

# Wingnut Testing: How PSA tapes, liquid sealants, basement waterproofing systems, and roof venting really work



Dave Gauthier, WTF CEO

Peter Yost, Chief Wingnut

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WTF?

# It all started innocently enough...

Bird's-Eye View

Key Materials

Builder Tips

## ADHESIVE/SEALANT

Low-VOC construction adhesive [more](#)

## BRICK VENEER

Brick is like a big hard sponge — let it dry, and everything is OK [more](#)

## RIGID INSULATION FOR WALLS

Types of rigid insulation [more](#)

## SHEATHING DRAINAGE MAT

Alternatives to sheathing drainage mat [more](#)

## SILL SEALERS

Thicker sill sealers are better [more](#)

## SILL SEALER

Sill sealer keeps sills or bottom plates away from concrete [more](#)

## CONTINUOUS BEAD OF SEALANT

Which caulks and sealants works best, and where? [more](#)

## CAVITY INSULATION

Which insulation is greenest? [more](#)

## 1/2" GYPSUM BOARD

Greener choices exist [more](#)

## INTERIOR FINISH

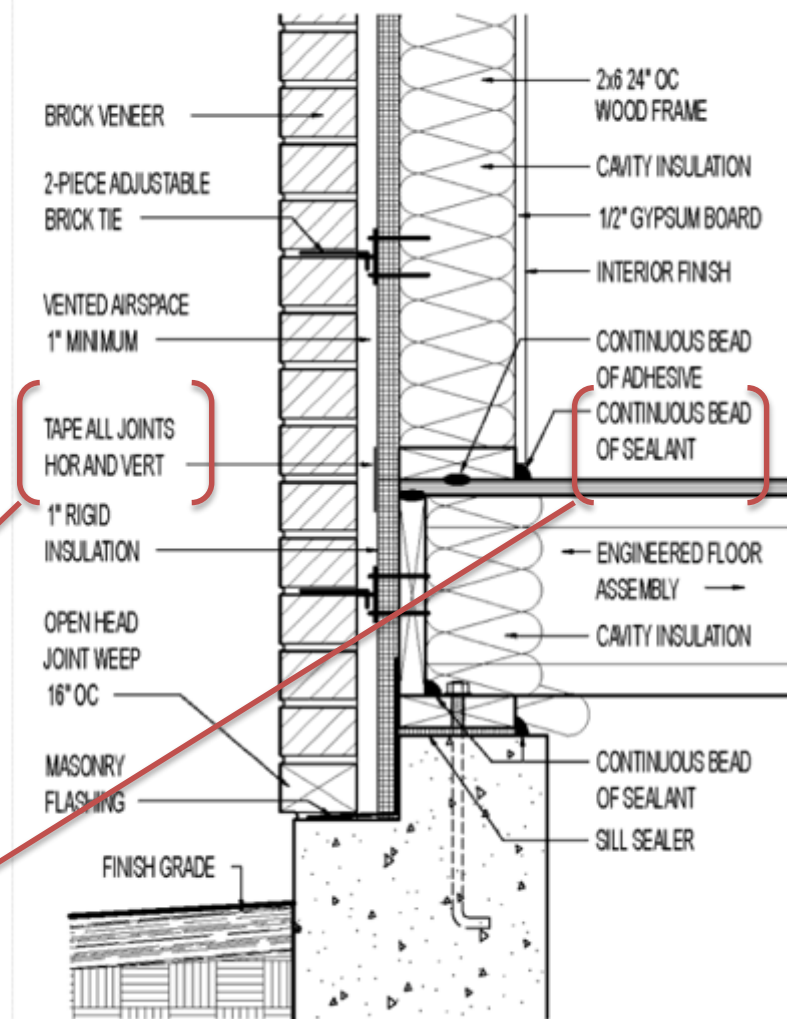
Let interior finishes let the walls dry [more](#)

## 2-PIECE ADJUSTABLE MASONRY TIE

Two-piece ties hold better; stainless steel lasts longer [more](#)

DRAWING DETAIL

Download: PDF | DWG



“TAPE ALL JOINTS HOR AND VERT”

“CONTINUOUS BEAD OF SEALANT”



## Test methods adhesives

### Adhesives ASTM Standard test methods

### Method

Resistance of Adhesive Bonds to Chemical Reagents	<a href="#">D896-97</a>
Tensile Properties of Adhesive Bonds	<a href="#">D897-95a</a>
Applied Weight Per Unit Area of Dried Adhesive Solids	<a href="#">D898-96</a>
Peel or Stripping Strength of Adhesive Bonds	<a href="#">D903-98</a>
Exposure of Adhesive Specimens to Artificial Light	<a href="#">D904-99</a>
Strength Properties of Adhesive Bonds in Shear by Compression Loading	<a href="#">D905-98</a>
Strength Properties of Adhesives in Plywood Type Construction in Shear by Tension Loading	<a href="#">D906-98</a>
Standard Terminology of Adhesives	<a href="#">D907-99</a>
Impact Strength of Adhesive Bonds	<a href="#">D950-98</a>
Apparent Shear Strength of Single-Lap-Joint Adhesively Bonded Metal Specimens by Tension Loading (Metal-to-Metal)	<a href="#">D1002-99</a>
Cleavage Strength of Metal-to-Metal Adhesive Bonds	<a href="#">D1062-96e1</a>
Standard Test Methods for Viscosity of Adhesives	<a href="#">D1084-97</a>
Determining Strength Development of Adhesive Bonds	<a href="#">D1144-99</a>
Effect of Moisture and Temperature on Adhesive Bonds	<a href="#">D1151-90</a>
Resistance of Adhesives to Cyclic Laboratory Aging Conditions	<a href="#">D1183-96e1</a>
Flexural Strength of Adhesive Bonded Laminated Assemblies	<a href="#">D1184-98</a>
Storage Life of Adhesives by Consistency and Bond Strength	<a href="#">D1337-96</a>
Working Life of Liquid or Paste Adhesives by Consistency and Bond Strength	<a href="#">D1338-99</a>
Standard Specification for Adhesive for Acoustical Materials	<a href="#">D1779-98</a>
Conducting Creep Tests of Metal-to-Metal Adhesives	<a href="#">D1780-99</a>
Climbing Drum Peel for Adhesives	<a href="#">D1781-98</a>
Atmospheric Exposure of Adhesive-Bonded Joints and Structures	<a href="#">D1828-96</a>
Peel Resistance of Adhesives (T-Peel Test)	<a href="#">D1876-95</a>
Preparation of Surfaces of Plastics Prior to Adhesive Bonding	<a href="#">D2093-97</a>
Preparation of Bar and Rod Specimens for Adhesion Tests	<a href="#">D2094-91</a>
Tensile Strength of Adhesives by Means of Bar and Rod Specimens	<a href="#">D2095-96e1</a>
Creep Properties of Adhesives in Shear by Compression Loading (Metal-to-Metal)	<a href="#">D2293-96</a>
Creep Properties of Adhesives in Shear by Tension Loading (Metal-to-Metal)	<a href="#">D2294-96</a>
Strength Properties of Adhesives in Shear by Tension Loading at Elevated Temperatures (Metal-to-Metal)	<a href="#">D2295-96</a>
Standard Guide for Preparation of Metal Surfaces for Adhesive Bonding	<a href="#">D2651-90</a>
Durability Assessment of Adhesive Joints Stressed in Peel	<a href="#">D2918-99</a>
Determining Durability of Adhesive Joints Stressed in Shear by Tension Loading	<a href="#">D2919-95</a>
Flexural Properties of Metal-to-Metal Adhesively Bonded Test Methods	<a href="#">D3111-93</a>

# Lab Test Conditions

- Stainless steel substrate
- Clean substrate
- Warm (70 F)
- Dry (including 50% RH)

Clean trimmed fingernails

Surgical scissors instead of utility knife?

Bare soft hands



# Job site conditions

- Cold
- Dirty
- Wet



# Context - Caveats

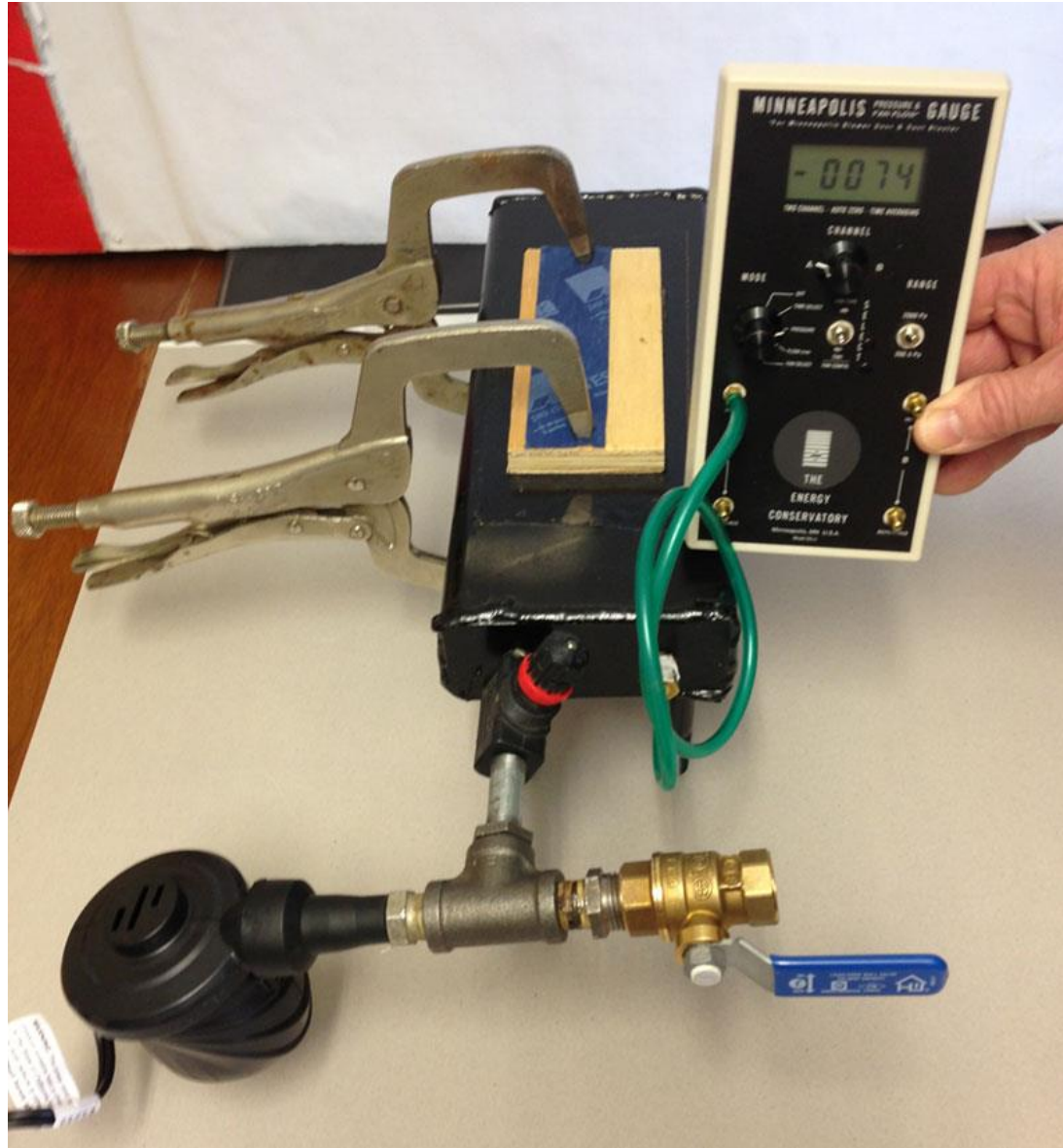
- We are, after all...wingnuts
- Sample sizes of two are anecdotal, not statistically significant
- Our results are contextual and we ask that you not generalize them...
- We do our best to involve manufacturers
- Our mission statement: cajole adult supervision...



# WTF work to-date

- PSA tapes
- Negative-side waterproofing
- Roof venting
- Bit of range hood testing

# GBA: PSA tape



# GBA: NSW



# GBA: Roof Venting





# GBA: Range hoods



# Liquid sealants and adhesive tapes



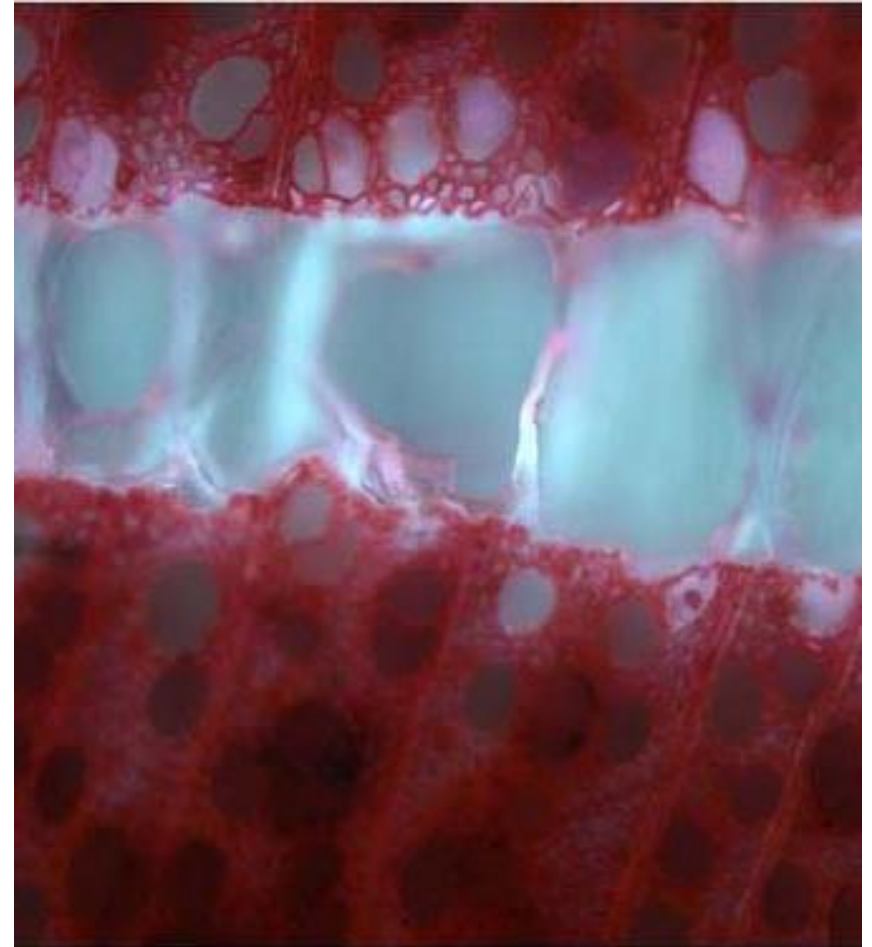
# Why are some things “sticky?”





# Why are some things “sticky?”

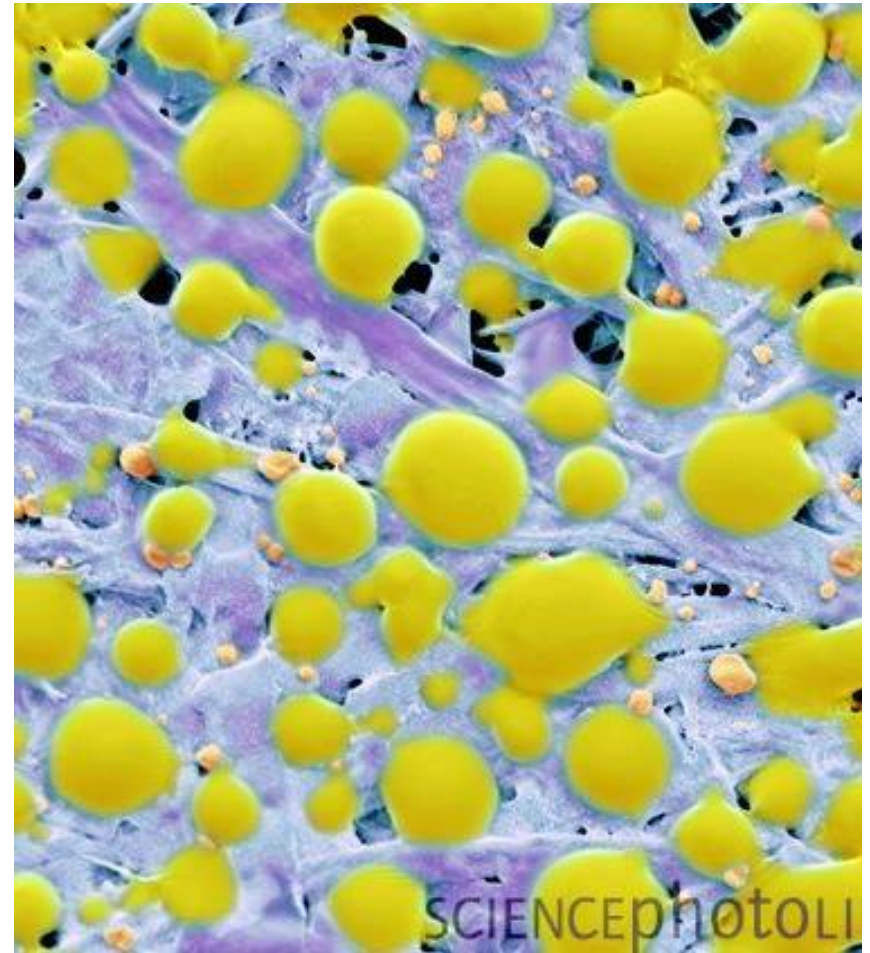
- Physical bonding (both substances stay the same)
  - Polymers (big chains of repeated content) that can “wet”
  - “Favorable thermodynamic surface energies”
  - Molecular mobility





# Why are some things “sticky?”

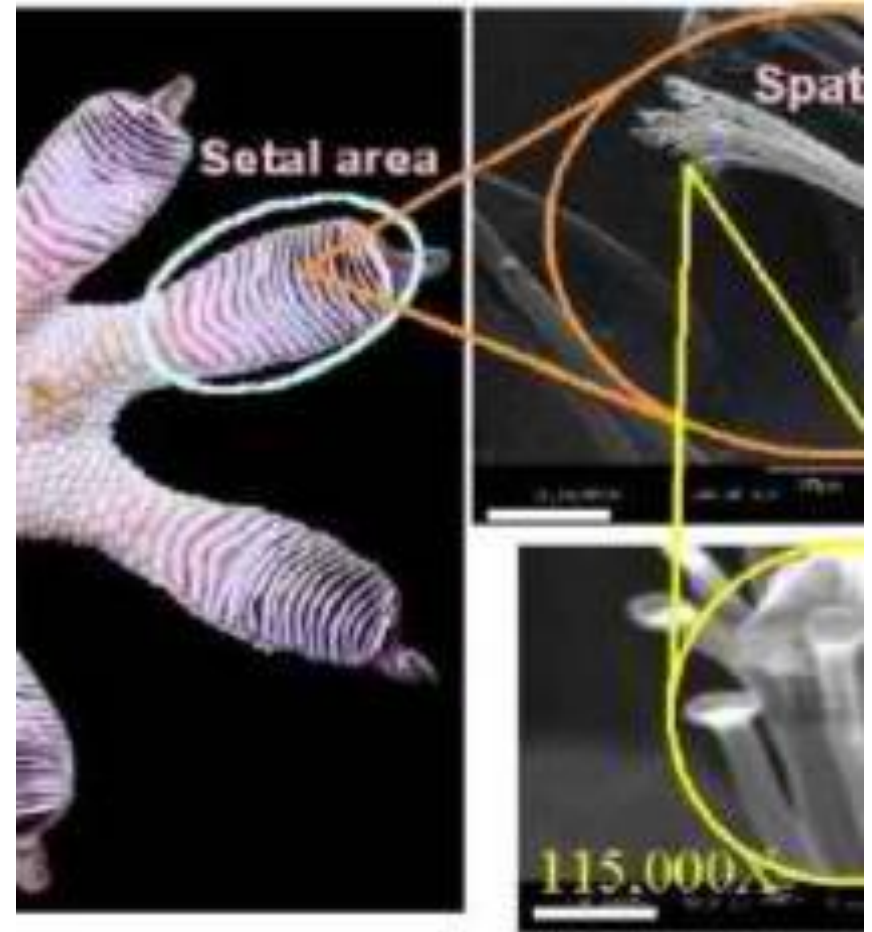
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SCIENCEPHOTO

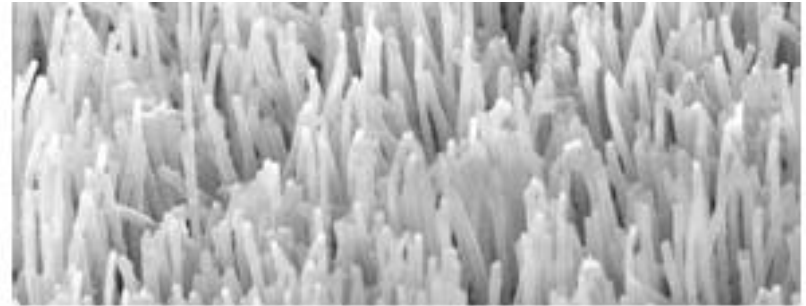
# Why are some things “sticky?”

- Maybe think of it as atomic level velcro...
- It takes energy to pull the materials apart

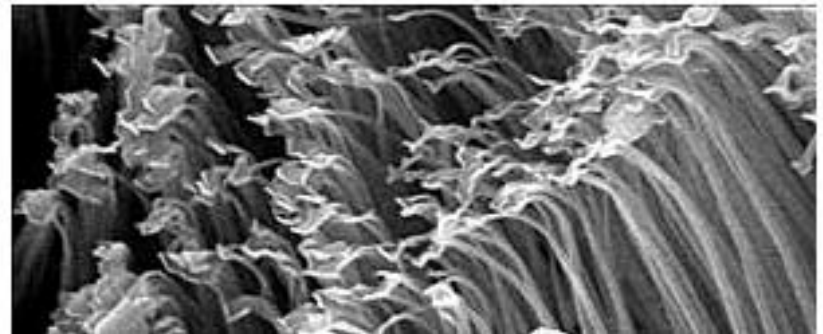


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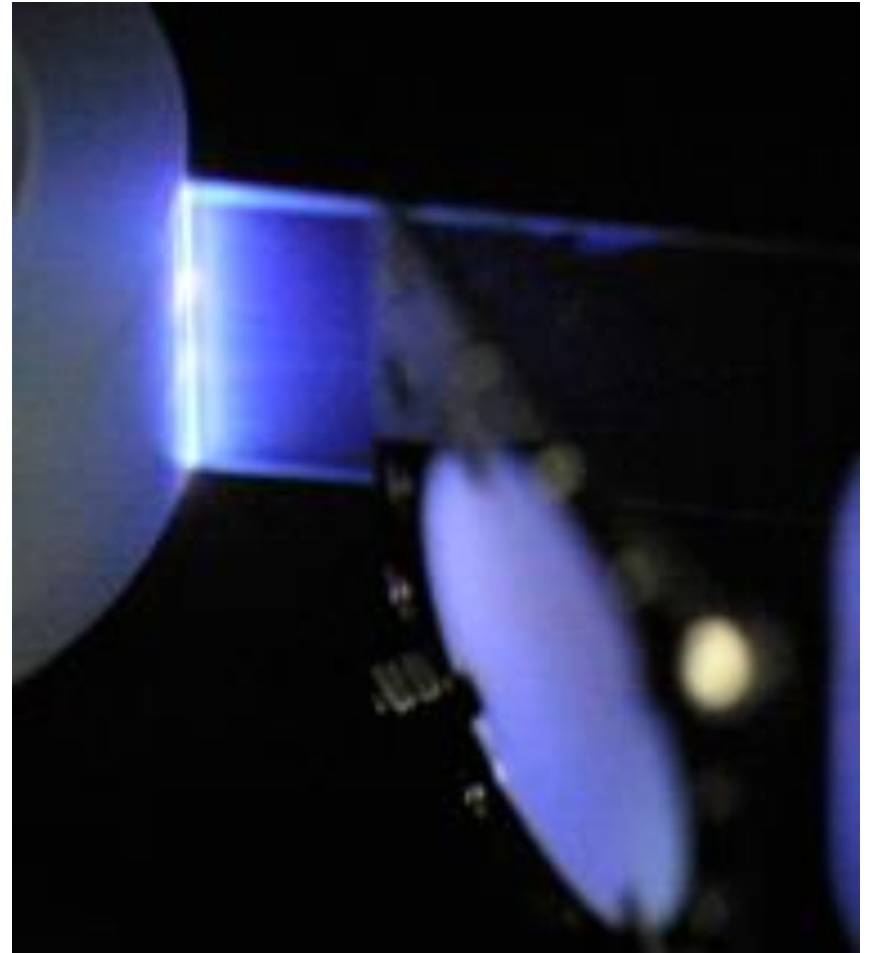
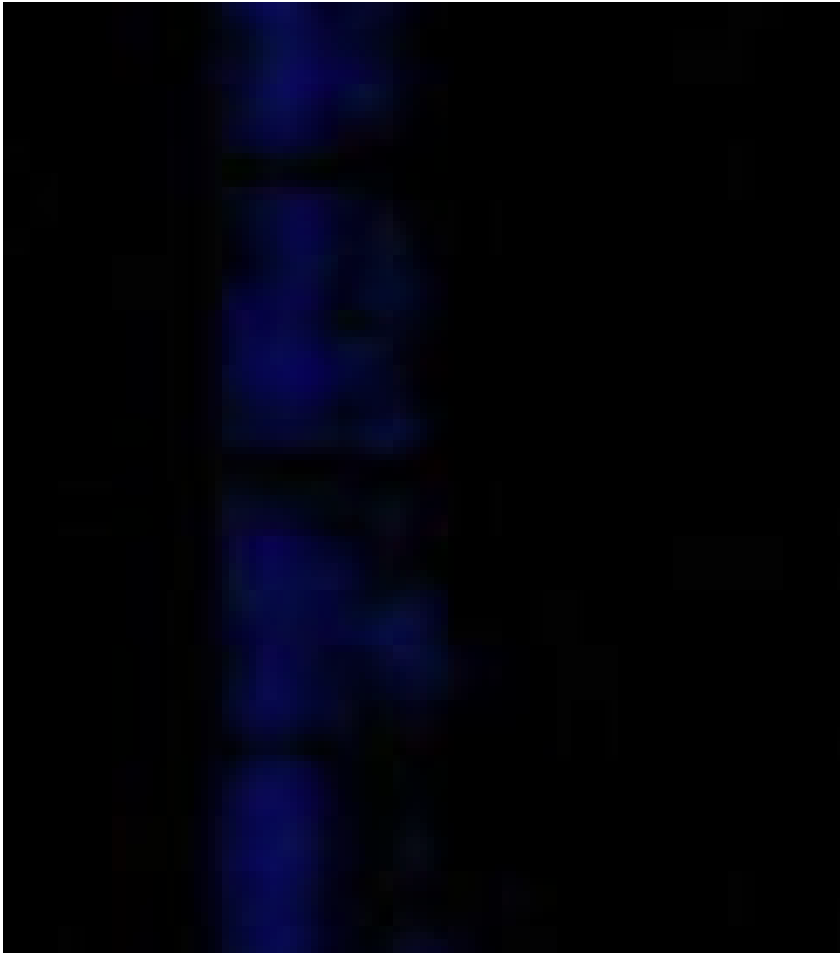
- Maybe think of it as atomic level velcro...
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A pair of scanning electron micrographs show similarities between synthetic polymer fibers created by UC Berkeley researchers (above) and the setae from an Anolis lizard. (Photo below of Kellar Autumn, Lewis & Clark College)



# Why are some things “sticky?”



**We're not completely sure...but cool stuff like triboluminescence!**



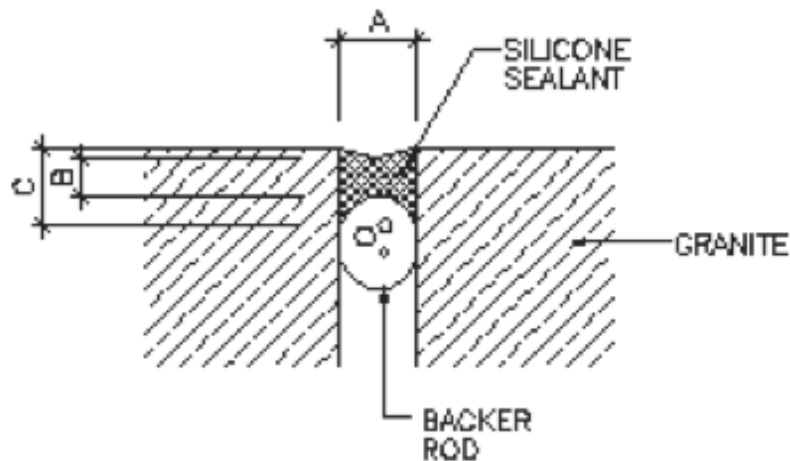
# Liquid Sealants

- Sticky
- Flexible
- Non-compressible
- Adhered to two surfaces only
- Bond break with support

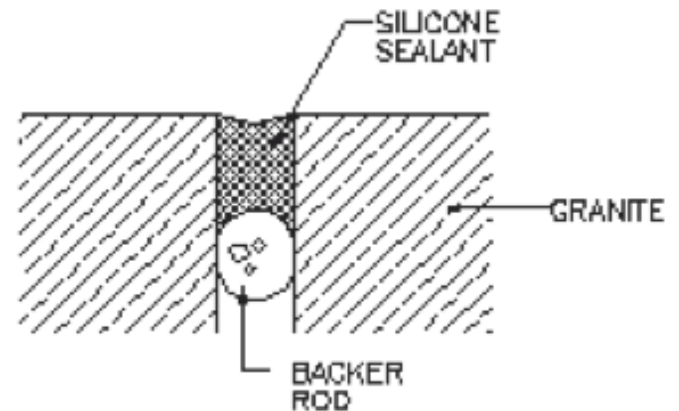
# Liquid Sealants

## CONVENTIONAL MOVING WEATHERSEAL

GOOD JOINT DESIGN



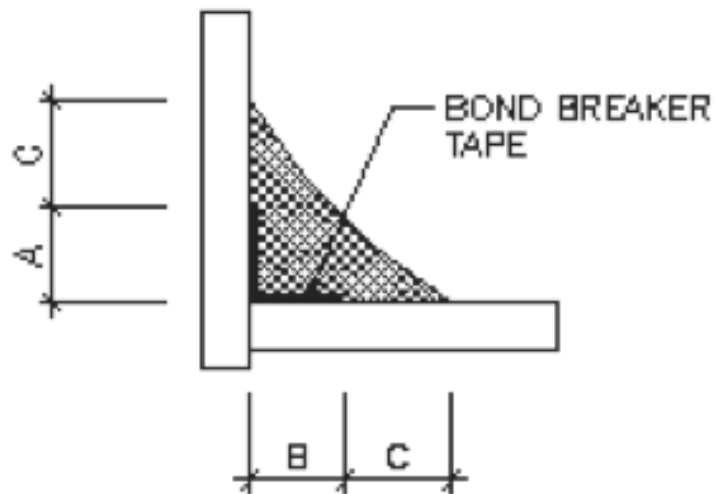
POOR JOINT DESIGN



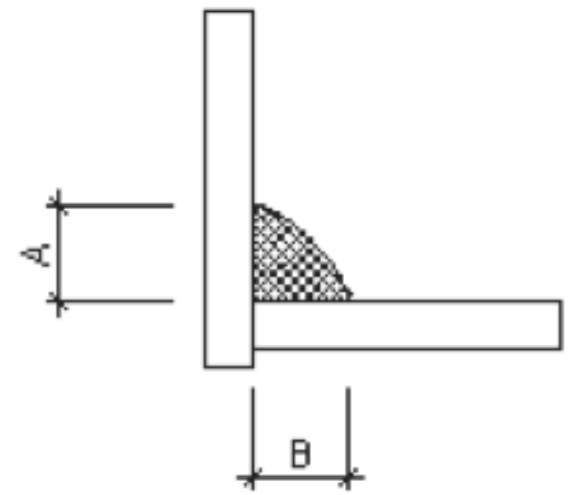
# Liquid Sealants

## MOVING CORNER JOINT

### GOOD JOINT DESIGN



### POOR JOINT DESIGN



# Durability – service life prediction

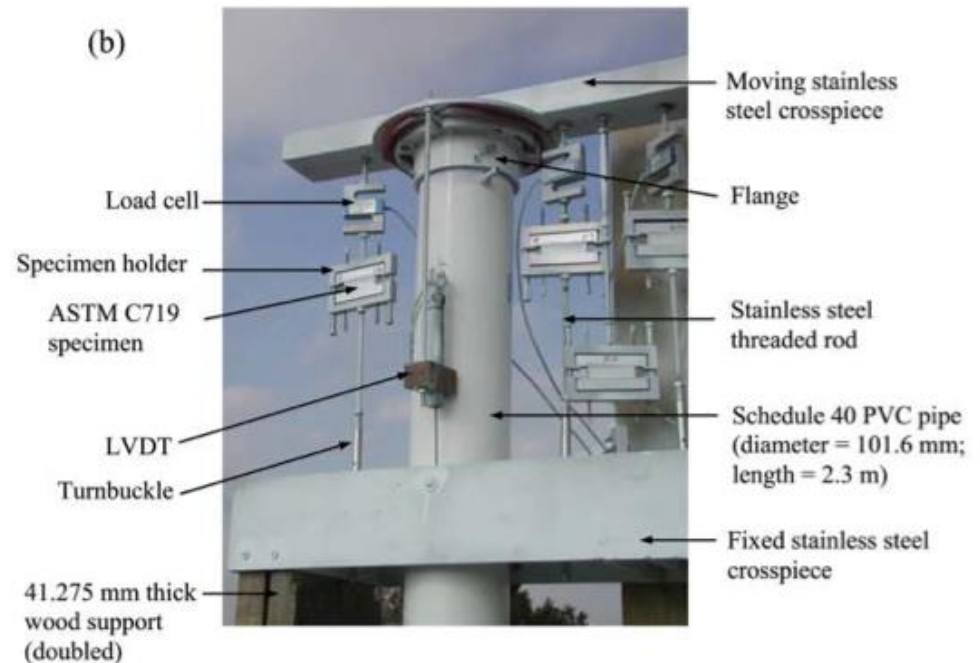
- NIST – National Institute of Standards & Tech
- Started service life prediction research in about 2001
- ASTM standards 2011
- Field test for service life prediction of sealants: ASTM C1589



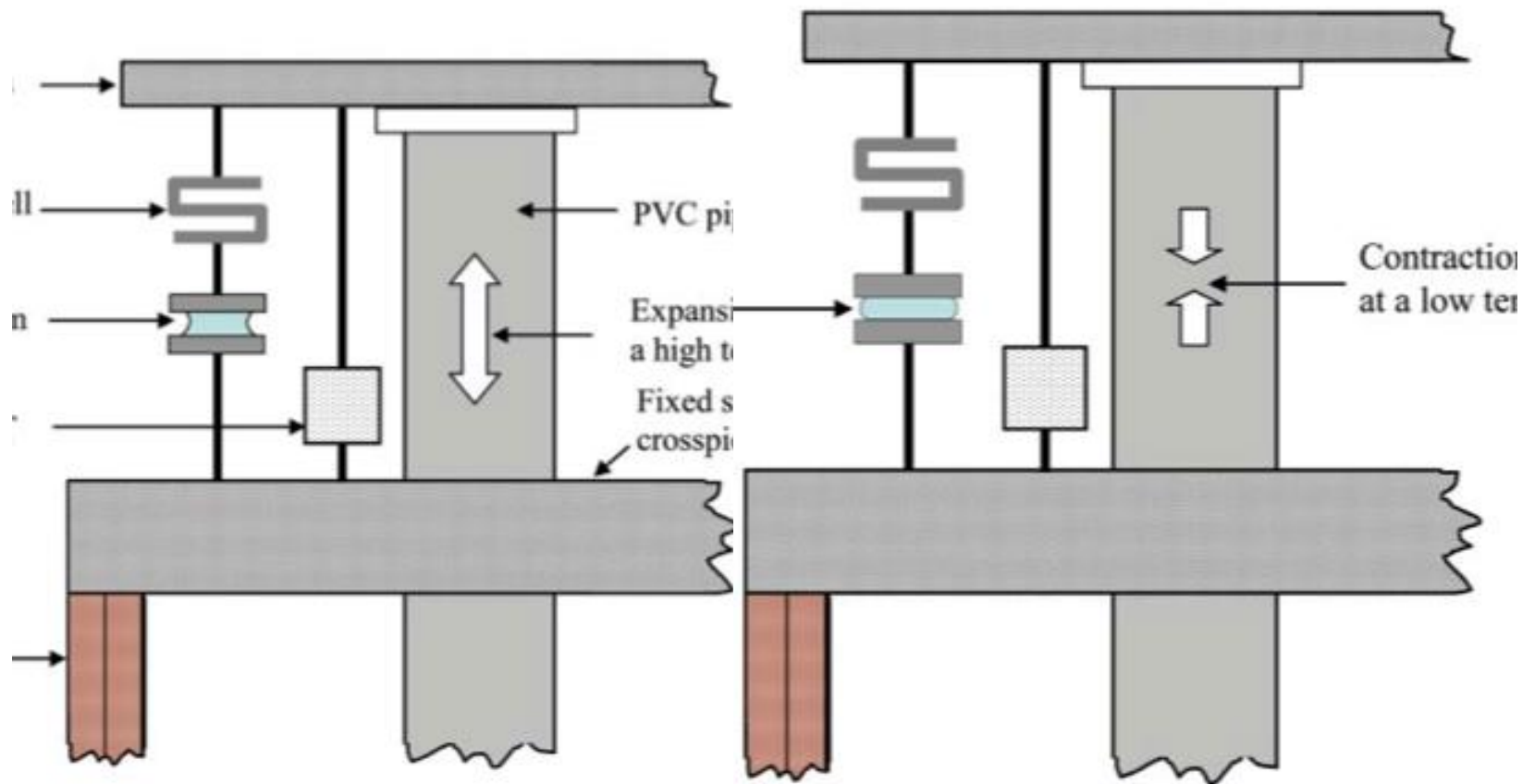
Christopher White - NIST



# Field Test Rig



# Field Test Rig



# ASTM C1735 - 11 Standard Test Method for Measuring the Time Dependent Modulus of Sealants Using Stress Relaxation

# Demo – PSA “Lab” testing





# Wingnut Test Facility (WTF)

## “real world” testing





# Modes of failure

- Adhesive
- Backer
- Substrate

# Round Two

## ASTM D3654 – Method A







# What forces do tapes really “see?”





# What forces do tapes really “see?”



# “Bellowing” - WTF Pressure Pig



# “Bellowing” - WTF Pressure Pig



# Earth air pressure extremes

- Difference between “normal” and extreme (hurricane and tornado) is about 3 psi
- Tape failure on WTF “pressure pig” was about 3 psi
- WTF Conclusion? Tapes will fail in hurricanes and tornados
- PSI vs Pascals?
- Real world?



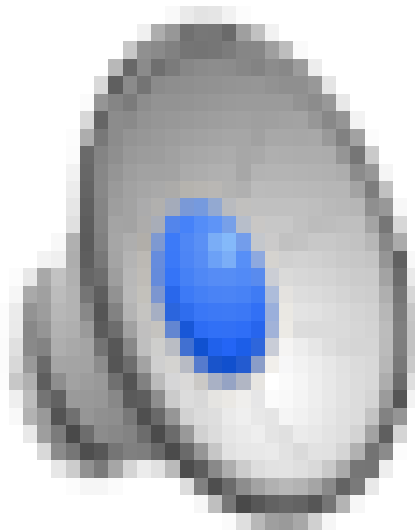
# Pressure relationships

- Pressure = Force divided by area
- 1 Newton = 1 Pascal per square meter
- 1 psi = 6895 Pa
- 70 mph wind = (about) 450 Pa

# “Bellowing” - WTF Pressure Pig



# “Bellowing” & the WTF “Pressure Pig”



Show pressure pig demo video...

# A New Wingnut PSA tape test





# Wingnut Math and Physics

- Since 1 Pascal = 1 Newton per square meter, then
- 75 Newtons/sq m = 16.8 lbs.
- Tape sample is 2.25 inches by 6 inches = 13.5 sq in.
- 13.5 sq in = .009 sq m
- 16.8 lbs \* .009 sq m = 0.15 lbs
- 1 lb on 13.5 sq in is about 6 times greater than 75 Pa...

# New testing protocol circulated to key manufacturers for their review...

- Huber ZIP Wall
- Siga
- Pro Clima
- ZIP tape manufacturer

Show protocol pdf...































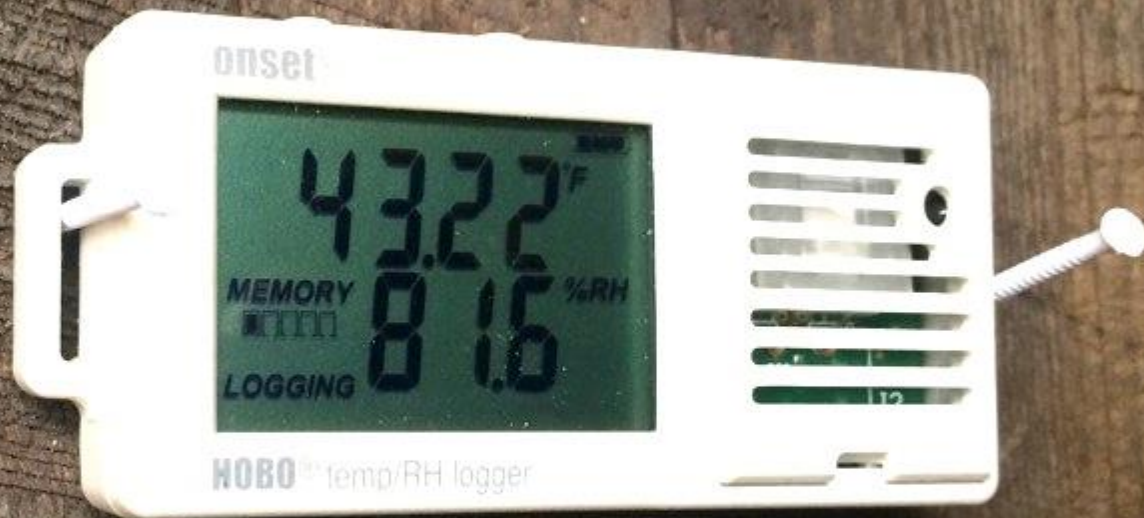












onset

43.22°F

MEMORY



LOGGING

81.6

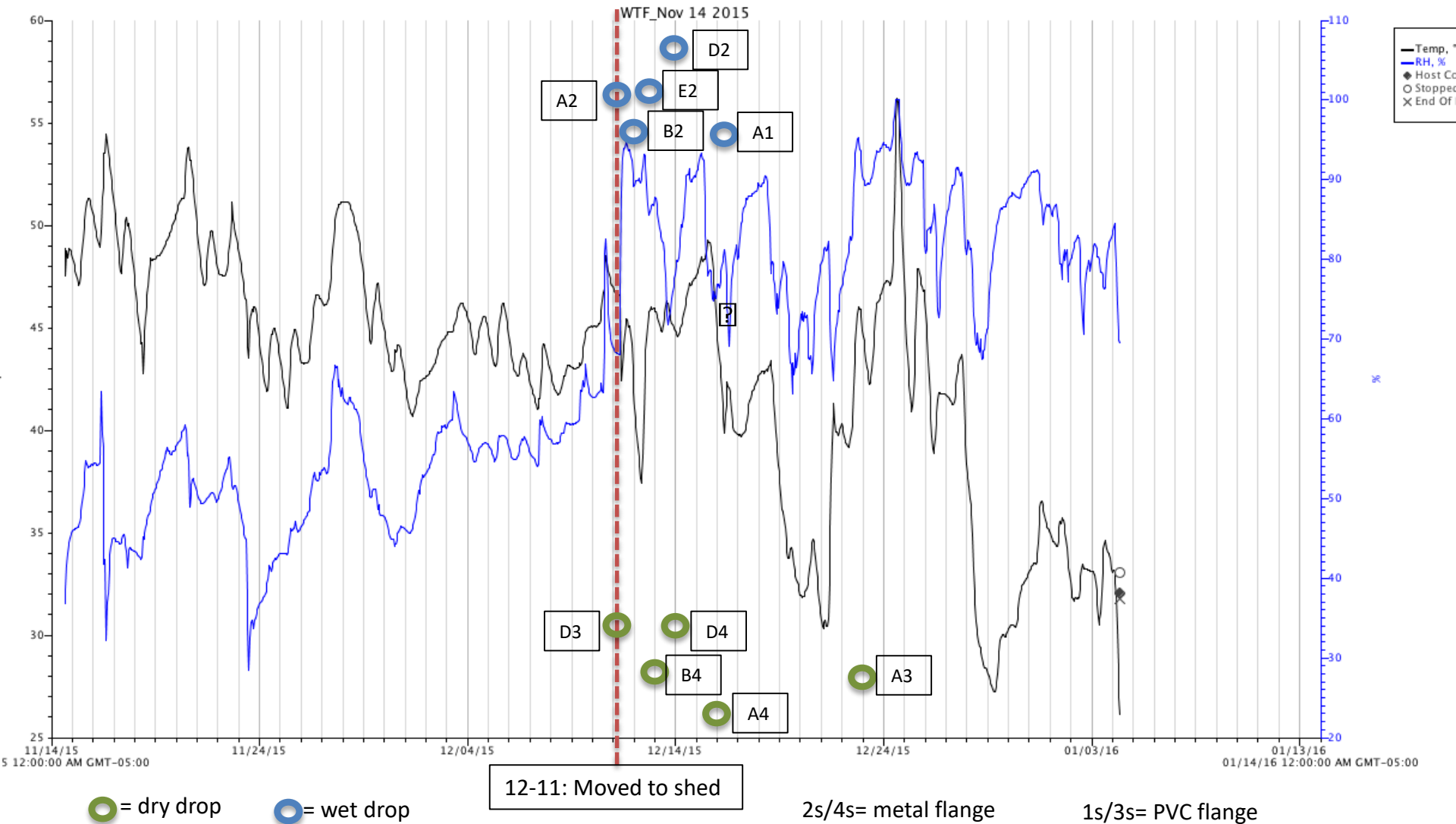
%RH

HOBO<sup>®</sup> temp/RH logger

<b>WingNut Test Facility</b>								
<b>Tape Test 4</b>								
As of	1/22/16							
		Primed Vana	Wigluv	Zip	Primed Vana	Wigluv	Zip	Test Condition
Flange		A	B	C	D	E	F	
Vinyl	1	12/17/15			1/22/16			WETTED
Metal	2	12/11/15	12/12/15		12/14/15	12/13/15		WETTED
Vinyl	3	12/23/15			12/11/15			DRY
Metal	4	12/16/15	12/13/15		12/14/15	12/13/15		DRY



# High Performance Acrylic Tapes



# Latest drop (3-6): B4 Siga on PVC flange



# What have we learned

- This test has passed muster with major manufacturers
- Butyl tapes we tested don't like low temps or "tougher" substrates
- Off the shelf "high performance" tapes did not make the cut
- Only one tape has held regardless of substrate and wetting (so far...)

# WTF has been “admired”

Prof. David NiCastro University of Texas – Austin  
Construction Durability Lab  
(JJ Pickle Center)





# From Matt Reisinger's blog...



<http://mattrisinger.com/fluid-applied-wrb-testing/>



<http://mattrisinger.com/fluid-applied-wrb-testing/>



# So, what's next for WTF?

- Run current tests through at least a full summer plus this past winter
- Look at negative side basement waterproofing
- Simple test for PI dependent R-value?
- Siloxane testing?



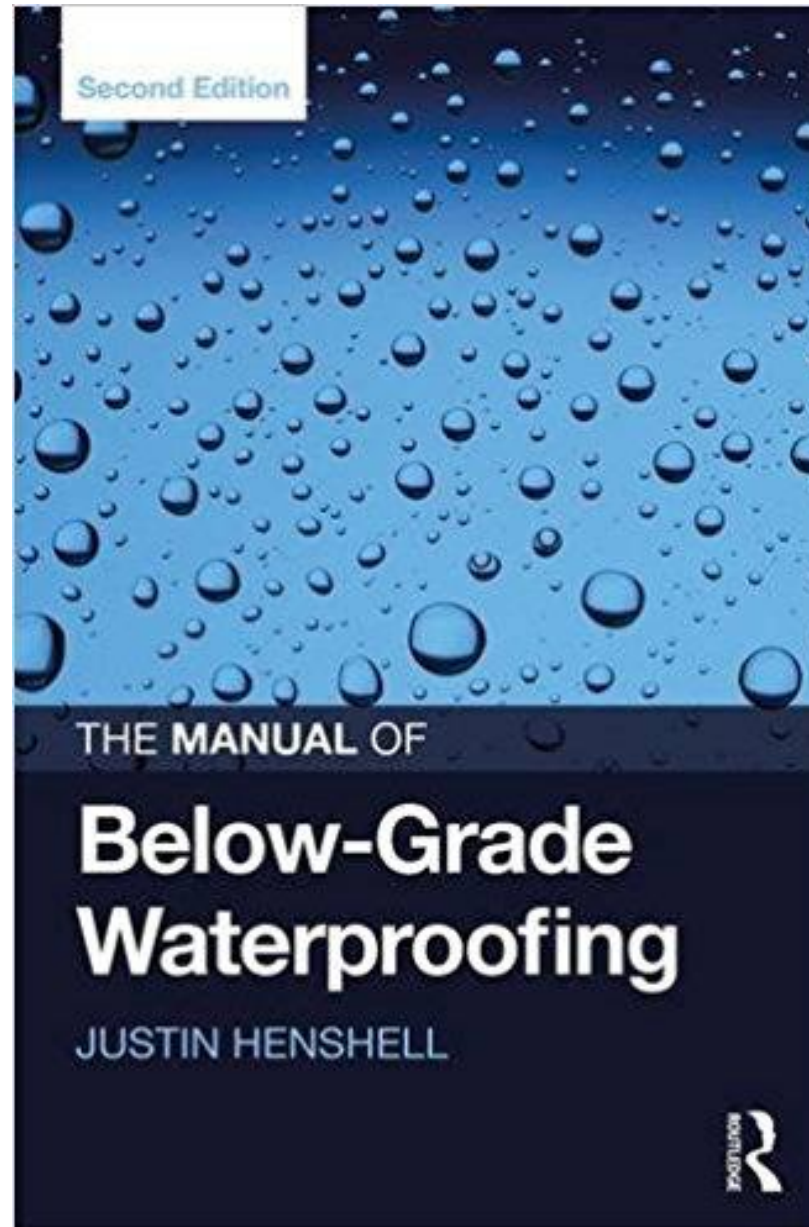
# So what is next? WTF 2.0?



# Waterproofing, Especially From the Interior



# Primary Info Source

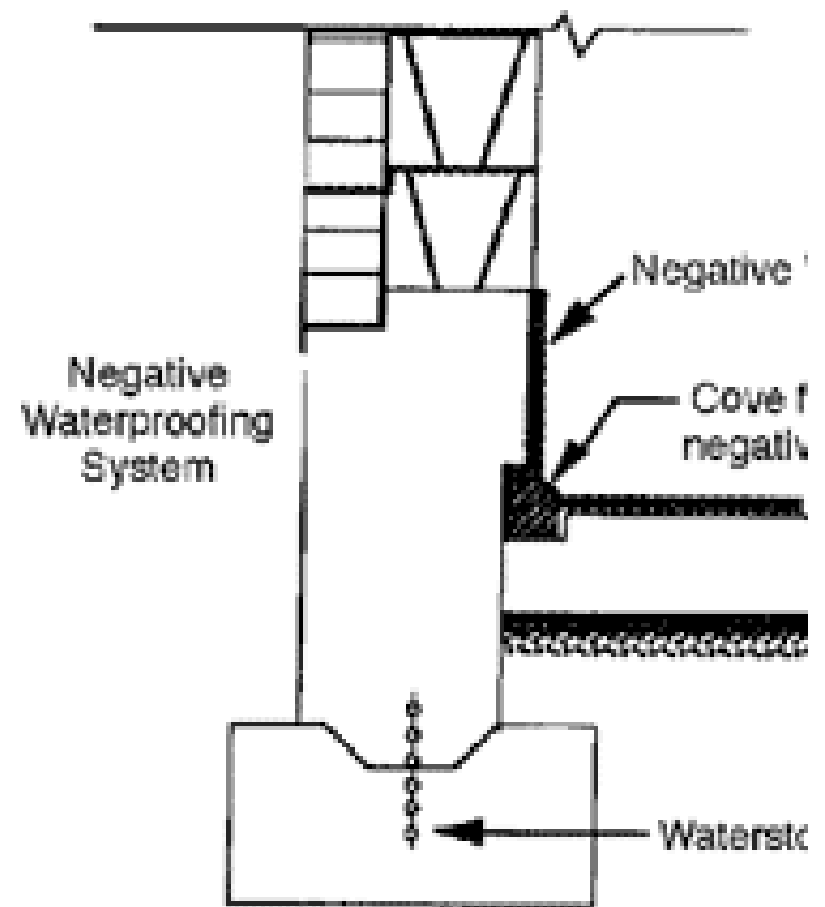
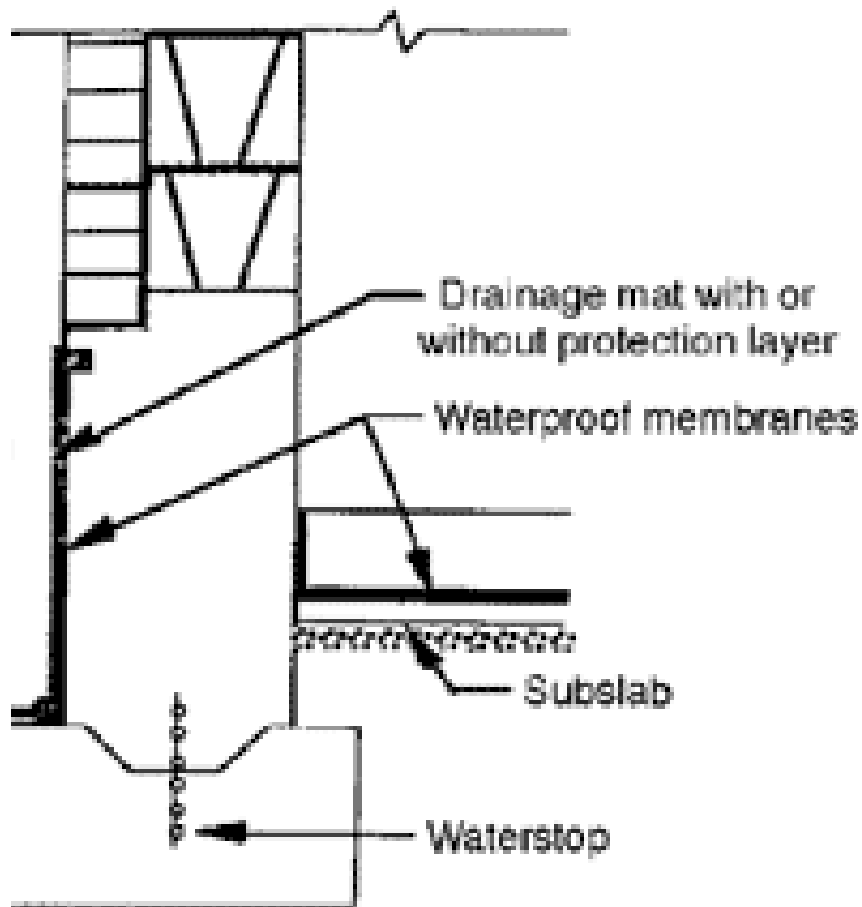




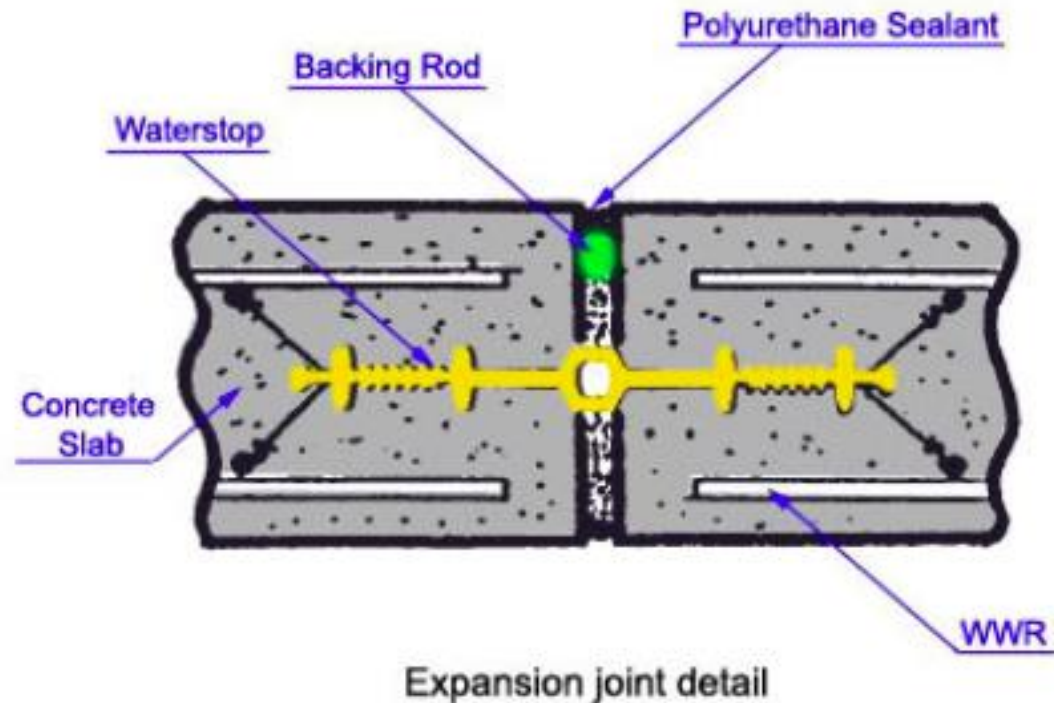
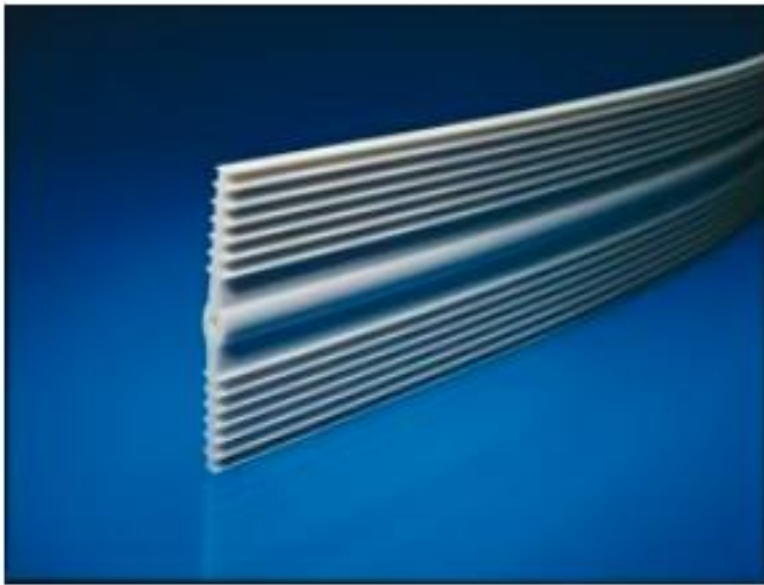
# Dampproofing vs. Waterproofing

- Crack-bridging ability
- Resistance to both soil moisture and liquid water: hydrostatic pressure
- “Cost”

# Negative Side Waterproofing



# Waterstops....



*Image Credit: GreenStreak | Waterproof Magazine*

From: Engineering 360



# BEST PRACTICES MANUAL

## TABLE OF CONTENTS



### 7.4 BASEMENTS: RETROFIT



<https://hammerandhand.com/best-practices/manual/7-basements/7-4-basement-retrofit/>

1

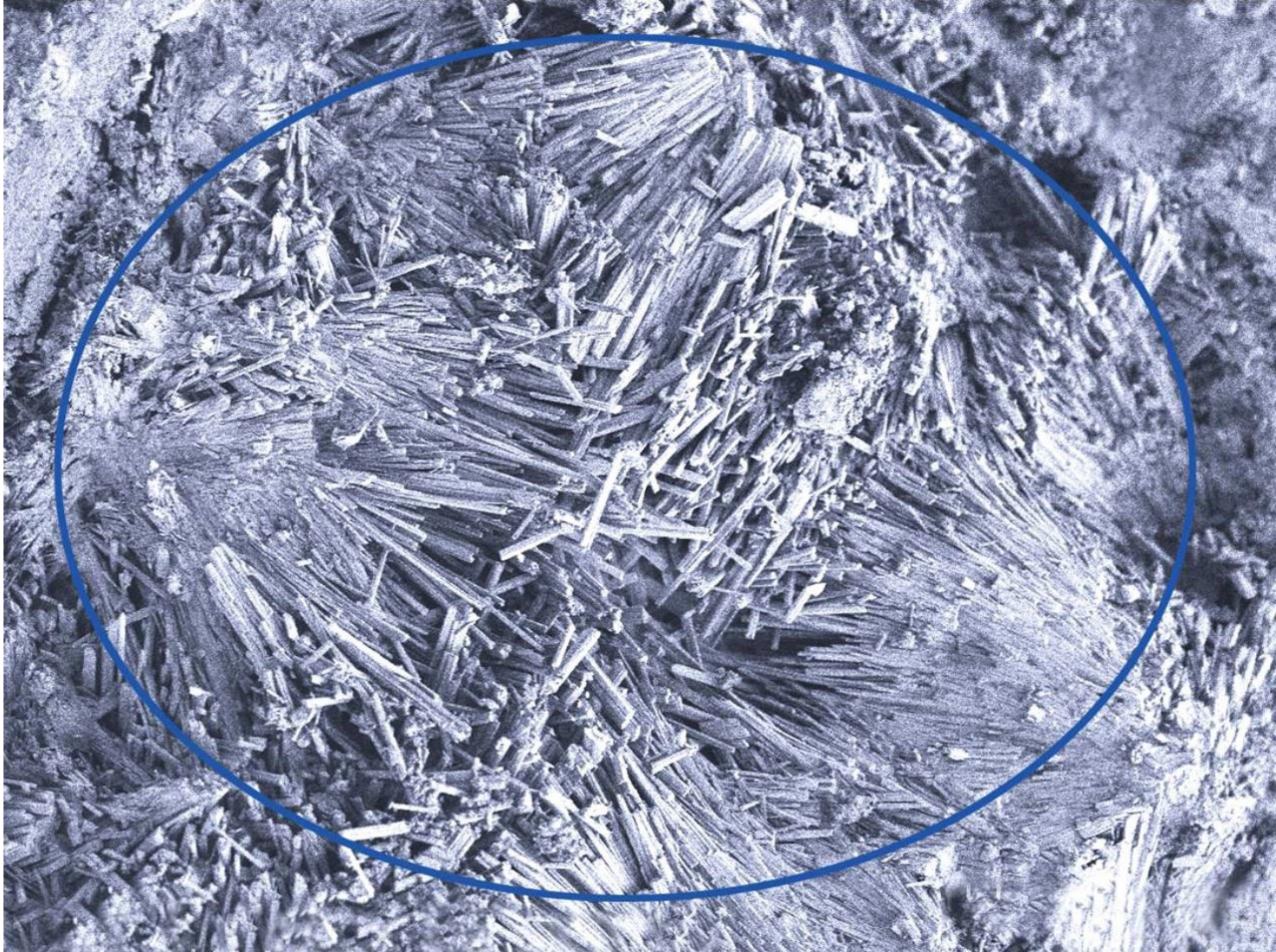
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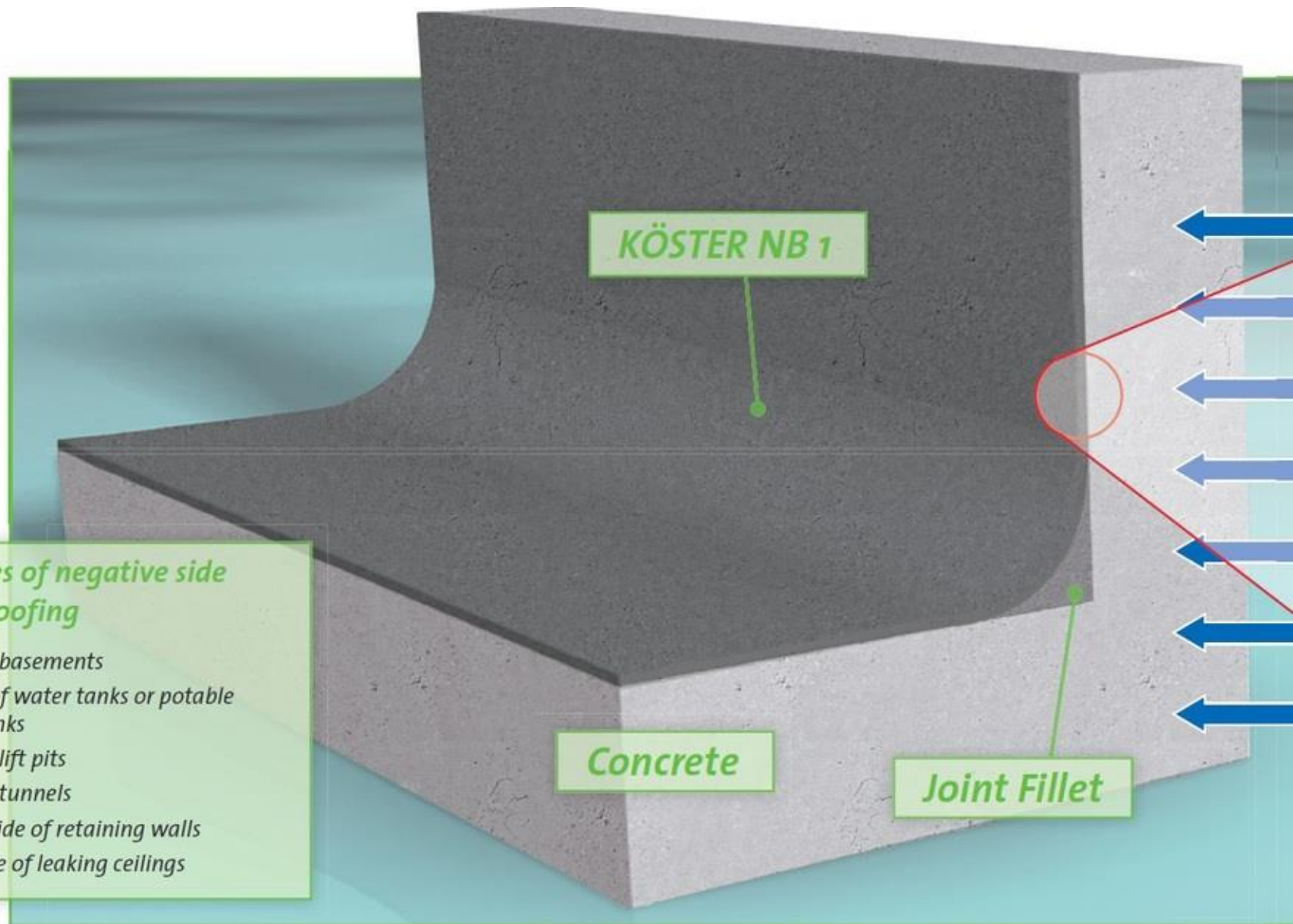


# Henshell: Only NSW crystalline coatings work



Xypex



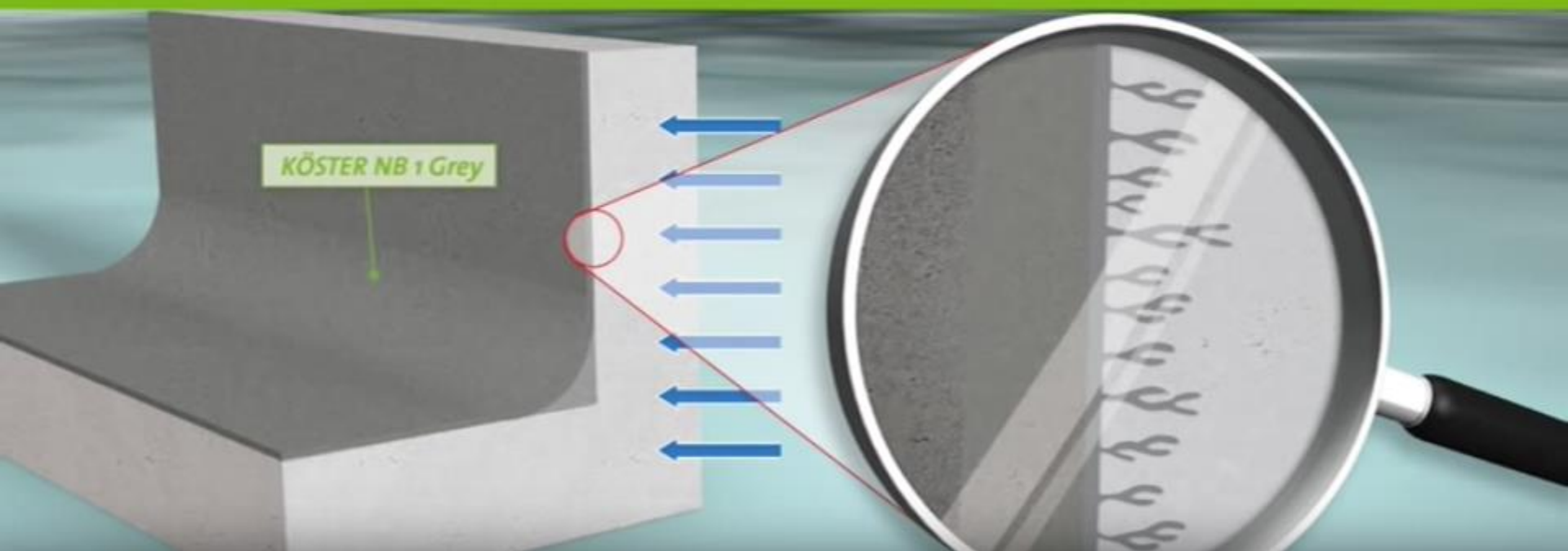


### *Examples of negative side waterproofing*

- *inside of basements*
- *outside of water tanks or potable water tanks*
- *inside of lift pits*
- *inside of tunnels*
- *leaking side of retaining walls*
- *underside of leaking ceilings*

*The solution: negativ side waterproofing with KÖSTER NB 1 Grey*

- suited for all mineral substrates*
- becomes an integral part of the structure*



# Plugging flowing water, even



Koster YouTube

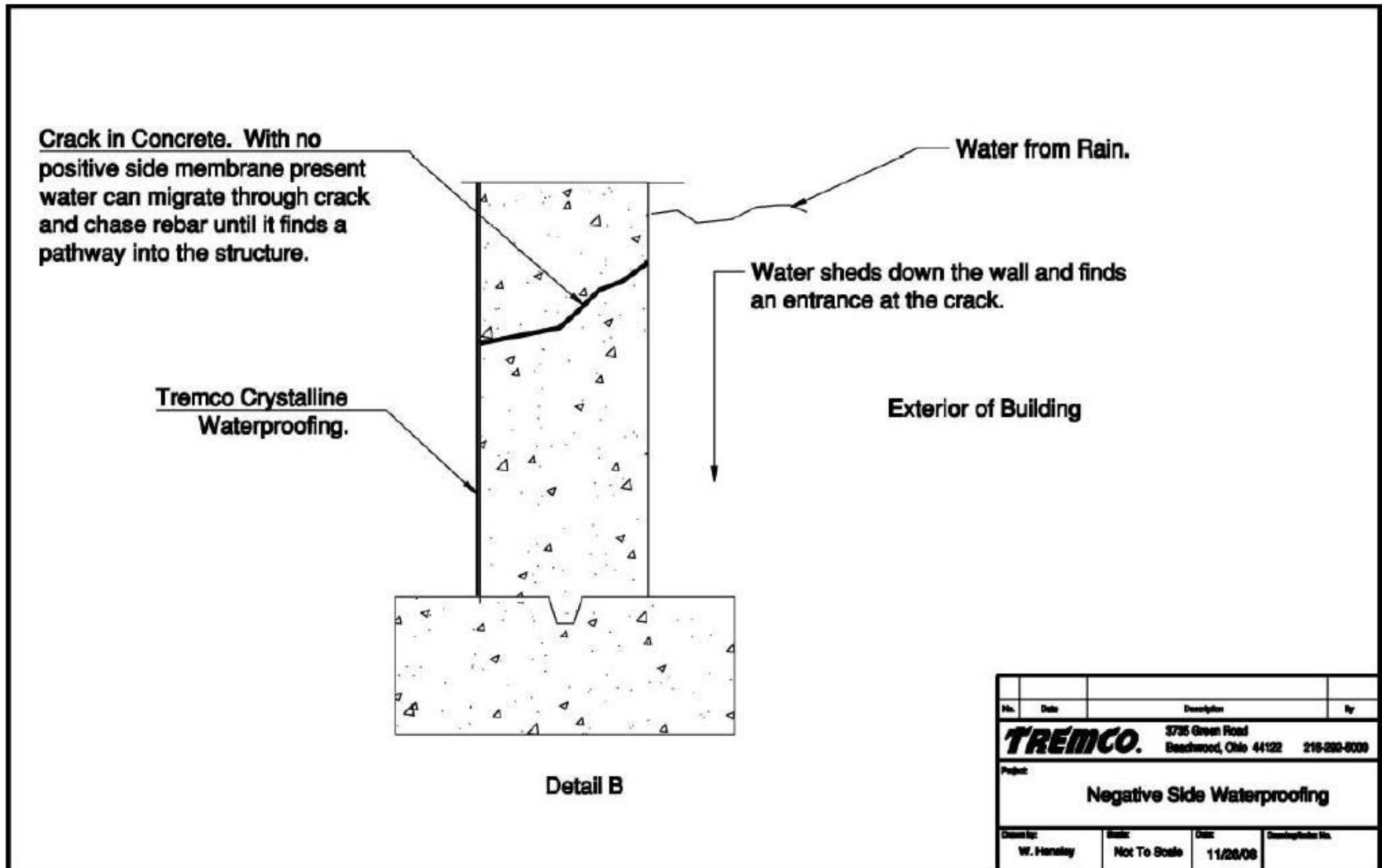


# Plugging flowing water, even



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRFi84y5gy4>

# So, magic, right?



# Testing to 200 psi: USACE C-48-92

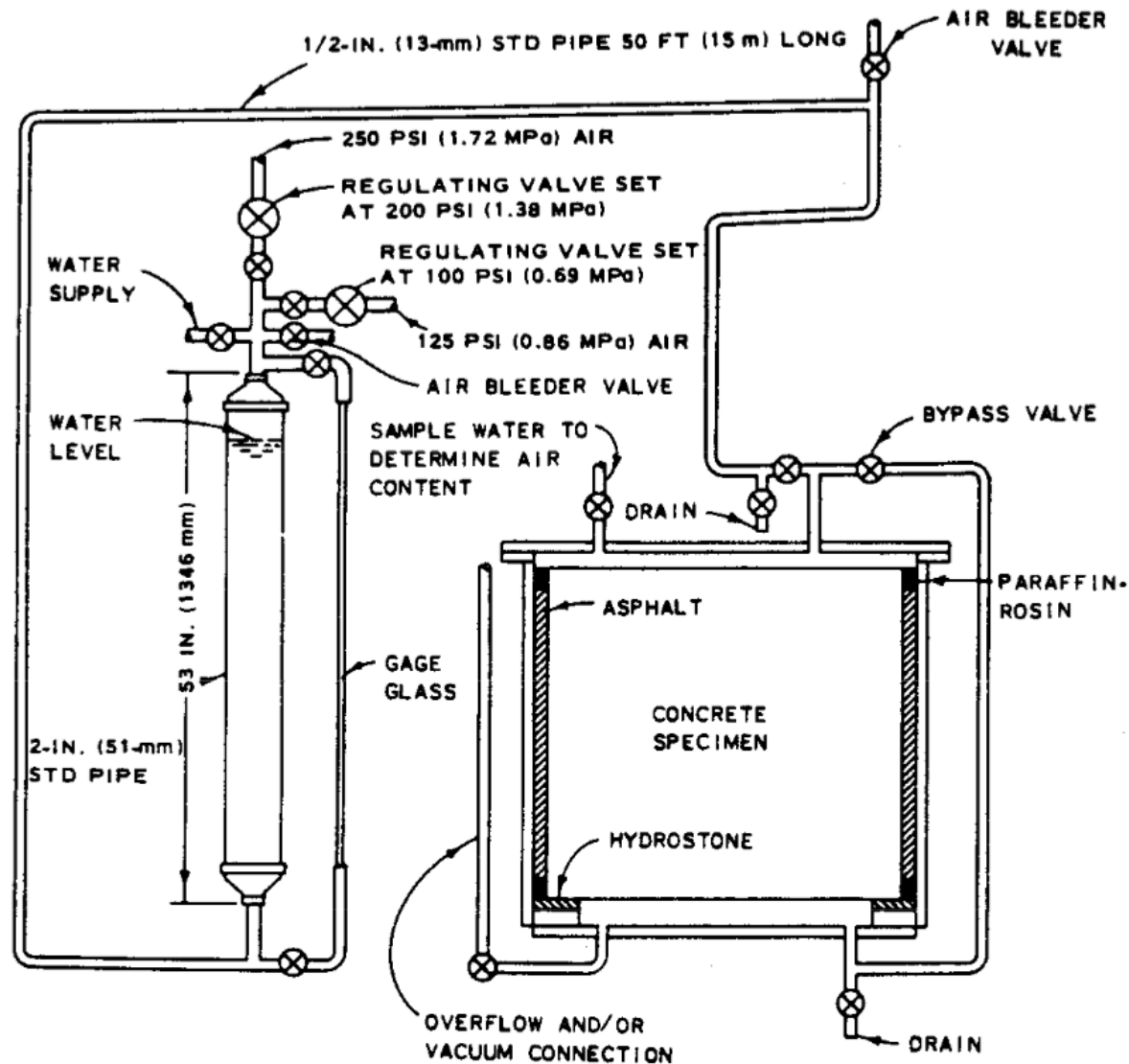


Fig. 1. Permeability test assembly (schematic)

# NSW WTF-style



ProtectionPLUS website



























108

1031



























# Cost

- DryLok
  - Extreme (1 gallon): \$30
  - Fast Plug (10 lb): \$14.25
- Xypex
  - Concentrate (50 lb): \$0.44 per coat
  - Patch-n-Plug (60 lb): \$86 (0.64 cf)
- Koster

Product Name	Packaging	Consumption	Price
KOSTER NB 1 Grey	55 lb bag	Approx. 110 SqFt/Bag	\$51.48
KOSTER Polysil TG 500	2.56 gal jug	330-420 SqFt/Gal	\$107.75
KOSTER SB Bonding Emulsion	2.5 gal jug	As required	\$121.46
KOSTER KD2 Blitz	33 lb bucket	Approx. 80-160 SqFt/bucket	\$50.94



# Key Takeaways (Incl. Henshell)

- Reduce first...
- Membranes don't work...
- Most common NSW are crystalline...
- There actually is a standard test—USACE CRD C48-73
- Crystalline coatings work because they penetrate
- NSW systems are typically vapor permeable
- Crystalline systems can bridge cracks to .012 inches and can reactivate but can't reseal new ruptures

# Conclusions - Summary

- Crystalline NSW can work
- Substrates matter (concrete, CMU, brick, etc.)
- Must maintain inspection and likely repair
- Foolproof approach is the Hammer & Hand
- Foolproof approach is curtain wall injection
- And if you have the opportunity because it's new construction:  
WATERPROOFING, not damproofing...

# Venting Cathedral Roof Assemblies

- Section R806 – Roof Ventilation
- Screening to prevent “creature” entry
- Net free ventilating area:  $1/150$
- Or  $1/300$  if: high-low (primarily soffit-to-ridge)
- 1-inch vent depth minimum
- Ventilator installation per manufacturer



# The power of arrows...



Products Shop Articles Resources

## Attic Ventilation – Flat Roof

### Products

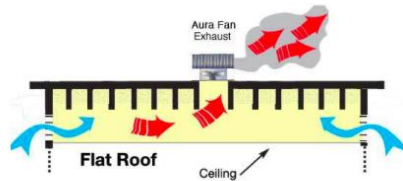
- ✓ 1. Roof Vents – Exhaust
- ✓ 2. Roof Vents – Intake
- ✓ 3. AC Powered Attic Fans
- ✓ 4. Solar Powered Attic Fans
- ✓ 5. R Panel Roof Vents
- ✓ 6. Retrofit Roof Vents & Fans
- ✓ 7. PVC Vent Caps
- ✓ 8. Ducted Roof Vents
- ✓ 9. Breather Roof Vents
- ✓ 10. Off Ridge Roof Vents
- ✓ 11. Soffit Vents
- ✓ 12. Curbs for Roof Vents
- ✓ 13. AC Motors

Active Ventilation  
Products, Inc

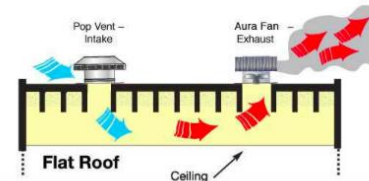
311 First Street  
Newburgh, NY 12550

## Attic Ventilation – Flat Roof

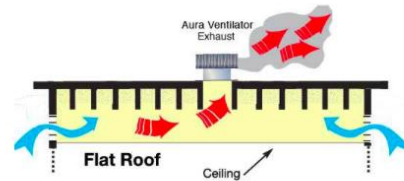
### Air intake with Aura Fan exhaust



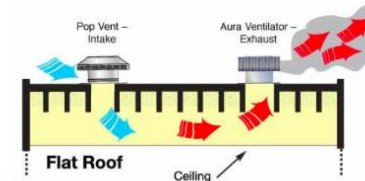
### Pop Vent intake with Aura Fan exhaust



### Air Intake with Aura Vent Exhaust

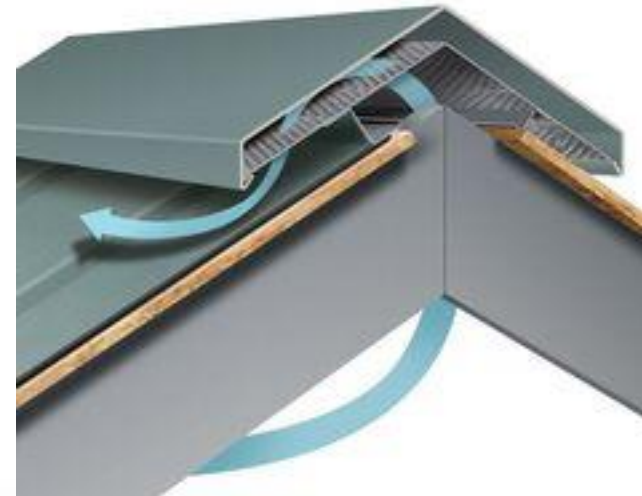
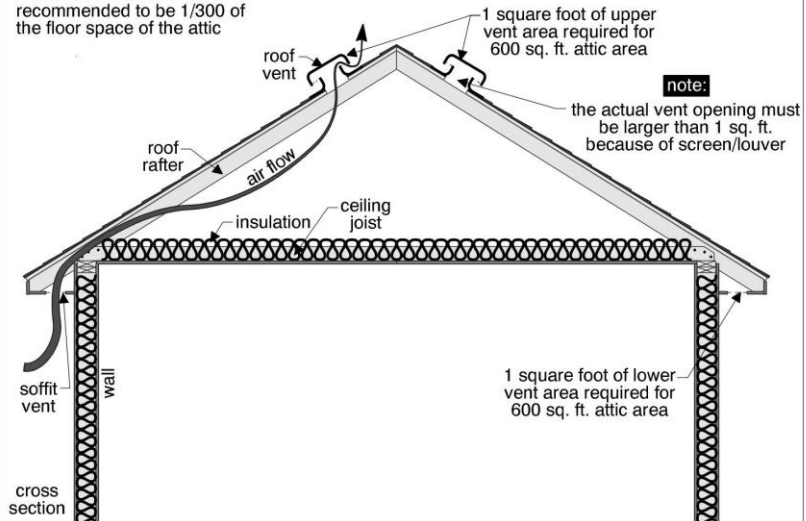


### Pop Vent air intake with Aura Ventilator air exhaust



## Recommended amount of attic ventilation

the total vent area is often recommended to be 1/300 of the floor space of the attic



# What do we need for air flow?

- A hole
- Another hole
- A driving force
  - Stack effect
  - Wind
  - Mechanicals (fans)

# What affects cathedral roof ventilation?

- Pitch?
- Cardinal direction?
- Depth of vent space?
- Length of roof run?







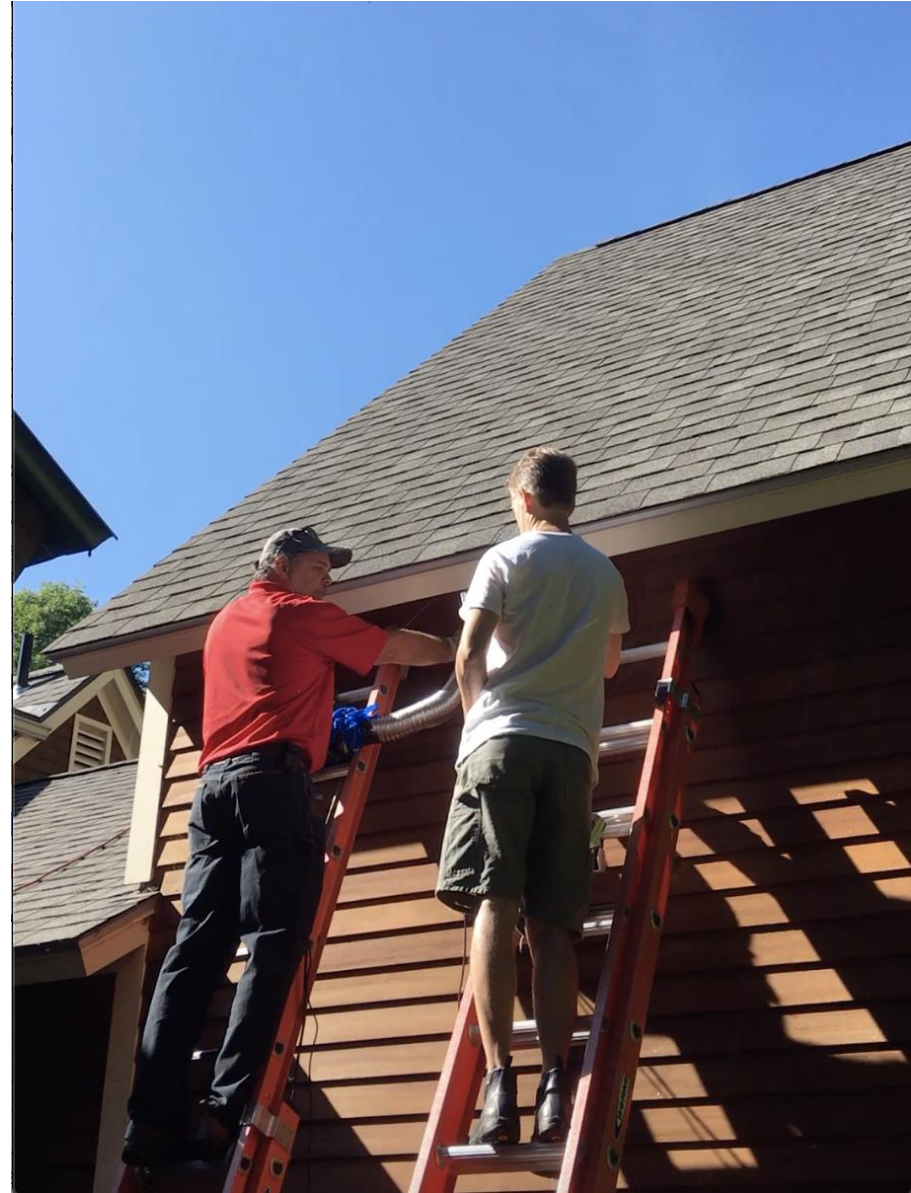












# Interim Conclusions?

- Pitch matters
- Temperature matters
- Wind is complicated...
- Hard to say how much vent depth matters
- Connecting truncated vents to neighbors works



# What else to test?

- New venting manufactured products?



# What else to test?

- New venting manufactured products?

## ValleyVent<sub>BY DCI</sub>

- ACHIEVE THE PROPER AIR FLOW AROUND OBSTACLES
- PREVENTS MOLD AND MOISTURE BUILD UP
- EASY HIP, VALLEY AND SKYLIGHT INSTALLATION
- COMPATIBLE WITH MOST EXHAUST VENTS
- PROVIDES 9 NFA OF AIRFLOW



# What else to test?

- Staggered valley and hip furring?





## Does My Vent Hood Need Makeup Air?

With plans for building a tight house, a homeowner wonders whether makeup air should be provided for the kitchen hood



By Scott Gibson | August 5, 2019



**How well do kitchen range hoods really work?** GBA's Peter Yost tested this one to find out.

# Range Hood Exhaust



# Range Hood Exhaust





# WTF Conclusions...

- We need standardized testing but as necessary but not sufficient
- We need benchtop and real-world testing
- Do “goofy” stuff and share
- Levenson: you must learn from the mistakes of others; you can’t possibly live long enough to make them all yourself

# Thanks...



  
**PETER YOST**  
BUILDING - WRIGHT