


© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Kohta Ueno

Introduction to Building Science

March 8, 2011



Building Science Corporation is a Registered Provider with The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems. Credit earned on completion of this program will be reported to CES Records for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for non-AIA members are available on request.

This program is registered with the AIA/CES for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product. Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.

Copyright Materials

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

This presentation is protected by US and International Copyright laws. Reproduction, distribution, display and use of the presentation without written permission of the speaker is prohibited.

© Building Science Corporation 2011



Learning Objectives

- Explain the benefits of the “perfect wall”: a system that can be built in any climate, with any conditions inside, and not sustain damage (assuming that somebody will pay for it).
- Throw metaphorical stones at glass houses.
- Reduce your odds of running screaming when you see the psychrometric chart.

This Session: Limited Goals

- 3-hour class—can't fit much material
- “Hearing things a few times until they stick...”
- Scientific jargon?
 - Too complex (falling asleep)
 - Too simplistic (insulted?)
- Based on Joseph Lstiburek / John Straube “Building Science Fundamentals”—2 day class
- Or University of Waterloo one-semester class for engineering seniors
- Many topics we won't be able to cover



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

5

Enclosure Functions



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

6

Building Functions

- Human needs... more than shelter (e.g. Location, Shelter, Utility, Comfort & Delight)
- ...function of a building:
 - *“Provide the desired environment for human use and occupancy”*

“Durability, Convenience, and Beauty”
Vitruvius, 70 BC



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

7

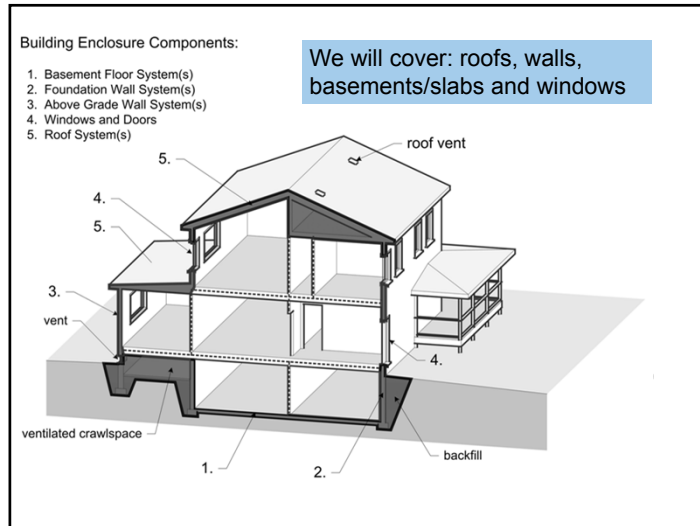
The Enclosure: Environmental Separator

- “Building envelope” and “building enclosure”
- The part of the building that physically **separates** the **interior** and **exterior** environments.
- Includes all of the parts that make up the wall, window, roof, floor, etc... from the innermost to the outermost layer.



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

8



Importance of the Enclosure

- Image
 - People see it!
- Building problems
 - Often heat, moisture and the enclosure
- Energy consumption
 - Driven by enclosure performance

Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 10

Enclosure Loadings

- The separation function generates *loads*
- *Load*: any event, phenomenon or characteristic that can affect the enclosure
 - Heat, Air, Moisture
 - Fire, Sound
 - UV, Ozone
 - Gravity, impacts, abrasion
 - Insects
 - Etc...

Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 11

Loads: Climate / Site

- Design for
 - Climate zone
 - Site
 - Building height, shape, complexity

Seattle ≠ Sacramento
Miami ≠ Minneapolis
Edmonton ≠ Vancouver

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio

These are properly designed, when due regard is had to the country and climate in which they are erected. For the method of building which is suited to Egypt would be very improper in Spain, and that in use in Pontus would be absurd at Rome: so in other parts of the world **a style suitable to one climate, would be very unsuitable to another**: for one part of the world is under the sun's course, another is distant from it, and another, between the two, is temperate.

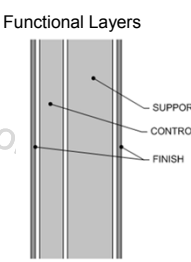
Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 12

Basic Functions of the Enclosure

- 1. Support
 - Resist and transfer physical forces from inside and out
- 2. Control
 - Control mass and energy flows
- 3. Finish
 - Interior and exterior surfaces for people
- Distribution – a building function



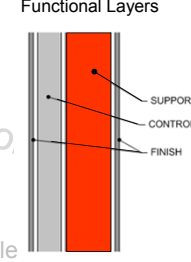
Functional Layers

SUPPORT
CONTROL
FINISH

BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 17

Basic Enclosure Functions

- **Support**
 - Resist & transfer physical forces from inside and out
 - Lateral (wind, earthquake)
 - Gravity (snow, dead, use)
 - Rheological (shrink, swell)
 - Impact, wear, abrasion
- Control
 - Control mass and energy flows
- Finish
 - Interior and exterior surfaces for people



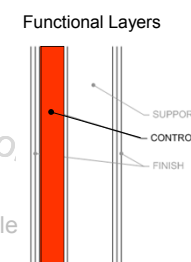
Functional Layers

SUPPORT
CONTROL
FINISH

BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 18

Basic Enclosure Functions

- Support
 - Resist & transfer physical forces from inside and out
- **Control**
 - **Control mass and energy flows**
 - Rain (and soil moisture)
 - Drainage plane, capillary break, etc.
 - Air
 - Continuous air barrier
 - Heat
 - Continuous layer of insulation
 - Vapor
 - Balance of wetting/drying
- Finish
 - Interior and exterior surfaces for people



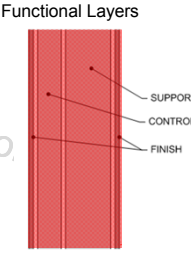
Functional Layers

SUPPORT
CONTROL
FINISH

BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 19

Other Control . . .

- Support
- **Control**
 - Fire
 - Penetration
 - Propagation
 - Sound
 - Penetration
 - Reflection
 - Light
 - Diffuse/glare
 - View
- Finish



Functional Layers

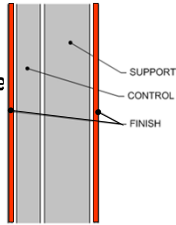
SUPPORT
CONTROL
FINISH


BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 20

Basic Enclosure Functions

- **Support**
 - Resist & transfer physical forces from inside and out
- **Control**
 - Control mass and energy flows
- **Finish**
 - **Interior & exterior surfaces for people**
 - Color, speculance
 - Pattern, texture

Functional Layers






NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

21

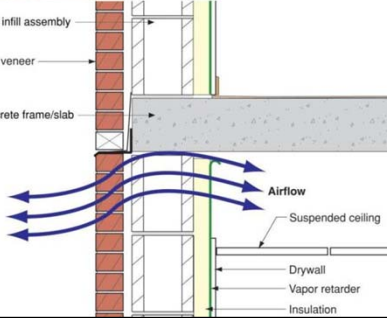
Finish vs. Control Confusion




CMU infill assembly

Brick veneer

Concrete frame/slab






NESEA BE201

Distribution


- A Building Function imposed on enclosure
- Distribute services or utilities to from through, within, the enclosure, e.g.,
 - Power
 - Communication
 - Water (Potable, sewage, etc.)
 - Gas
 - Conditioned air ←
 - Cold or hot water ←



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

23

Enclosure Design



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

24

Enclosure Design Principles 1

- Design a complete structural load transfer path
 - Structure, windows, ties, etc.
 - All loads go to ground
- Respect the site and climate
 - Rain, sun, wind, hill, valley, high rise or low-rise
- Continuous rain control plane
 - Control with surface features and detailing
 - Drained, storage, or perfect barrier strategy
- Continuous plane of air barrier tightness
 - Fastidious attention to detail 3-D



Enclosure Design Principles 2

- Provide a continuous plane of insulation
 - Ideally separate structure from enclosure
 - Avoid thermal bridges
- Provide a moisture tolerant design
 - Balance wetting, drying, and storage (mat'l's, climate)
 - Use appropriate levels of vapor control
 - No cold vapor barriers, allow drying
- Accommodate movements and tolerances
- Draw all of the Details!



The Enclosure: Adding the Layers




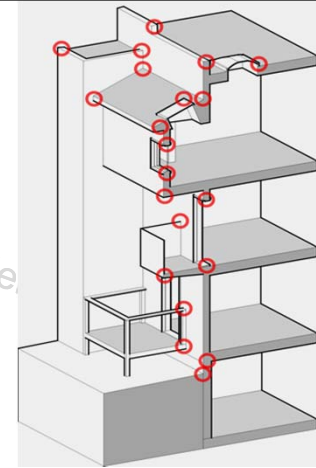
- Structure
- Air-Rain Barrier
- Insulation
- Finish





Enclosure Design: Details

- Details demand the same approach as the enclosure.
- Scaled drawings required at 

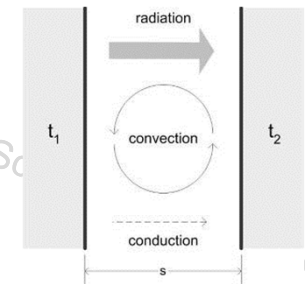


Heat Flow and Control



Basic Heat Flow

- Conduction
- Convection
- Radiation



Basic Heat Flow

Conduction

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

$t_1 > t_2$

t_1 t_2

HEAT FLOW

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 33

Basic Heat Flow

Forced Convection

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

MOVING FLUID

HEAT FLOW

$t_{fluid} < t_{surface}$

t_{fluid} $t_{surface}$ $t_{surface}$

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 34

Basic Heat Flow

Natural Convection

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

$t_1 > t_2$

t_1 t_2

HEAT FLOW

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 35

Basic Heat Flow

Radiation

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

$t_{surface1} > t_{surface2}$

$t_{surface1}$ $t_{surface2}$ $t_{surface2}$

NET HEAT FLOW

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 36


Heat Flow In Materials

Function of:

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

Combination of:

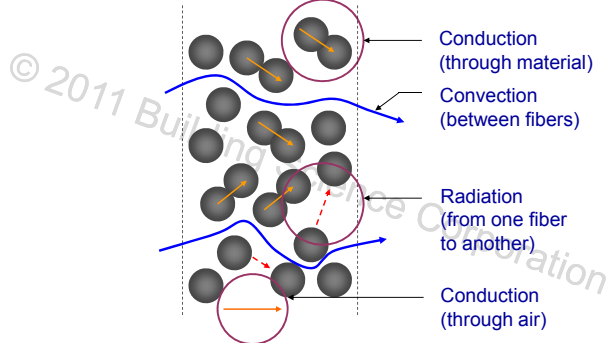
- Conduction through material and air (or other gas)
- Convection in pores
- Radiation through pores




NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

37

Heat Flow In Materials



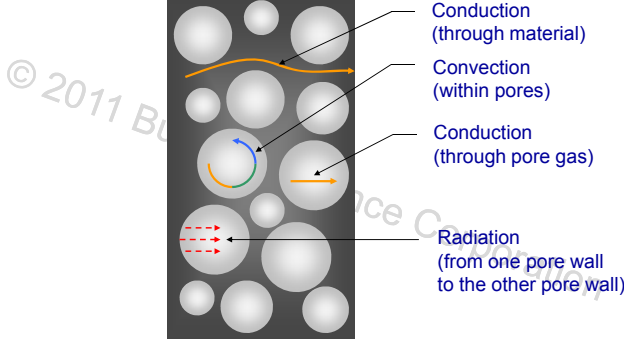
HYPOTHETICAL FIBROUS MATERIAL




NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

38

Heat Flow In Materials



HYPOTHETICAL POROUS MATERIAL



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science


39

Heat Flow In Materials

Thermal Conductivity (k)

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

Units: Btu•in/(ft²•hr•° F) or W/(m•K)



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

40


Heat Flow In Materials

Thermal Conductance (C)

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

Formula: $C = k/L$

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



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

41


Heat Flow In Materials

Thermal Resistance

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

Formula: $\text{Resistance} = 1/C$

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




NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

42

Heat Flow In Materials

R-Value or RSI

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

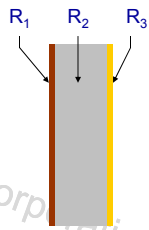


NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

43


Conductance through the enclosure

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



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

$R_T = R_1 + R_2 + R_3$



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

44

Conductance through the enclosure

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

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

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

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

45

Conductance through the enclosure

Steel is 400 times more conductive than wood

Steel studs are about 40 times thinner

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

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

46

Conductance through the enclosure

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

47


Conductance through the enclosure

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

48

Eliminating the Thermal Bridge



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 49

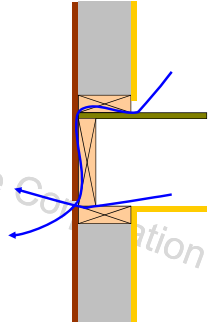
Convection through the enclosure

Commonly referred to as "Air Leakage"

Driven by air pressure differences

- wind
- mechanical
- stack effect

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



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 50

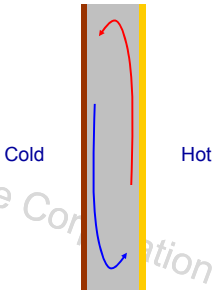
Convection within the assemblies

Commonly referred to as "Convective Loops"

Driven by natural buoyancy - warm air will rise

Short circuits insulation

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



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

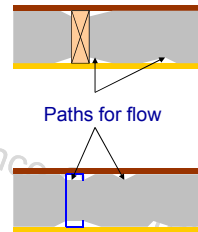
Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 51

Convection within the assemblies

Spaces for flow from:

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


Paths for flow



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 52

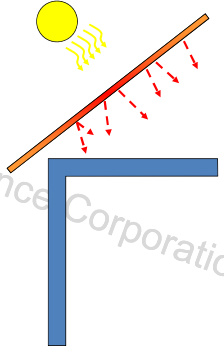
Convection within the assemblies



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 53

Radiation from surfaces within the enclosure assemblies



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Net radiant flow across a clear cavity

Emissivity: how much radiation comes off the material

Low emissivity material: common in attics

BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 54

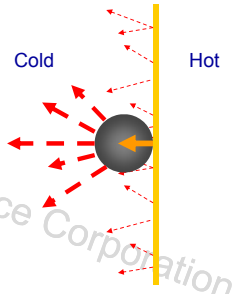
Radiation from surfaces within the enclosure assemblies



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 55

Radiation from surfaces within the enclosure assemblies



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Must have an airspace for radiant products to work

While low emitting, radiant products are often highly conductive

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

BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 56

Moisture and Buildings

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 57

Moisture and Buildings

- Moisture is involved in almost all building envelope performance problems
 - In-service Durability
- Examples:
 - rot,
 - corrosion,
 - mold (IAQ)
 - termites, (!),
 - staining
 - etc.

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 58

Moisture Damage

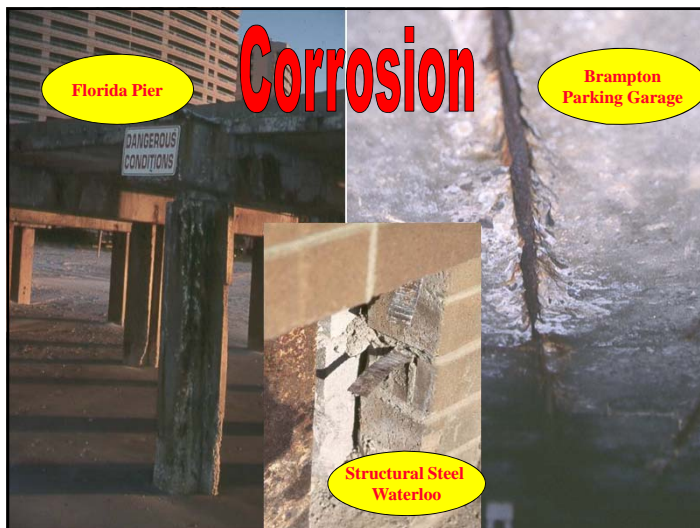
- Damage caused by
 - Very high humidity for a long time
 - Wet (100%RH) for a shorter time
- Time required depends
 - on material
 - Temperature
 - Higher temperature accelerates process

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation

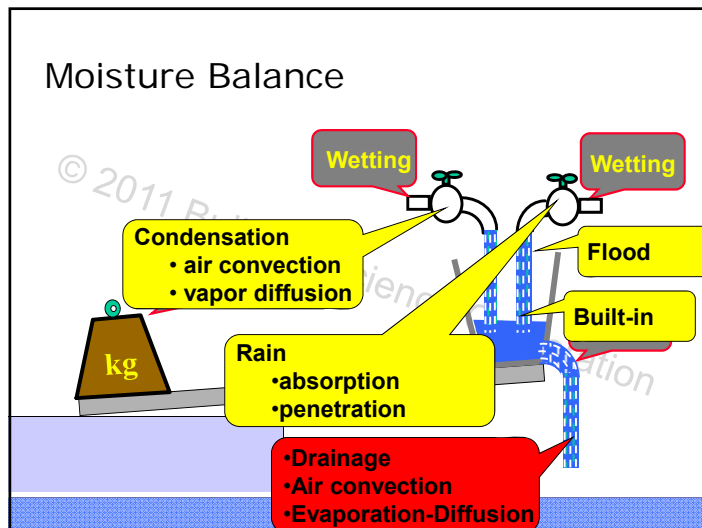
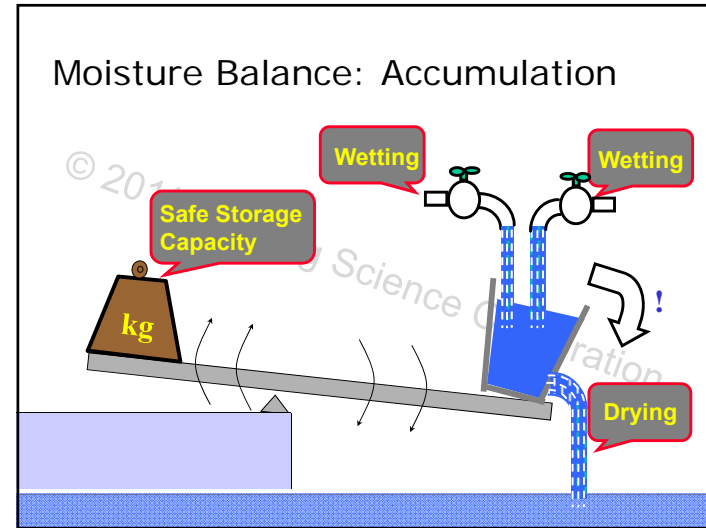
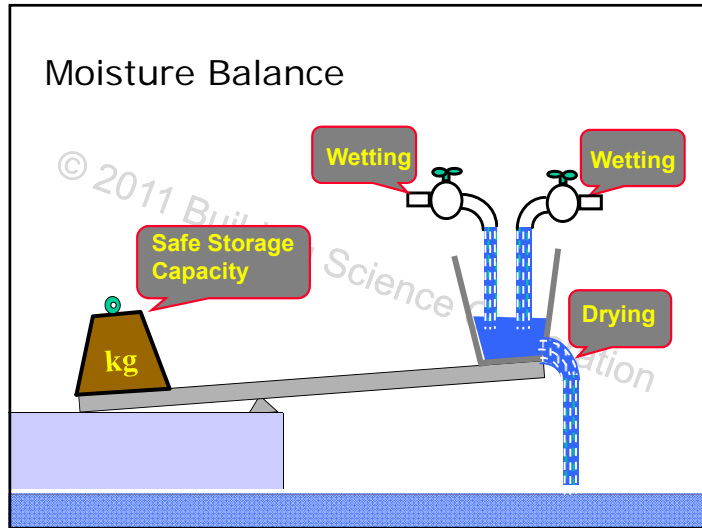
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 59





Moisture Control

- Moisture-related Problems
 1. **Moisture** must be available
 2. There must be a route or **path**
 3. There must be a **force** to cause movement
 4. The material must be **susceptible** to damage
- Theory:
 - eliminate any one for complete control
- Practice:
 - control as many as possible



Wall + Roof Wetting

Sources/ Mechanisms

- 1. Rain**
 - absorption
 - penetration
 - splash and drips
- 2. Water Vapor Movement**
 - Diffusion
 - Convection (air leaks)
- 3. Built in**
- 4. Ground**
 - Capillary (wicking)
 - Gravity
 - Diffusion

DSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 68

Wall + Roof Drying

Sinks and Mechanisms 4

- 1. Surface Evaporation**
 - Wicking to surface
- 2. Vapor Movement**
 - i) Diffusion
 - ii) Convection
- 3. Drainage**
- 4. Intentional Convection = Ventilation Drying**

Note above and below grade

Ventilation Drying

- **Ventilation provides drying to the exterior**
- Can be important for:
 - 1. vapor impermeable cladding**
 - metal panels
 - most roofing
 - 2. systems which retain rainwater**
 - Improves survivability of small rain leaks and condensation

Clear Air Spaces
Vent Holes Above & Below Window
Vent Holes at Top & Bottom of Wall

Storage

- Bridges gap in time between wetting and drying
- **How much moisture** for **how long** before damage
- **Safe storage:** safe against what?
 - mold, rot, freeze-thaw, corrosion

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 71

Design Choices

- Either **avoid wetting**
- Or, **provide enough drying** to accommodate wetting
- Depending on the **storage provided**


The balance has shifted over time

- **Amount** of storage has changed over last 100 yrs
 - e.g. steel stud, vs wood stud vs concrete block
 - 1: 10 : 100+
- Wetting is usually less
- Drying is often much less


NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 72

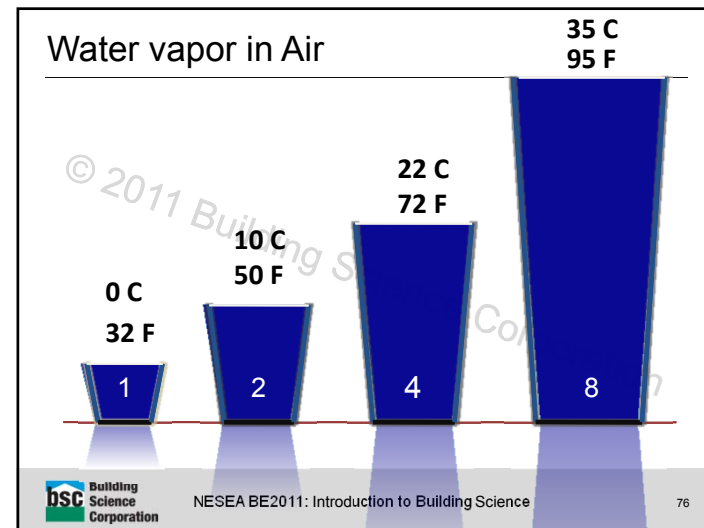
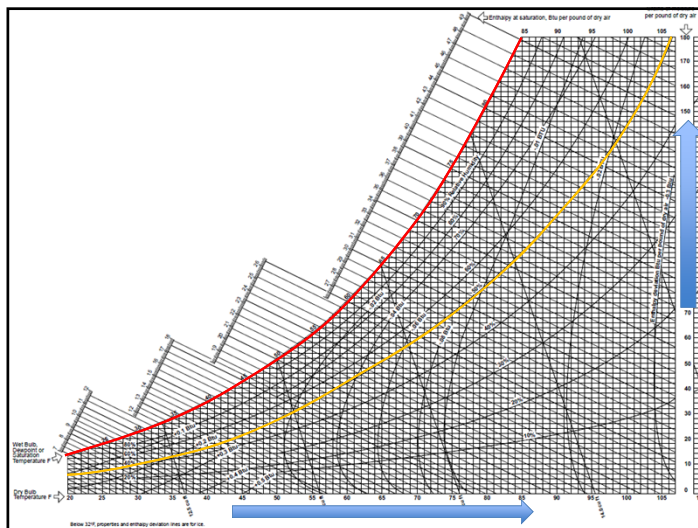
Design Solutions

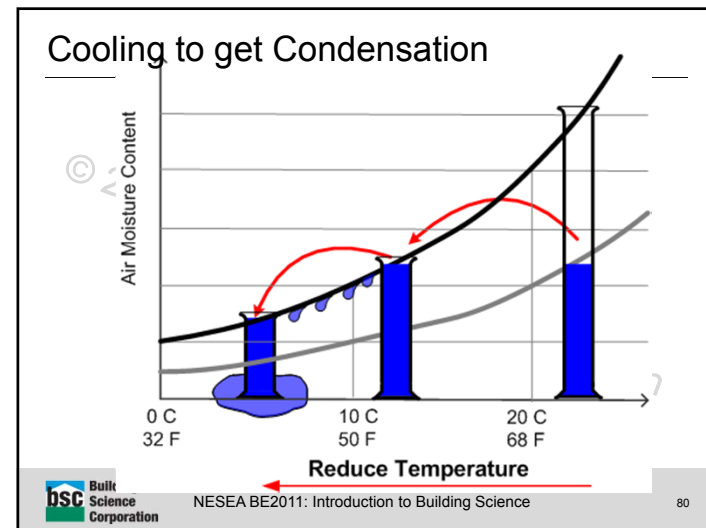
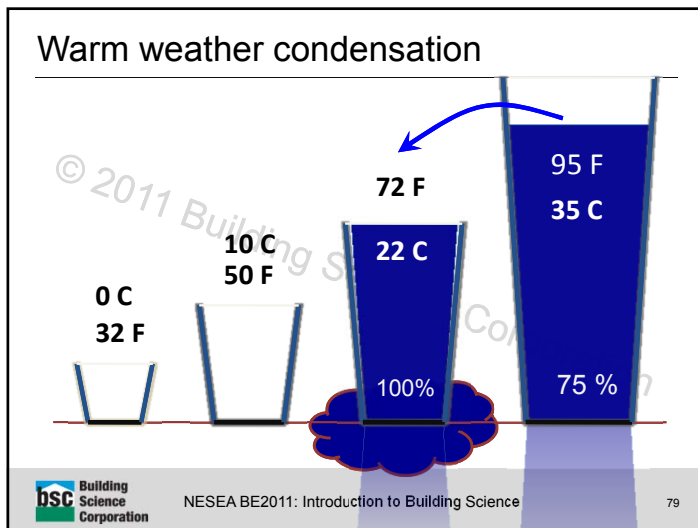
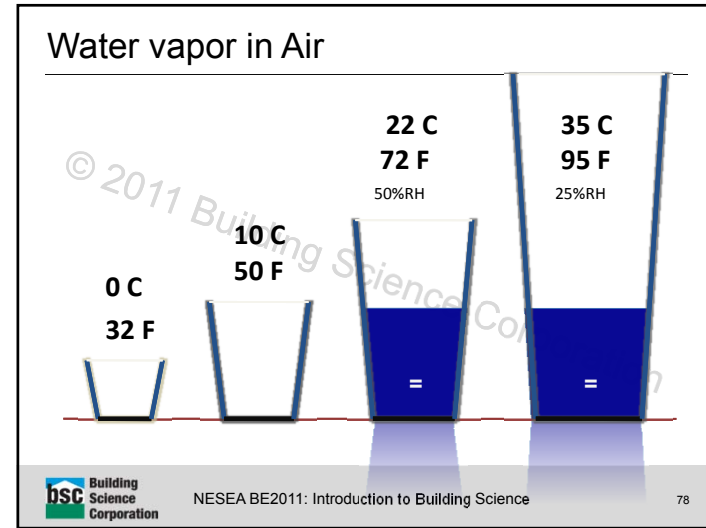
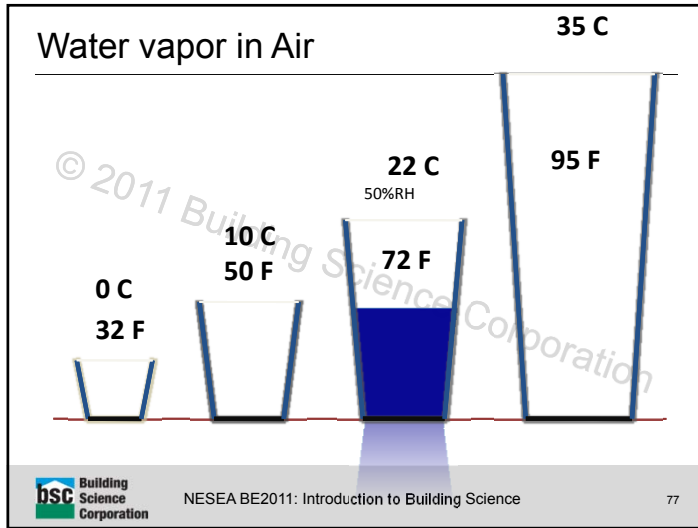
- Balance wetting, drying, and storage
- Practical Rules
 - Provide a **continuous** plane of **rain** control including each enclosure detail
 - Provide **continuous air barriers** and **insulation** to control condensation problems
 - Allow **drying** of built-in and accidental moisture – beware drying retarders

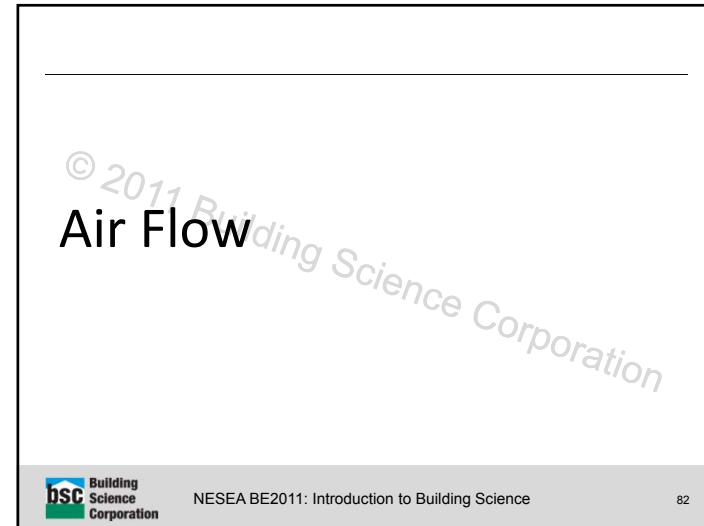
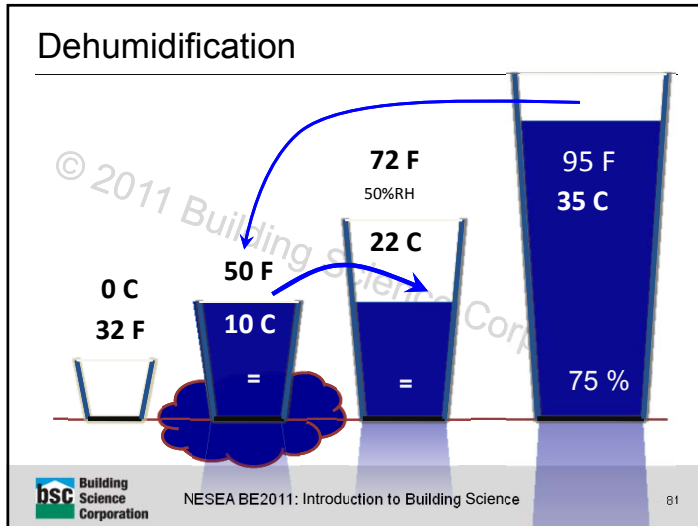
 NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 73

Psychrometrics (and Condensation)

 NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 74

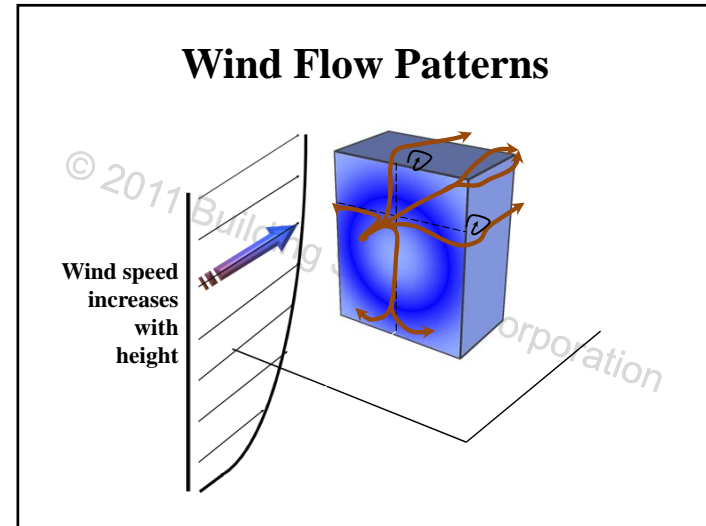
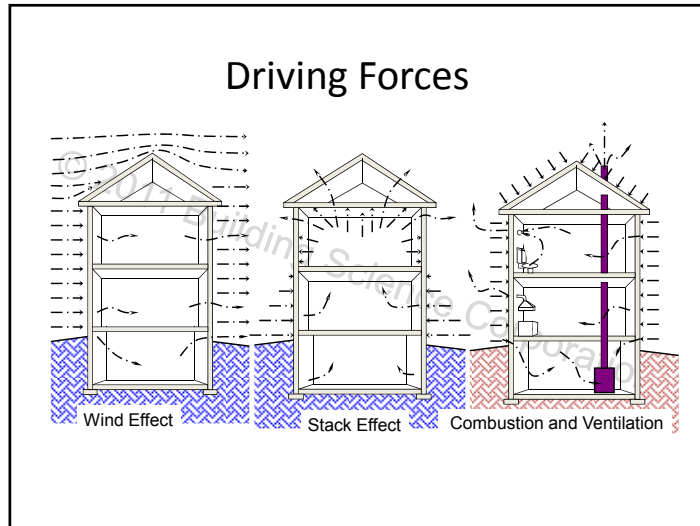






- ### Airflow Control: Why
- Moisture control
 - air leakage condensation
 - Comfort and Health
 - Drafts
 - Odors, particles, gases
 - Energy
 - Heat transferred with air
 - Sound
 - Required by some codes
- If you can't enclose air, you can't condition it*
- © 2011 Building Science Corporation
- NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 83

- ### Driving Forces
- 1. Wind Pressures
 - 2. Buoyancy (or stack effect)
 - 3. HVAC
- © 2011 Building Science Corporation
- NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 84
- Airflow Control No. 8479



2. Stack Effect: Cold Weather

- Hot air rises
- Tall Building in Winter = Heavy Balloon

The diagram shows a fire source on the left with a red arrow indicating hot air rising. A pressure profile is shown with a '+' sign at the top and a '-' sign at the bottom. A tall building is shown on the right, illustrating the concept of a 'heavy balloon' where the building's weight is supported by the air pressure differential.

DSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 87

Stack Effect: Cold Weather

- "Perfect" Building equally leaky everywhere
- Neutral Pressure Plane** at mid-height

The diagram shows a building with air flow patterns. A dashed line represents the Neutral Pressure Plane (NPP) at mid-height. Blue arrows indicate air flowing out at the top and air flowing in at the bottom.

Air flows out at top

Air flows in at bottom

DSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 88

Stack Effect: Warm Weather

- “Perfect” Building equally leaky everywhere
- **Neutral Pressure Plane** at mid-height

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 89

Stack Effect

- When cold (20 F) outside
 - About 4 Pa per storey (10') of height
- When hot (95 F) outside
 - About 1.5 Pa per storey (10') of height
- Result
 - Revolving doors
 - We suck air from below in cold weather

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 90

3. HVAC Pressurization

- More airflow forced into building than sucked out of building = **Pressurization**

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 91

De-Pressurization

- More airflow forced out of building than forced into building = **De-Pressurization**

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 92

Driving Forces

- Wind
 - Taller buildings see high pressures!
 - 2-10 Pa low bldgs, 30-200+ Pa tall buildings
- Stack Effect
 - Pressure increases directly with temperature difference and height
- HVAC
 - Depends on design and operation



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

93

Air Leakage Condensation

- Controlling interstitial condensation is a major reason to control airflow
- If moist air contacts cool surface: Condensation occurs
- When
 - winter: cold outside surfaces
 - summer: cold inside surfaces
- Damaging airflow direction:
 - cold weather inside to outside
 - warm weather outside to inside



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

94

Summer condensation



Cold Weather Air leakage "issues"

**Air Leakage
Condensation at
top stories**

- Wind +
- Stack +
- (Rain)

=Re-cladding

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Air Barriers vs. Vapor Barriers

BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 98

Water Vapor Transport

- Vapor Diffusion (like heat conduction)
 - more to less vapor
 - No air flow
 - Flow through tiny pores
- Air Convection (like heat convection)
 - more to less air pressure
 - flow through visible cracks and holes
 - vapor is just along for the ride

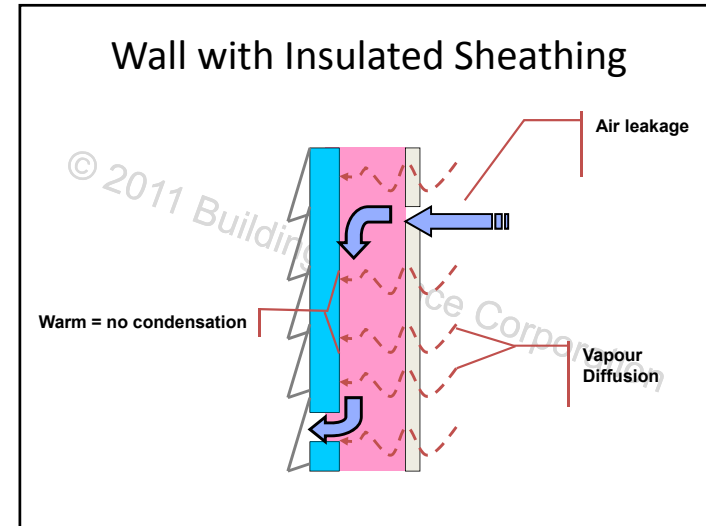
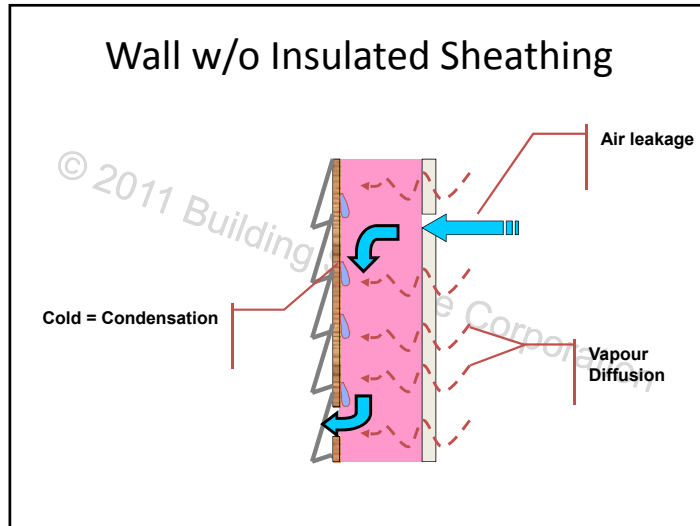
BSC Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Bt

- Air leakage is much more critical than diffusion

Beware

- Parapets
- Hollow walls
- Canopies
- Penetrations



Vapor Barriers and the Code

- Class I: 0.1 perm or less (polyethylene)
- Class II: $0.1 < \text{perm} \leq 1.0$ perm (Kraft facing, VB paint)
- Class III: $1.0 < \text{perm} \leq 10$ perm (Latex paint)
- More open vapor control allows greater drying—more “forgiveness” in wall

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

103

Vapor Barriers and the Code

TABLE N1102.5.1
CLASS III VAPOR RETARDERS

Zone	Class III vapor retarders permitted for:
Marine 4	Vented cladding over OSB Vented cladding over plywood Vented cladding over fiberboard Vented cladding over gypsum Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 2.5 over 2x4 wall Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 3.75 over 2x6 wall
5	Vented cladding over OSB Vented cladding over plywood Vented cladding over fiberboard Vented cladding over gypsum Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 5 over 2x4 wall Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 7.5 over 2x6 wall
6	Vented cladding over fiberboard Vented cladding over gypsum Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 7.5 over 2x4 wall Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 11.25 over 2x6 wall
7 and 8	Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 10 over 2x4 wall Insulated sheathing with R-value ≥ 15 over 2x6 wall


Can just use latex paint (no vapor barrier) if you add enough insulation outside of the stud bay insulation. Safer -> controls diffusion and air leakage moisture

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

104

Air Barriers


© 2011 Building Science Corporation



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 105

Air Barrier Systems


- Function: to stop airflow through enclosure
- ABS can be placed anywhere in the enclosure
- Must be strong enough to take wind gusts (code requirement)
- Many materials are air impermeable, but most systems are not airtight



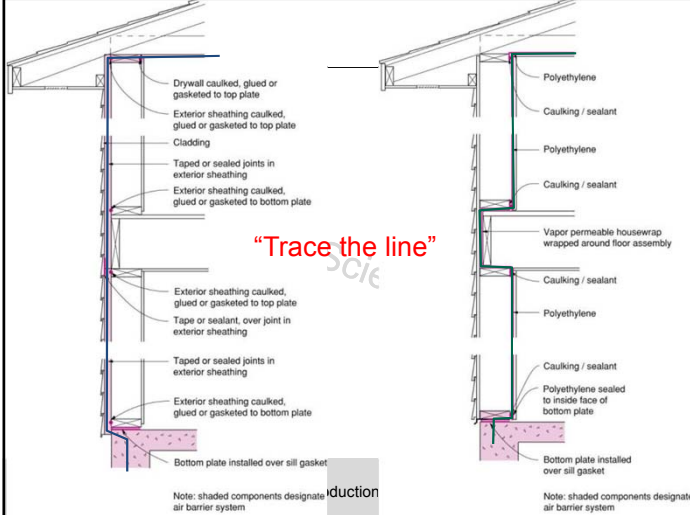
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 106

Air Barrier Systems: Requirements

- Continuous
 - primary need, common failure
- Strong
 - designed for full wind load
- Durable
 - critical component - repair, replacement
- Stiff
 - control billowing, pumping
- Air Impermeable
 - (may be vapour permeable)

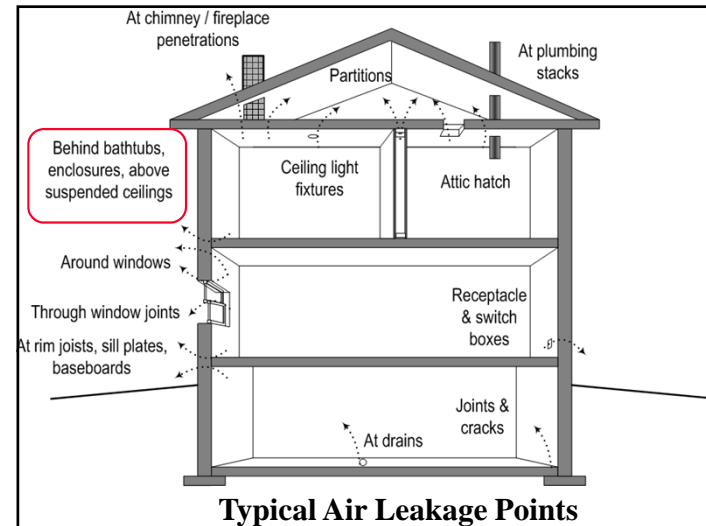
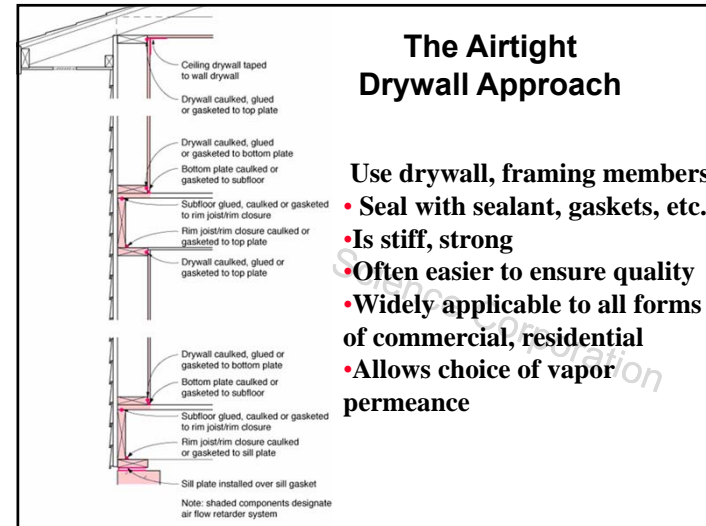


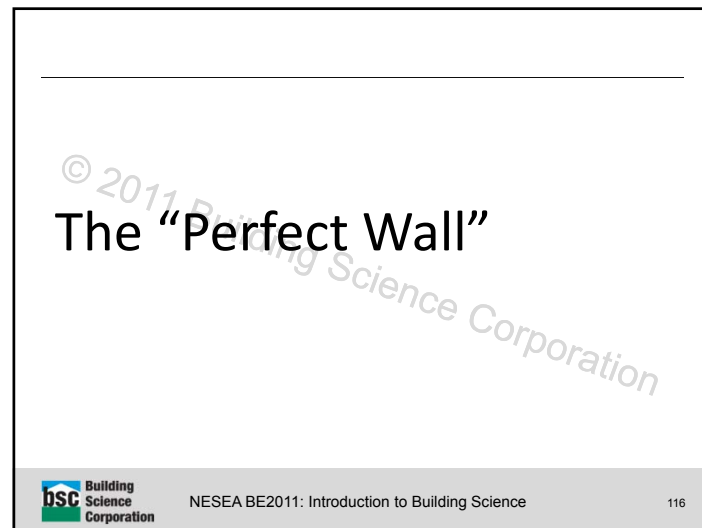
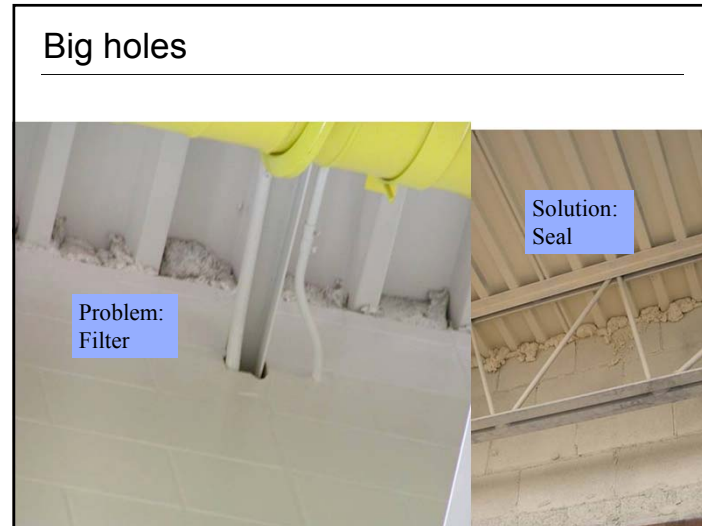
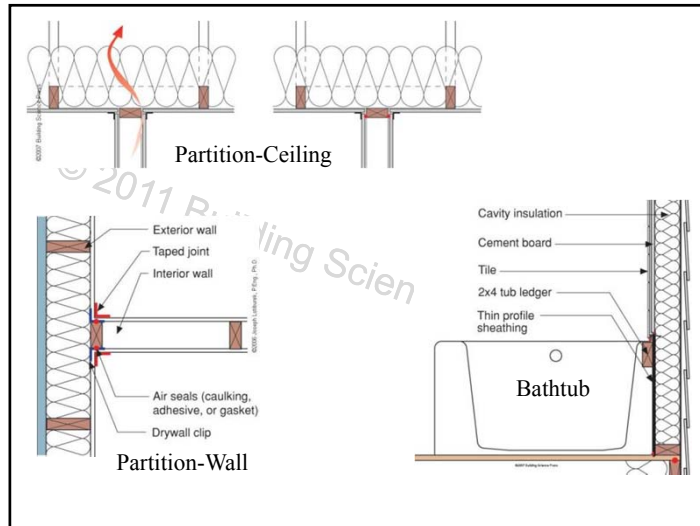
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 107

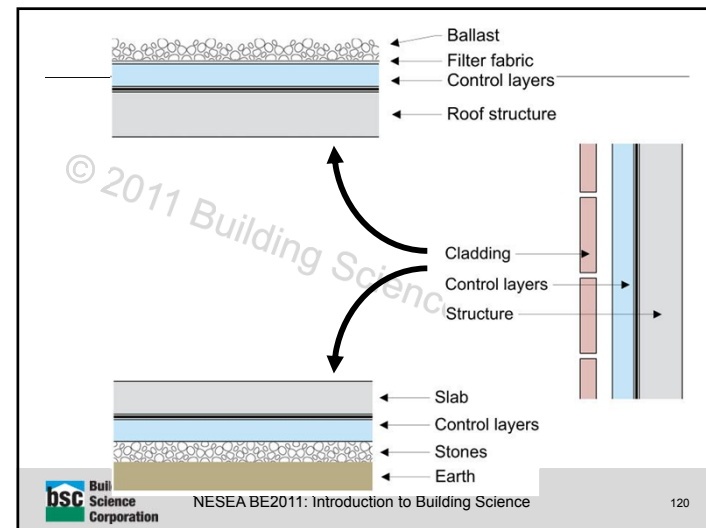
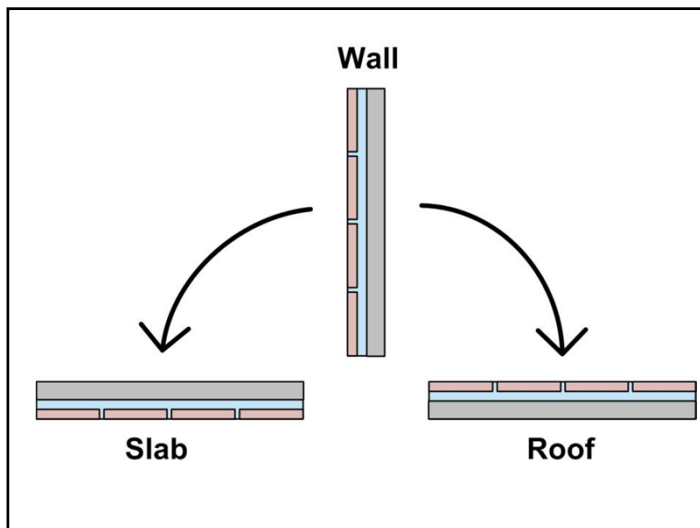
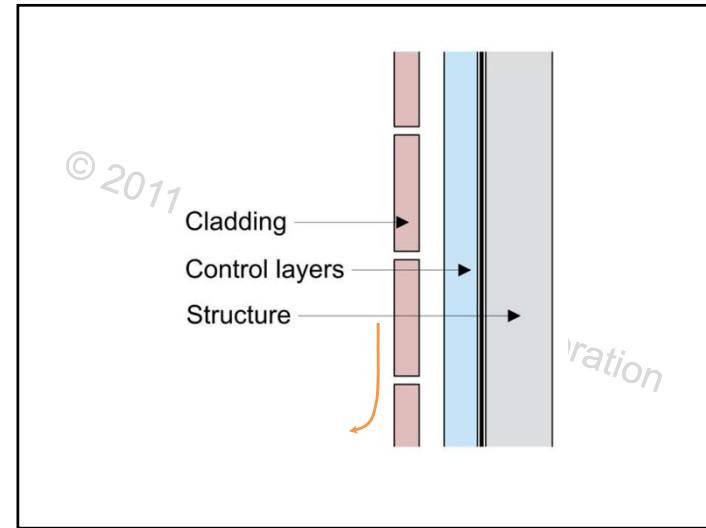
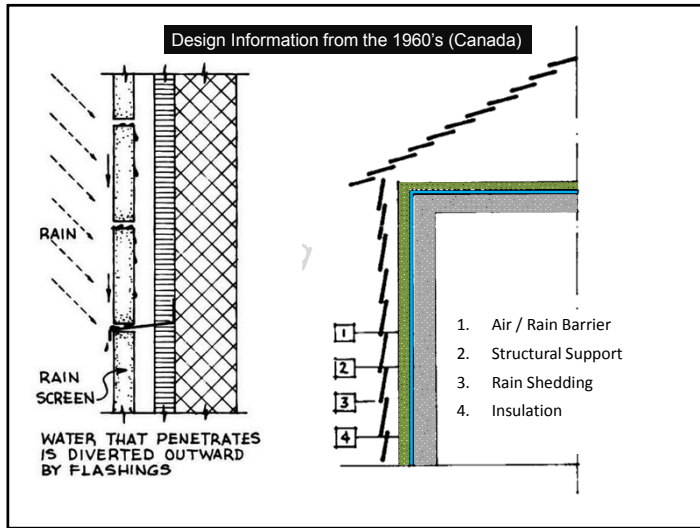


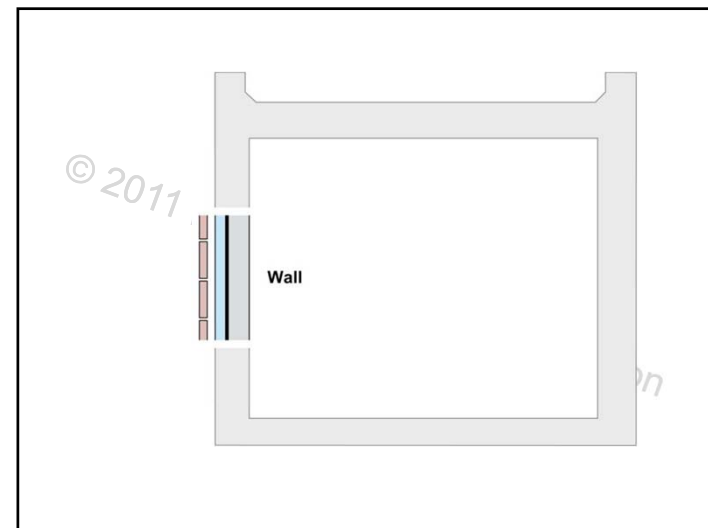
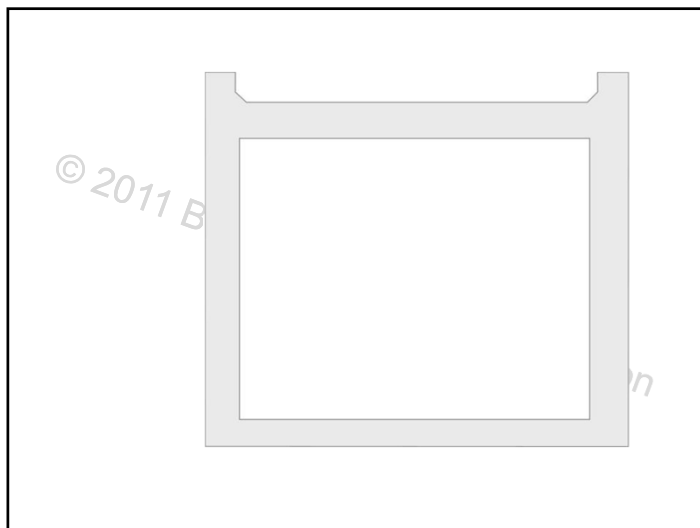
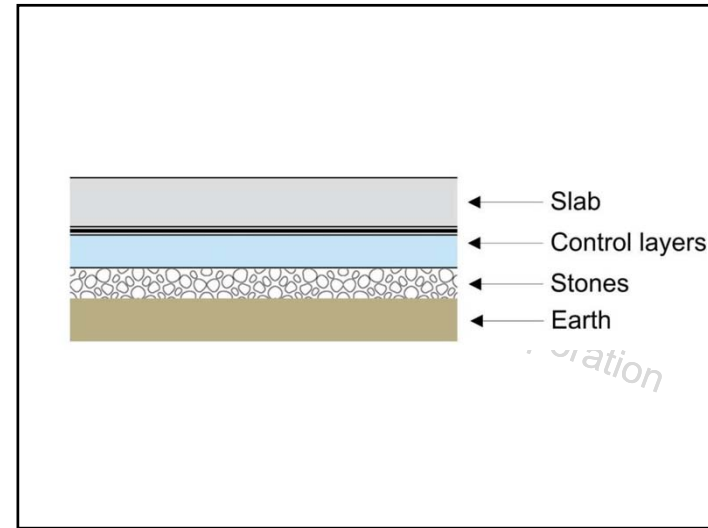
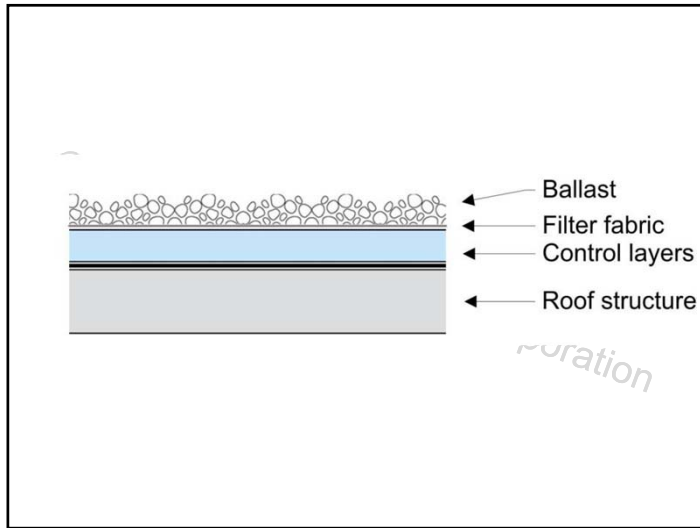
"Trace the line"

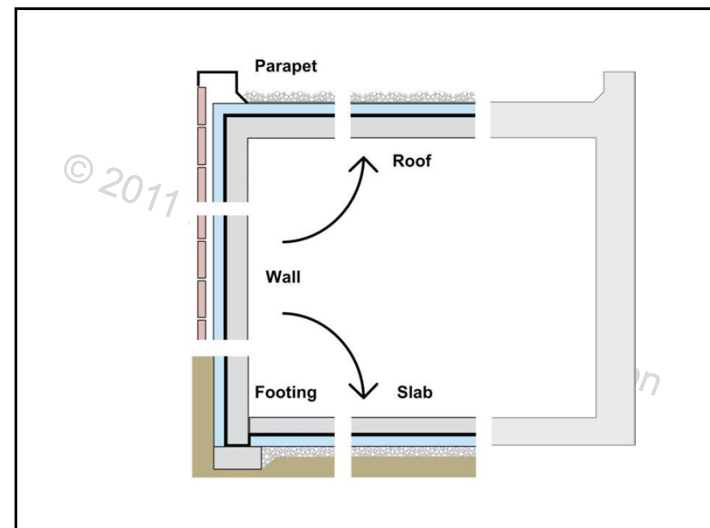
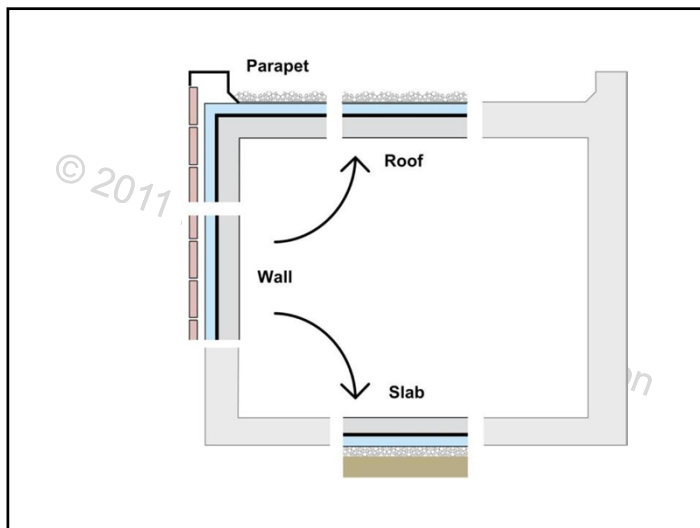
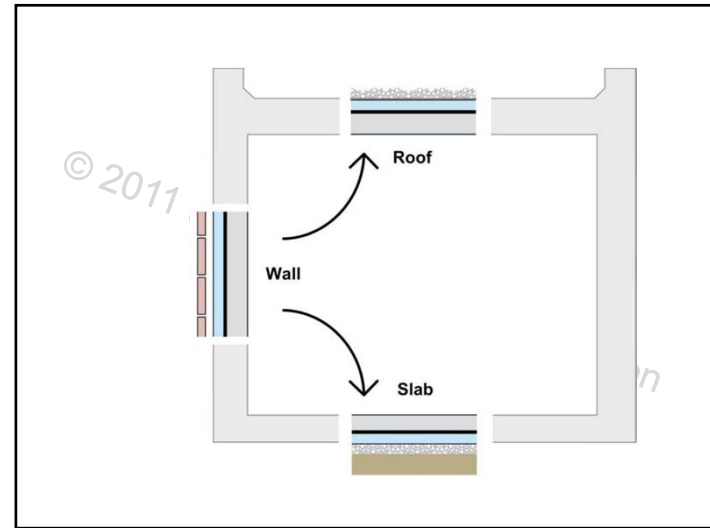
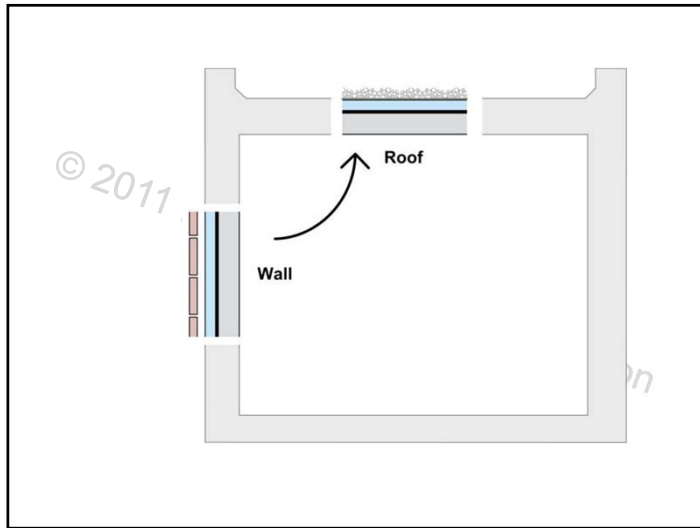
Note: shaded components designate air barrier system

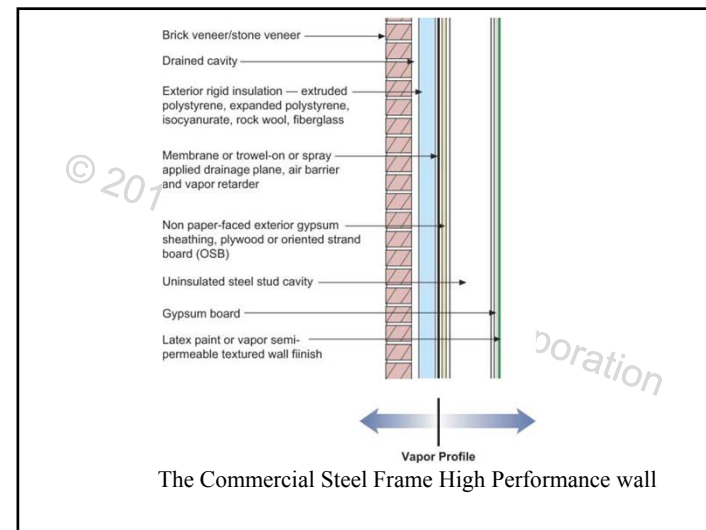
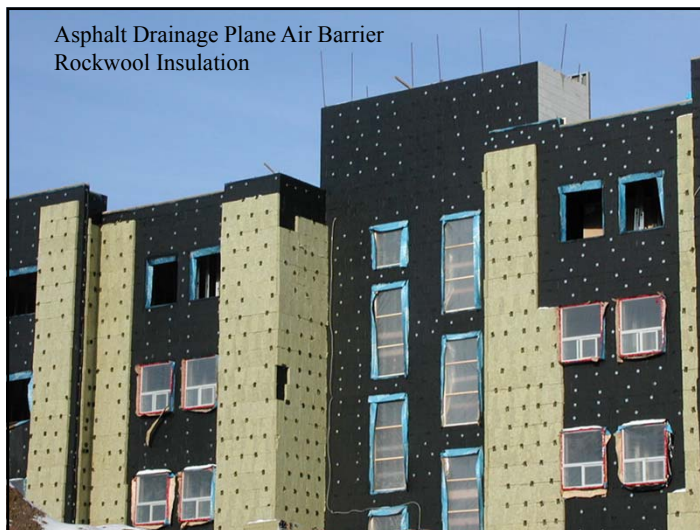
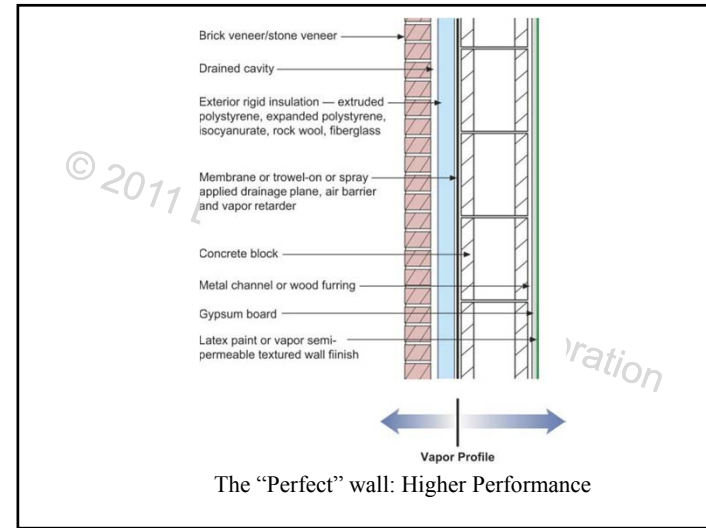
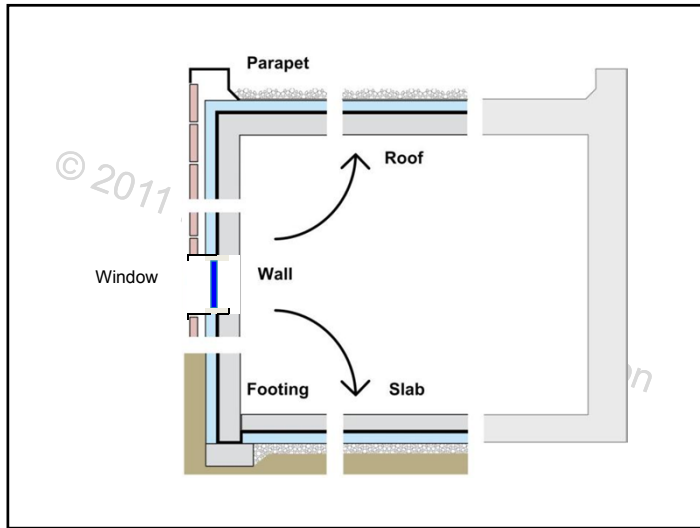















“Perfect Wall” Advantages

- Very robust enclosure—“500 year building”
 - Structural portion in “interior” conditions
- Institutional/long term buildings
- No risk of interstitial condensation
- Continuity of control layers
- Any interior condition
- Any exterior condition

© 2011 Building Science Corporation




NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

135

Fenestration

© 2011 Building Science Corporation




NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

136


Windows & Curtainwalls

- A major element in modern architecture
- Must apply the usual building enclosure design principles
 - Support, Control, Finish, Distribute
- Must also consider
 - Control of solar radiation and light
 - Allowance for ventilation/emergency egress

 NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 137


Windows

- Functions: Same as wall - *plus*
 - transparent and allow ventilation
 - not easy, hence expensive and compromise
- Structure - transfer loads
- Rain control
- Heat control
- Airflow control – tight / ventilation
- Solar control – gain / reject

 NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 138


Why Good Windows/Curtainwalls?

- Major impact on:
 - energy performance, e.g. HVAC equip
 - view and light
 - comfort (warm, no drafts)
 - condensation resistance
 - rain penetration resistance
 - sound control (airtight)

 NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 139

Window vs. Wall Performance

	Window	Wall	Ratio
Conduction: $Q_c = U \Delta T$	U=0.33 / R3	U=0.05 / R20	
$T_{in}=70\text{ F}$ $T_{out}=10\text{ F}$	$Q_c = 20\text{ Btu/sf/hr}$	$Q_c = 3\text{ Btu/sf/hr}$	6.6
Solar: $Q_s = SHGC I$	SHGC=0.60	SHGC=0.015	
$I_s = 250\text{ Btu/sf/hr}$ (bright sun)	$Q_s = 150\text{ Btu/sf/hr}$	$Q_s = 3.5\text{ Btu/sf/hr}$	42
Alternate: solar control glazing	SHGC=0.3 $Q_s = 75\text{ Btu/sf/hr}$	U=0.125 / R8 $Q_c = 7.5$	10

 NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 140



Windows

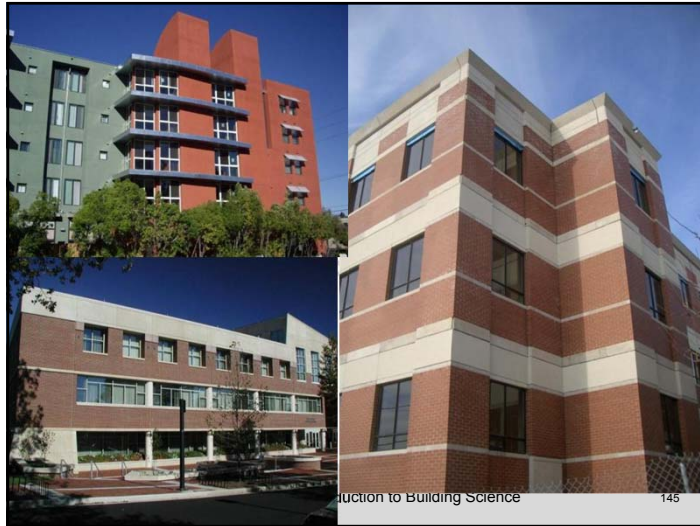
- Same functions as rest of enclosure
 - Support, control, finish
- Critical design element
 - Image, comfort, energy, durability, daylight
- New windows are often poorly insulated and air leaky
 - Must specify frames, spacers, fills, coatings



Performance Issues and Metrics

- Primary Metrics
 - Heat Loss / Gain (R,U)
 - Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)
 - Visual Transmittance (VT)
- Other Important
 - Condensation resistance (CRI)
 - Air Leakage (AL)
 - Water penetration
 - Impact and Blast





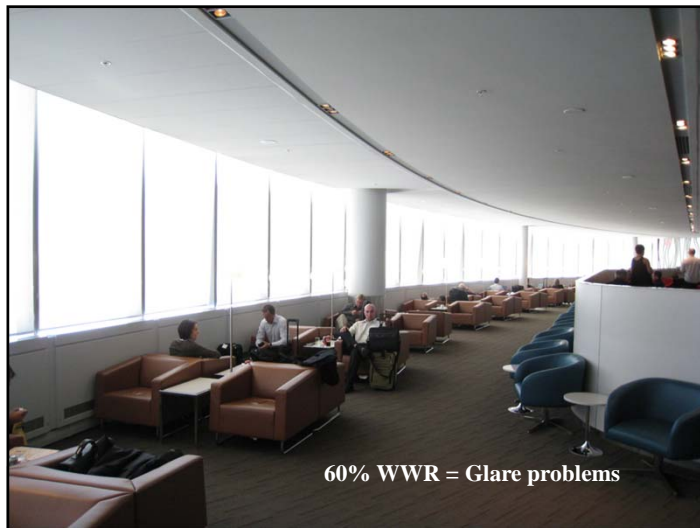
Daylighting

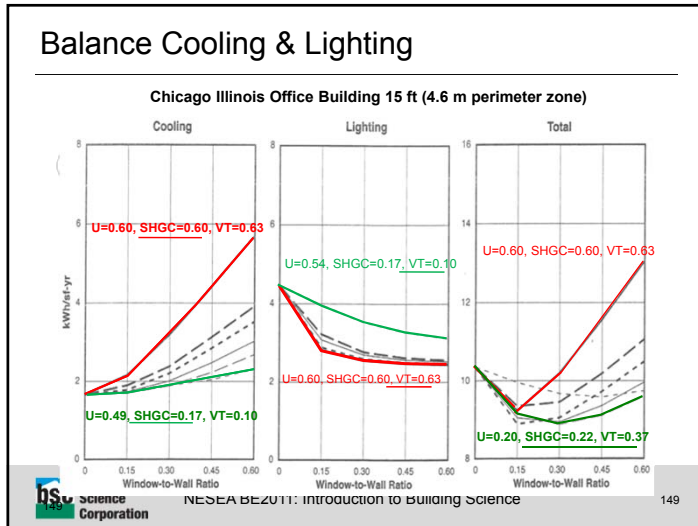
- Natural light can offset artificial lights
- Natural light almost always preferred
- BUT,
 - Must use daylight *controls* and sensors to capture energy savings
 - Need to control glare and solar heating caused by too much glass on sunny days
 - Cooling costs often overwhelm lighting savings
 - New efficient lighting technologies



NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science

146



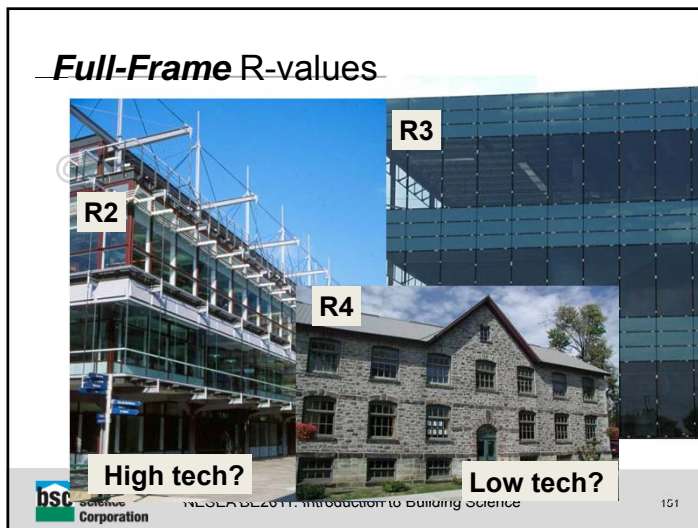


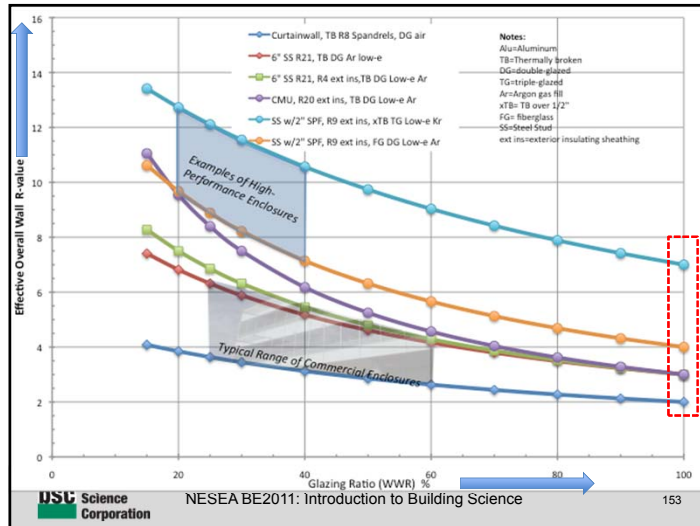
Controlling Heat (U/R)

- Windows usually have the lowest thermal performance of all parts of the enclosure
- Must control heat for
 - Comfort
 - Energy
 - Health
 - Durability

Prevent Condensation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 150






Solar Heat Gain

- Glazing ratio dominates size of AC equipment and ducts in all climates
- Solar Heat Gain Coefficient: SHGC
 - Ratio of solar gain on window that enters room as heat
 - Lower controls better
 - Typically below 0.5


Building Science Corporation | NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science | 154

Impact of SHGC on AC sizing

- Both have identical Enclosure Elements *except* Glass



Standard Clear Double Glazed
U= 0.79
SHGC = 0.68
3.5 Ton AC unit

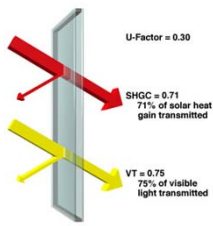


Double Glazed Low-e, Low SHGC
U= 0.60
SHGC = 0.38
2.5 Ton AC unit

Building Science Corporation

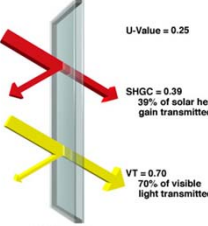
All Glazing is not the Same

What do you want?
Solar heating,
or
Reduced cooling



U-Factor = 0.30
SHGC = 0.71
71% of solar heat gain transmitted
VT = 0.75
75% of visible light transmitted

Double Glazed Low-e High SHGC

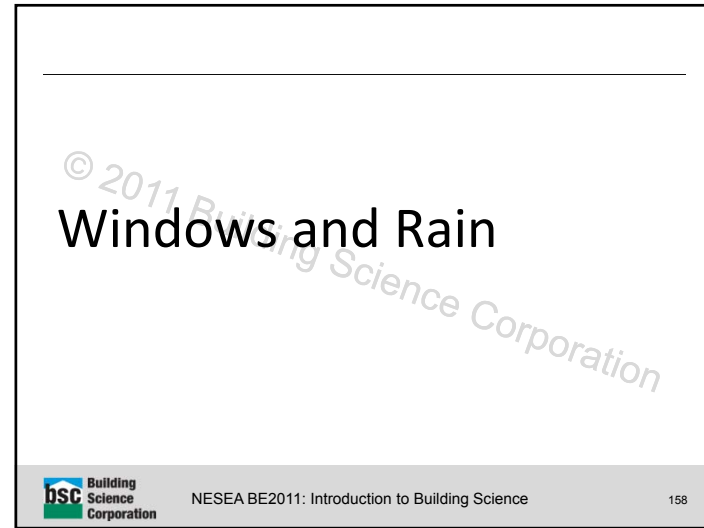
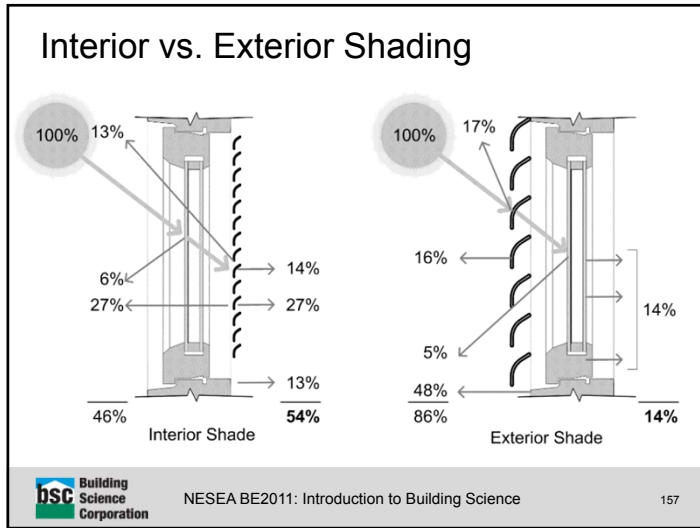


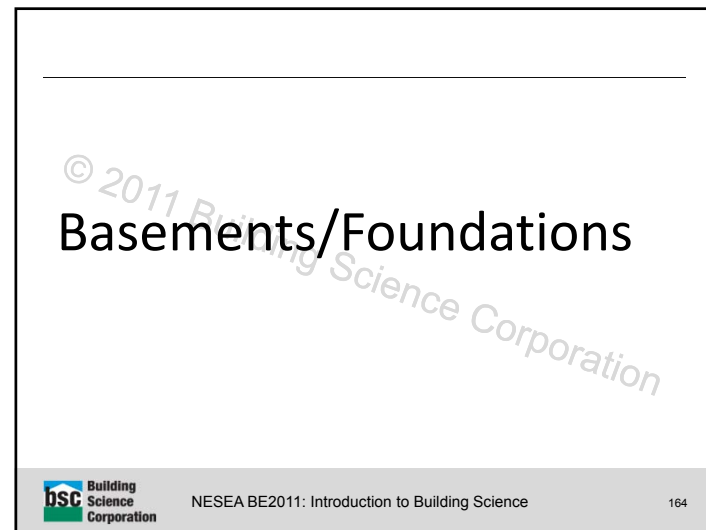
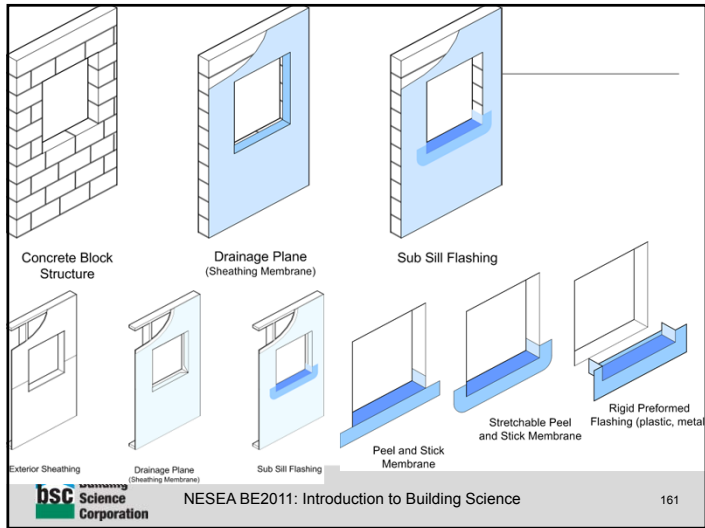
U-Value = 0.25
SHGC = 0.39
39% of solar heat gain transmitted
VT = 0.70
70% of visible light transmitted

Double Glazed Low-e Low SHGC

Images © Efficient Windows Collaborative Website, www.efficientwindows.org


8 of 12





Background

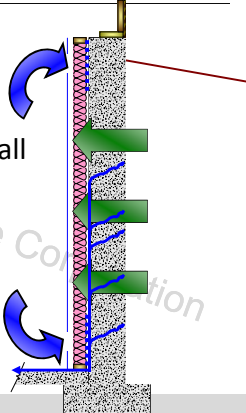
- Used increasingly as finished space
- Energy use of basements (insulation)
- Moisture-related failures of basement wall systems
- Known solutions (e.g., exterior insulation, ICFs)



BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 165

Basement Insulation Problems

- Wintertime interior moisture condensation (like above-grade walls)
- Condensation at bottom of wall (thermal lag of soil)
- Lack of drying of assembly (moisture from concrete and soil); soil is at 100% RH
- Liquid water through wall



BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 166

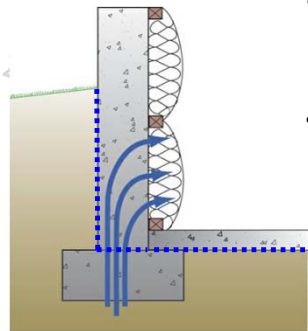
Control Liquid Water (e.g., drainage mat)



BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 167

Control Capillary Water

- Polyethylene under floor slab (over free-draining fill)
- Capillary break between soil & basement wall
- Dampproofing at footing-wall connection



BSC Building Science Corporation
NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 168

Recommended Wall Assembly

- Wintertime condensation controlled
- Summertime (bottom of wall) condensation controlled
- Concrete can dry through XPS at a safe rate
- XPS is moisture tolerant

Introduction to Building Science 169



© 2011 Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 171

Spray foam basement insulation

- Open cell
- Climate specific
- Closed cell

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

Embodied Energy

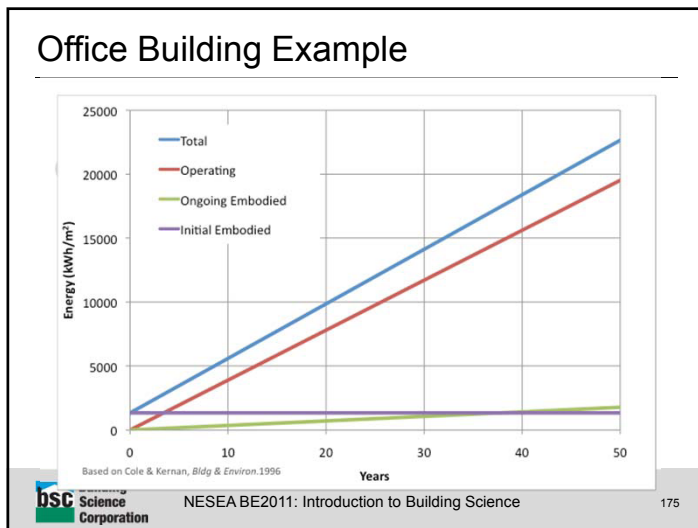
© 2011 Building Science Corporation

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 173

Damage Components due to Building

- Resource Extraction
 - Cutting trees, mining, drilling oil, etc.
- Processing
 - Refining, melting, etc. Pollutants and energy
- Transportation
 - Mass and Mode (ship/truck) and Mileage
- Construction
 - Energy, worker transport
- Operational Energy **The Majority of Impact**

NESEA BE2011: Introduction to Building Science 174



Thank you for your time!

QUESTIONS??

© 2011 Building Science Corporation

This concludes The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems Program

Building Science Corporation

Kohta Ueno
kohta@buildingscience.com