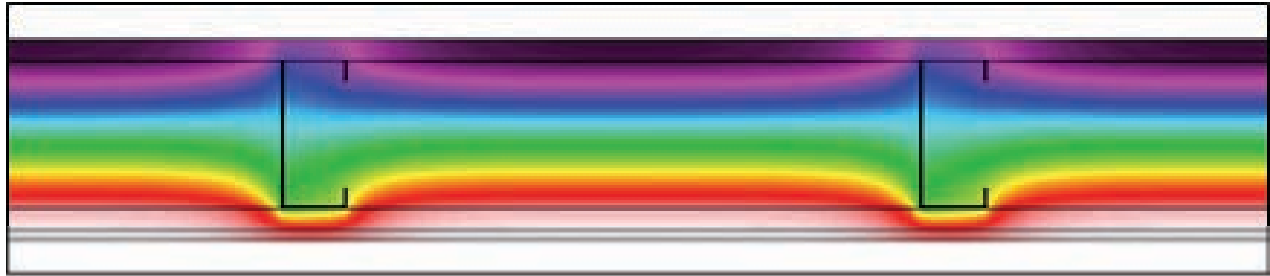
*Steel studs are about 40 times thinner*



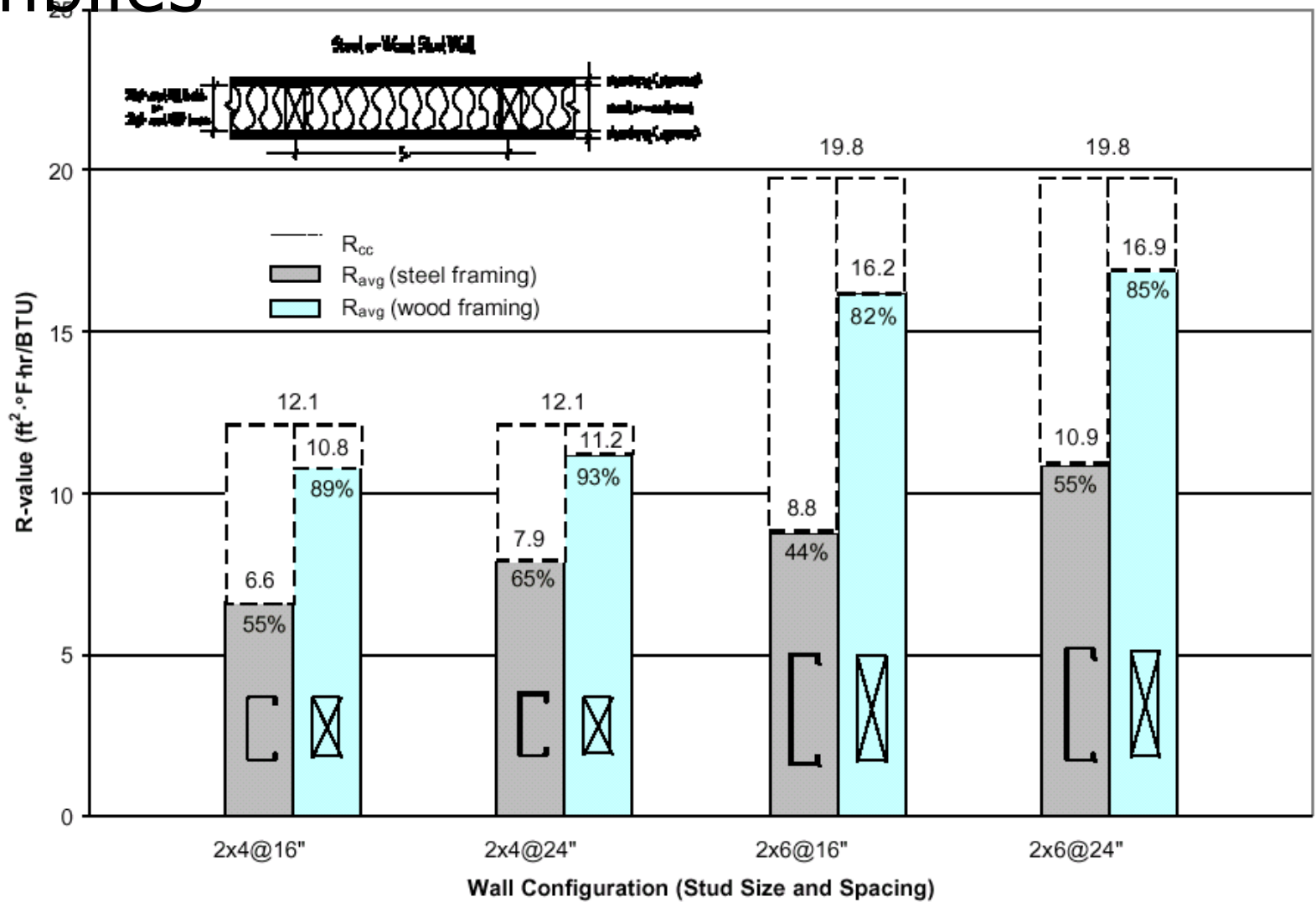
*A 2x6 steel stud wall 16" OC with R-19 Fiberglass Batt = effective R-9 wall assembly.*



# Conductance through the enclosure assemblies



# Conductance through the enclosure assemblies



# Conductance through the enclosure assemblies



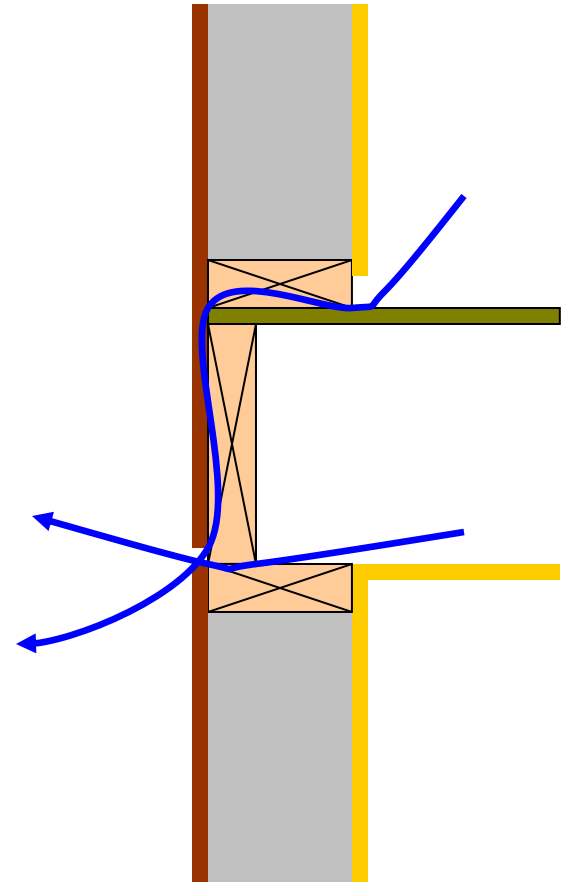
# Convection through the enclosure assemblies

*Commonly referred to as “Air Leakage”*

*Driven by air pressure differences*

- wind*
- mechanical*
- stack effect*

*Large energy impacts (can account for 30% of the heating and cooling energy)*



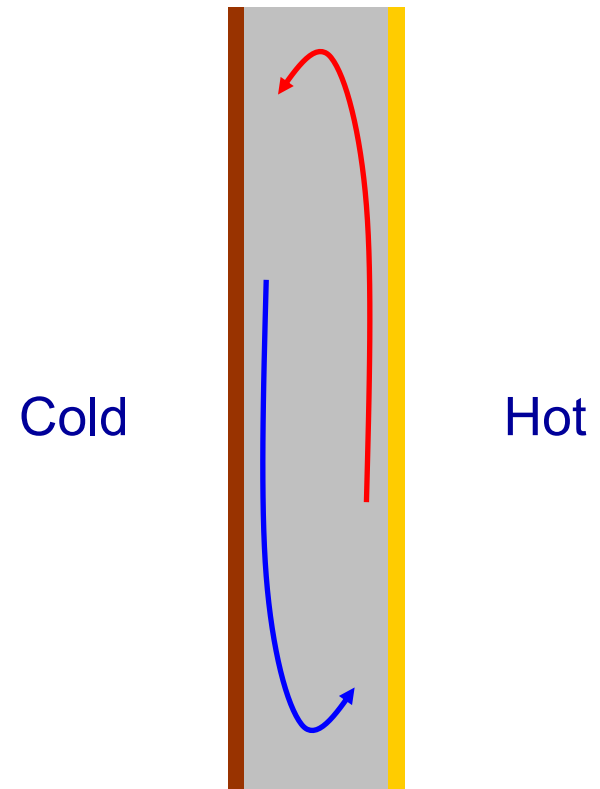
# Convection within the enclosure assemblies

*Commonly referred to as  
“Convective Loops”*

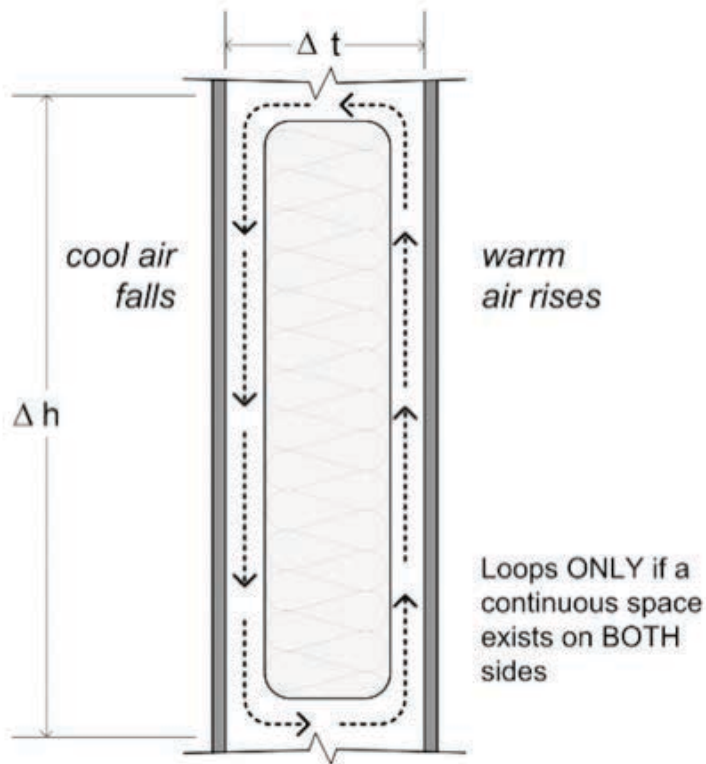
*Driven by natural buoyancy -  
warm air will rise*

*Short circuits insulation*

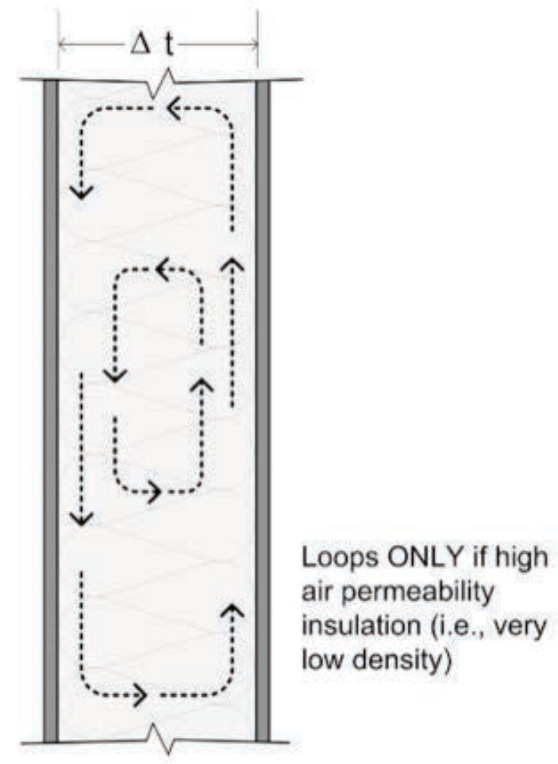
*R-value does not take into  
account the potential of  
movement of air within an  
assembly.*



# Convection within the enclosure assemblies



A: Air Loops Around Insulation

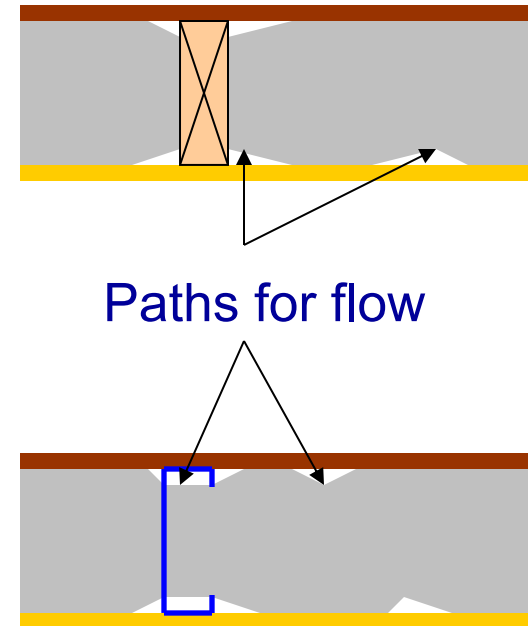


B: Air Loops Through Insulation

# Convection within the enclosure assemblies

Spaces for flow from:

- *Compressing batts*
- *Inset stapling*
- *Difficulty in filling steel studs*



# Convection within the enclosure assemblies



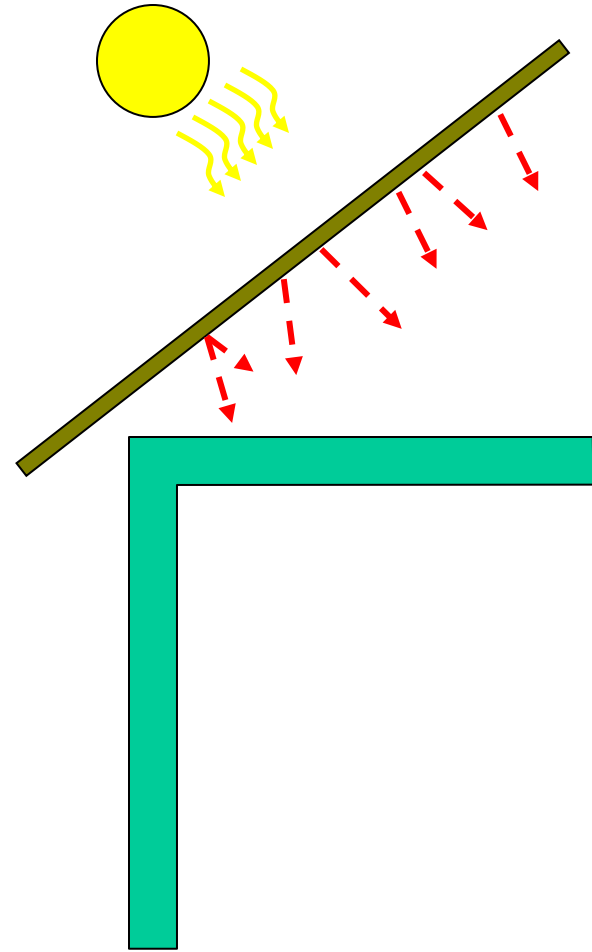


# Radiation from surfaces within the enclosure assemblies

*Net radiant flow across a clear cavity*

*Emissivity is expressed as a fraction of energy emitted when compared to the radiation from a black body*

*Common in attics*



# Radiation from surfaces within the enclosure assemblies

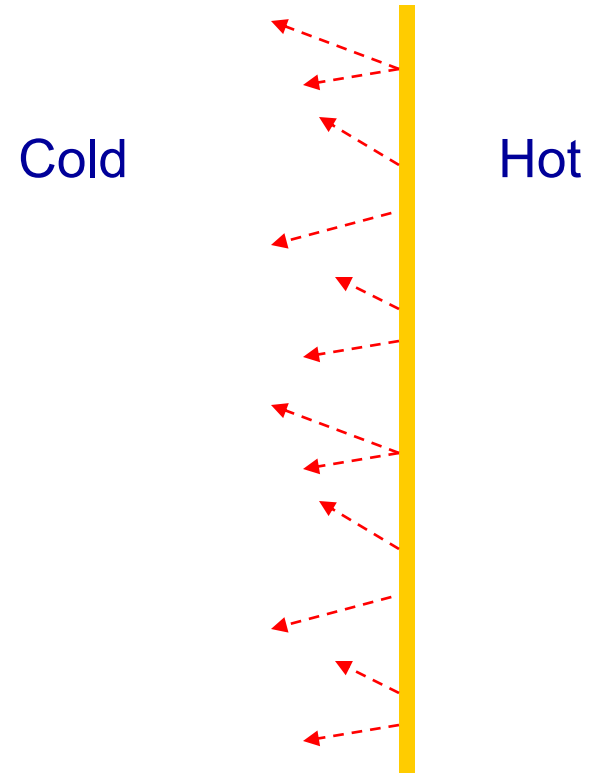


# Radiation from surfaces within the enclosure assemblies

*Must have an airspace for radiant products to work*

*While low emitting, radiant products are often highly conductive*

*Energy will be conducted to other materials in contact with radiant product (framing, dirt)*

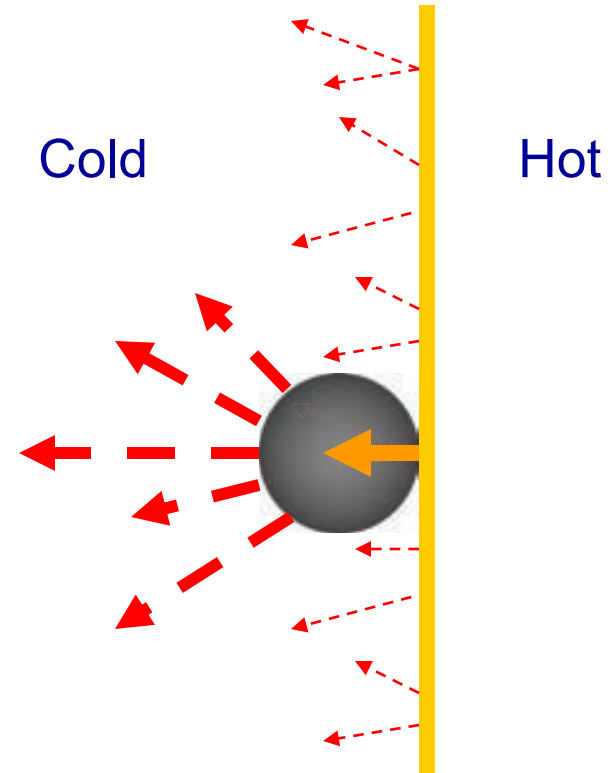


# Radiation from surfaces within the enclosure assemblies

*Must have an airspace for radiant products to work*

*While low emitting, radiant products are often highly conductive*

*Energy will be conducted to other materials in contact with radiant product (framing, dirt)*



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



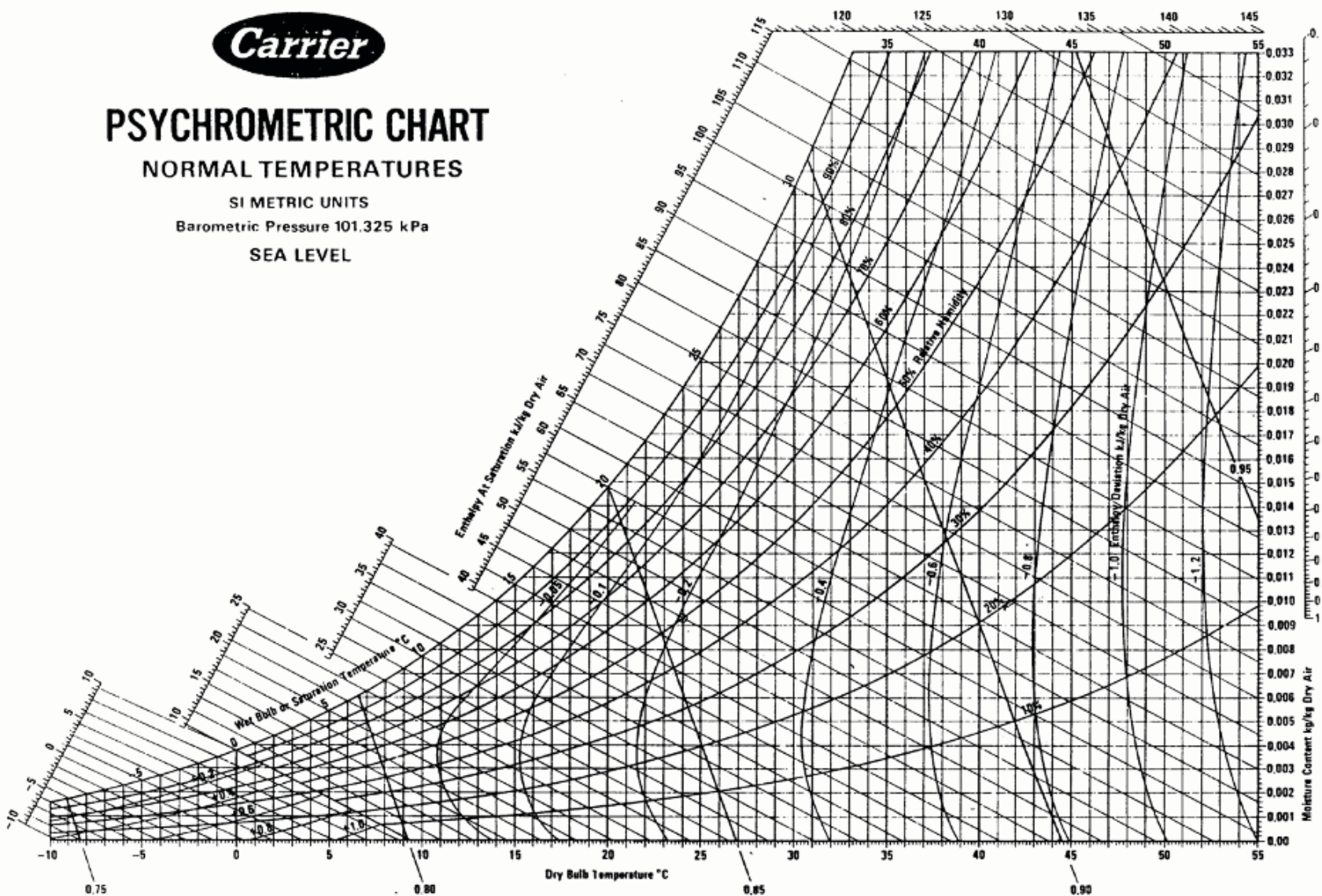
# PSYCHROMETRIC CHART

NORMAL TEMPERATURES

SI METRIC UNITS

Barometric Pressure 101.325 kPa

SEA LEVEL

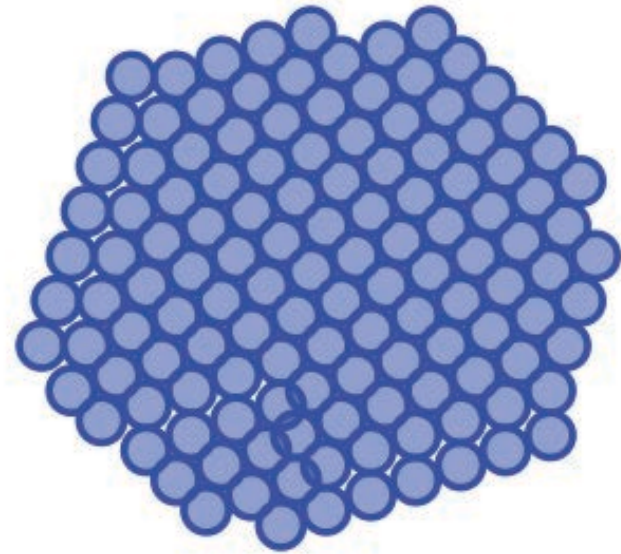


Below 0°C Properties and Enthalpy Deviation Lines Are For Ice

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**Vapor**



**Liquid**



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

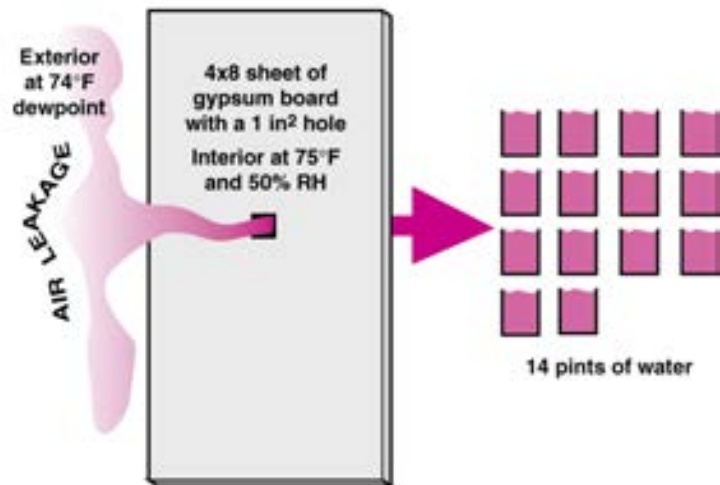
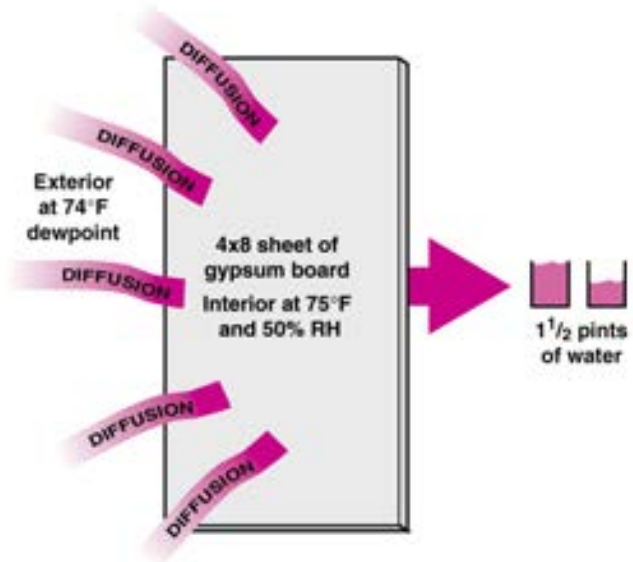
**Low Dewpoint Temperature  
Lower Water Vapor Density  
or Concentration  
(Lower Vapor Pressure)  
on Cold Side of Assembly**

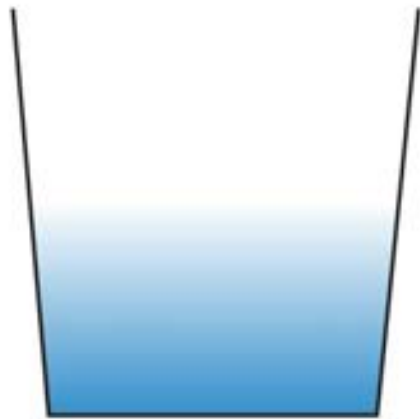


**Higher Air  
Pressure**

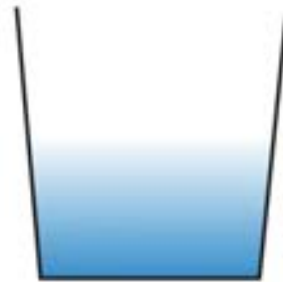


**Lower Air  
Pressure**





90°F  
50% RH



75°F  
50% RH



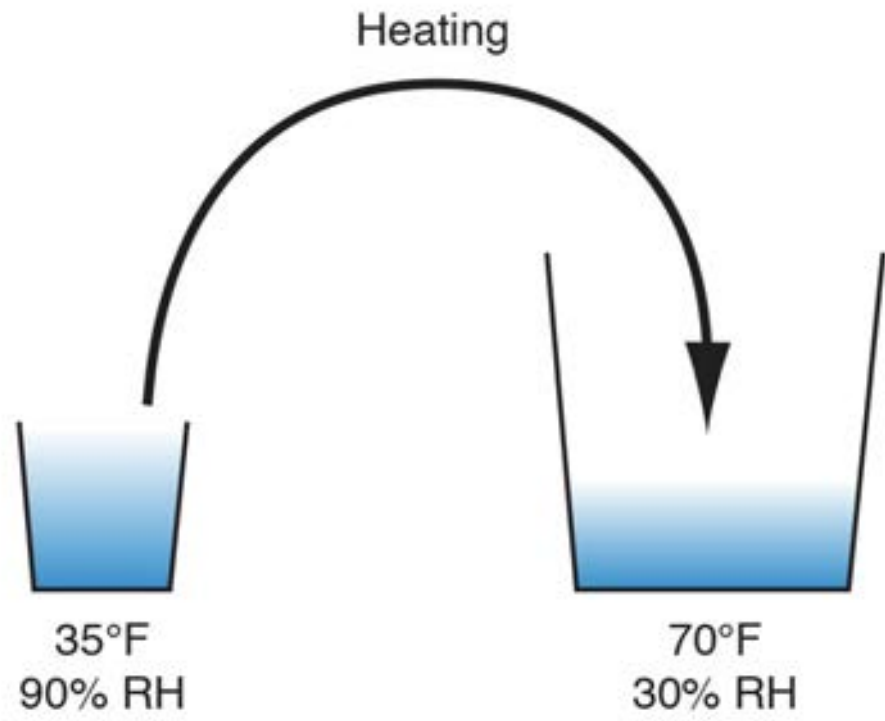
60°F  
50% RH

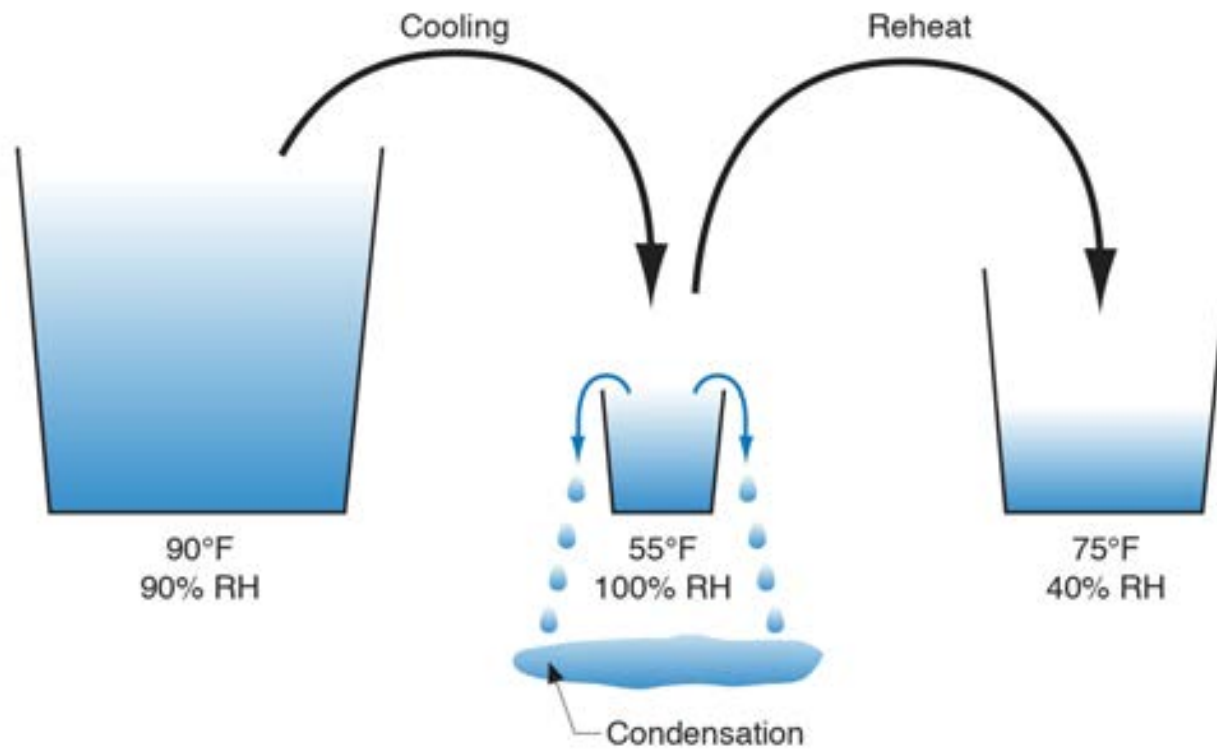


45°F  
50% RH



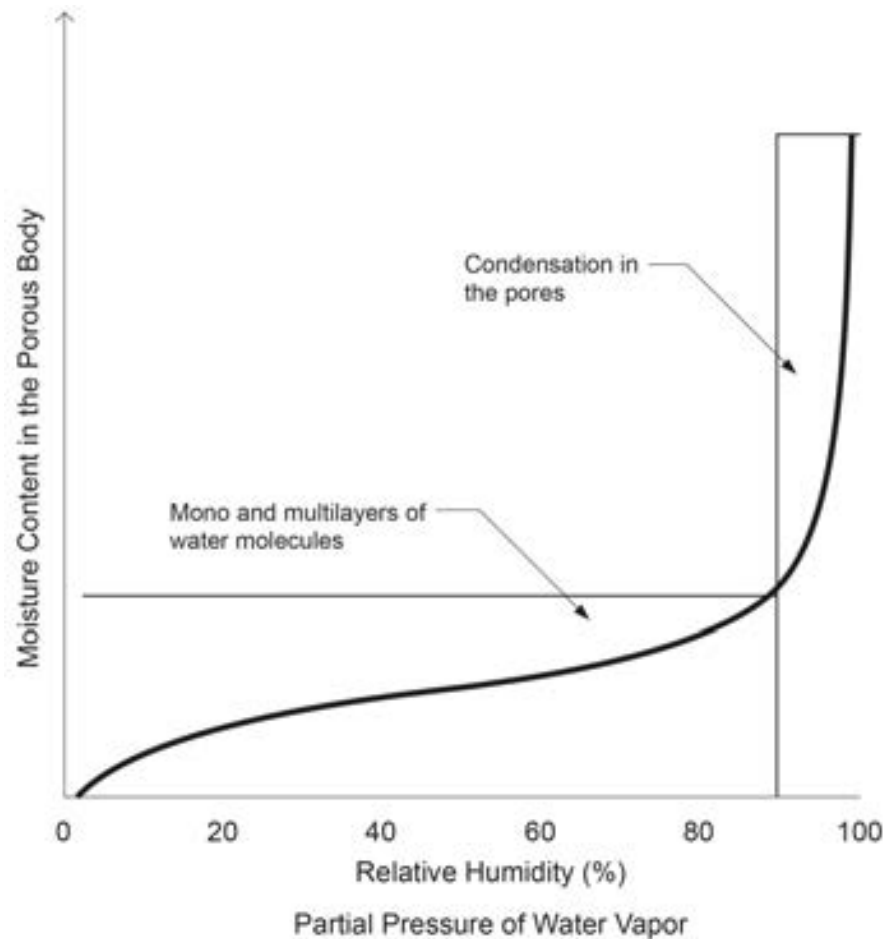
30°F  
50% RH







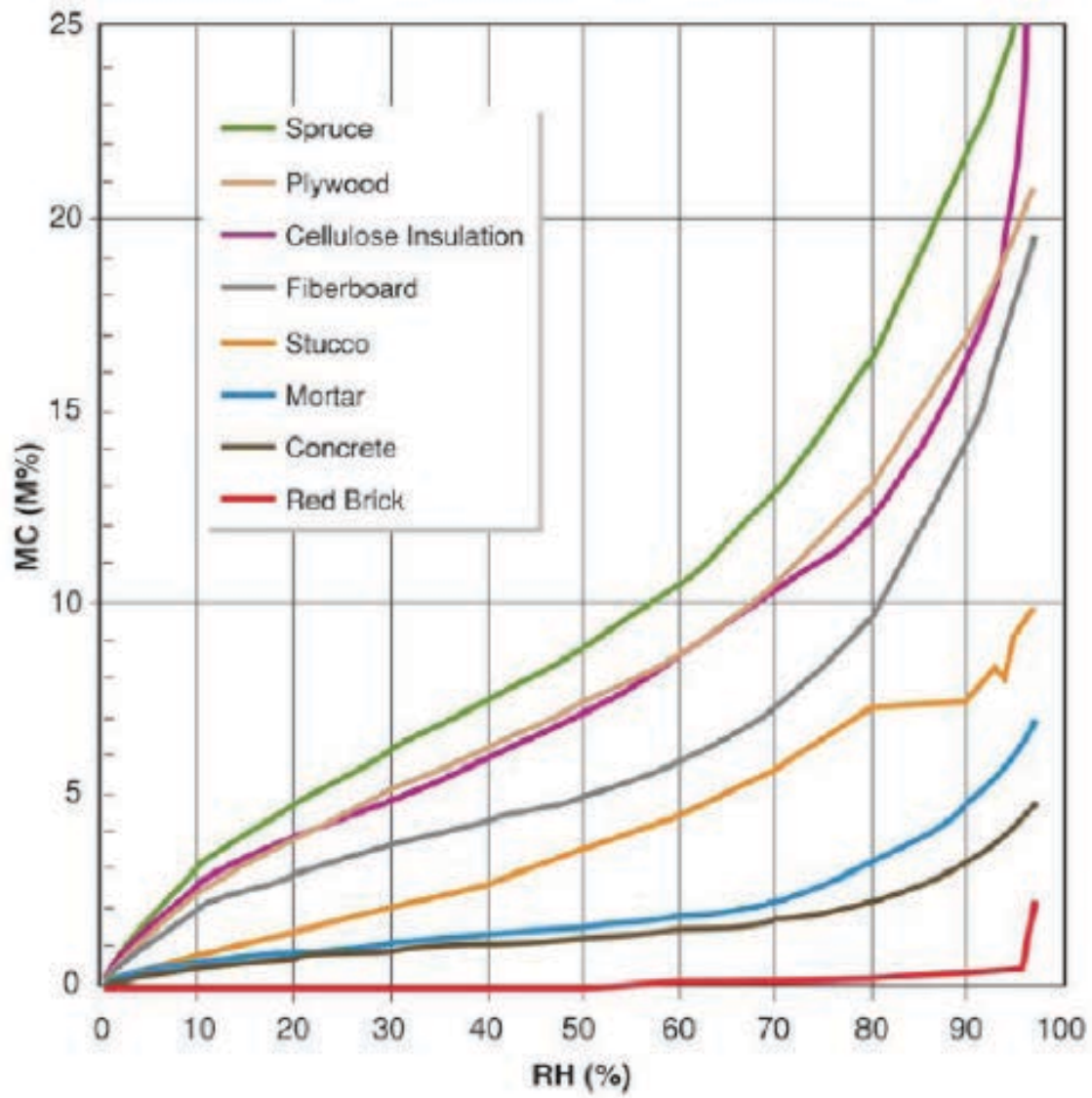
# Sorption Isotherms

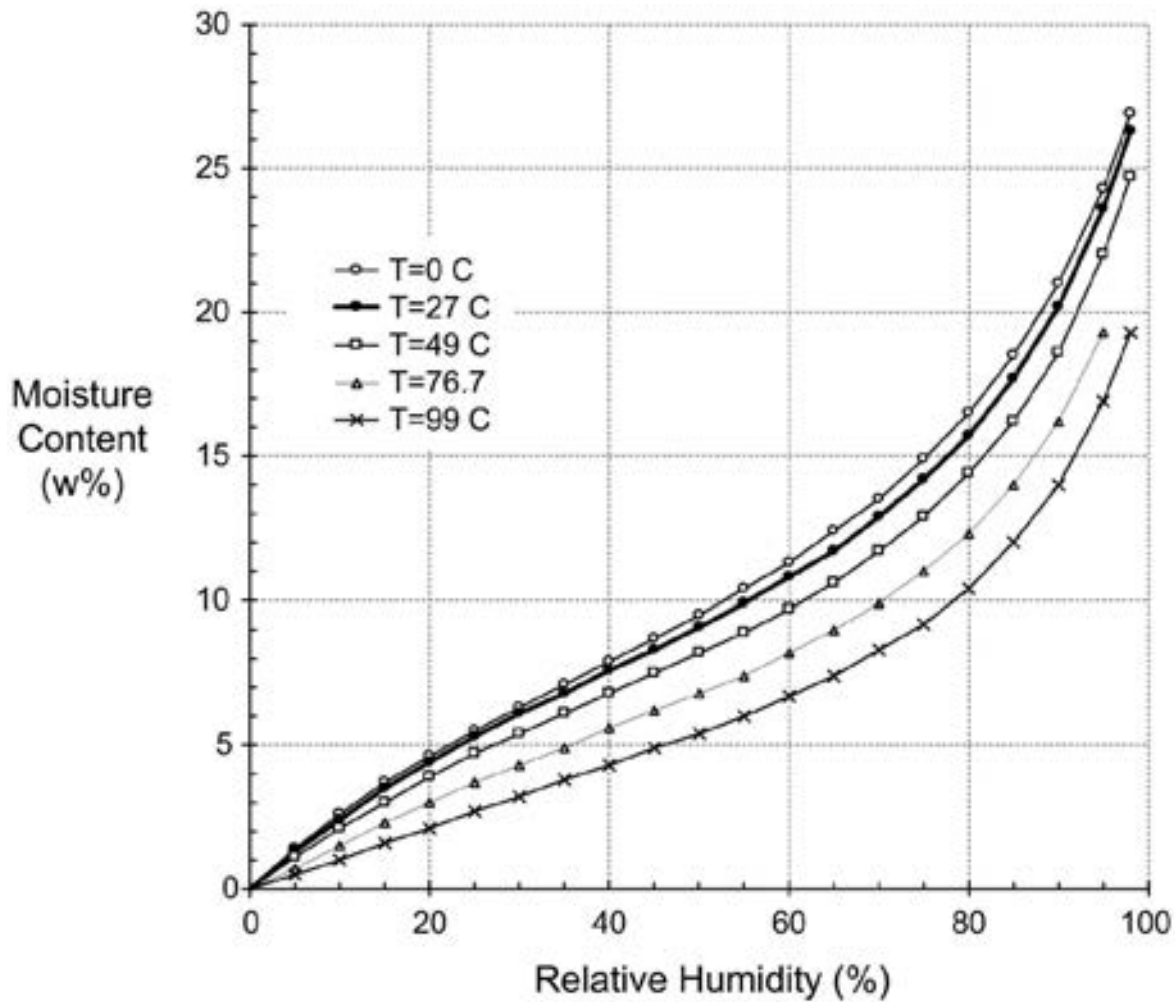


Change in the storage of moisture in a porous building material as the partial pressure of water vapor in the ambient air increases from zero to full saturation value at a given temperature.

### Sorption Curve

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





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

## Moisture Content vs. Relative Humidity

