

# Welcome

## Houses That Work



## Continuing Education Credits

[www.eeba.org](http://www.eeba.org)

## The EEBA High Performance Builder Certification

- The Houses That Work Building Science workshop
- The HERS Associate Course
- The High Performance Mechanical Systems course

## The Houses That Work Building Science Workshop

- 3 modules:
  - The building science principles and rules
  - Building Enclosure details that work
  - Mechanical and sustainable elements

## Who's here and What would you like to talk about??

Gord Cooke  
EEBA Certified Trainer  
gord@constructioninstruction.com  
[www.constructioninstruction.com](http://www.constructioninstruction.com)



## Four Module Agenda

- Compelling Industry trends
- The Essential High Performance elements in a home
- Basic building science to effectively manage the flow of **Heat, Air and Moisture** in buildings
- Creating building enclosures that work for healthy, safe durable, efficient and sustainable homes.
  - Foundation systems
  - Above grade wall systems
  - Windows
  - Roof and attic systems
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems (HVAC) that work in high performance homes
- Then a final summary, including a discussion of process changes you will want to undertake to implement all that you have learned.



## What is our goal?

"Create an enclosure that separates the indoors from the outdoors...and is safe and healthy for the people inside."

### *In addition to:*

Creating a high performance home that is; energy efficient, durable, healthy, aesthetically pleasing, respectful to the environment and profitable...

in short, **HOUSES THAT WORK**



## House Systems

What's Changed in homes in the last 35 years?  
What impacts does that have?



## What's the decision tree?

- Decisions made on price
- Decisions made on warranty/service issues
- Customers satisfaction/expectations
- Process/cycle times
- Supplier availability

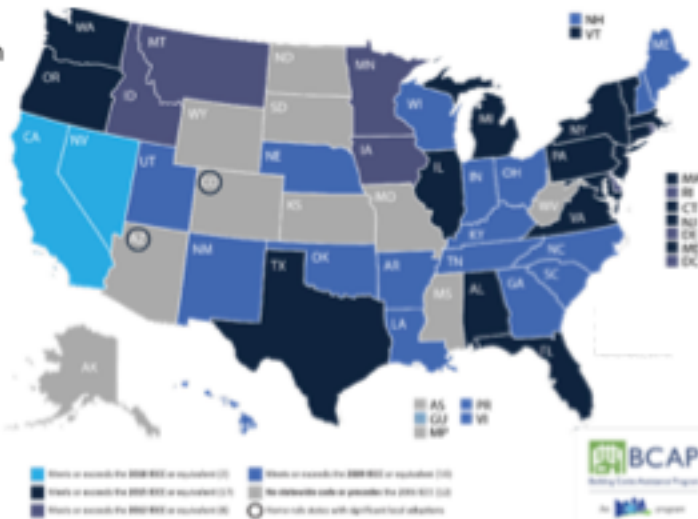
We are here to help reinforce your decision process



## Codes Have Changed



## Residential Code Adoption as of March 2020



## There are Programs to Help





### Codes respecting the science



The cover of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is shown, featuring a green background with a geometric pattern and the text "2018 IECC INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE".

**The 2015 IECC:**  
A "Whole House" Approach to Efficiency




A cutaway diagram of a house with various energy efficiency features highlighted by callouts:

- High-Efficiency Lighting
- Ventilation Upgrades
- Window Upgrades
- Air Sealing & Testing
- High-Efficiency Heating
- Smart Thermostat & Controls
- Insulation Upgrades

### Codes will be more Performance Objectives


Climates	2015 IECC HERS Index Scores
Zone 1 – 2	52
Zone 3	51
Zone 4	54
Zone 5	55
Zone 6	54
Zone 7 – 8	53



The EEBA logo is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, featuring a stylized green house icon above the letters "EEBA".

### What's Changing quicker... Codes or expectations of consumers?

- Comfort
- Quiet
- Lifestyle
- Investment quality
- Demographics
- Access to information
- Warranty



A photograph of a family of four (two adults and two children) standing in front of a modern house. A white sign with a green "SOLD" banner is in the foreground, indicating the house has been sold.

## Defining High Performance Homes....



## Tighter Construction



## Improved Insulation Systems



## Improved Insulation Systems



## Improved Durability



## High Performance Windows

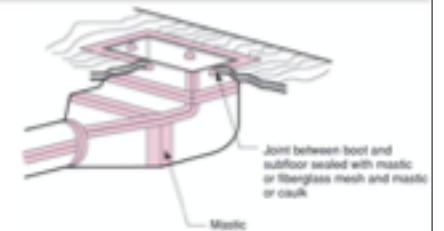
ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
U-Factor (U.S./I-P)	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.22</b>
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
Visible Transmittance	Air Leakage (U.S./I-P)
<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Condensation Resistance	
<b>70</b>	



## Efficient Heating and Cooling Equipment



## Effective Distribution



## Efficient Water Heating



## Ventilation & IAQ Systems



## Lighting-Energy Efficiency



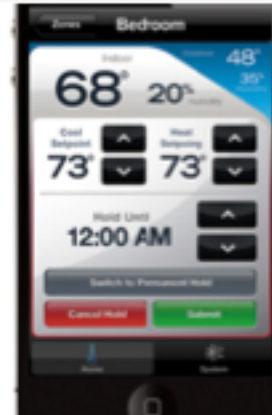
## Efficient Appliances



## Water Efficiency



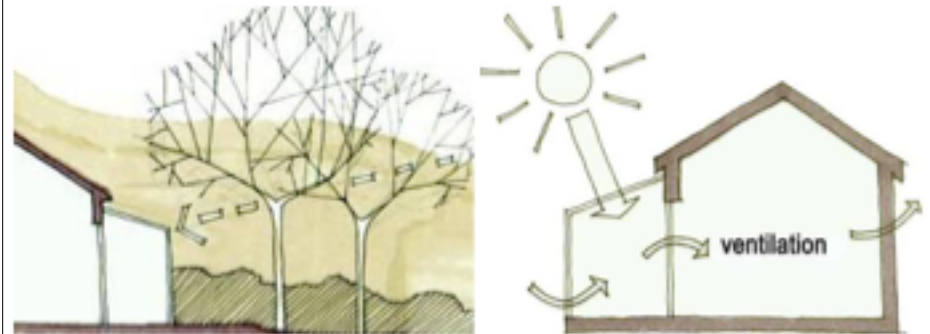
## Smart Technology



## Sustainable Materials



## Site planning





## Renewable Energy & Storage Systems



## A Complicated Business

- Extensive collection of materials
- Uncontrolled building conditions
- Communication challenges
- Workforce training
- Changing codes
- Elevated consumer expectations



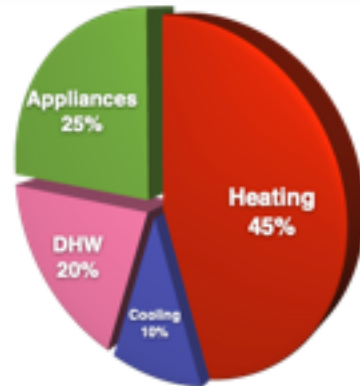
allowing a high performance building system installation in field

Let's Proceed with Some Science

## Energy use in homes - Cold Climate

### Typical cold climate home

- ▶ This is energy used - the costs of energy will vary
- ▶ What would you do first?
- ▶ Is usage going up or down?



## Components of Heat Loss Opportunities

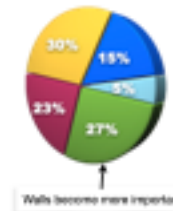
HERS Index 100



HERS Index 75



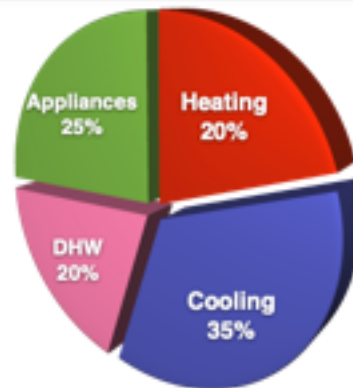
HERS Index 50



## Energy use in homes - Hot Climate

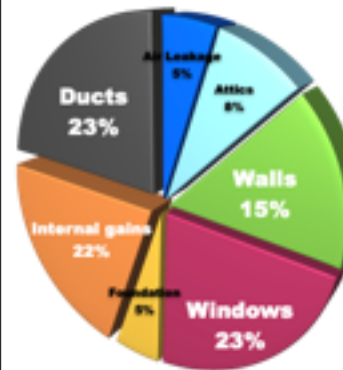
### Typical hot climate home

- ▶ This is energy used - the costs of energy will vary
- ▶ What would you do first?
- ▶ Is usage going up or down?

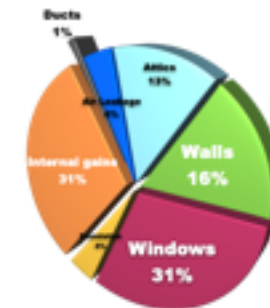


## The opportunities for energy improvements

HERS 100

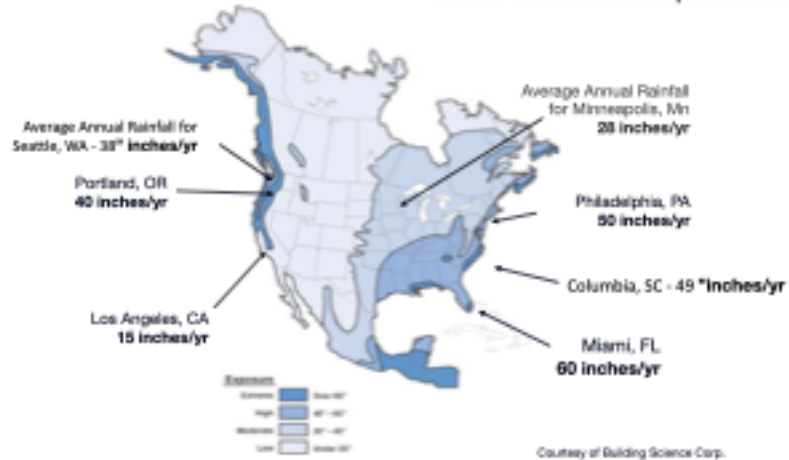


HERS 60



2300 ft<sup>2</sup> house - Summer

### Where we live affects performance.



### Design Conditions will affect your decisions

#### Somewhere, USA

Condition	ASHRAE 99.6% / 0.4%
Design Heating Temperature (F)	24.0 °F
Design Cooling Temperature (F) / Coincident Dew Point	86 °F / 66 °F
Design Dehumidification day (F) / Coincident dew point (F)	69.5 °F / 61 °F
Degree days-heating	4280
Degree days-cooling	279
Precipitation	38" / yr



### Our investment in the structure is significant



### We often under invest in managing moisture



## The resulting damage can be extensive



## What defines durability?

- Materials & Products
  - Are they installed properly?
  - Are they compatible with surrounding materials?
  - Are they replaceable?
- Will they be affected by:
  - Water
  - Heat
  - Radiation
  - Insects



Design Challenges?



## Insects & Rodents

Each climate zone has insects that affect the building and their clients. Understanding their needs is the best deterrent.



## The Building Industry is Changing

*"You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself."*

Sam Levenson



Humorist Sam Levenson, 1911-1980.

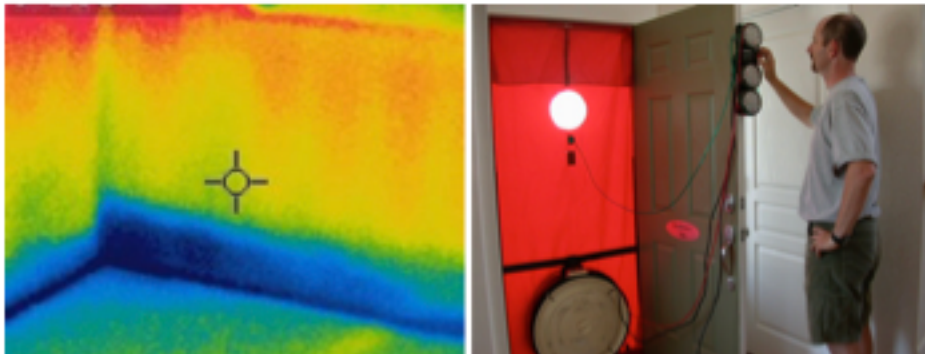


## Take a Strategic Approach

Apply the science to the building enclosure



## What rules must be followed?



## Building Science Fundamentals

- Heat
- Air
- Moisture

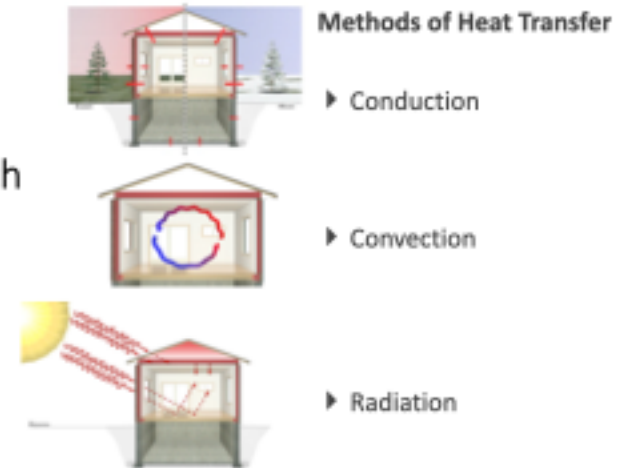


## The Physics of Buildings

- Moisture moves from more to less
- Moisture moves from warm to cold
- Heat flows from warm to cold
- CFM (air) out equals CFM (air) in
- Heat, air & moisture are one
- Drain the rain
- Things always get wet - let them dry
- All the action happens at the surface

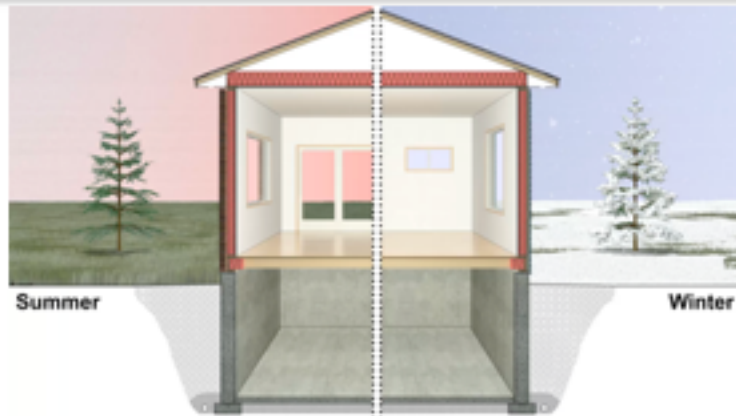


## Let's start with Heat Flow



## Heat Transfer by Conduction

Primary mechanism through walls, floors, attics



## Conduction Heat Loss/Gain

**Heat flow** =  $\frac{\text{Exposed Area} \times \text{Temp. Difference}}{\text{R-Value}}$

**Example:** With R-30 insulation in the attic

Heat Loss through 1000 sq. ft of ceiling, 70 F inside, 10 F outside

$$= 1000 \times (70 - 10) / 30 = 2,000 \text{ BTUs/hr}$$



## Conduction Heat Loss/Gain

**Heat flow** =  $\frac{\text{Exposed Area} \times \text{Temp. Difference}}{\text{R-Value}}$

**Example:** With R-30 insulation in the attic

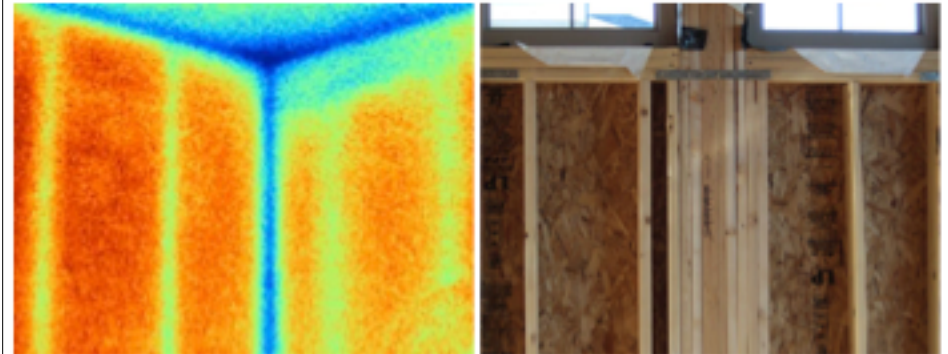
Heat gain through 1000 sq. ft of ceiling, 135 F in the attic, 75 F in the house

$$= 1000 \times (135 - 75) / 30 = 2,000 \text{ BTUs/hr}$$

$$= 1000 \times (135 - 75) / 60 = 1,000 \text{ BTUs/hr}$$



## Thermal bridges

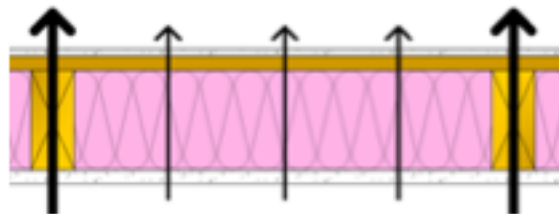


## Thermal Bridging- Problem

Heat flows more easily through wood studs = Conduction

2" x 4" stud = R-3.5

Insulation cavity = R-13+

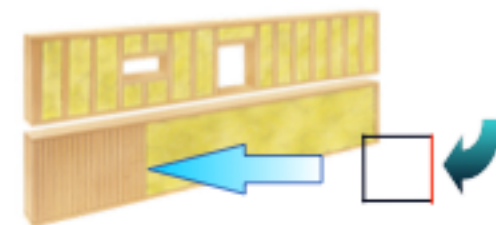


*What about...double, triple studs, rim joists, headers and partition wall intersections?*

## Thermal Bridging - Stud Loss

- Without insulated sheathing, a quarter of your walls are not insulated!
- On a square house, it's the equivalent of one whole wall!

25% of the surface Area is wood!





### Effective R-value of 2 x 4 wall- no windows or doors

23% framing-no windows	R-Value	
	Cavity	Studs
Outside air film	0.17	0.17
1/2" OSB	0.62	0.62
2 x 4 stud-wood	n/a	3.71
cavity insulation*	13	n/a
1/2" gypsum	0.45	0.45
Interior air film	0.68	0.68
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14.92</b>	<b>5.63</b>
<b>Total wall</b>	<b>9.92</b>	

\* denotes "perfect" insulation installation

Remember this number



### There are 3 ways to reduce conduction flow



Increase cavity insulation



Reduce thermal bridges  
- reduce framing



Add continuous insulation



### Effective R-value of 2 x 6 wall- no windows or doors

23% framing-no windows	R-Value	
	Cavity	Studs
Outside air film	0.17	0.17
1/2" OSB	0.62	0.62
2 x 6 stud-wood	n/a	5.83
cavity insulation*	21	n/a
1/2" gypsum	0.45	0.45
Interior air film	0.68	0.68
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22.92</b>	<b>7.75</b>
<b>Total wall</b>	<b>15.26</b>	

\* denotes "perfect" insulation installation

Remember this number

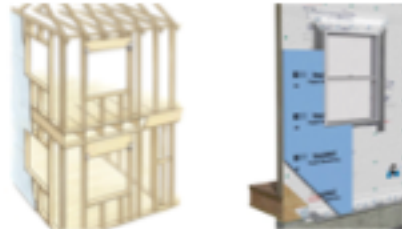


### 2 x 6 Wall Total Effective R-Value with HD Foam

Framing Percentage	R-Value	
	Cavity	Studs
<b>23%</b>		
Outside air film	0.17	0.17
Exterior insulation	<b>0</b>	0
1/2" OSB	0.62	0.62
Cladding/Siding	0.62	0.62
Framing - 2 x 6	n/a	5.83
cavity insulation	<b>35</b>	n/a
1/2" gypsum	0.45	0.45
Interior air film	0.68	0.68
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>37.54</b>	<b>6.37</b>
<b>Total Wall R-Value</b>	<b>18.81</b>	

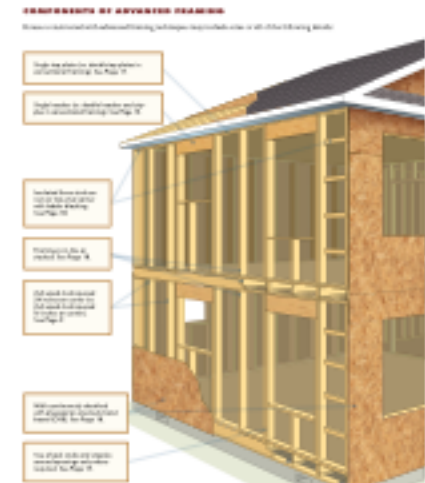
### 3 Ways to improve Effective R-values

- More cavity insulation
- Advanced / Optimized framing
- Continuous insulation



### Elements

- Two stud corners
- Ladder framing
- Wider stud spacings
- Properly sized headers
- Single top plates

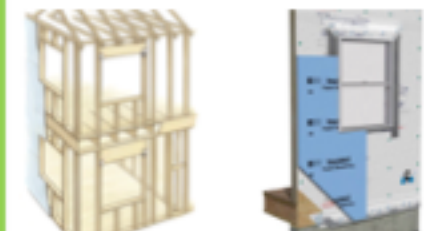


### 2 x 6 Wall Total Effective R-Value

Framing Percentage	R-Value	
	Cavity	Studs
<b>19%</b>		
Outside air film	0.17	0.17
Exterior insulation	<b>0</b>	0
7/16" OSB	0.62	0.62
Cladding/Siding	0.62	0.62
Framing - 2 x 6	n/a	5.83
cavity insulation	<b>20</b>	n/a
1" gypsum	0.45	0.45
Interior air film	0.68	0.68
Sub-Totals	22.54	8.37
<b>Total Wall R-Value</b>	<b>16.22</b>	

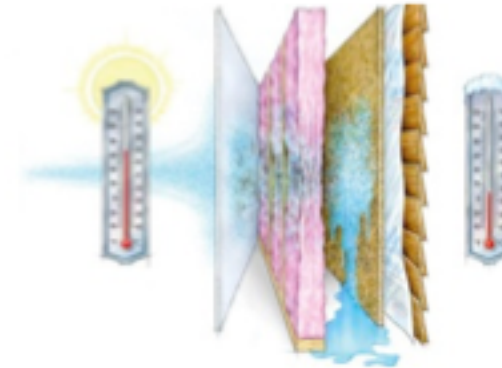
### 3 Ways to improve Effective R-values

- More cavity insulation
- Advanced / Optimized framing
- Continuous insulation



## 2 x 4 Wall + R5 Total Effective R-Value

Framing Percentage	R-Value	
25%	Cavity	Studs
Outside air film	0.17	0.17
Exterior Insulation	5	5
7/16" OSB	0.62	0.62
Claadding/Siding	0.62	0.62
Framing - 2 x 4	n/a	3.71
cavity insulation	13	n/a
1/2" gypsum	0.45	0.45
Interior air film	0.68	0.68
Sub-Totals	20.54	11.25
<b>Total Wall R-Value</b>	<b>15.54</b>	



## The dew point discussion

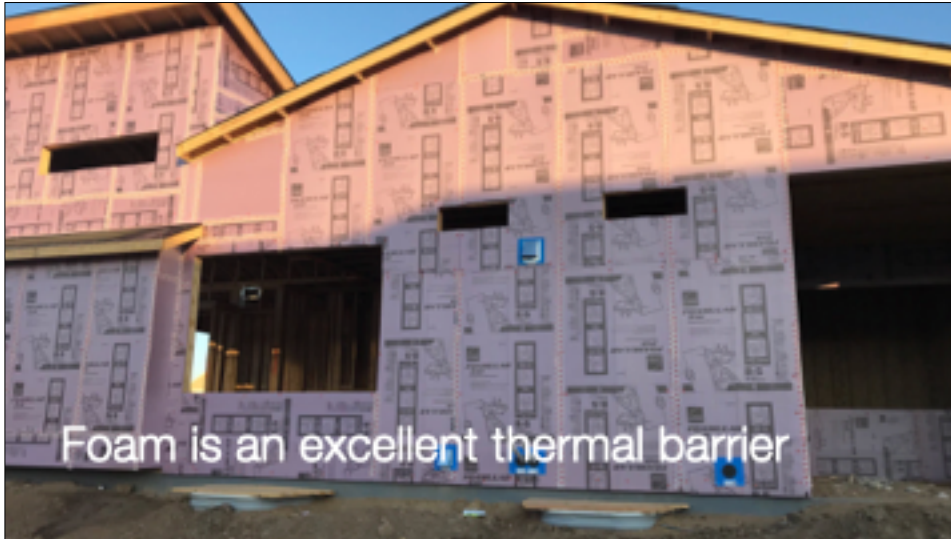
### Vapor Permeance of Materials

Material	Imperial Permeance
6 Mil polyethylene	0.06 Perms
Drywall	20 - 60
Building paper	5-10
Structural Sheathing	
Wood	2 - 8
Plywood	0.75 - 3.5
OSB	0.75 - 2
Insulated Sheathing	
Foil Faced Poly Iso - 1"	0 to 0.01
XPS - 1"	0.75 - 1.5
EPS - 1"	2 - 4
EPS with foil face - 1"	0.5 - 1.5
WRBs	
Spun bonded Polyolefin	20 - 50
Coated Wraps	6 - 14



### Condensation

*The more insulation, the greater the risk*



Insulated Sheathing  
will be Normal

It doesn't have to be  
foam



Advanced wall systems improve effective R-values



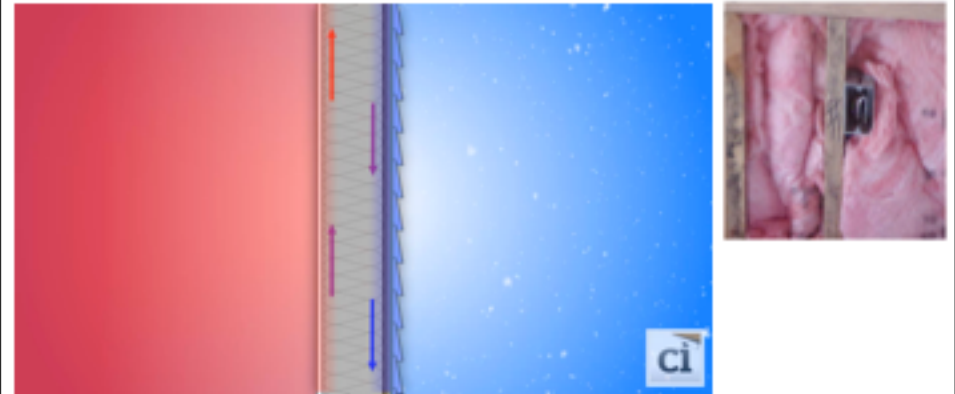
## Effective R-Value of framed walls



Wall Options	Total Effective R-Value
Traditional 2 x 6 with R20 Batt insulation	15
<b>Zero Energy Ready Wall for "Mild Climates":</b>	
2" x 4" w/ R-15 Cavity + R-10 cont. ext. Insulation	21
<b>Zero Energy Ready Wall for "Cold Climates":</b>	
2" x 6" w/ R-23 cavity + R-10 cont. ext. Insulation	27

## Heat Transfer by Convection

Convection loops occur in air gaps



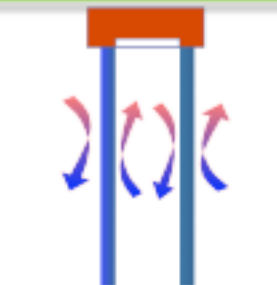
## There are 3 ways to reduce convection flow



No gaps or voids



Seal the holes

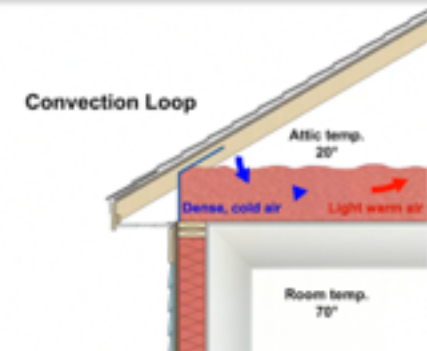


Use inert gases - windows



## Convective loop in attic insulation

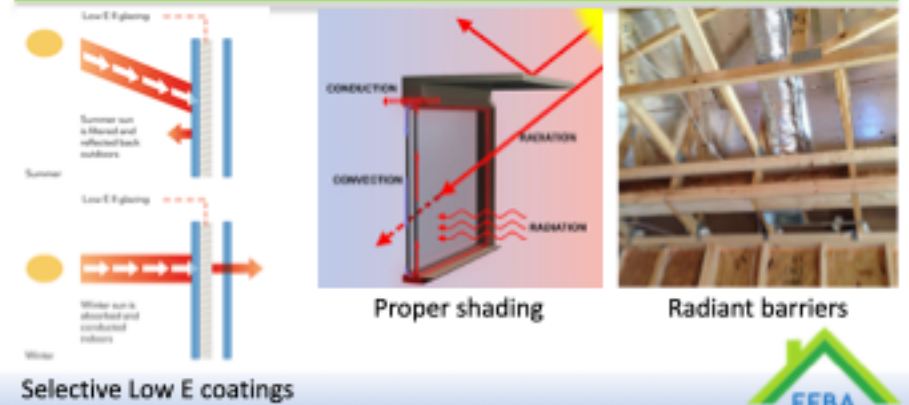
- Mitigated by adding more insulation
- Avoid wind washing of insulation



## Heat transfer by Radiation - surface to surface



## There are 3 ways to optimize radiation flow

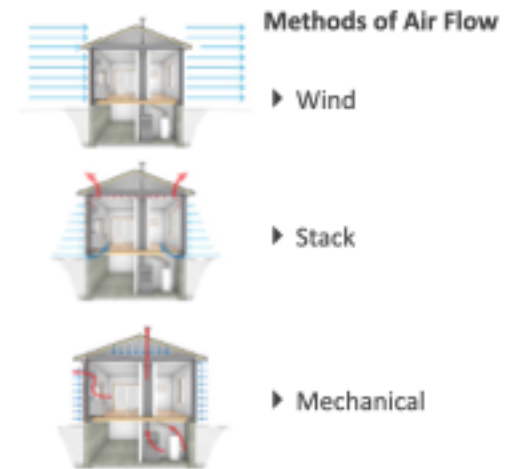


## Choose appropriate windows for your climate

<p><b>World's Best Window Co.</b> Series "2000" Casement Vinyl Clad Wood Frame Double Glazing/Argon Fill/Low E 317.2.3.1-00001-00001</p>	
ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
U-Factor (U.S. I-P)	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.32</b>
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
Visible Transmittance	Air Leakage (U.S. I-P)
<b>0.51</b>	<b>≤0.3</b>
Condensation Resistance	
<b>51</b>	<b>-</b>

<p>Triple Glazed Krypton/Argon Low E Product Type: Vertical Slider</p>	
ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
U-Factor (U.S. I-P)	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.22</b>
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
Visible Transmittance	Air Leakage (U.S. I-P)
<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Condensation Resistance	
<b>70</b>	

## Now consider Air Flow



## Reasons we want houses to be tight

- Most cost effective energy saving measure - 20% - 30% savings
- Makes homes quieter and cleaner
- Makes homes more "comfortable"
- Reduces water entry - homes last longer
- Makes homes healthier - controlled air quality
- Environmental benefits because we are not wasting energy



## Are there any concerns of Houses Being "Too Tight"?

From an Energy Perspective we would like houses to be very tight

What are possible concerns about house being tight?

- Indoor Air Quality
  - Moisture problems
  - Chemical pollutants
- Combustion Safety
- "The walls have to breathe"



## Wind effects are highly variable

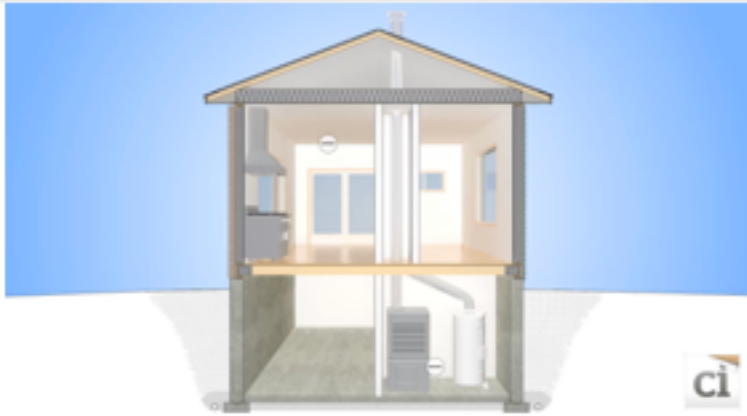


## Stack effect

- pressures created by air temp. differences



## Mechanical systems may adversely affect performance



## Neutral pressure plane of building

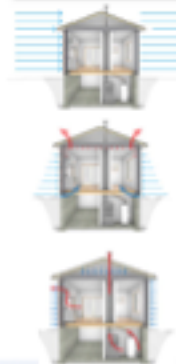
- The neutral pressure plane will change
- Wind, stack & mechanical effects
- Its locations determines which holes leak and in which direction



## Moisture laden air flow can create problems



## Managing Air Flow



- Its difficult to manage the varying pressures
- Its most cost effective to make buildings tighter - seal the holes





## Finally... Moisture Flow

A very complex subject

### Forms of Moisture

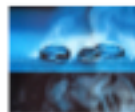
▶ Solid



▶ Liquid



▶ Vapor



Water in liquid form is the most concerning

## Managing water is critical to sustainability



## 4 Moisture Flow Mechanisms

- Liquid Flow (gravity driven)
  - Rain
- Capillary
  - Material wicking
- Air Transport
  - Pressure induced flows of moisture laden air
- Diffusion
  - Vapor pressure drive

Liquid flow is the most important

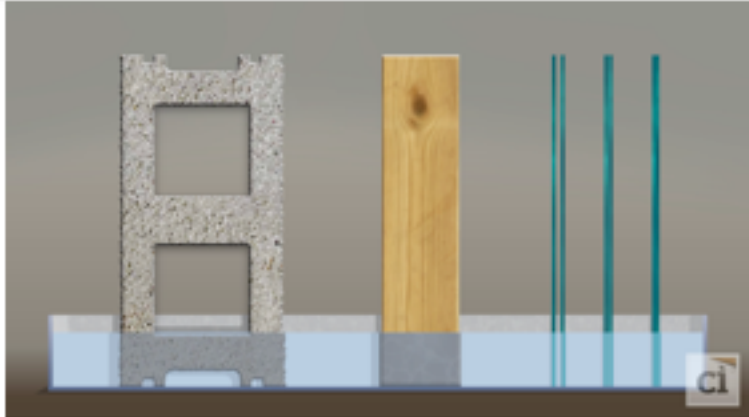


## Managing liquid water flow

Deflection  
Drainage  
Drying  
Durability



## Capillary Flow



## Capillary Flow

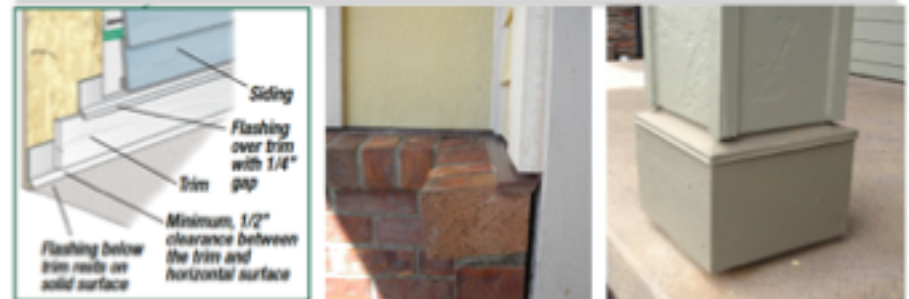
- Wood & concrete wick water
  - In wood water can climb in excess of 300 ft!
  - In concrete water can climb in excess of 1,000 ft!



## Capillary Flow



## There are 2 ways to manage capillary flow



Create 1/4" to 1/2" gaps



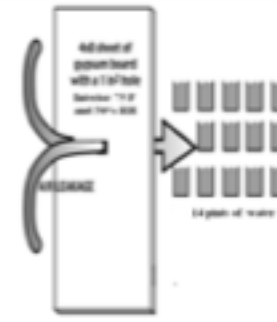
## There are 2 ways to manage capillary flow



Use capillary break materials



## Air Transport of Water Vapor



- Air Leakage
  - Moisture flow through a 1in<sup>2</sup> hole by air leakage
- Flow quantity
  - 14 Pints of water in a two week period



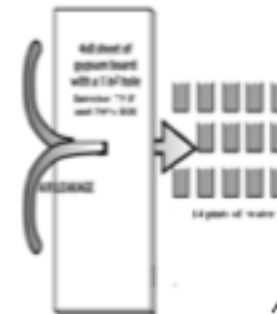
Graphics Courtesy of Building Science Corp.



Condensation

*The more insulation, the greater the risk*

## Air Transport of Water Vapor



- Air Leakage
  - Moisture flow through a 1in<sup>2</sup> hole by air leakage
- Flow quantity
  - 14 Pints of water in a two week period



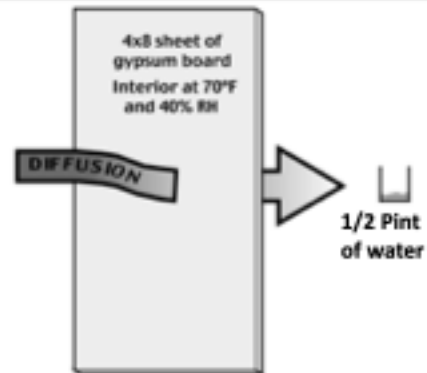
Graphics Courtesy of Building Science Corp.

*Air barriers are far more important than vapor retarders in most cases*

## Diffusion of Water Vapour through Materials

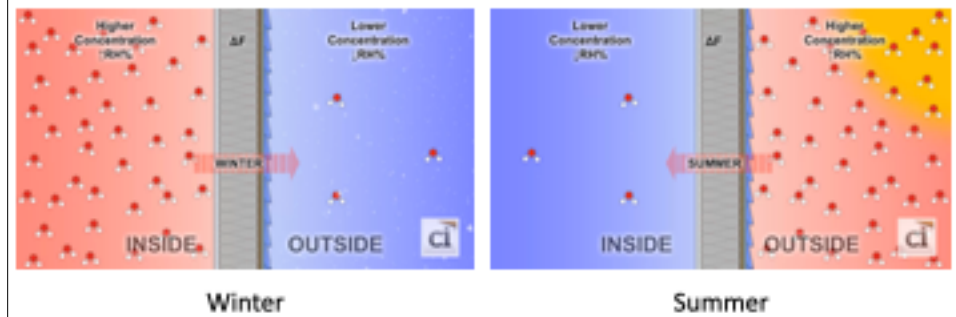
### Diffusion

- Migration of moisture by means of vapor pressure differential
- Occurs in either direction based on climate conditions and interior levels of humidity
- One season



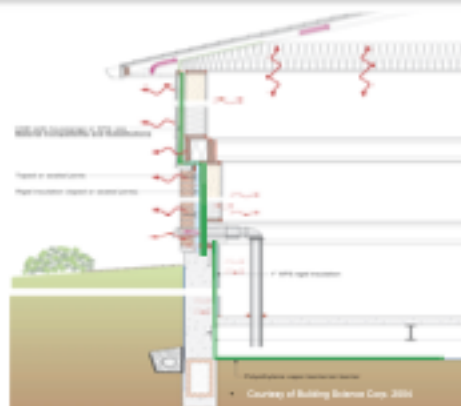
Graphics Courtesy of Building Science Corp.

## Vapor Diffusion is Complex



## Vapor Diffusion

- Diffusion is a “weak” wetting mechanism
- It can be a useful drying mechanism



## The Physics of Buildings

- Moisture moves from more to less
- Moisture moves from warm to cold
- Heat flows from warm to cold
- CFM (air) out equals CFM (air) in
- Heat, air & moisture are one
- Drain the rain
- Things always get wet - let them dry
- All the action happens at the surface







Full basement



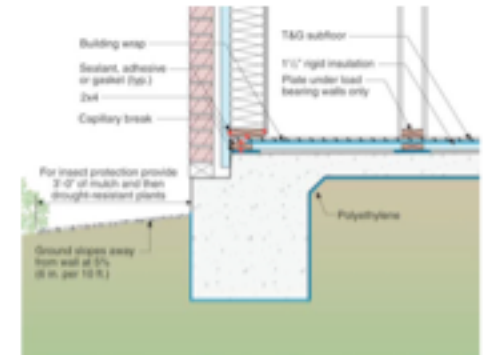
Crawl spaces



Slab on Grade

## It starts with proper grading & drainage

- 5% - 6" over 10'
- At least 4' to 6' away

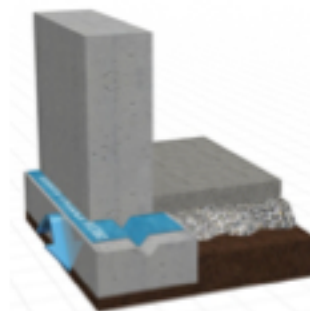


## Landscape too close to the foundation

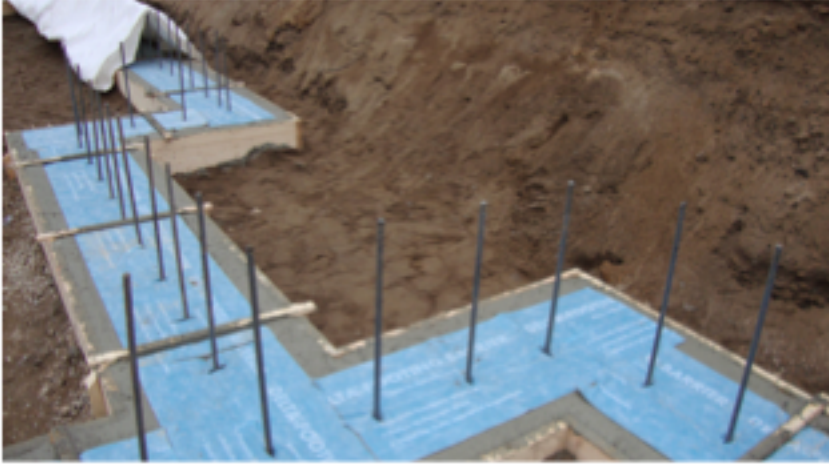


## Capillary break applied between footing and foundation wall

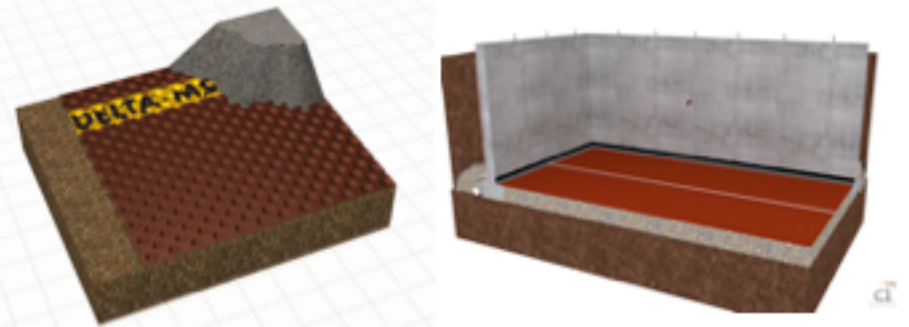
- Required whenever one porous component meets another
  - Footing/slab to foundation wall
  - Foundation wall to framing
  - Under slabs-on grade

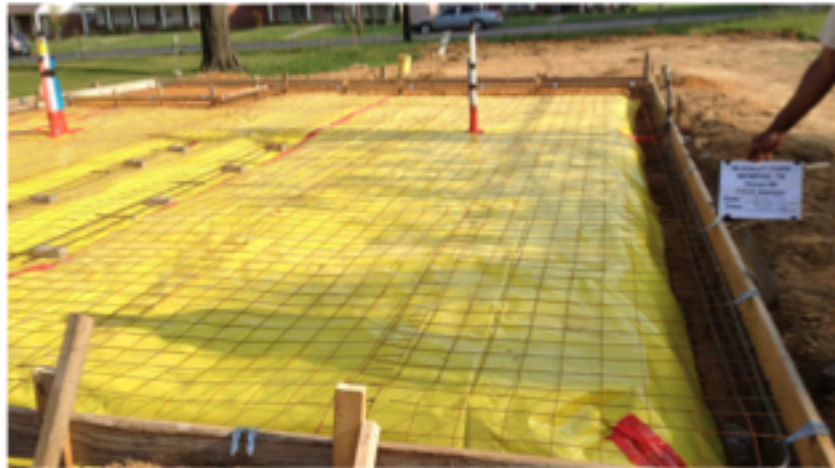


Footing to foundation connection



### Membrane under-slab

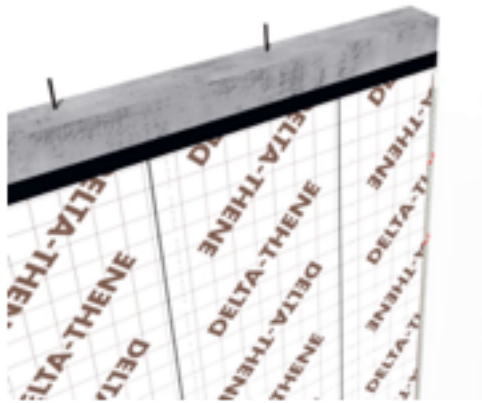




Drainage is very helpful



DELTA-DRAIN TO BE INSTALLED IN ROWS FROM  
BOTTOM TO TOP OF WALL, OVERLAPPING SHINGLE-STYLE



Foundation Insulation is Cost Effective



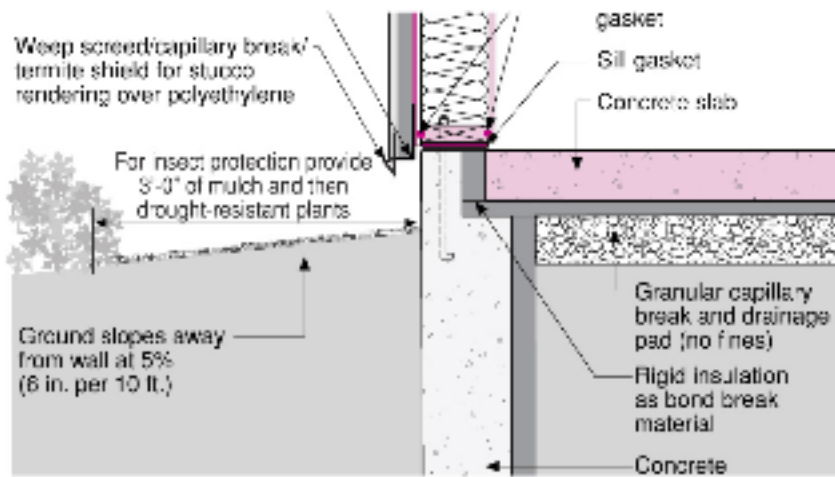
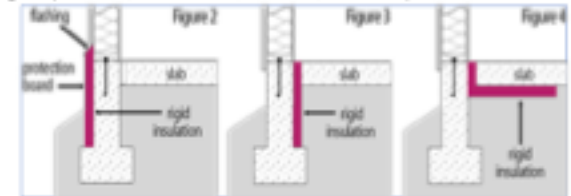


## A case for insulating slabs



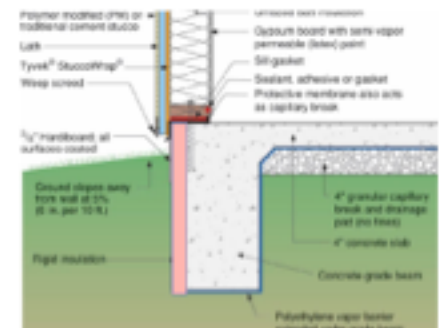
## Insulation - Slab Perimeter

- Heat loss is significant - 15% - 20% - in the heating season through an un-insulated slab (FOREVER!!)
- Heat gain is significant - 10% or more in the cooling season
- Slab perimeter insulation strategies (vertical, horizontal, interior, exterior)

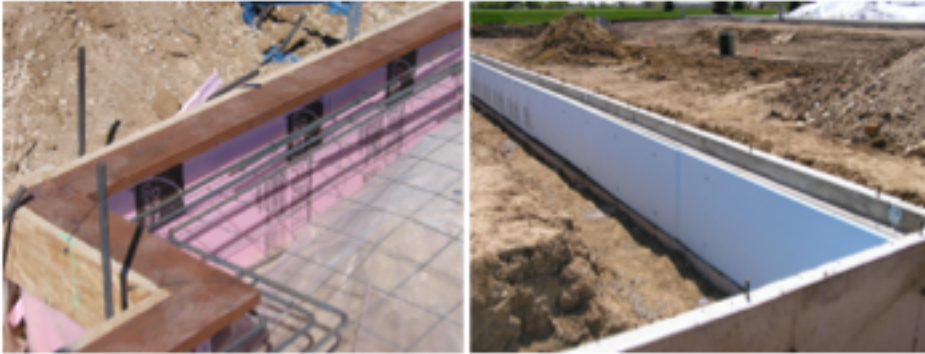


## Slab

- Foam at slab edge
- Vapor barrier under concrete slab
- capillary break - stone; provides drainage



## Always install vapor protection directly under slabs



Watch this quick video with my partner and EEBA certified trainer.

At our Construction Instruction Live experience centre he has created a helpful mockup of a foundation slab assembly where he can test and assess slab moisture



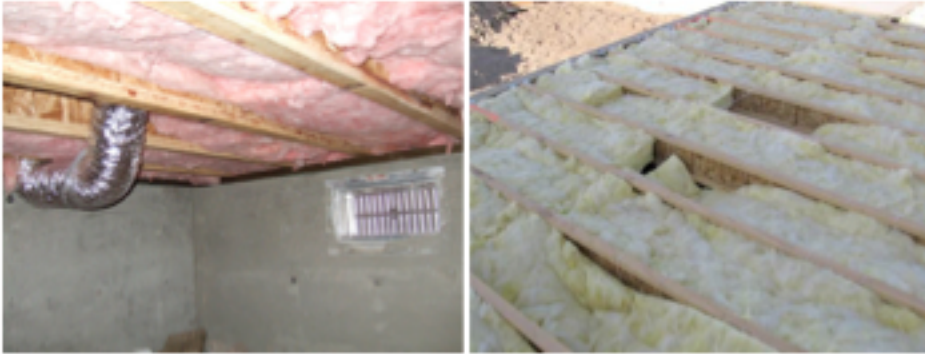
## Lets turn our attention to crawlspaces

## Crawlspaces - Vented or Unvented?

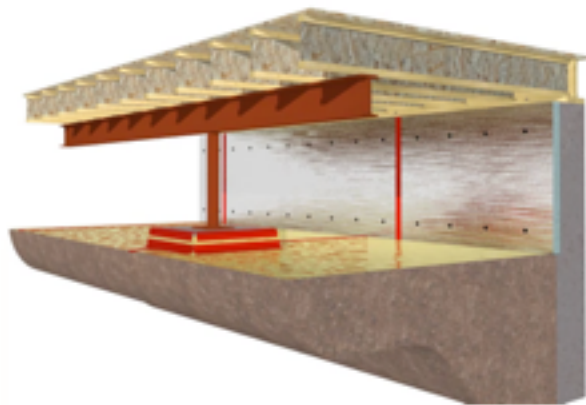
Same house, same time of year, which one is right?



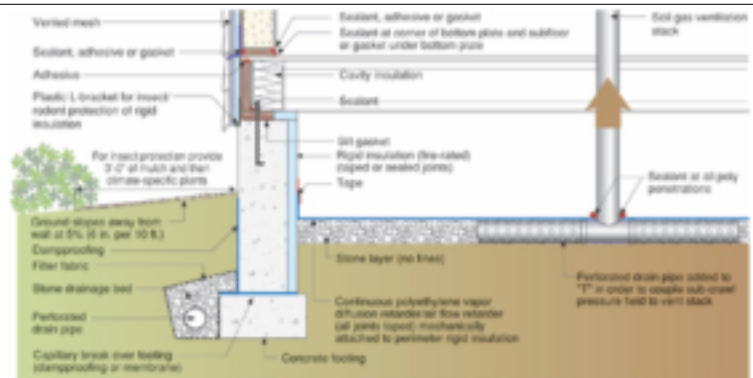
## Insulating a crawl space floor is difficult and often ineffective



## Crawlspaces - Best practice

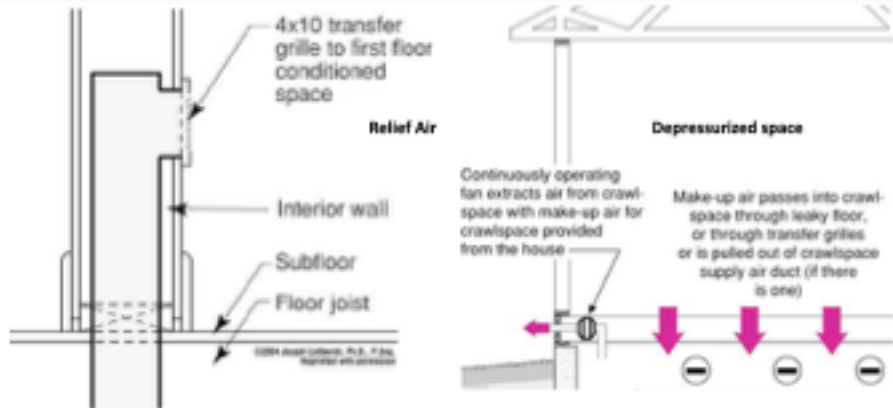


CI



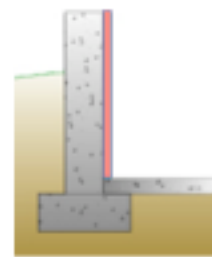
Crawlspaces must have designed ventilation and well installed moisture control

## Design a system that provides ventilation using house conditioned air

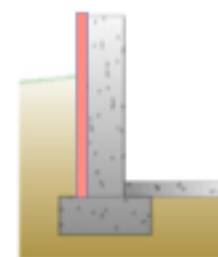


## The third type of foundation would be the full height basement

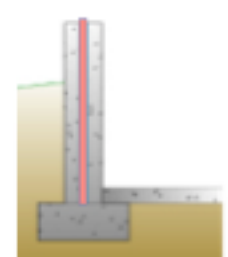
Foundation type, climate and soil conditions all affect performance



Internally Insulated



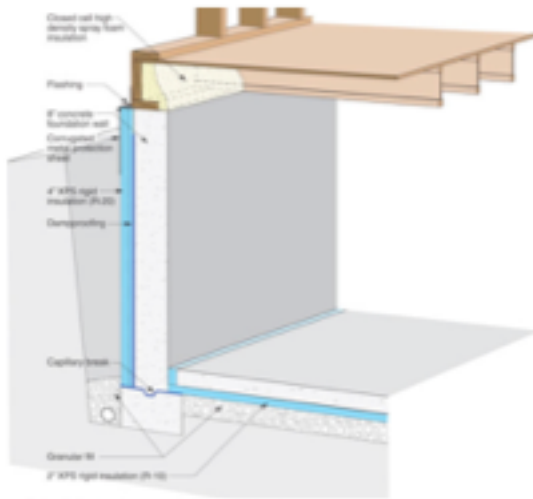
Externally Insulated



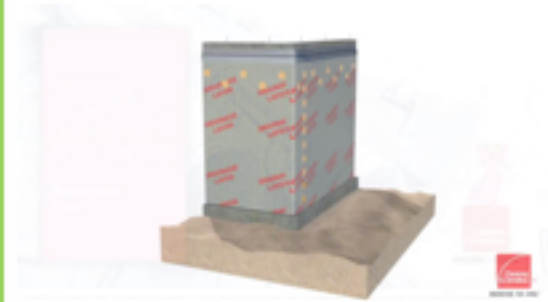
Insulated inside the wall



## Exterior Insulation is the best option

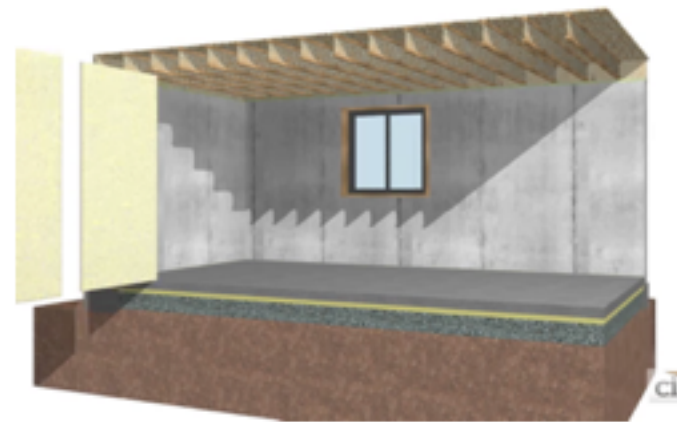
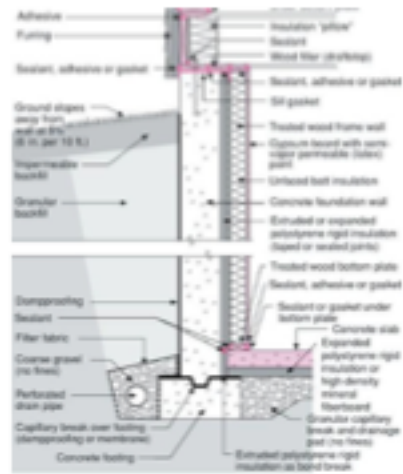


## Basement Slab Insulation



## Interior insulation is possible

- Foam based solutions are best



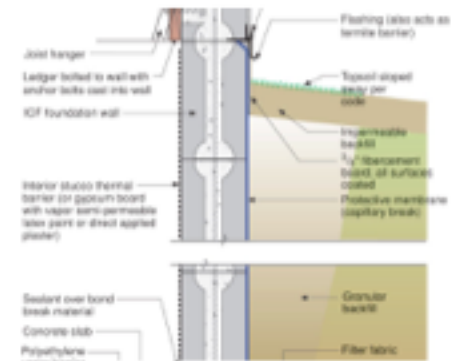
## Insulated Concrete Forms

- An innovative and proven technology for foundations and walls

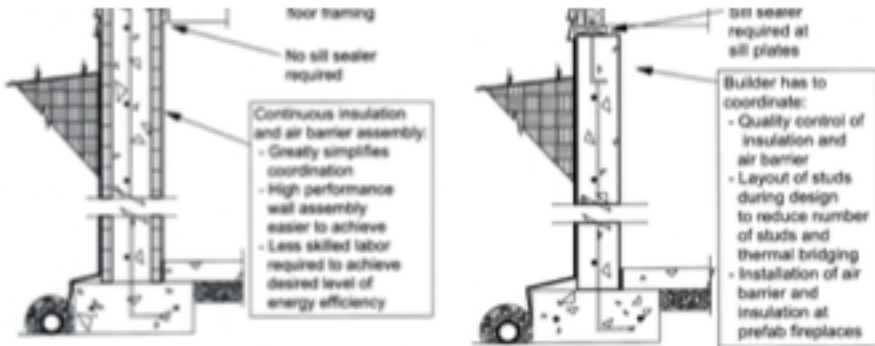


## Insulated Concrete Forms

- Allows for controlled drying towards the interior
- Insulation and foundations in one system
- Interior finished can be directly applied
- Remember the capillary break

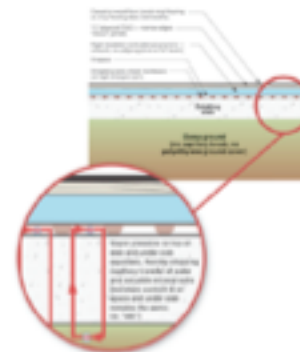


## ICF versus conventional



What do you do with an existing basement floor?

## Membrane over slab



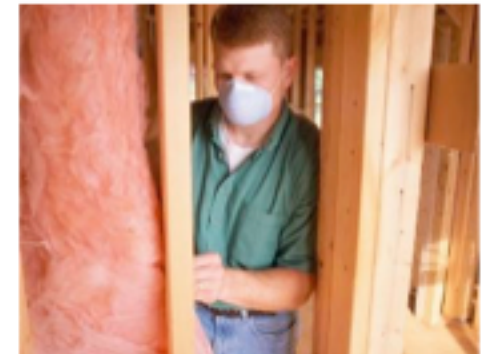
## Paperless Gypsum



## Let's move up and look at above grade walls

## A wall system needs to perform

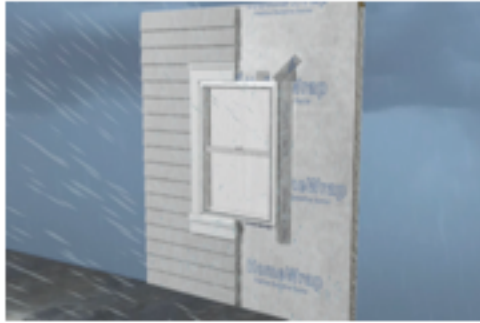
- Provide strength & rigidity
- Be durable
- Control light & solar gain
- Control noise
- Control rain penetration
- Control air flow
- Control heat flow
- Control water & vapor flow





## Protecting walls from Liquid Water

Cladding is 1st line of defence  
Water gets behind all types of  
cladding by:  
Liquid  
Capillary  
Air pressures



## Methods of flow

Water is a  
powerful force in  
all it's forms



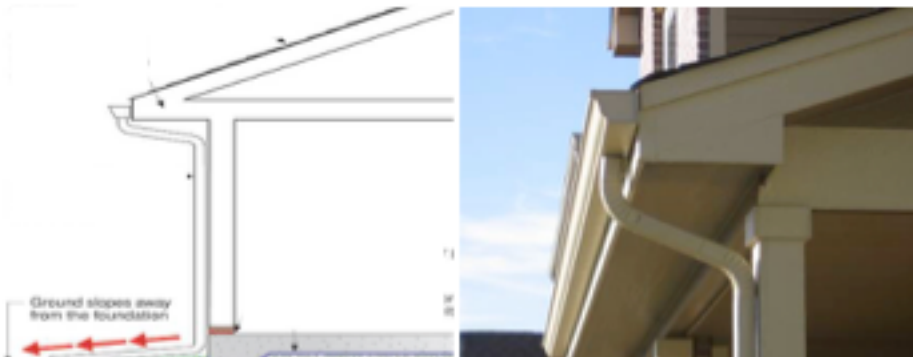
It starts with the design



Follow the path of water; will it create a problem?



Gutters are important to any water management strategy



Graphics from FEMA Water Management Guide

Flashing & Gutters must effectively redirect water



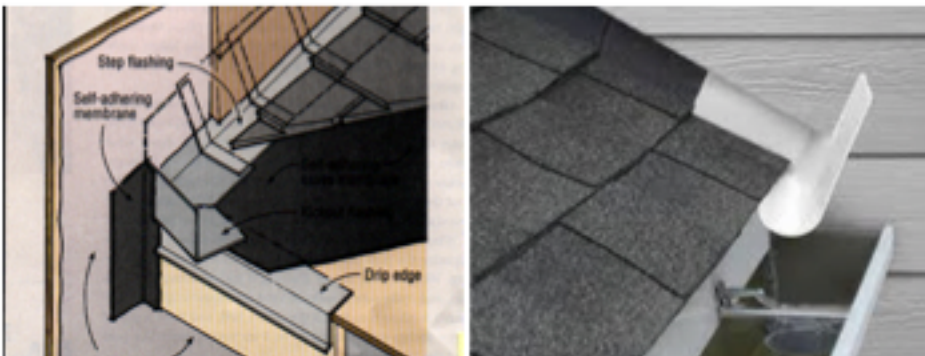
## The interface between walls & roofs



## Concentrate on the path of flow...



## Kick-out Flashing - Simple and effective



## Flashing must be integrated with the drainage plane



## Drain the Assembly



## Drainage is pretty simple

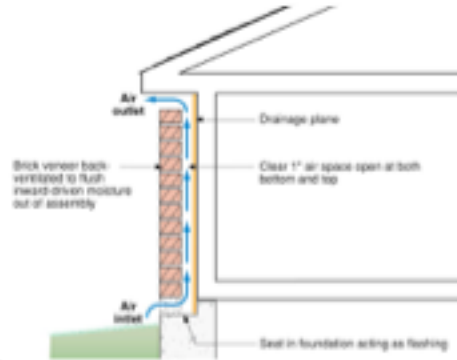


## Venting our Cladding

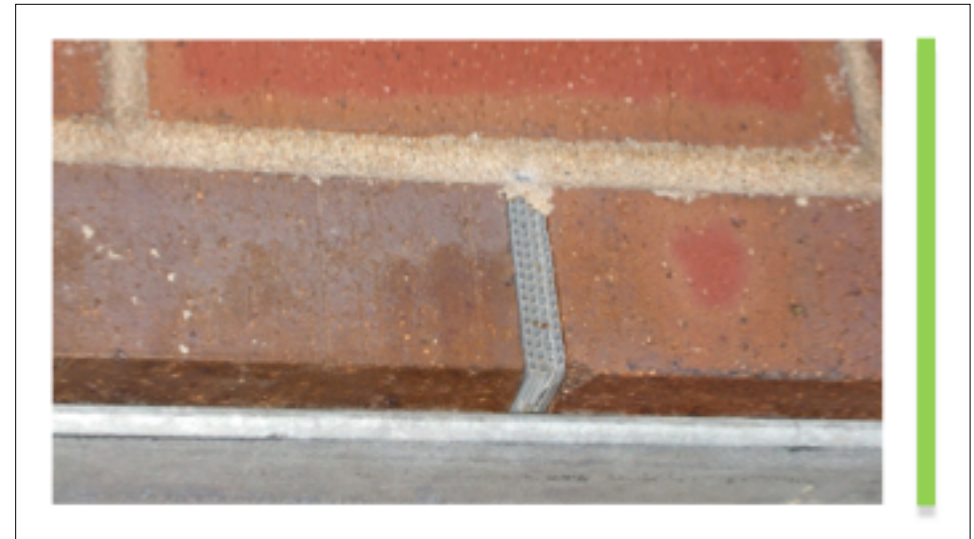
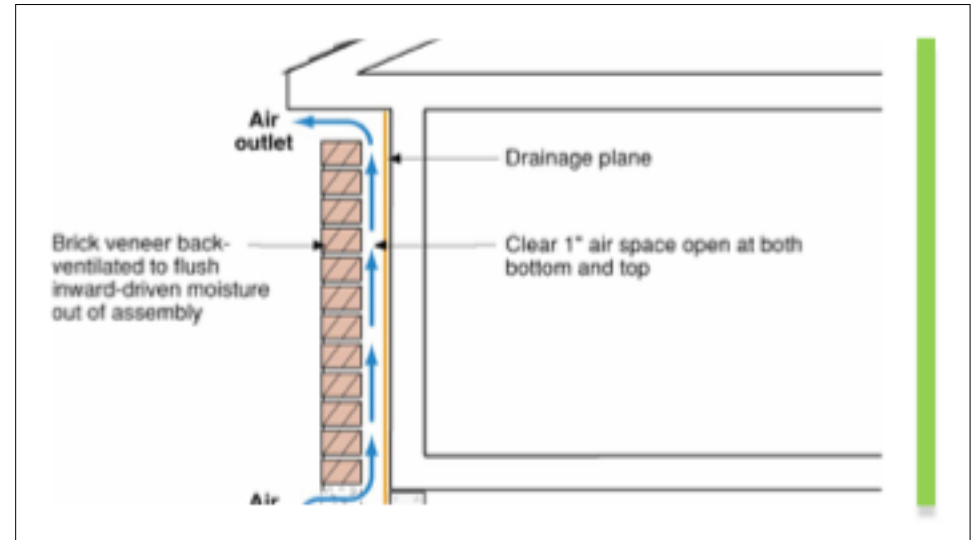


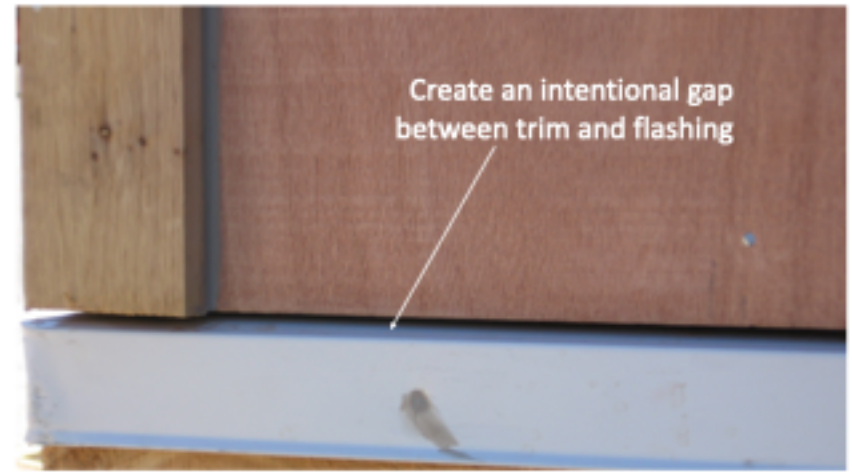
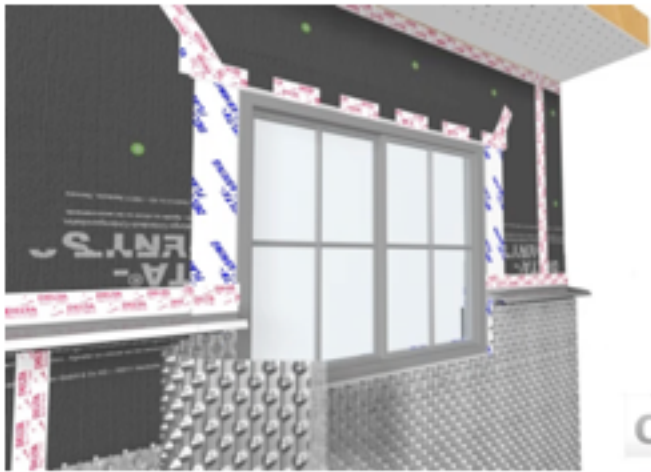
## Air Flow assists drying

Create intentional airflow  
When using brick  
& stone & siding in:  
Humid summer climates  
Rainy climates  
Wood sheathing applications



©Building Science Press. Reprinted with permission.





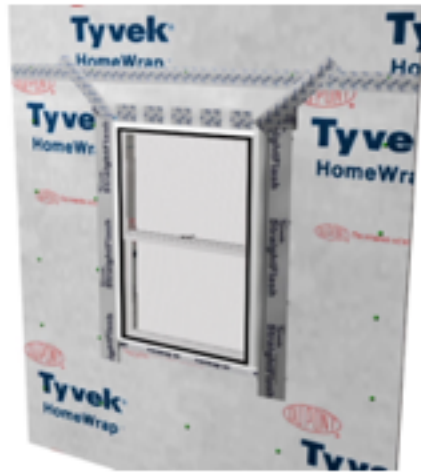
## Its all about the details



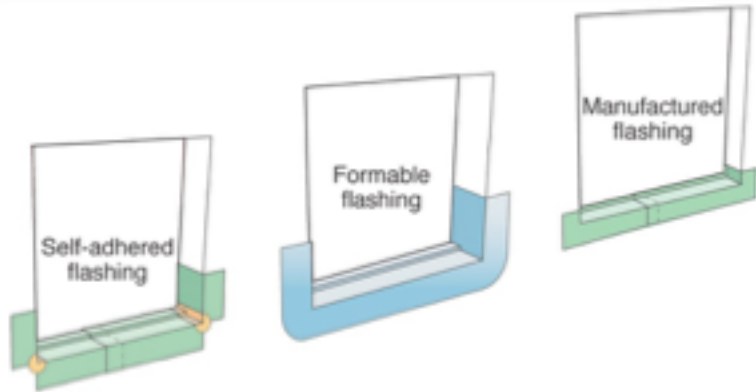
## Inadequate pan flashing



# The Details Demonstrating a method



## Site-Constructed or manufactured pan flashings for window and door openings in frame walls



Allow for drainage at the base of windows



Use low pressure, low expanding foam around openings to complete the air barrier



Window Installation-Great Job!







Permeability is useful for drying

## Holes Add Up



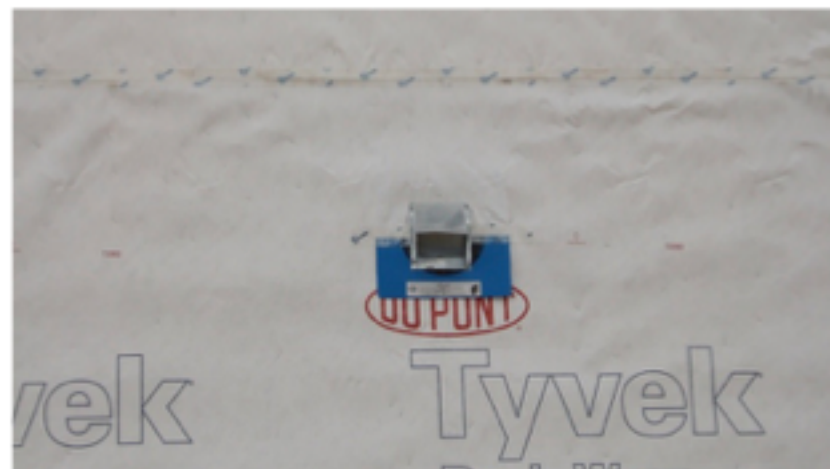
## Some Holes will need special attention



## It takes commitment



## Even small holes matter



## Air Barriers

- Air Barriers are systems of materials
- Designed and constructed to control air flow between a conditioned space and an unconditioned space
- Air barrier system is the primary air enclosure boundary that separates indoor (conditioned) air and outdoor (unconditioned) air



Define breaks  
and create a  
plan to manage  
them



## Common Holes We Miss

Plumbing  
HVAC  
Electrical  
Framing Holes  
Soffits  
Behind Tubs  
Chimney Shafts  
Cantilevers

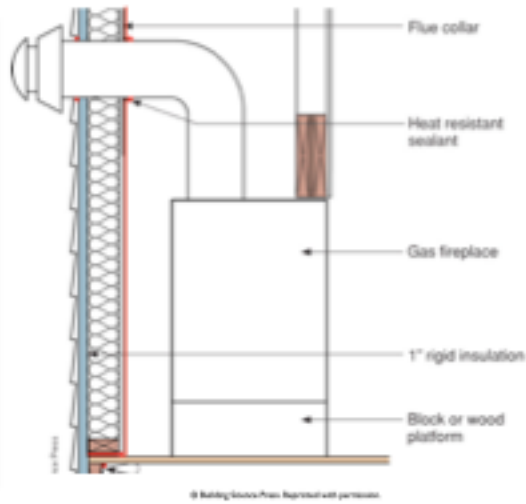


## Air Sealing Bang-For-Your-Buck Ranking

JOINT/OPENING	CFM50'	ACH50'
top plate-to attic	0.29 to 0.68 per foot	0.29 to 1.6
duct boot	7.7 per boot	0.13 to 0.26
recessed light	9.1 per light	0.15 to 0.31
band joint (top & bottom)	0.86 per foot	0.37 to 0.42
garage-house common wall	0.60 per foot	0.14 to 0.26
sheathing-to-plate (top & bottom)	0.074 to 0.62 per foot	0.040 to 0.38
window/door framing-to-sheathing	0.031 to 0.11 per foot	0.020 to 0.10
between exterior top plates	0.10 to 0.11 per foot	0.033 to 0.046
corners (interior pointing)	0.024 to 0.21 per foot	0.0021 to 0.032
corners (exterior pointing)	0.054 to 0.45 per foot	0.0069 to 0.11
bottom plate-to-subfloor	0 to 0.11 per foot	0 to 0.11
vertical sheathing joints	0.010 to 0.090 per foot	0.011 to 0.11
sill plate-to-foundation'	0 to 0.030 per foot	0 to 0.025

A very helpful OC research project

## Air barrier at fireplace



## Chimney shafts and penetrations



## Tub Air Sealing



## Provide rigid blocking





## House to garage connections

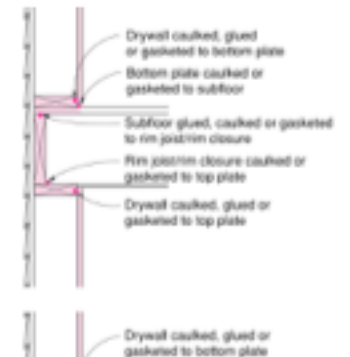


## Air-seal connections at house to garage



## Air Flow Barrier-Interior

- Airtight Drywall Approach
- Connecting and sealing the materials to stop air flow
- Must be continuous through all penetrations

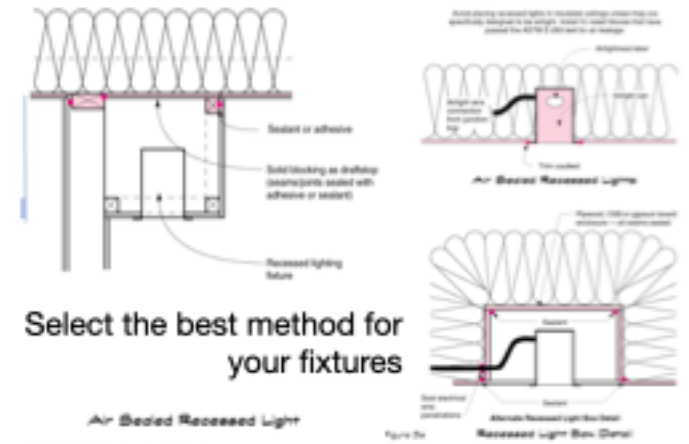


Plumbing, electrical & HVAC penetrations need attention



Soffits and knee-walls need to be prepared early





## Air Leakage at recessed light

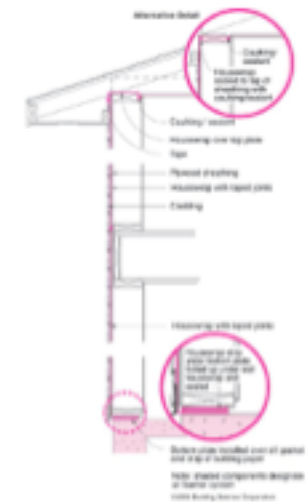


## Air Flow Barrier-Exterior

A well detailed house wrap or weather barrier can also be an effective air barrier

It must connect to the foundation and the ceiling air barrier

Must be durable through the construction process





## Tight Construction



### HOW TIGHT - Residential

- US IECC 2012      5 ACH@50 Zones 1,2  
                                 3 ACH@50 Zones 3+
- "Canadian Code"    3.0 ACH@50
- ENERGY STAR      2.5 ACH@50
- Zero Energy          1.5 ACH@50
- Passive House        0.6 ACH@50



## A game changing solution

AeroBarrier is a convenient, cost effective approach that seals homes in less than 3 hours and provides verification that the air-tightness requirement has been achieved.

### Changing the Way Homes are Built with:

- Consistently tighter building envelopes
- Verified and documented results
- A single process
- Time saving

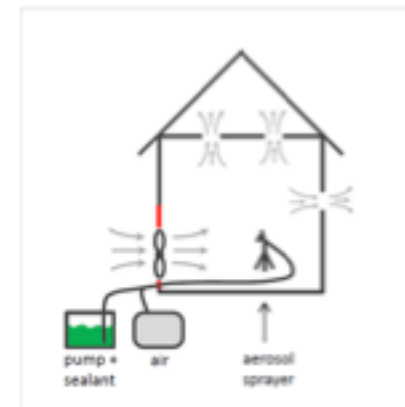


## The AeroBarrier process

### STEP 1:

Prepare house for sealing. Cover all intentional openings (drains, bathroom vents, etc.) and horizontal surfaces, set up sealing equipment, and pressurize the building / home.

Typically 100 Pascal



## Deploy the nozzles

Up to 8 tripods

2 nozzles each

Air and sealant to each



## Holes that the Sealant is really good at - 1/2" or under



## The AeroBarrier process

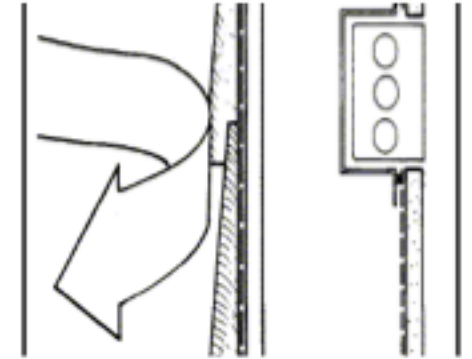
### Verified Results!

Every seal provides a certificate of completion outlining the sealing work. Pre and post-leakage are captured and the seal duration and leakage reduction are all displayed on the graph

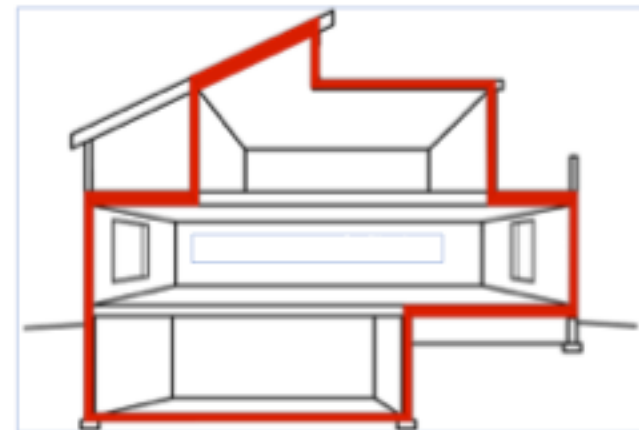


## Air Sealing Summary

- Reduce energy loss
- 1/3 of htg/clg bill can be from air leakage
- Reduce infiltration of harmful air
- Garage connection
- Improved comfort
- Less drafts
- Less noise & dust



## Insulation Installation



## Framing for Insulation- Wall systems

- Provide structural integrity, but insulate areas we sometimes miss.



Where 4 is good....

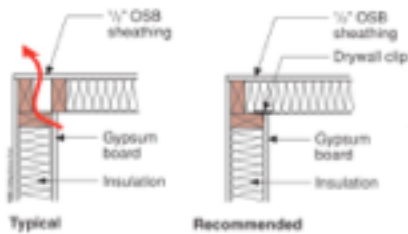


9 or more has got to be enough!



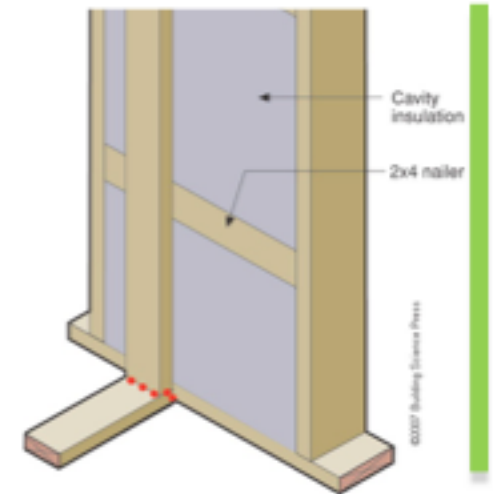


## Two-stud corner



© Building Science Press. Reprinted with permission.

## Ladder Blocking



© Building Science Press. Reprinted with permission.

## In the field



## Insulation Must....

### Be installed properly:

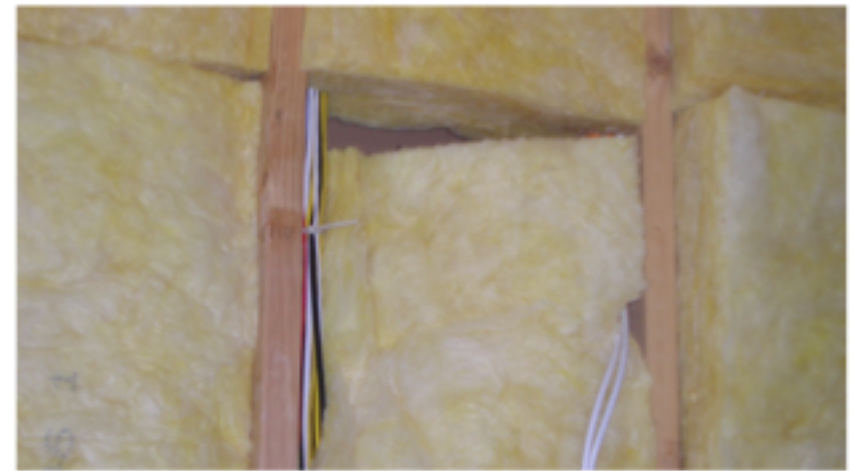
- No compressions
- No voids
- Touching all 6 surfaces
- Be properly mixed (foams)
- Be compatible with other materials
- Be combined with an air barrier or be one
- Not be subjected to constant wetting cycles



Poor installation affects comfort, performance and durability



Compressions and voids reduce performance





## Poor Spray foam installation



## Insulating is a system



More choices offer better performance

Careful installation of all insulating systems are essential for good performance



Blown cellulose insulation



High density blown fiberglass

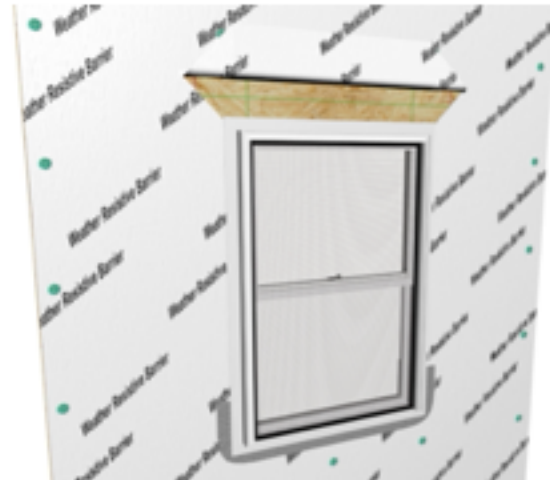


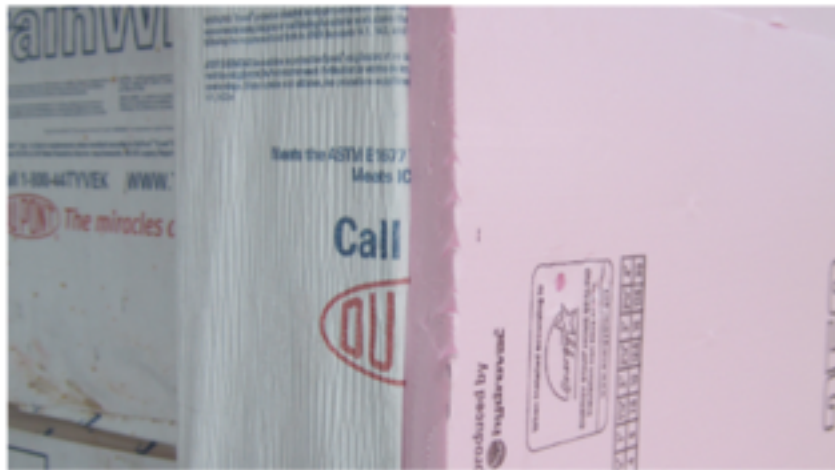


## SPF- spray polyurethane foam



## Again....benefits of exterior insulation





## Insulated concrete forms resolve issues



## Structurally insulated panels provide high R-Value assemblies



# Window Systems



## Windows

- Provided natural light and ventilation
- Passive solar heat
- Architectural element
- 1/3 to 2/3 thirds of total AC loads



## What defines high performance windows?

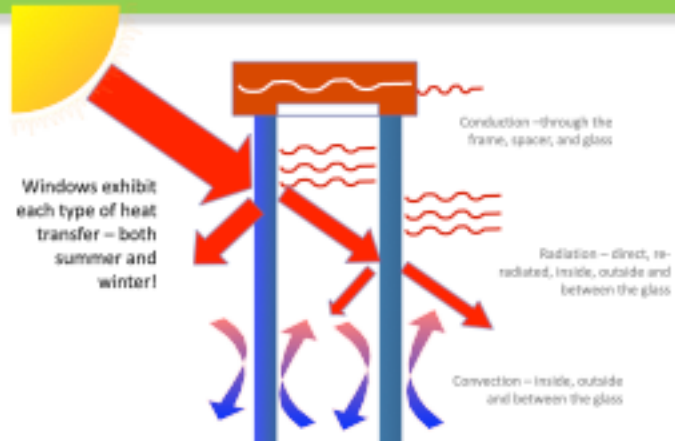
- Heat gain & heat loss reduction
- Energy efficiency
- UV light reduction
- Durability
- Wind and rain resistance

Four technologies are common:

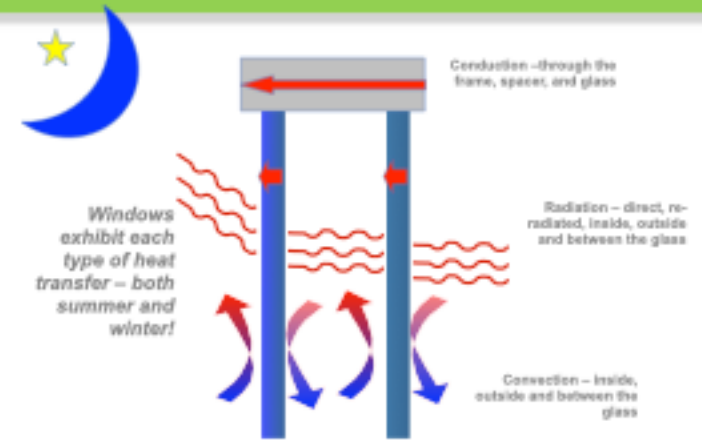
1. Low emissivity coatings
2. Insulated spacers
3. Gas filled
4. Insulated frame tech.



## Summertime Heat Gain



## Wintertime Heat Loss



## Where is the 2018 code headed- Glazing

Climate Zone	Window U-Factor		Window SHGC		Skylight U-Factor	
	2009	2012	2009	2012	2009	2012
1	1.2	0.65	0.3	0.25	0.75	0.75
2	0.65	0.4	0.3	0.25	0.75	0.65
3	0.5	0.35	0.3	0.25	0.65	0.55
4	0.35	0.35	NR	0.4	0.6	0.55
5	0.35	0.32	NR	NR	0.6	0.55
6	0.35	0.32	NR	NR	0.6	0.55
7	0.35	0.32	NR	NR	0.6	0.55

  = increased



## A Tale of Two Houses

House before & after improvements

Standard Clear Double Glazed

U = .85

SHGC = .68

4.0 Ton AC Unit

Double Glazed Low-e, Low SHGC

U = .32

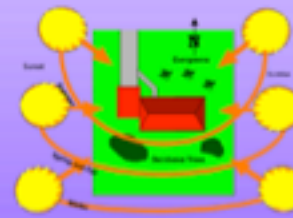
SHGC = .32

2.5 Ton AC Unit



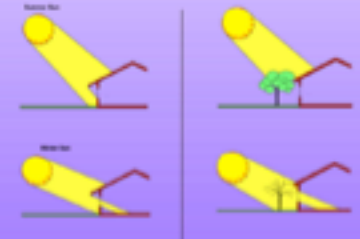
In your experience how much control do you have on orientation, site-scaping & house design?

### Passive Solar Design



Energy

### Shading Control



Energy

## Roof Systems

- These need attention too.....



## What does a roof system need?

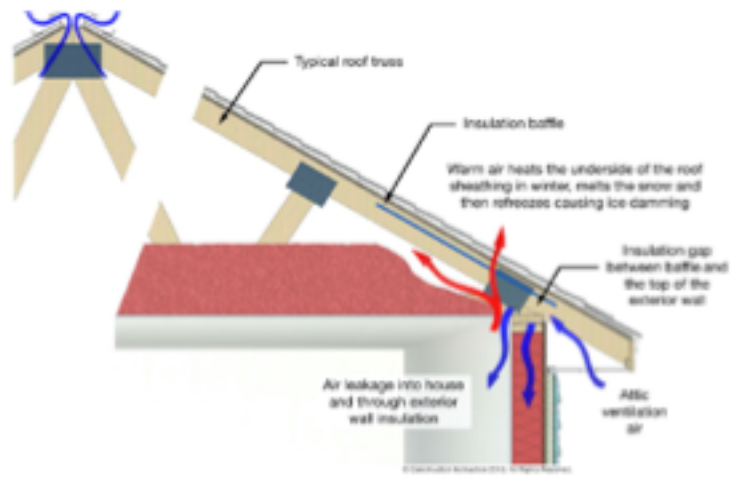
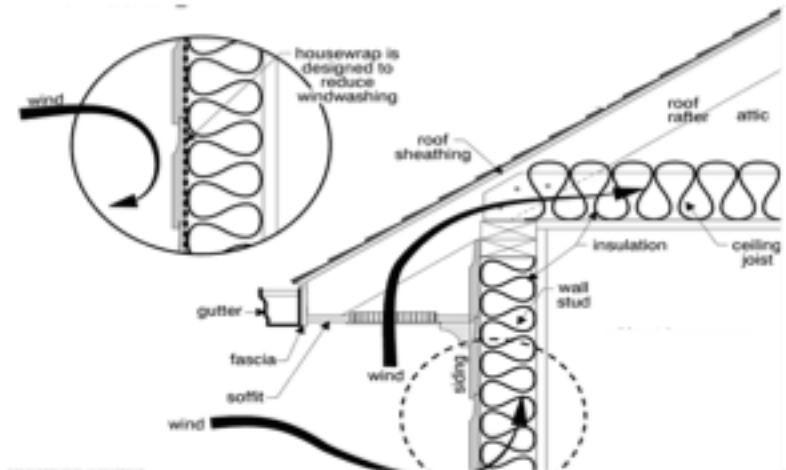
- Protection from rain penetration
- Drainage
- Flashing
- Durability
- Ventilation (always needed?)
- Proper insulation levels

Sound like our wall systems?

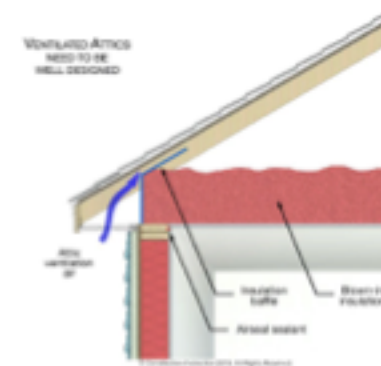


Courtesy of Construction Instructor, All rights reserved

Hipped roof details make insulating difficult

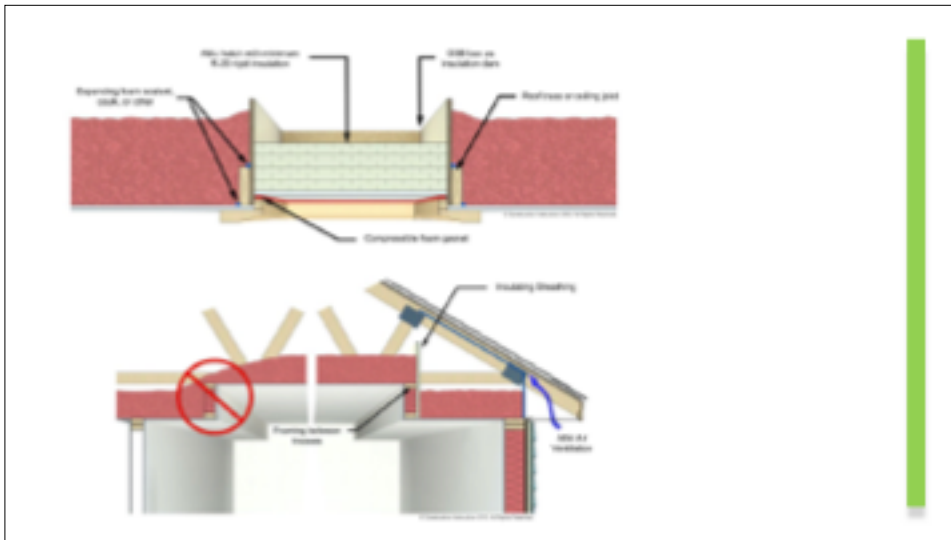


Ventilated attics need good design



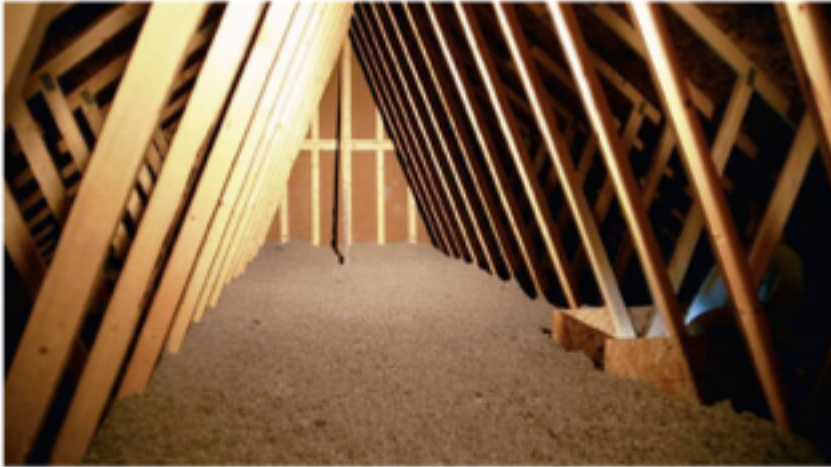


## Attic Ventilation Strategies

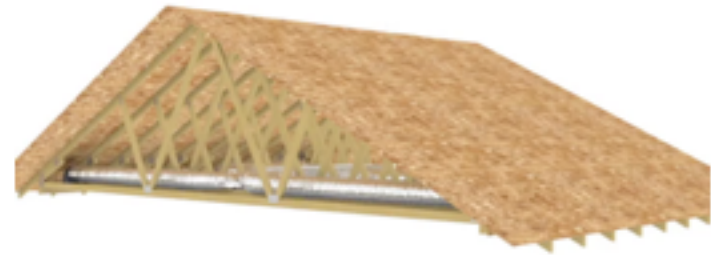


## Airsealing at wall to roof interface









## Ducts and Air Handlers in Conditioned Space



## Conditioning the Indoors

- Heating,
- Cooling,
- Ventilation and
- Indoor air quality
- Hot water

## Let's Start with Defining Comfort

- Air temperature
- Humidity
- Air speed - drafts
- Surrounding surface temperatures
- Gender, age, activities of occupants
- Metabolic rate & clothing



## Comfort – Finding the sweet spot

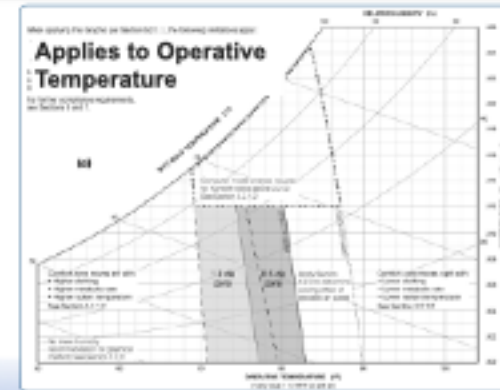


Figure 2: The new Graphical Comfort Zone Method, Figure 5.3.1.1 in Standard 55-2010 (P-number shown).



## Operative Temperature

### Operative temperature:

- The average of the **mean radiant** and ambient air temperatures, weighted by their respective heat transfer coefficients.
- Thermostats respond to air temperature
- Human **thermal comfort** responds to operative temperature



## Be Aware...

- Energy Efficiency  $\neq$  Comfort
- Builders typically have more comfort complaints than high bill complaints
- If you can't provide comfort, energy efficiency could be set back 20 years
- Need to remember comfort fundamentals



## Can we meet the expectations of our customers?

ACCA Comfort Guidelines



## Comfort – A starting point

Parameter	Setting	Range
<b>Temperature</b>		
Summer	75 °F	+/- 3 °F
Winter	72 °F	+/- 3 °F
<b>Humidity</b>		
Summer	50%	+/- 5%
Winter	35%	+/- 5%
<b>Foot Comfort</b>	63 °F	+/- 3 °F



## Heating & Cooling Systems

### Fuel choices

- Electric
- Gas
- Oil
- Wood
- Solar
- Combinations

### Distribution choices

- Central Forced air
  - In-floor
  - Baseboard
- Ductless
- Space heaters



## 1) Get heating & cooling capacity right

ACCA Sizing Standards



## Heat Flow Formulas

**Conduction heat flow** (through walls, ceilings, floors)

= (Surface Area x Temp. Diff.) / R-value

**Radiant flow** (through glass)

= Surface area x Solar incidence x Solar Heat Gain Coefficient

**Heat flow by air** (via air leakage or ventilation)

= Volume of air (CFM) x Temp. Diff. x 1.1



## HEATING – Get the Size Right

- Do Room-by-Room heat loss & gain calculation

**Based on:**

- Design Day - Winter
- Conduction losses through enclosure
- Air leakage through enclosure
- Heat losses through ducts in unconditioned space



Minneapolis, MN  
- design conditions

Condition	ASHRAE 99% / 1%
Winter, design dry bulb (F)	-15°F
Summer, design dry bulb (F)	91°F
Summer, design wet bulb (F)	71.6°F
Degree days-heating	7981
Degree days-cooling	682
Precipitation	28"
Solar incidence - South, July	110 BTUs / sq.ft

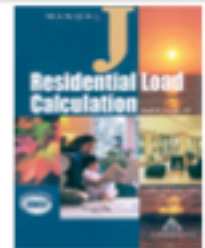


## Proper Manual J Calculations

- Numerous software packages exist
- All rely on proper data input and appropriate assumptions

Common Errors:

- Fudging design day conditions
- Using default values for air tightness, windows, insulation
- Using improper ventilation rates



**Don't tolerate oversizing; Manual J compliant programs have safety factors built in already**



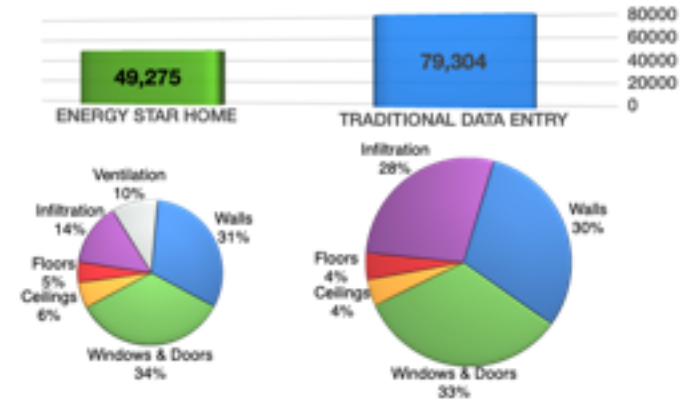
## Impact of Improper Sizing

- Short cycling
- Poor humidity control
- Poor temperature control
- Noise
- Extra cost for equipment & duct work
- Possibly higher energy bills



Parameter	Actual	Traditional
Design Temp (W)	-15 °F	Its cold here: -22 °F
Design Temp (S)	91 °F	Its getting hotter: 97 °F
Indoor Design (W)	70 °F	People are picky: 72 °F
Indoor Design (S)	75 °F	72 °F
Orientation	North Front	Worst Case - East Front
Windows	From NFRC label U=0.28, SHGC=0.28 Overhangs used	Default U=0.41, SHGC=0.32 Overhangs not used
Air tightness	Actual 2.0 ACH50	Default 7.0 ACH50
Insulation	R50 ceilings R25 walls R 15 foundation	R44 ceilings R19 walls R 10 foundation
Ventilation	ERV - 75 CFM	Exhaust fans - 75 CFM

## Design Day Heat Loss - BTUs/hr



## Design Day Heat Gain - BTUs/hr

Cooling - Sensible + Latent Loads

Latent = 6,887 BTU/hr

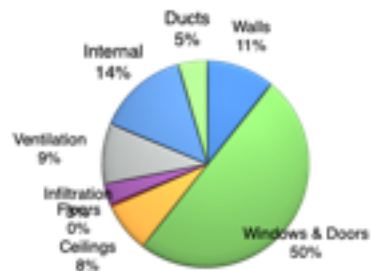
Latent = 3,918 BTU/hr

22,357

46,687

ENERGY STAR HOME

TRADITIONAL DATA ENTRY



## Provide your Contractor with Good Information

- Insulation levels
  - Wall and attic insulation levels
  - Foundation insulation
- Window data - use NFRC ratings
  - Solar heat gain coefficients
  - U values
- House Air leakage
  - This is often the single biggest variable
  - Provide blower door test values



## Approved Software Guides Better Inputs

- Insulation levels
  - Wall and attic insulation levels
  - Foundation insulation
- Window data - use NFRC ratings
  - Solar heat gain coefficients
  - U values
- House Air leakage - (this is often the single biggest variable)
  - Provide blower door test values



## Approved Software Guides Better Inputs

- Insulation levels
  - Wall and attic insulation levels
  - Foundation insulation
- Window data - use NFRC ratings
  - Solar heat gain coefficients
  - U values
- House Air leakage - (this is often the single biggest variable)
  - Provide blower door test values



## 2) Select the right equipment

ACCA Equipment Selection



## Good System Selection

Heating and cooling systems come in specific sizes

(2, 2.5, 3 ton, or 45, 70, 90 Thousand BTUs for example)

- For heating it is acceptable to select a system that is within 110% -125% of the design load - slightly oversized
- For cooling choose a system that is between 90% - 110% of design load
- Other issues:
  - Equipment location (garage, attic, crawl...)
  - Blower type (ECM, PSC, HV...)
  - Filtration needs



## Good System Selection

- Use manufacturer's technical manuals to match:
  - Required heat output
  - Required cooling output
    - Sensible & latent (moisture) loads
  - Fan / airflow delivery capacity and static pressure



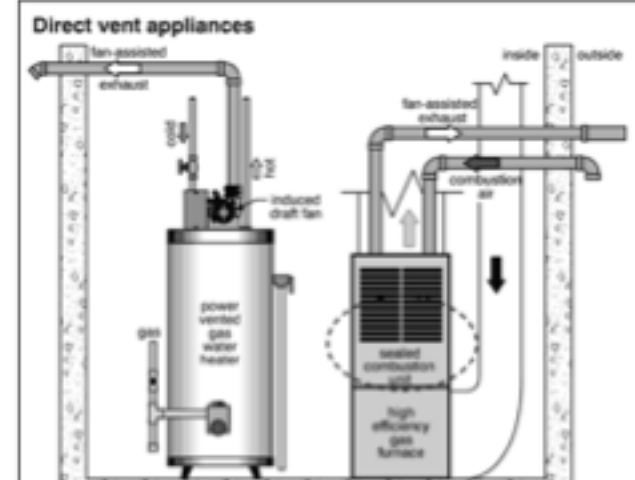
## Preferred furnace choices

- Sealed combustion chamber
- Venting system decoupled from house pressures
- Efficiencies of 90%+
- High efficiency blower motors - ECM
- Two/multi stage heating



## Combustion Safety

- Easy Stuff!!
- Switch to closed combustion equipment or heat pumps
- Furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces
- Even if the equipment is located in the garage or attic
- Properly vent gas cooking appliances
- These better choices have the added benefit of improving efficiency and effectiveness



## Power Vent Water Heaters

- New models are much quieter
- Enable long venting
- Can overcome significant negative pressures
- Usually they are electronic ignition
- Look for new ENERGY STAR qualified products
- Tank or tankless options

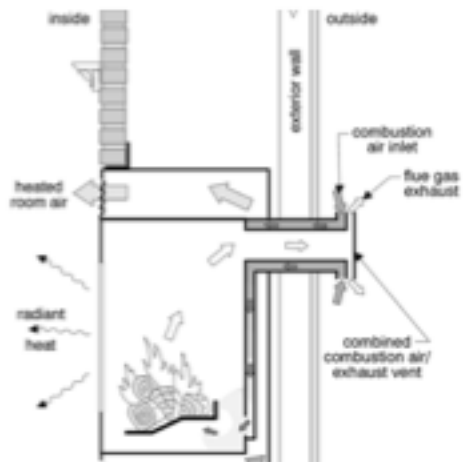


## Heat Pump Water Heaters are an Option

- New models are much quieter
- Energy Factors of >2.0
- Provides some cooling capacity
- Can provide dehumidification capacity

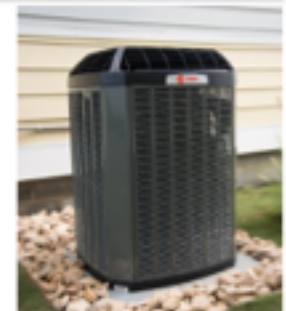






## Preferred AC choices

- Outdoor condenser matched to indoor coil
- SEER ratings of 14+
- High efficiency blower motors - ECM
- Two - stage cooling
- Dehumidification cycles



## New Realities in HVAC Design & Performance

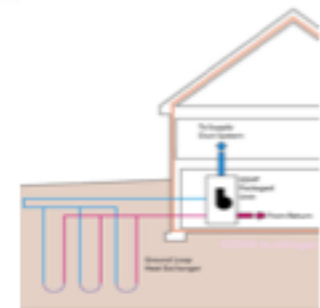
### High Performance homes need more efficient motors!

- Capable of meeting small loads, part loads and full loads!
- Use 1/5 of original PSC motor types.
- Run efficiently at a variety of speeds (Modulation)
- Equipment lasts longer
- Enables balanced temperatures throughout home
- Enhances Ventilation "Effectiveness"



## What about Heat Pumps?

- Is it the first thing to do?
- Reliance on electric grid
- Can do water or air
- High Performance homes help reduce capital cost
- "250% to 400%" efficiency



## Energy Efficiency

- Heat pumps are hard to overlook
- COPs of 2 to 4
- Be mindful of rating points and operating conditions – cold weather



## Example of a different strategy - Ductless opportunities

- Provides zoning
- Can target specific high load areas
- In very high performance homes, it could provide all heating & cooling needs



## 3) Design the ducts correctly

ACCA Duct Design



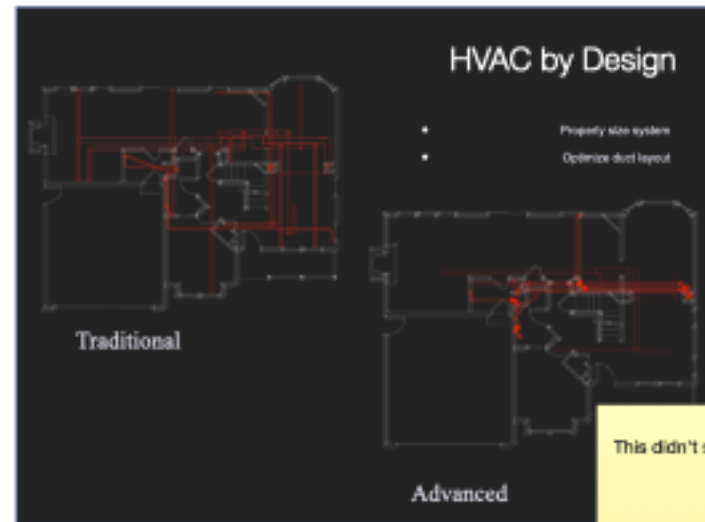
## Distribution Systems

- HVAC contractor must use the heat loss/gain calculations to properly size duct work
  - It is critical to consider the entire system and process.
    - Layout & location of distribution system
    - Materials used - flexible duct or sheet metal, insulated or non-insulated
    - Impact on pressurization of rooms or spaces
    - Effective occupant comfort control



## BTU/hr Carrying Capacity

Duct size	Airflow CFM	25 °F Cooling	45 °F Heating	55 °F Heating
4"	30-40	800 -1100	1485 -1980	1815 - 2420
5"	50-60	1300 -1650	<b>2375 - 3960</b>	3025 - 3630
6"	90-110	2475 -3025	4455 - 5445	5445 - 6710



Ducts in Conditioned Space  
4 options  
attics are an option  
It can raise the value of a home



Place the ducts in conditioned space

A dropped ceiling in the hallway can be effective



Ducts are now properly insulated and any duct leakage is to the interior



Properly sized and located grilles “throw” air to the perimeter windows and walls



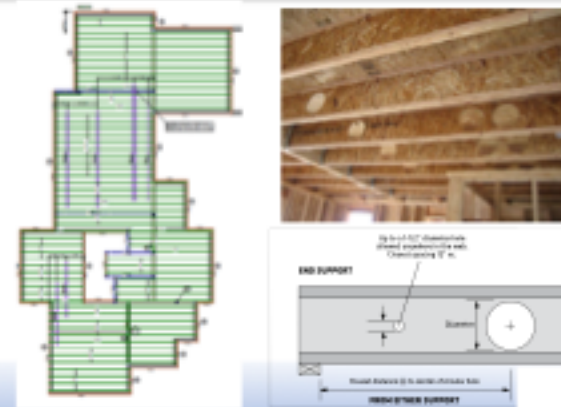
Using floor cavities is an option

It can raise the value of a home



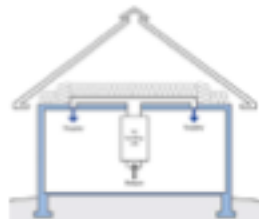


## Layout your floors to accommodate duct work



## Buried Ducts are an Option

- Mastic with a brush is quickest & best



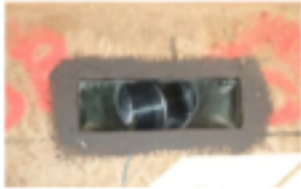
## Seal Ducts

- Mastic with a brush is quickest & best



## Sealing Ducts Matters!!!

- Getting air where you need it
- Allowing balancing & seasonal adjustment to work
- Empowers zoning to work



## Zoning will become more important

- Matching seasonal load adjustments
- Example – basements
- Accurate delivery of part loads
- Making best use of equipment capacity

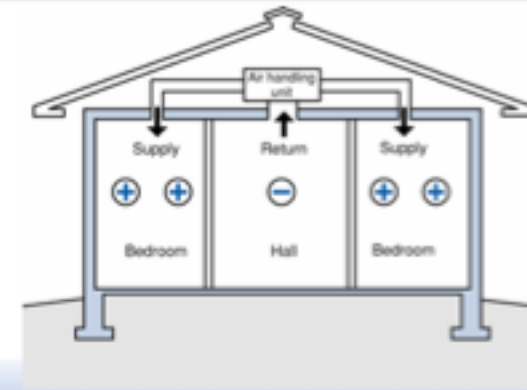


## Ducted Returns will become expected

- A good choice is to hard duct returns...strategically to a centralized location

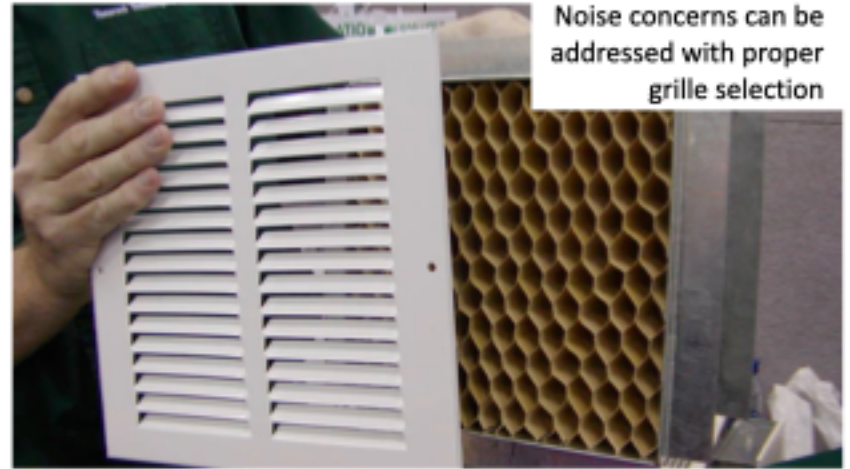
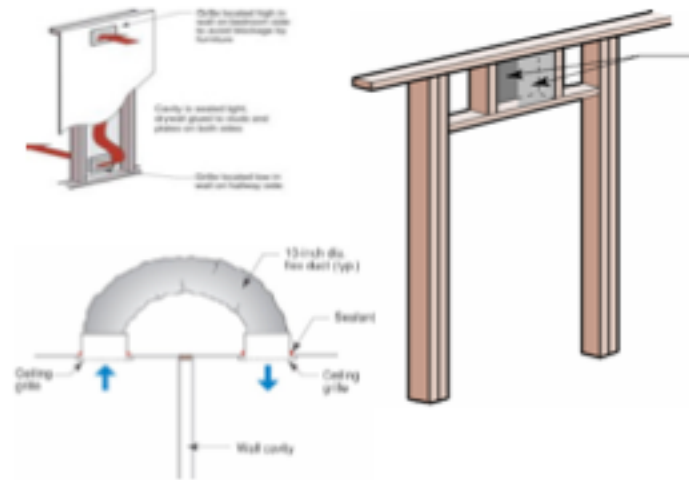


## Return Air Paths



Graphics Courtesy of Building Science Corp.





## Radiant in-Floor Heat

- Heat surfaces, not air
- Lower noise
- Comfort on concrete floors
- Ideal for basements & "floor warming"
- Requires additional systems for AC, humidity control and filtration

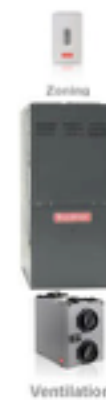


## Controls



## Smarter Controls

- Anticipating change
- Outdoor reset
- Time of use rate decisions
- Programming & integrating functions
- Fan cycles
- Humidification
- Dehumidification
- Ventilation
- Real time diagnostics



Ventilation









## Verification / Commissioning

5 key tests




The EEBA logo, featuring a stylized green house icon with the letters "EEBA" in blue below it.

### Testing for performance - 1) Flow at the air handler



Two photographs illustrating the testing process. The left photo shows a technician in a blue shirt working on an air handler unit in a mechanical room. The right photo is a close-up of a hand holding a white air filter or grille, with a sensor or probe inserted into it.



The EEBA logo, featuring a stylized green house icon with the letters "EEBA" in blue below it.

### 2) Air flow at grilles or registers

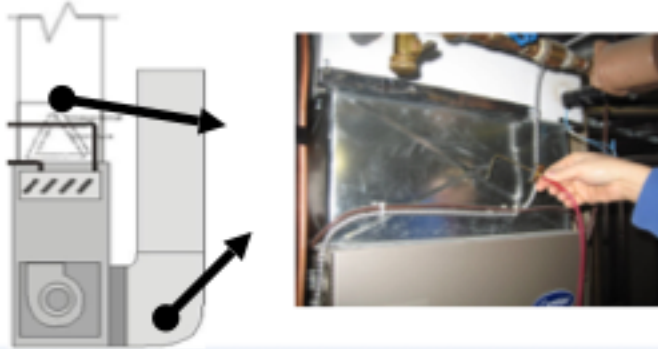


A photograph of a black and blue air flow measurement device, likely a velocity probe or anemometer, positioned in front of a window to measure air flow.

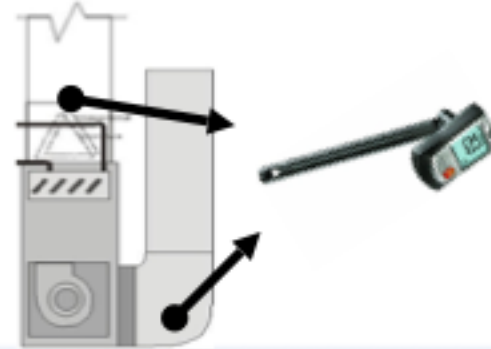


The EEBA logo, featuring a stylized green house icon with the letters "EEBA" in blue below it.

### 3) Pressures at the air handler



### 4) Temperature rise / fall across the air handler



### 5) Refrigerate Verification



### EPA's Indoor air PLUS Program

An excellent opportunity for builders & HVAC contractors

- Moisture control
- HVAC: heating, cooling, ventilation, filtration
- Combustion and garage isolation
- Commissioning the building
- Radon control
- Pest barriers
- Healthy building materials



## Valuable Resources



- ✓ Moisture control
- ✓ HVAC: heating, cooling, ventilation, filtration
- ✓ Combustion and garage isolation
- ✓ Commissioning the building
- ✓ Radon control
  - Pest barriers
  - Healthy building materials



ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 07)  
HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist<sup>1</sup>

Item	Pass	Fail	NA
1.1 Fuel type, tank location			
1.2 Fuel Storage Method			
1.3 Equipment Location Method			
1.4 Fuel Line "Supports"			
1.5 Orientation of Fuel Lines (e.g., Heat, Draft)			
1.6 Number of Occupants Served by System			
1.7 Conditioned Floor Area in Fuel Home			
1.8 Heating System Fuel Storage			
1.9 Prohibited Window Storage or Fuel Home			
1.10 Air Barrier Test in Fuel Home			
1.11 Mechanical Ventilation Fans in Fuel Home			
1.12 Garage Exhaust Heat Exch.			
1.13 Garage Ventilation Heat Exch.			
1.14 Garage Tank Heat Exch.			
1.15 Garage Tank Heat Exch.			
1.16 Garage Tank Heat Exch.			
1.17 Garage Tank Heat Exch.			
1.18 Garage Tank Heat Exch.			
1.19 Garage Tank Heat Exch.			
1.20 Fuel Line Installation Report Attached			



## Lets think about water heating

5 key tests



## Hot Water Usage Relevance

- Hot water use is still on its way up
- Wait times are an issue
  - Waste of water
  - Perception of energy waste

Main uses for household hot water



Source: Canadian Building Energy End-Use Data and Analysis Centre



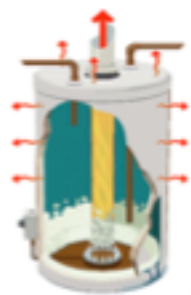
### Minimum 2016 Requirements

### Example EF

	Minimum 2016 Requirements	Example EF
<b>Gas</b>	<b>Storage:</b>	
	<55 us gal. EF = 0.675 – (gal x 0.0015)	40 us gal = 0.62
	>55 us gal. EF = 0.8012 – (gal x 0.00078)	60 us gal = 0.75
	<b>Tankless:</b>	
	EF = 0.62 – (gal x 0.0019)	Typical = 0.80
<b>Oil</b>	EF = 0.68 – (gal. x 0.0019)	50 gal = 0.585
<b>Electric</b>	<55 gal. EF = 0.960 – (gal x 0.0003)	40 gal = 0.95
	>55 gal. EF = 2.057 – (gal x 0.00113)	60 gal = 1.98

## What's the Right Choice?

- Fuel access?
- Number of people?
- Patterns of use?
- Space / location limits?
- Climate zone?
- Efficiency of the home?
- Other mechanicals?
- Expectations of clients?
- Other?



Traditional Tank  
EF < 0.60



Tankless = +0.80



Condensing  
water heater =0.88

## Solar Thermal Water Heaters

- A great preheat strategy for tankless, storage water heaters & HPWHs – increases their capacity
- 50-60% of annual hot water needs are easily provided
- Excess hot water can be used to heat swimming pools
- Requires freeze protection & annual maintenance



## IAQ & Ventilation



## Indoor Air Quality is Important to our Clients

20% of households have someone with asthma, allergies or respiratory problems



... poor IAQ may cost 10% of billions annually in lost productivity  
EPA



Air cleaners are a \$1.2 Billion industry



## IAQ...Why is it a bigger issue than ever?

### Change in the way we build

- Tighter
- More chemicals
- Air conditioning

### Change in the way we live

- 90% of time indoors
- Don't open windows
- More moisture

### Change in products we use

- Carpets & furnishings
- Cleaners & hygiene
- More "stuff" inside



## IAQ Control Strategies

REMOVE  
SEAL  
VENTILATE  
FILTER



## IAQ Control Strategies

### 1. Remove Pollutants

### 2. Source control

- "Seal" or isolate
- If you can't remove it find a way to isolate or seal it

### 3. Ventilate

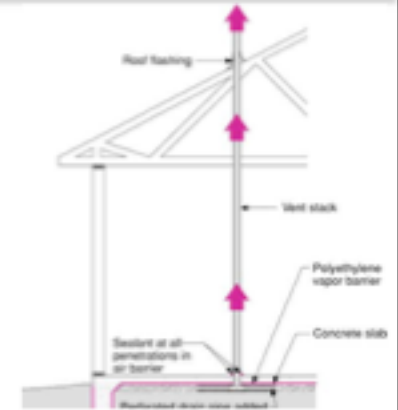
- Dilute pollutants with "fresh" outdoor air
- Point source removal

### 4. Filter



## Radon Control

- Seal slab and foundation wall cracks
- Seal sump pits
- Provide sub-slab depressurization
- Properly ventilate houses
- Proper perimeter drainage systems
- Poly and stone under slabs



## Ventilation

*Ventilation - a system or means of providing fresh air.*

*Webster New Collegiate Dictionary*

We used to ventilate with windows, now we don't

All homes need Capacity for Mechanical Ventilation

- To control moisture
- To remove common pollutants
- To ensure good indoor air quality for occupants



## How Much Ventilation? ASHRAE 62.2 - 2013

### Whole House - Continuous "Capacity"

Based on # of occupants & size of home

$$\text{CFM} = (\# \text{ of bedrooms} + 1) \times 7.5 + (0.03 \times \text{cond. ft}^2)$$

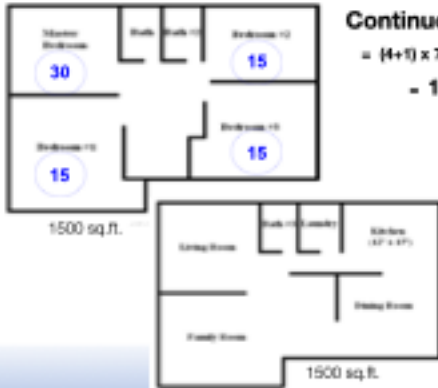
OR USE THE TABLE

*Controls moisture and common occupant pollutants*

Floor Area Sq. ft	# of Bedrooms		
	1	2-3	4-5
<1500	60	75	90
1501 - 2500	90	105	120
2501 - 3500	120	135	150
3501 - 5000	165	180	195



## Ventilation Sizing Example



### Continuous Capacity

$$= (4 \times 1) \times 7.5 + (0.03 \times 3000) \\ = 128 \text{ CFM}$$



## Local Exhaust Ventilation



ASHRAE 62.2 minimum requirements for both rooms & kitchens

### ASHRAE 62.2 Minimum Exhaust Flow Rate

	Continuous	Intermittent
<b>Kitchen</b>	60 CFM	100 CFM
<b>Bathroom</b>	20 CFM	50 CFM

### HVI Kitchen Range Exhaust Flow Rate

Location of Range	Recommended per Linear Ft of Range	Minimum per Linear Ft of Range
Against a Wall	100 CFM	40 CFM
In an Island	150 CFM	50 CFM

For Gas Ranges recommend 100 CFM / 10,000 BTUs of burner capacity



## Ventilation Strategies may impact air leakage patterns

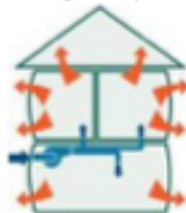
### Negative Pressure

- In humid climates can pull moist air into building envelopes



### Positive Pressure

- In cold climates can force moist air into building envelopes



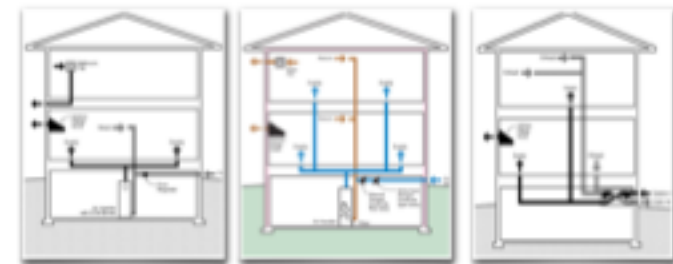
The tighter the house, the greater the pressure effect

### Balanced

- Best in all climate zones



## Types of Mechanical Ventilation



Exhaust

Supply

Balanced



## Ventilation Opportunities

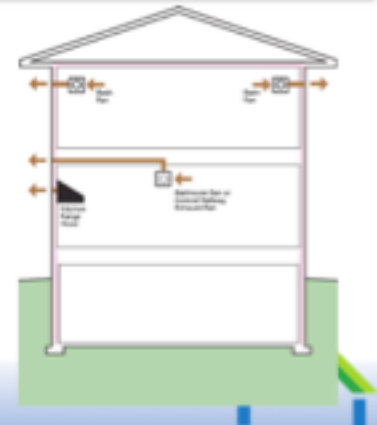
### Rated, Tested, Labeled Product

- Always use HVI Certified fans
- Choose ENERGY STAR Qualified Fan and HRVs



## Exhaust Only Ventilation

- Specify good quiet fans in bathrooms and kitchen
- Bath fans with sound ratings under 1.5 sones
- Can be used for point source control or general ventilation
- Use timers or other controls to extend usage
- Recall that large exhaust fans can cause negative pressure



## Control Strategies for "Continuous" Exhaust

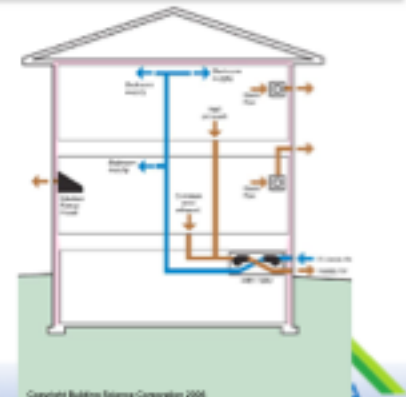
*Fan manufacturers have many new, helpful control strategies*

- Continuous Low
- High speed occupancy
- Cycle timed



## Balanced ventilation with heat or energy recovery

- Remote mounted multiple room pick-up and delivery
- Draw from the common area and supply to all bedrooms
- Central fan integration is also used



Copyright Building Science Corporation 2006



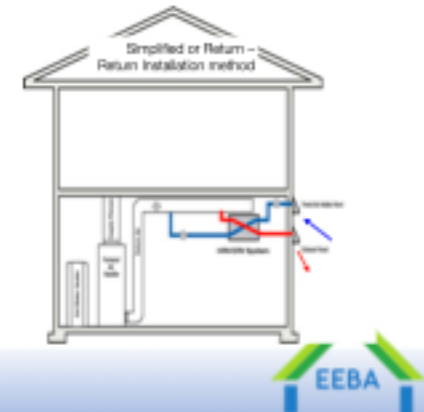
## Installation Options

- There are different options for installation depending on application needs
- Often the furnace duct system is used to distribute fresh air
- When possible, run exhaust ducts from bathrooms & kitchens

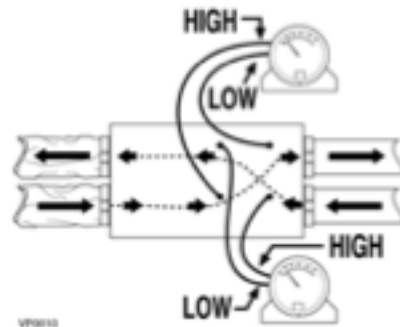


## Balanced Ventilation with Heat Recovery

- HRVs / ERVs for continuous ventilation
- Choose Home Ventilating Institute (HVI) certified
- Select units with the right air flow.



## HRVs / ERVs - Balancing Flows



## Ventilation Impact on Heat / Cool Loads

75 CFM of ventilation will increase HVAC loads

### Cold Weather

At -20 °F

- Ventilation adds 7300 BTUs to heating loads
- Ventilation can remove up to 7 gallons of water per day

### Hot Weather

At 105 °F and dry

- Ventilation adds 2500 BTUs (1/5 of a ton) to cooling loads
- At 95 °F and humid
- Ventilation adds 4500 BTUs (just over 1/3 of a ton) to cooling loads
- 2/3 of this load is latent (moisture)

*These loads can be reduced by up to 80% through the use of heat / energy recovery technology*



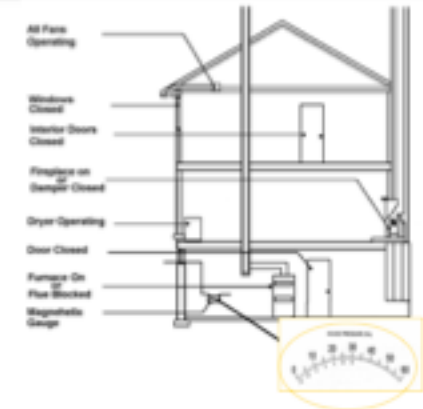
## The Cost of Ventilation – 75 CFM continuous

Electric costs	\$0.06 / kW	\$0.12 / kW	\$0.18 / kW
Gas heat costs	\$1.20 / Therm	\$1.20 / Therm	\$1.20 / Therm
<b>North</b> (Duluth, MN)	\$225/yr	\$260/yr	\$290/yr
<b>Mixed</b> (Louisville, KY)	\$145/yr	\$195/yr	\$240/yr
<b>Hot, Humid</b> (Miami, FL)	\$ 125/yr	\$195/yr	\$285/yr



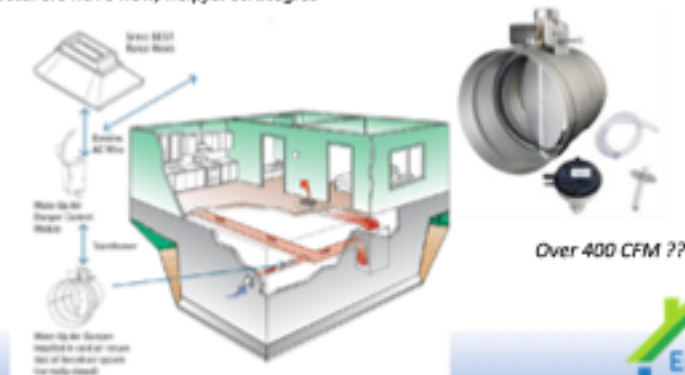
## Depressurization Testing

- Use a pressure gauge to measure pressure between outside and inside
- Turn on exhaust fans
- If pressure is below 5 Pa (0.02" w.g.) then no action is required (typically)
- Otherwise provide make-up air



## What about make-up air?

Fan manufacturers have new, helpful strategies



## The importance of Dehumidification

Sensible loads are down:

- Better windows
- Better walls
- Better ceilings

Latent loads are up:

- More time indoors
- More plumbing
- More consistent ventilation

HVAC design must include dehumidification, to supplement air conditioning



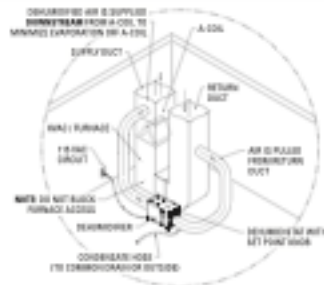
## Dehumidification Strategies

### Strategies:

- 2 stage AC units with humidity controls
- ERVs for ventilation
- Portable dehumidifiers
- Whole house dehumidifiers

### Whole House System Advantages:

- High moisture removal capacity
- Up to 120 pints per day
- Can be integrated with AC controls
- May allow downsizing of AC system by 1/2 to 1 ton
- Filtered and drained near the central system



## Critical Dehumidification Applications

- Basements in cold climates for spring and fall
- In hot, humid climates to supplement AC & ventilation loads
- In coastal climates to aid drying of construction moisture



## Filtration

- Filtration at the furnace works and is cost effective
- Commonly located in the return duct of the air handler
- Choose a filter with a rating of MERV 13 or better
- The better the filter, the more it restricts air flow, understand the appliance needs



## Filtration Options



- 1" – 4" Pleated Filters
- MERV 8-13
  - May restrict air flow



- 1" Electrostatic
- MERV 6-10
  - Simple, washable
  - May restrict air flow



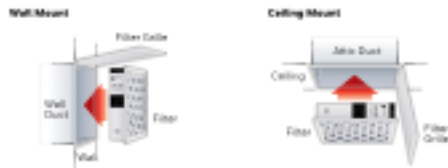
- Electronic Filter
- No MERV ratings
  - Good at removing small particles
  - Needs cleaning every 6-8 weeks
  - May give off small amounts of ozone



## Media Filters offer flexibility



Air Handler Cabinet



Return Air Grille Filter

Consider Pressure Drop across the filter:  
Less than 0.2" W.C. should be adequate



## Summary

- Creating better envelopes
- Include ventilation on every project, performance and rationalize costs
- Choose effective, efficient, quiet fans and appliances
- Challenge your mechanical contractor to participate in your quest improving total system performance



Changing your  
process  
Where does actual  
change begin?



## Who will be responsible for change?

---

### Select key people

- Top management
- Top field staff
- Key sub-contractors
- Testing professionals
- Architects & designers
- Sales management staff



## Creating a plan to move forward

---

- Define the concerns, plan for the solution and set a timeframe



## What Now?

---

### **Tomorrow**

- Evaluate flashing
- Review insulation quality
- Review duct installations
- Test a few homes to establish your basis

### **Two Weeks**

- Review bids for change
- Create internal teams responsible for change
- Set goals for future direction



## Create goals and prioritize them by both complexity and risk

Short Term Goals		
Timeframe: 1 to 6 months		
Construction Detail	Best Practice	Complexity (1=Basic, 5=Complex)
<b>Combustion safety</b>		
Atmospherically sealed furnace	Sealed combustion furnace	1
Return plenum connected to garage	Seal duct with water-based mastic, like MGD-4	2
"Fresh" air intake connected to garage	Seal all duct seams with water-based mastic and protect duct with draped walls	2
Leaky house/garage wall connection	Continuous air sealing	2
<b>Water Management</b>		
Flashing at Roof/Wall Connections	Kick-out flashing, proper lapping of Tyvek and shoe flashing, shoe sealed attached to header with gelling	2
Window flashing	Flap flashing, proper installation sequence and integration with Tyvek	4
Penetration flashing	Correct hole sizes, Tyvek Flap strap patches, Tyvek lapping detail	2
Flashing attention to detail	Taping seams & tears, proper lapping, ensuring full coverage	1
<b>Thermal Shell Improvements</b>		
Walls	Ensure insulation is installed properly - must be full-depth, no gaps, or compression	2
Attics	Insulation must be installed to consistent depth, proper sequencing of Framing and Mechanical trades	3
<b>Air Sealing</b>		
Exhausts	Seal large air leaks with combination of proper blocking and gull barn	2
Key leaks	Seal house to garage connection	2

## Create goals and prioritize them by both complexity and risk

Long Term Goals		
Timeframe: 12 to 24 months		
Construction Detail	Best Practice	Complexity (1=Basic, 5=Complex)
<b>Testing and Commissioning</b>		
Set performance goals	Testing a handful of current homes will benchmark current construction only then will you be able to make performance goals	3
Energy Star certification	Find "Energy Star Provider" in Portland	4
<b>Marketing of High Performance</b>		
How do you tell your story?	Differentiate yourself in the Portland market Engage sales people with selling high performance	4

## Marketing for Performance

Selling the benefits of health, safety, durability & performance



## Marketing and communicating





## Communicating to buyers



## The High Performance Home Investment - a "no brainer"



## Get Started !!

- Develop new standards for performance
- Train your crews and subcontractors
- Reward new ideas to improve a technique
- Demonstrate new features in models
- Market your leadership position
- Document performance improvements
- Solicit customer testimonials



## Thank You

### EEBA Certification Series



- The Houses That Work Building Science workshop
- The HERS Associate Course
- The High Performance Mechanical Systems course

For more information:

[www.eeba.org](http://www.eeba.org)

