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NORTHEAST SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

**BuildingEnergy**  
**2014**

# High Performance Enclosures

Peter Yost  
BuildingGreen  
March, 2014

# High Performance Enclosures

- Water Barrier
- Air Barrier
- Thermal Barrier
- Vapor Profile (not just the designated vapor retarder)
- Finishes (UV protection)
- Commissioning & Maintenance documents

# Water Barrier(s)

- Drainage plane – moving bulk water down, out, off
  - Exterior claddings
  - Concealed weather-resistive barrier (WRB)
  - Flashings
  - What connects to what?
- Capillary breaks – managing water held in tension in and between porous building materials

# Air Barrier

- Materials –  
Air Barrier Association of America (ABAA)  
and ASTM E 2178 - Air permeance of .02  
 $\text{l/m}^2 \cdot \text{s}$  @ 75 Pa or less
  - Tyvek - yes
  - Typar - yes
  - Drywall: yes
  - Concrete block: no
  - 1-inch Type II EPS insulation: yes
  - Sprayed-in-place cellulose - no
  - ½-inch asphalt impregnated fiberboard - no
- Assemblies - .2  $\text{l/m}^2 \cdot \text{s}$  @ 75 Pa or less
- Enclosures - 2  $\text{l/m}^2 \cdot \text{s}$  @ 75 Pa or less

# Thermal Barrier

- Insulation and glazing performance in terms of all three vehicles for heat transfer
- R (resistance to heat conduction) –  $1/U$  (heat conductance)
- Material, field of wall, whole assembly performance

# Vapor Profile: Assemblies Designed to Dry – Four Steps

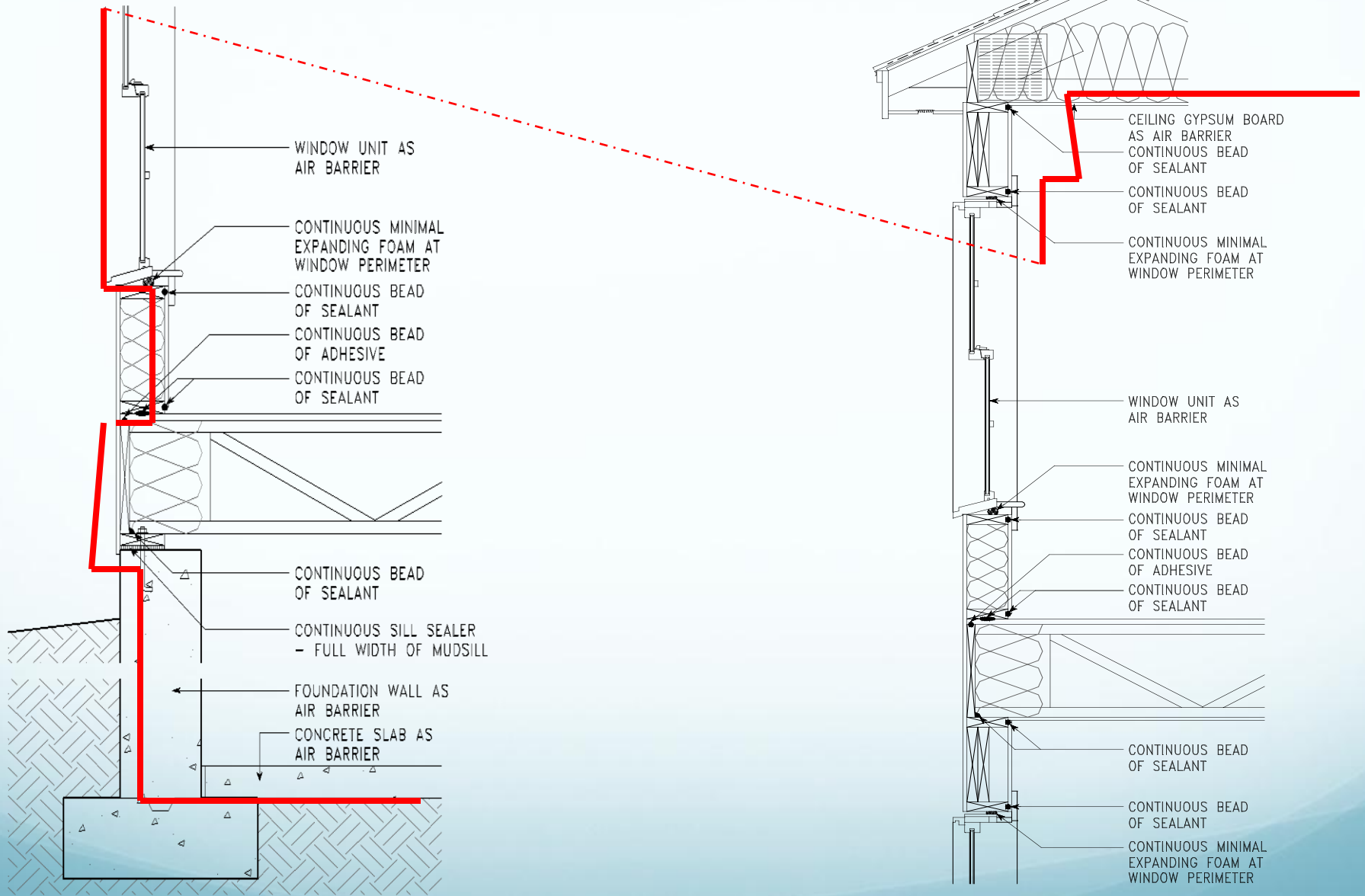
1. Determine vapor permeability of each component of assembly
2. Identify least vapor permeable component(s)
3. Assess direction and extent of vapor drive: interior/exterior temperature difference, interior/exterior relative humidities (remember always high to low)
4. Identify/assess drying direction & potential

“Vapor Profiles Help Predict Whether a Wall Can Dry”

# Qualities of the major protection systems

- Systematic
- Comprehensive
- Continuous
- Best Practices
- Each system should be addressed by at least one, preferably two, ideally three of the following:
  - Design; Materials; Workmanship

# Continuity





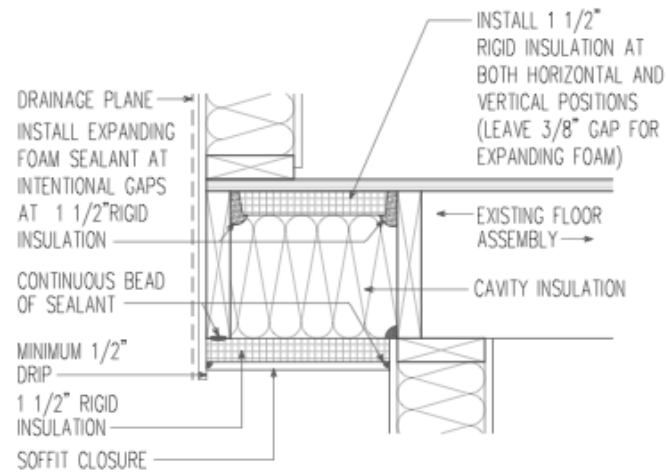
# Areas of Focus for the BE Protection Systems

- Below-grade walls, Above-Grade walls, Roofs
- Underlayments
- Claddings
- Penetrations
- Margins
- Transitions

# The Process

- Design Details
- Specifications
- Performance-based Scopes of Work

# Design Detail



INSULATED CANTILEVER FLOOR // CAVITY INSULATION WITH  
1 1/2" RIGID INSULATION CLOSURE

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Scale: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"

5-01020

# Specification

3-D Building Solutions, LLC  
6/05

## SECTION 07210 BUILDING INSULATION

### PART 1 - GENERAL

#### 1.01 SUMMARY

- A. Provide building insulation, air sealing and vapor retarders.

#### 1.02 SUBMITTALS

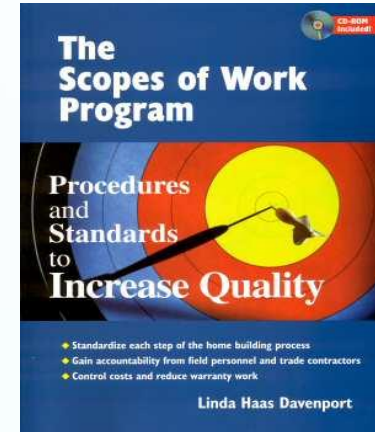
- A. Product Data: Submit manufacturer's product data and installation instructions for each material and product used.
- B. Submit for approval test reports.

#### 1.03 QUALITY ASSURANCE

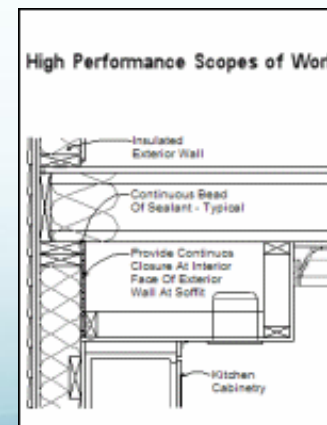
- A. Comply with governing codes and regulations. Provide products of acceptable manufacturers which have been in satisfactory use in similar service for three years. Use experienced installers. Deliver, handle, and store materials in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- B. Insulation contractor must complete the ½ -day field training/review with a technical representative of the Environments for Living® program
- C. Blower door test every structure as a measure of the air tightness. Air leakage is not to exceed 0.25 cfm per square foot of enclosure surface area, as tested at 50 Pa (pascals) pressure differential.
- D. Conduct random Infra-red camera inspections of the building enclosure, at the discretion of New Town Builders.

# Scopes of Work

- Davenport approach:
  - Pre- and post-checklists
  - “All or nothing”
- Building America approach:
  - Critical details integration
  - Performance tests



## High Performance Scopes of Work



# High Performance Scopes of Work

- Foundation
- Framing
- Drainage Plane
- Windows
- Air Sealing/Insulation
- HVAC

# Issues

- Alternative shear: let-in bracing, inset shear panels, SIS
- Sills: sloped vs. backdam
- WRB: building paper, housewrap, taped sheathing, liquid-applied
- Vented air space: spacer mesh vs. furring strips

# Alternative Shear

## Metal T-straps

- Simple
- Relatively inexpensive
- Limited capacity



BSC



# Alternative Shear

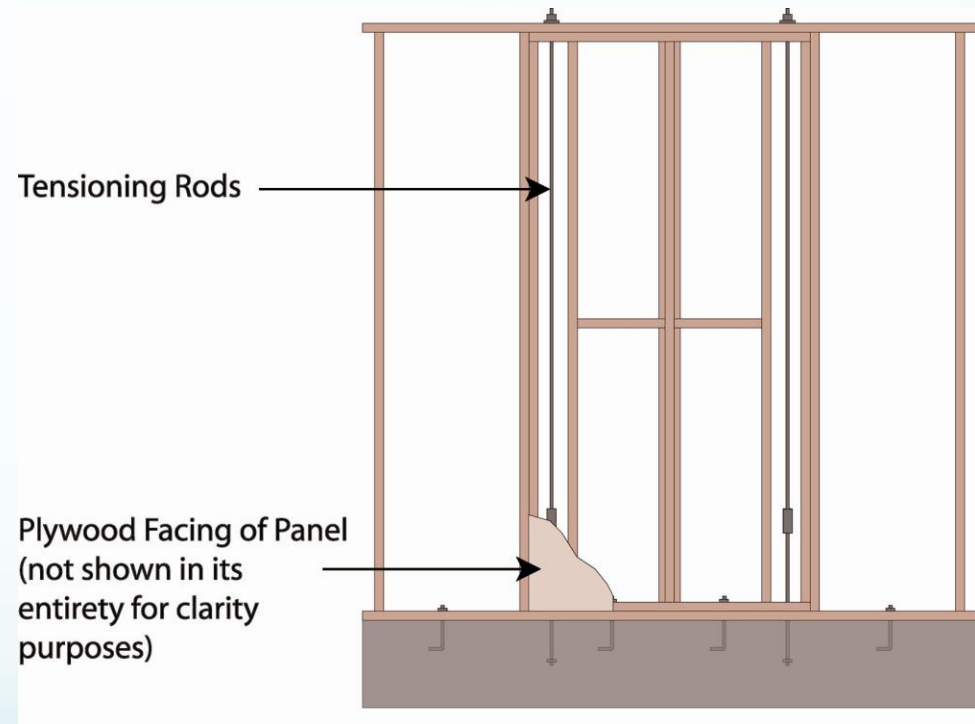
Pre-manufactured shear panels

- Higher capacity
- Higher cost



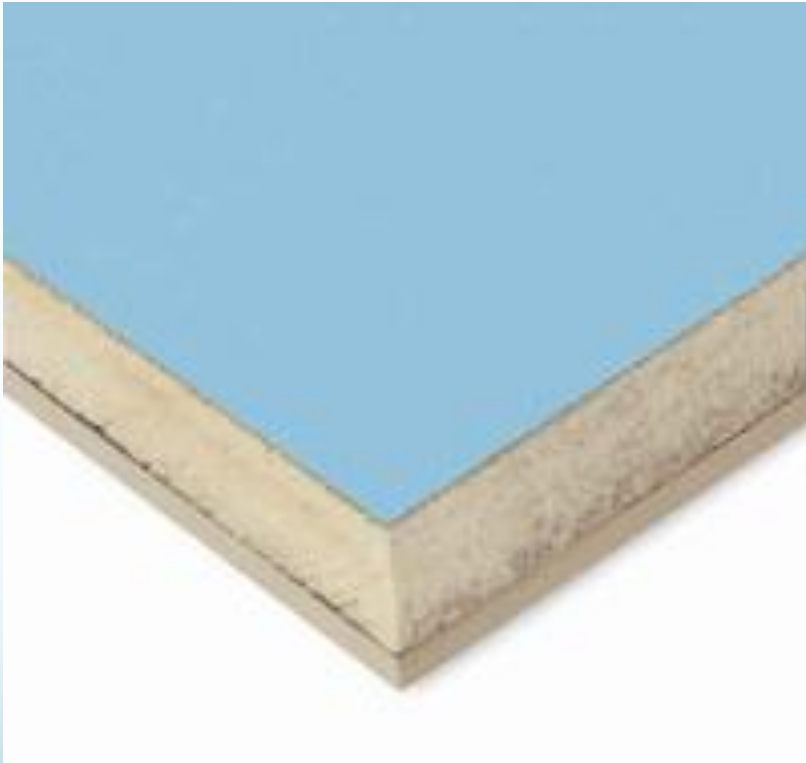
BSC

# Alternative Shear

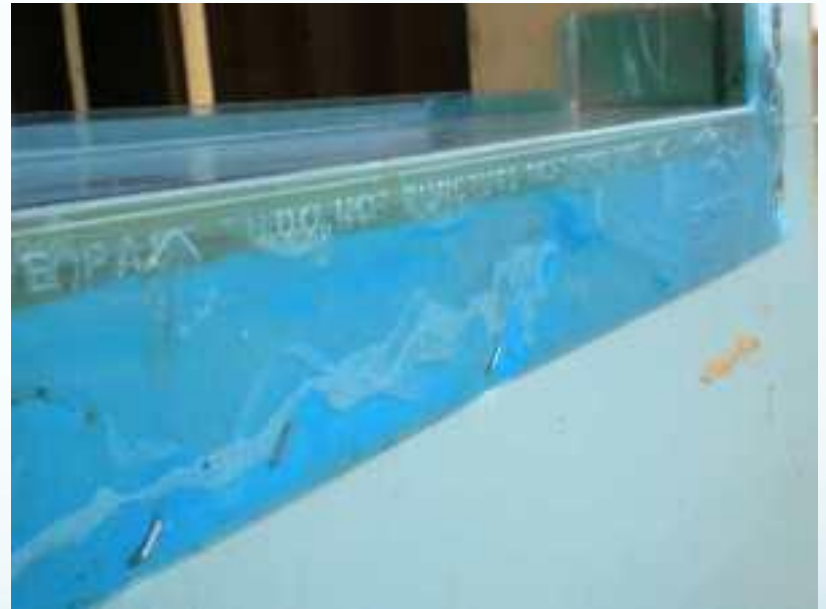


BSC

# Alternative Shear – SIS



# Sills



# Weather-Resistive Barriers

- ASTM D779-94: the "boat" test: "It is designed for use with materials that require a relatively short time to test (up to approximately 30 s)..."
- AATCC 127, the "hydro-head" test: 22-inch column of water leakproof for 5 hours (approximating a 200 mph wind-driven rain)
- The code? "equivalent" materials—24 different test standards may apply
- Don't use perforated or gross crosswoven

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**Tyvek**  
**HomeWrap**  
Revêtement











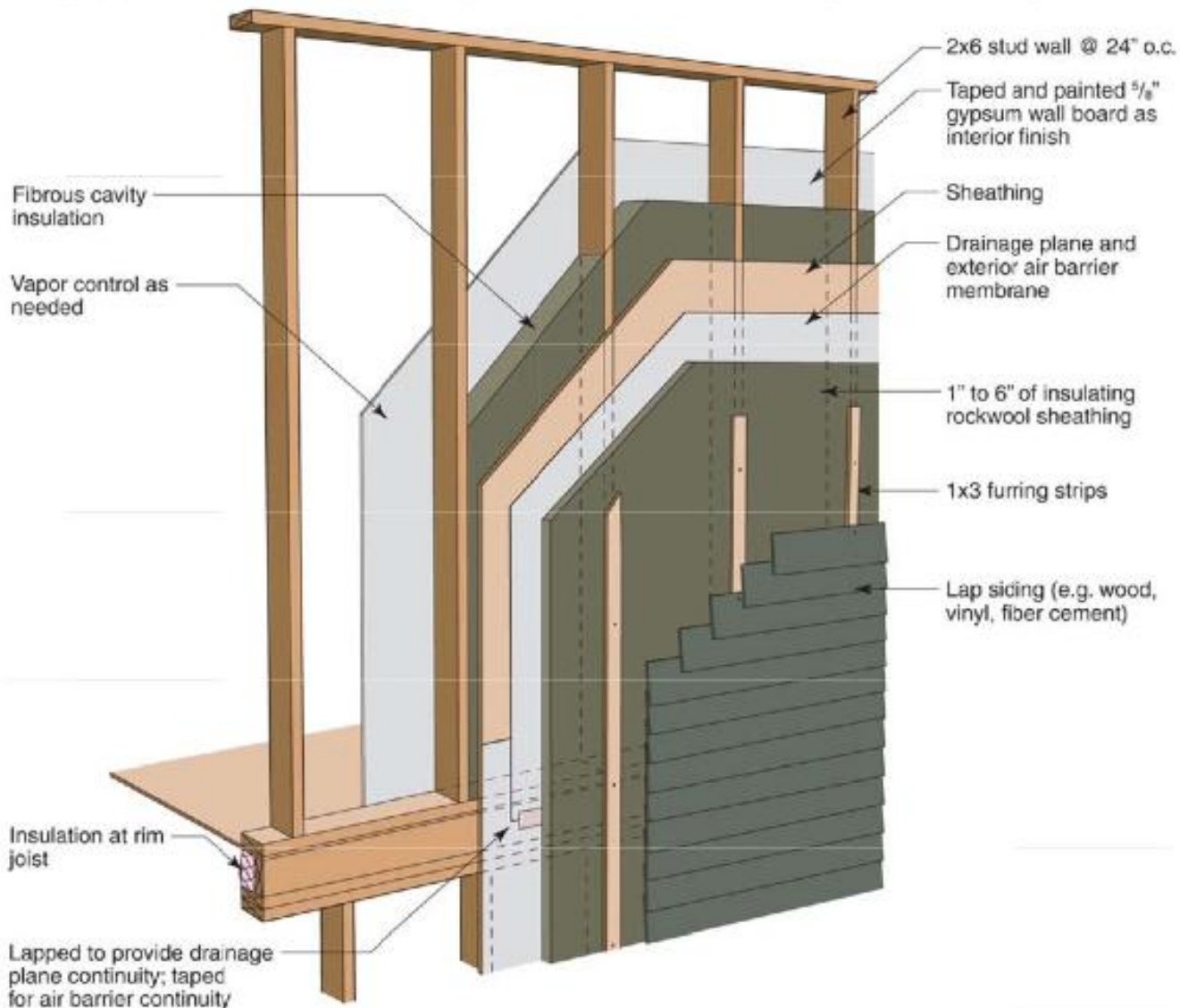




# Adding exterior insulation

- Shear across the rigid insulation
- WRB location
- Window location
- Connecting the two

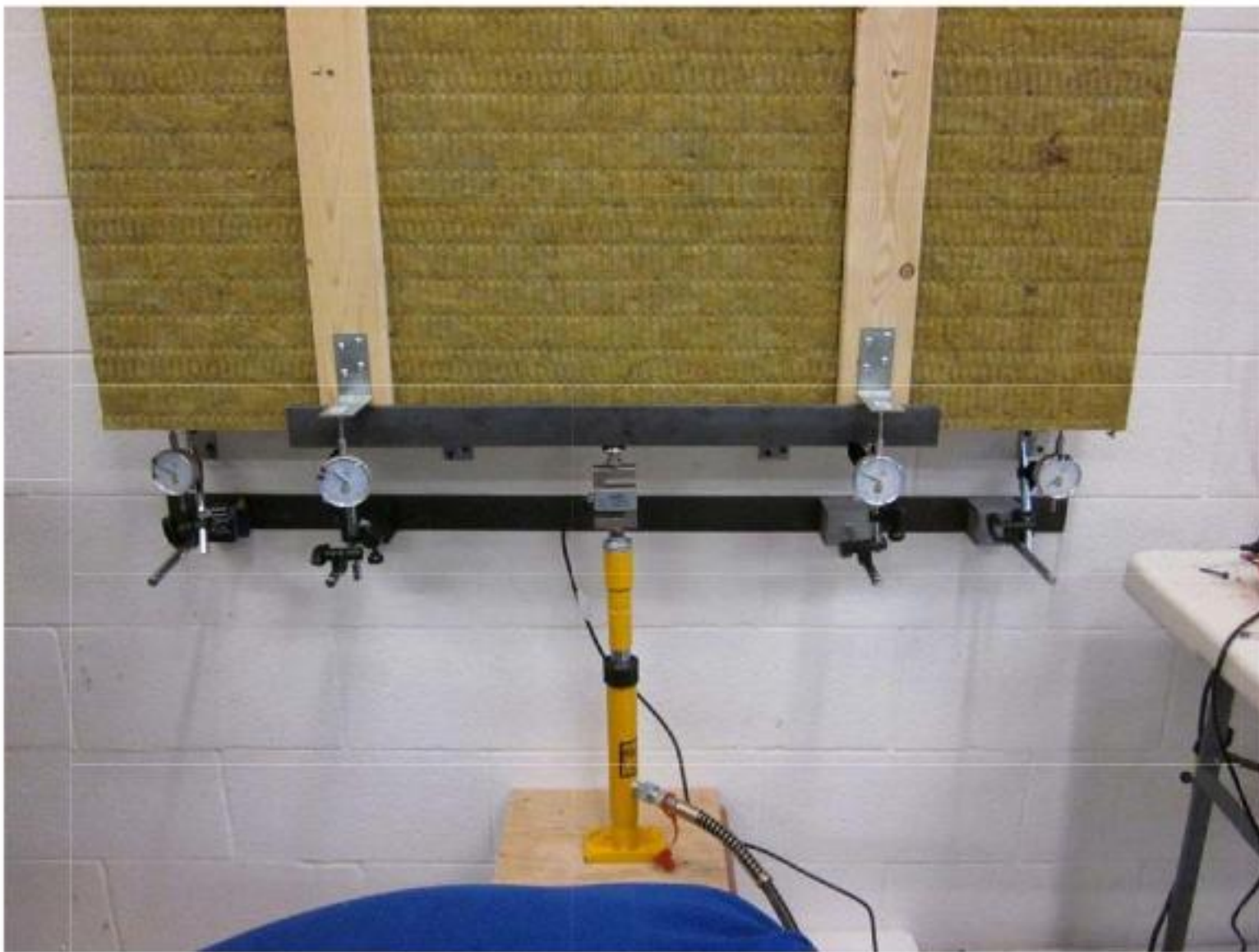
# BSC shear research



**Figure 1 : Typical application of semi-rigid Roxul insulation over wood framing**

# DSC deflection testing

## Roxul



**Figure 4: Hydraulic Ram with load cell and deflection gauges measuring strapping movement**

# X-insulation over water and air barriers

**P**ressure-

**E**qualized

**R**ain

**S**creen

**I**nsulating

**S**heathing

**T**echnique

Pressure  
Equalized  
Rain  
Screen  
Insulating  
Sheathing  
Technique

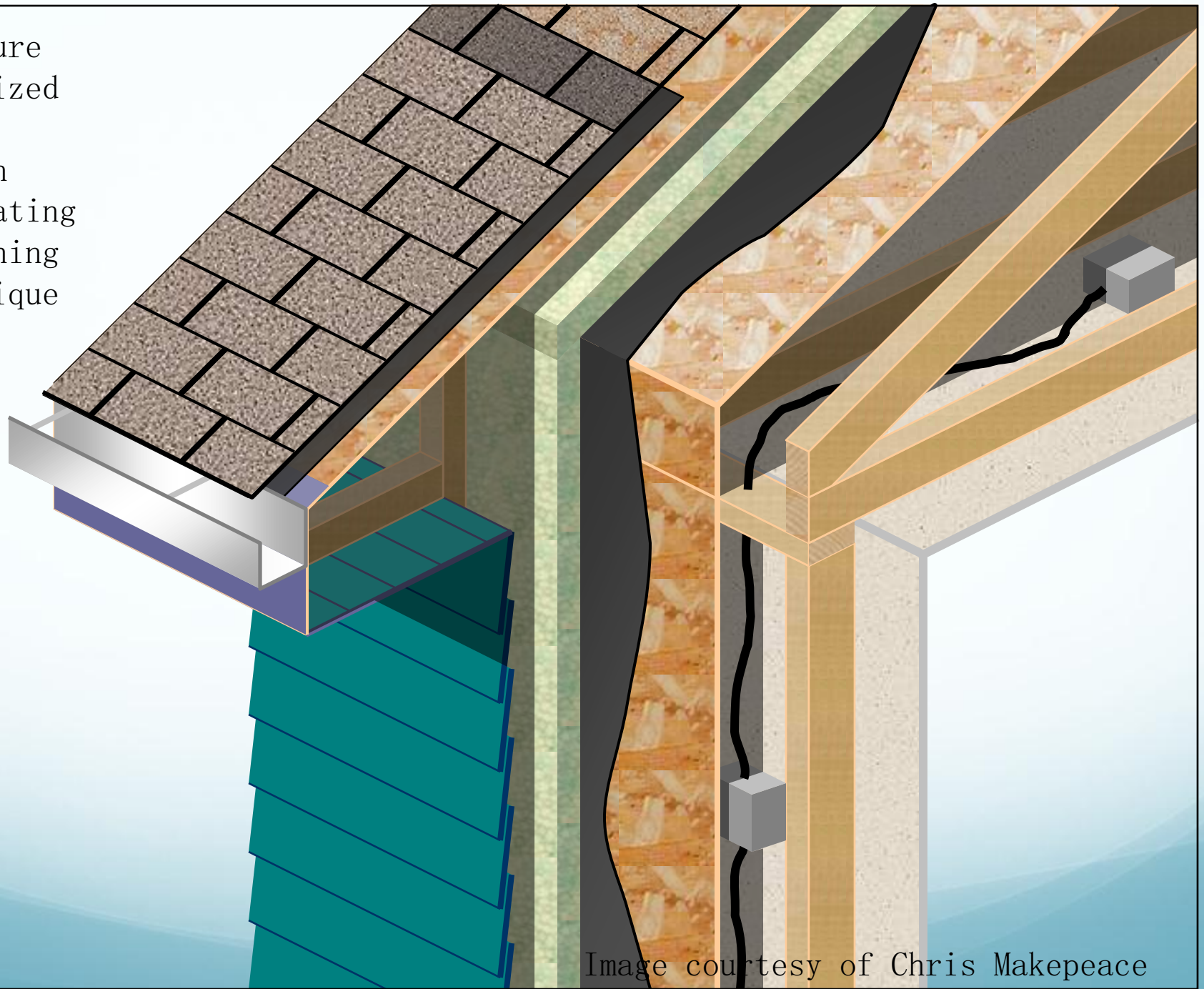
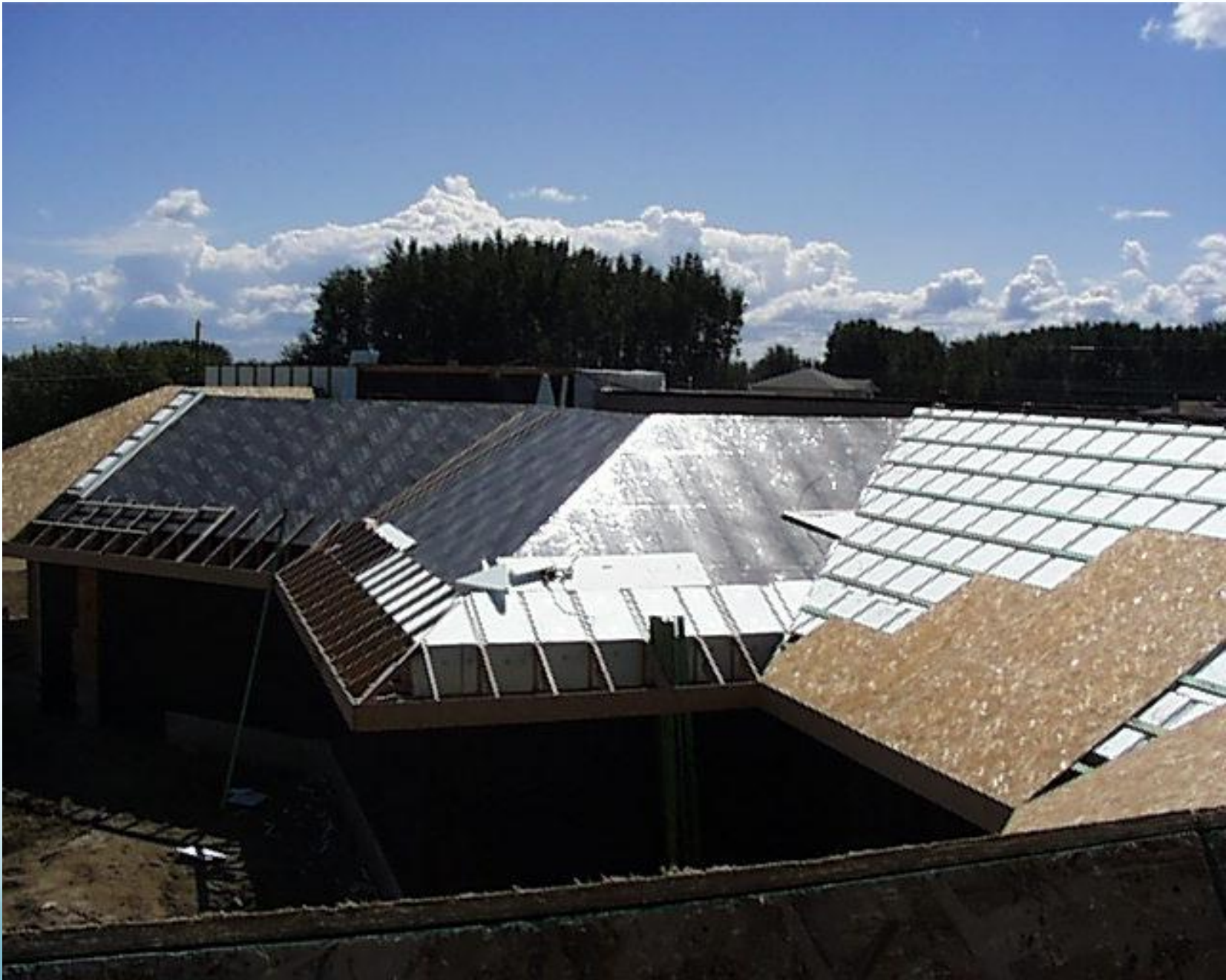


Image courtesy of Chris Makepeace

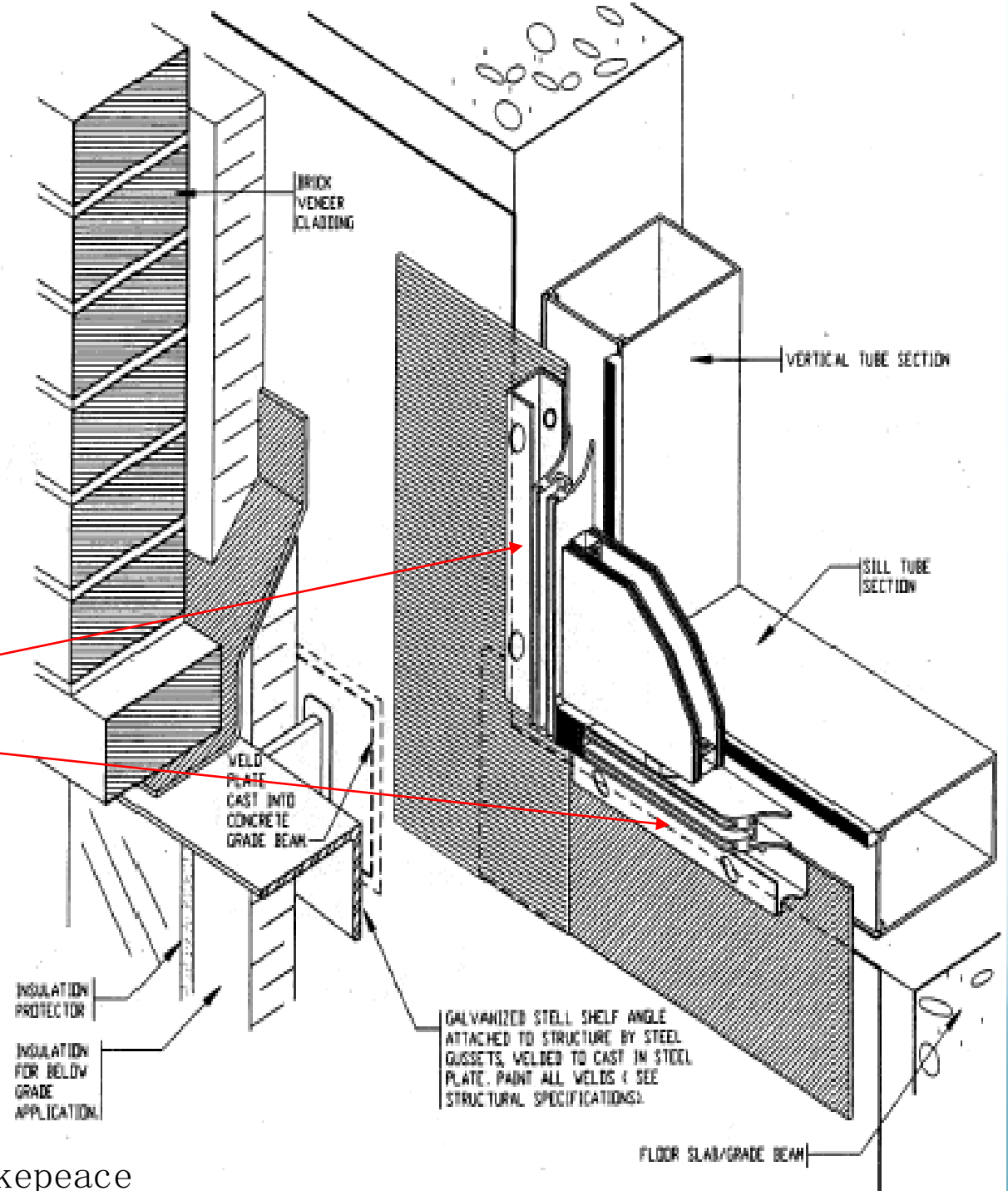




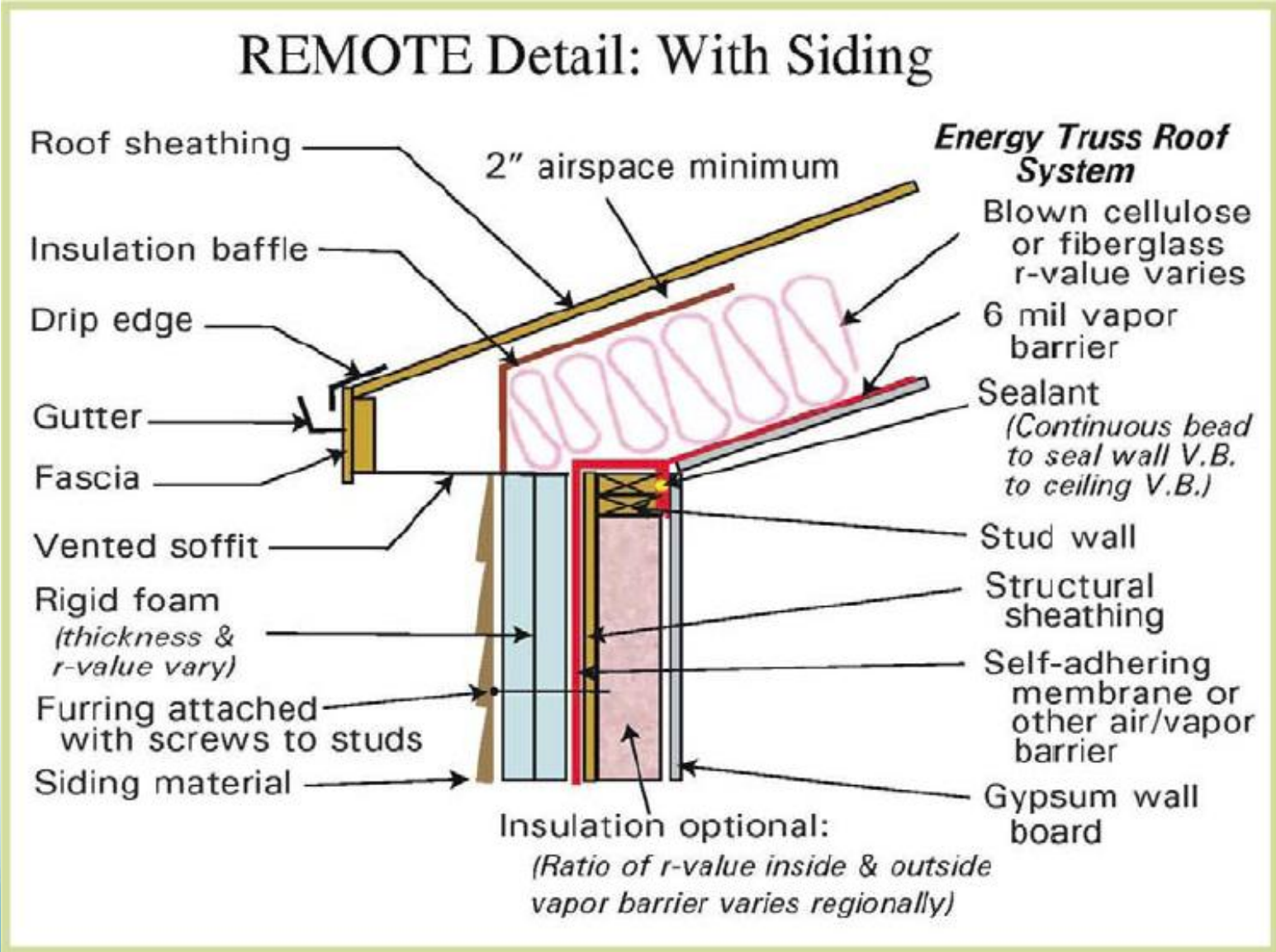
# The PERSIST Rules

1. Enclose the building in a continuous air barrier.
2. Provide continuous support for the air (*seal*) barrier against wind loads.
3. Ensure that the air (*seal*) barrier is flexible at joints where movement may occur.
4. Provide continuous insulation to keep the air barrier warm and to conserve energy in the building.
5. Keep the insulation tight to the air barrier.
6. Protect the insulation with a rain screen/sun screen supported out from the structure in a way that does not penetrate the insulation with excessive heat bridges.
7. Provide enough open space for drainage and construction clearances between the rain screen and the insulation.
8. Drain the wall cavity to the outside.”

Window trim channels "trapping" the SBS membrane



# Residential Exterior Membrane Outside Insulation Technique



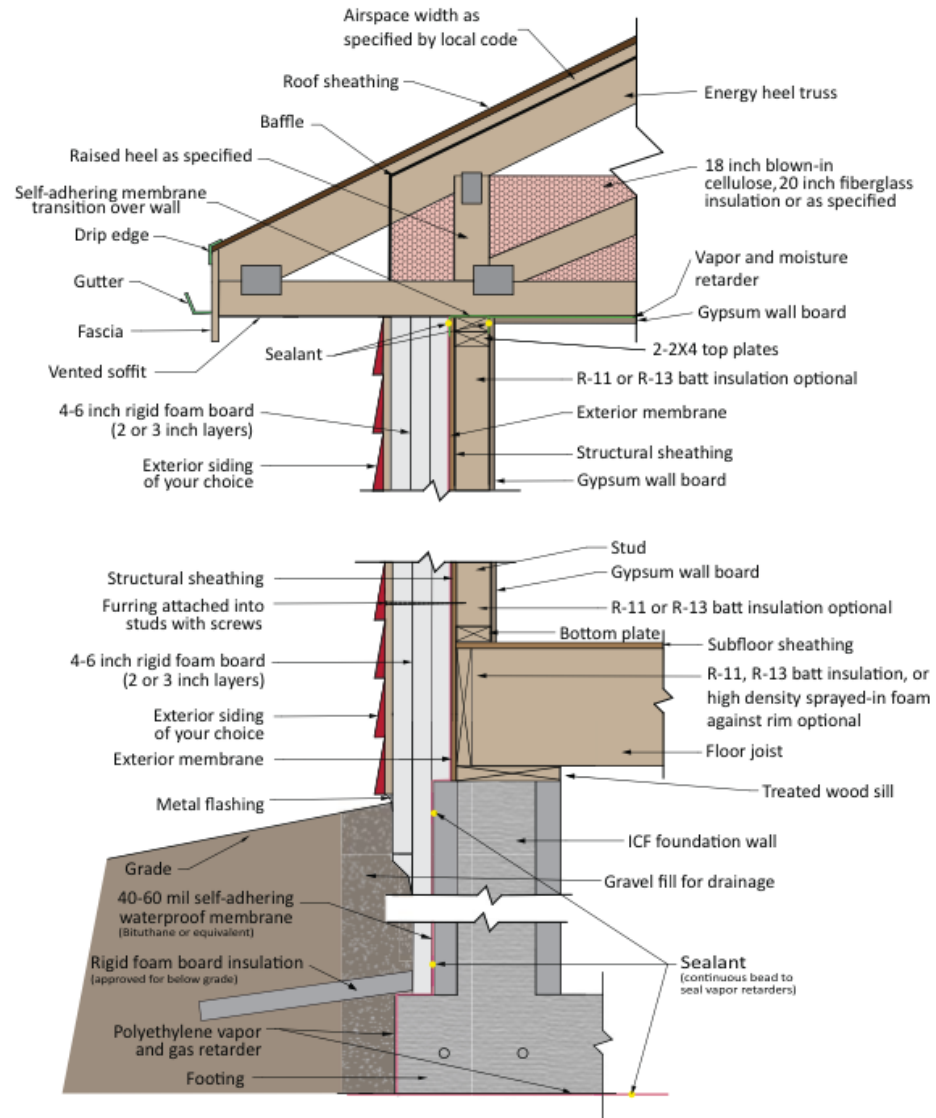


Figure 1. WALL CROSS SECTION

# Windows and Doors

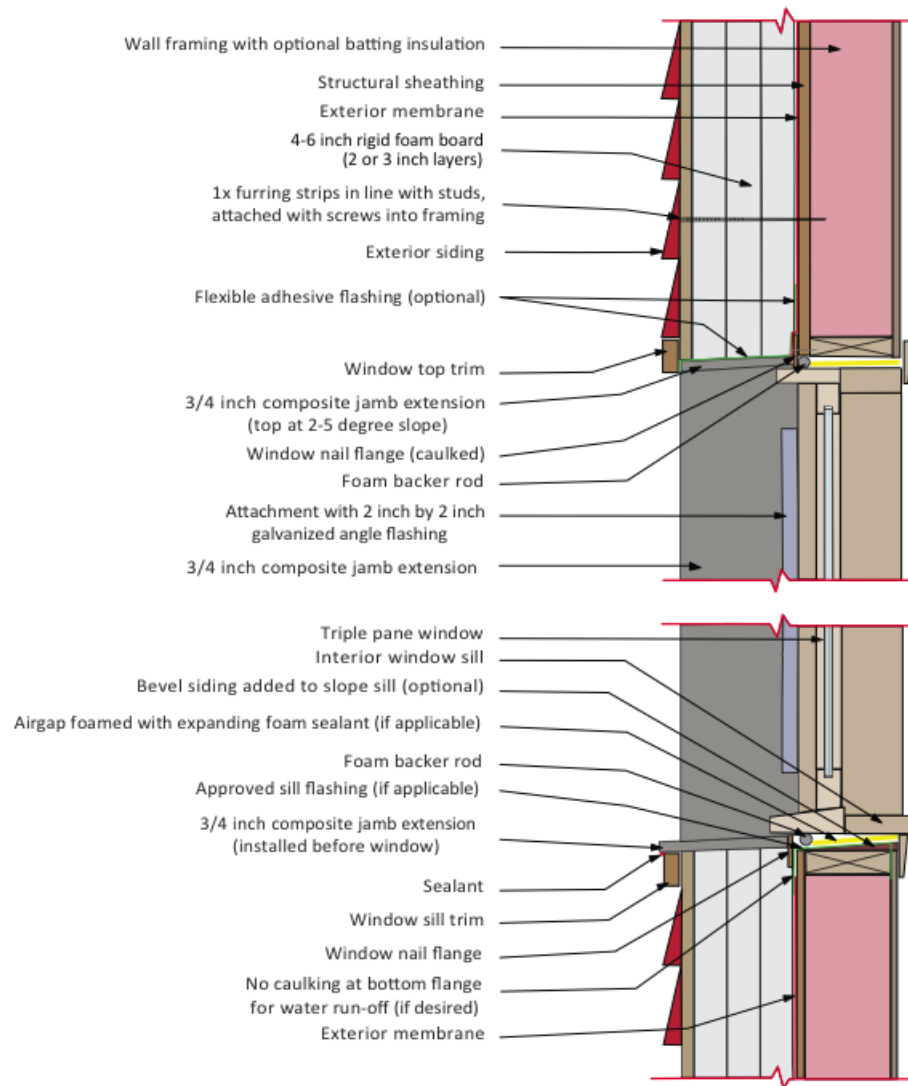


Figure 6. INSET WINDOW

# Windows and Doors

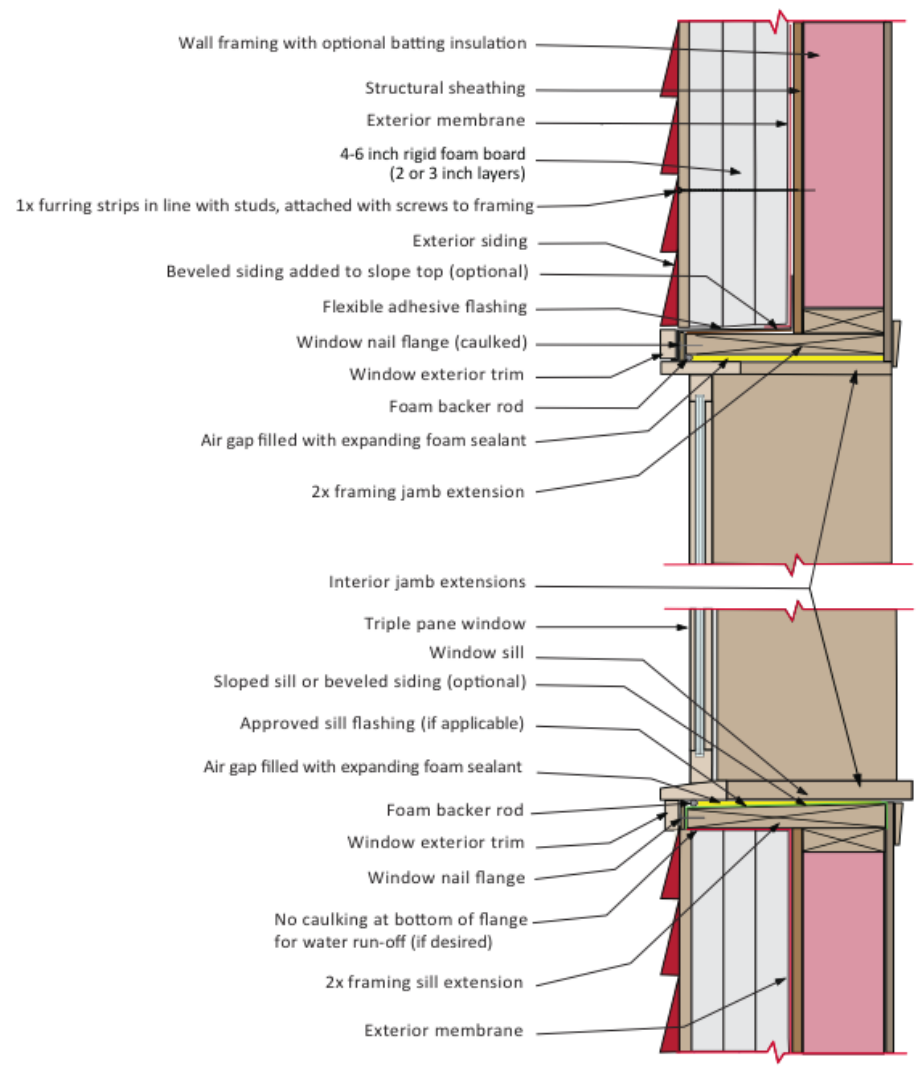
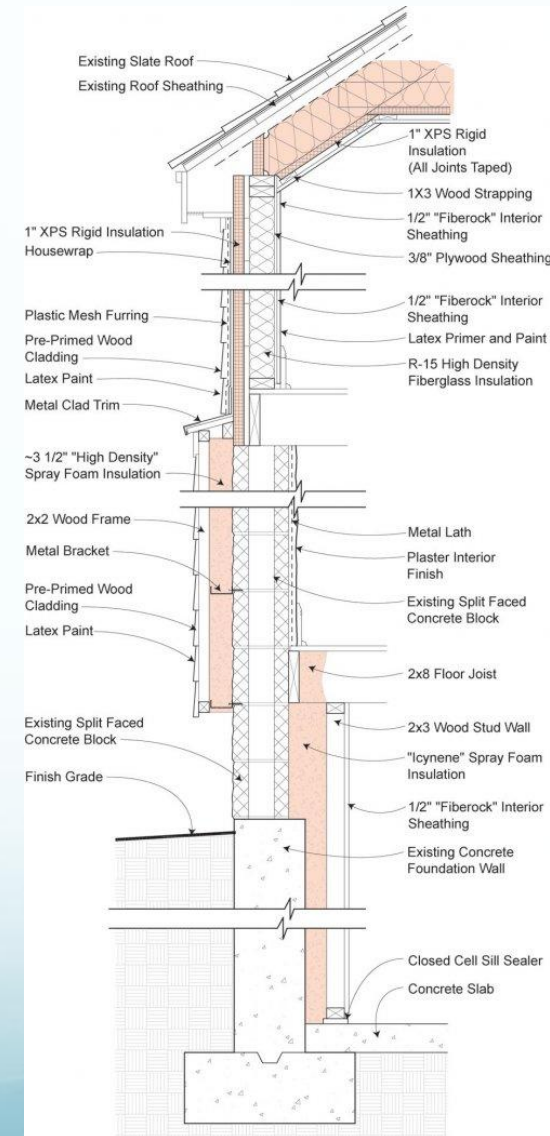
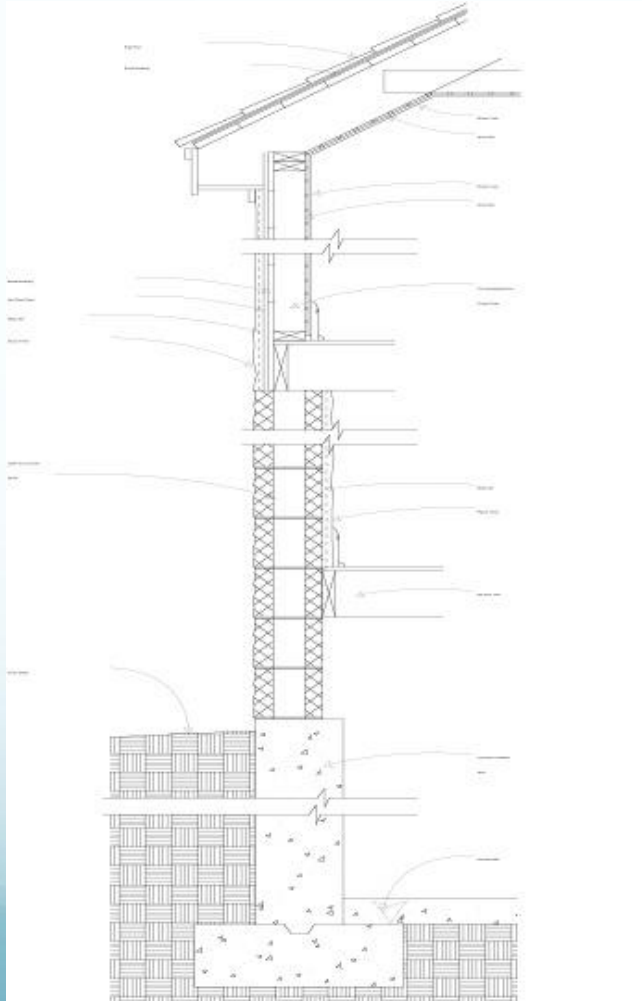


Figure 5. EXTERIOR-MOUNTED WINDOW

# Deep Energy Retrofit Windows & Walls



# Brattleboro, VT

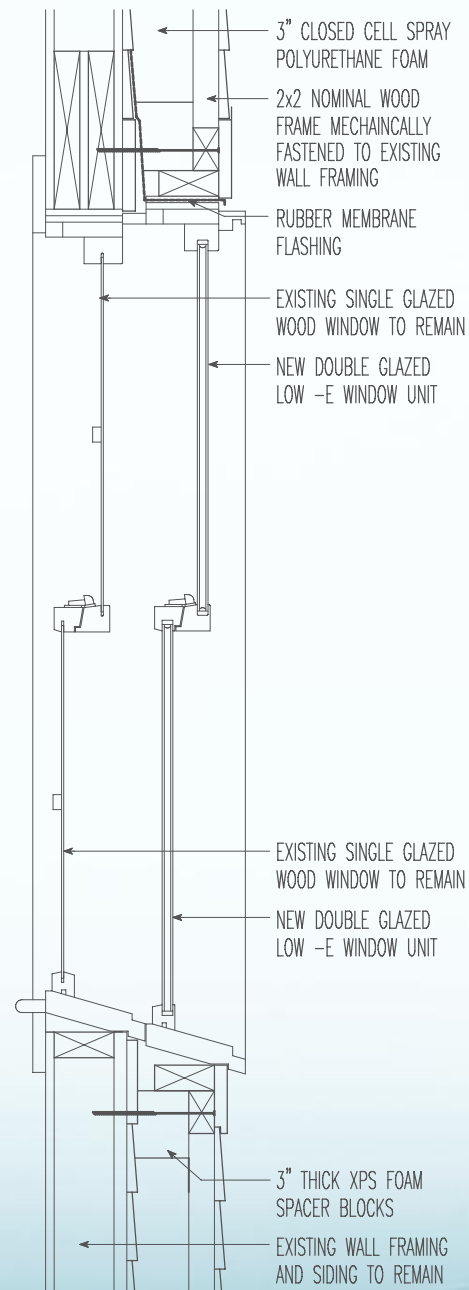


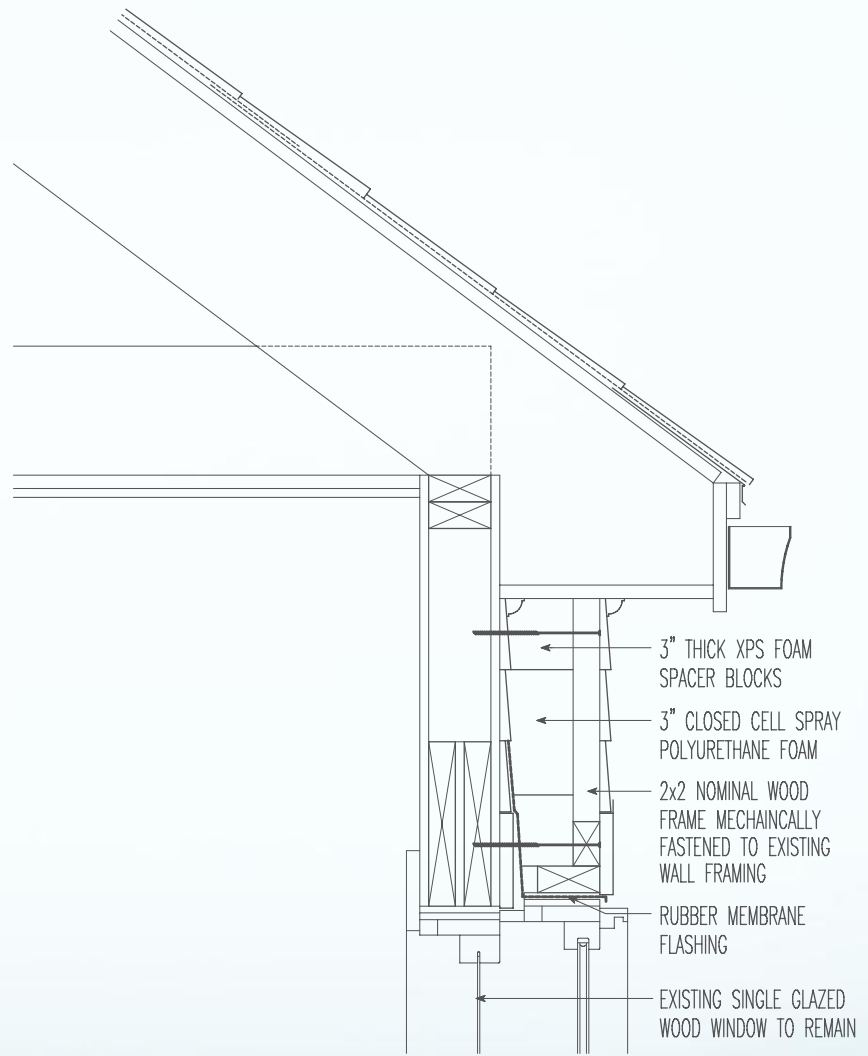






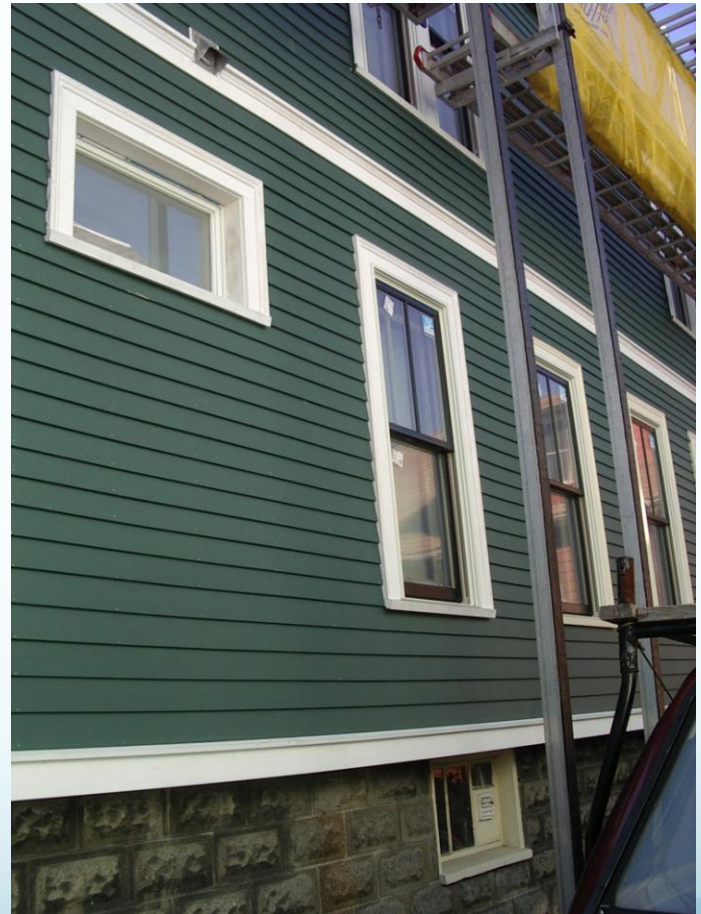
# Somerville, MA





<b>A-5</b>	NEW SIDING AT WINDOW HEAD	<b>PRICEJONES RESIDENCE</b>	<b>STEVEN BACZEK</b> ARCHITECT	DATE:	REMARKS:
	SCALE 1 1/2" = 1'-0"			30 SYCAMORE STREET SOMMERSVILLE, MA 02143	46 BLENHIRE CIRCLE READING MA 01867 PH:781-342-8895







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[Fluke® Infrared Cameras Make Building Diagnostics Easy & Efficient.](#) Get a Free Energy Audit  
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## Video: Spray Foam Blankets a 100-Year-Old House

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[New England Dry Concrete Waterproof Admix & Repair Systems Residential Basement Waterproofing](#) Guaranteed Basement Waterproofing Solutions to [Energy Audit, Energy Star Infrared Scan, Blower Door Testing Residential &](#)



## Video: Deep-Energy Retrofit, Portland, Oregon

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**USE A GUT REHAB AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECONFIGURE EXTERIOR WATER MANAGEMENT AND REINFORCE YOUR FOUNDATION**

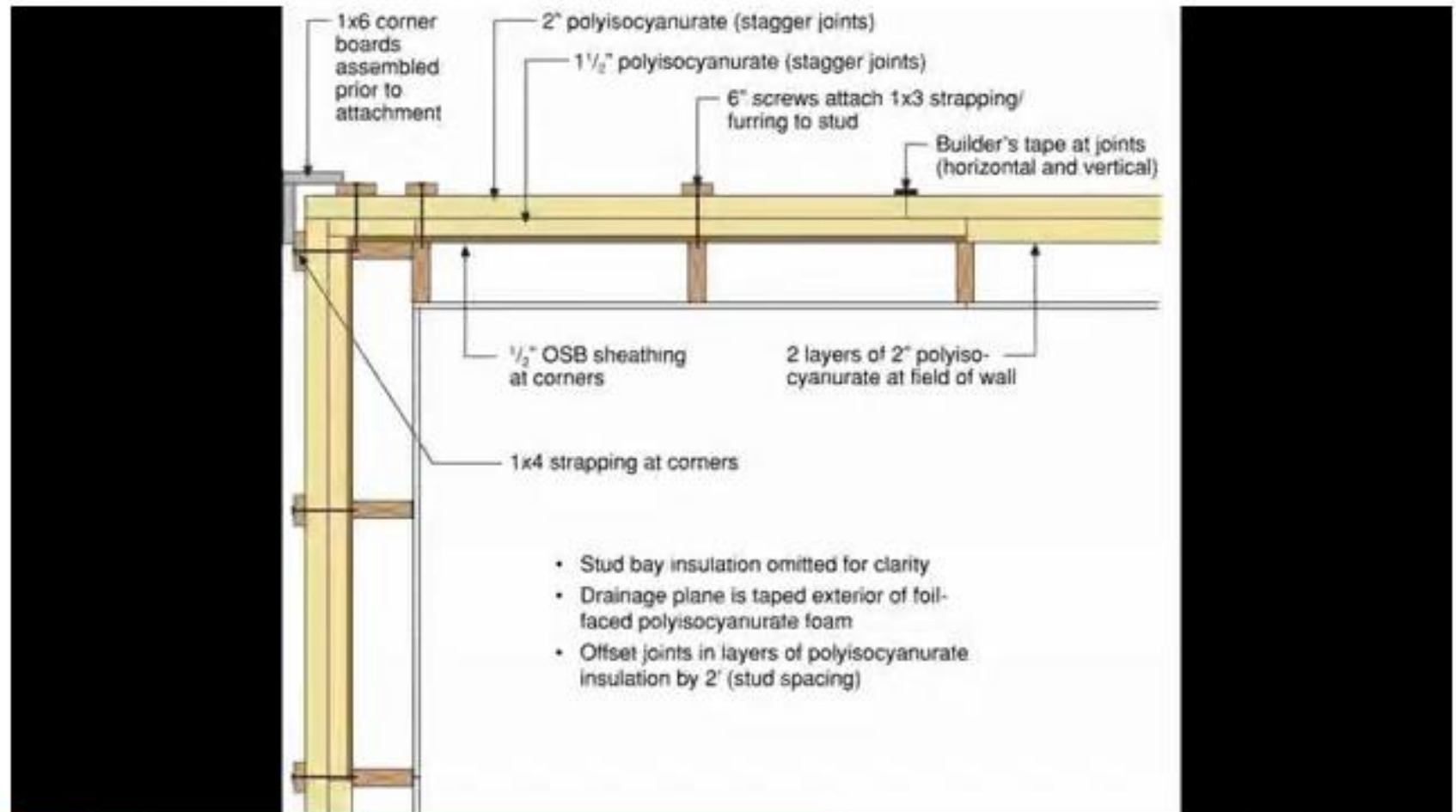
**Undo years of moisture damage and give new life to your foundation**

# Installing a Window in an Exterior Insulated R40 Wall

BuildingGeek

14 videos

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0:20 / 7:11 360p

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27,920

# The role of monitoring in remodeling

Trim screw cladding removal

Sustained adhesion



# The role of monitoring in remodeling

No cap break



Moisture content of joists



# Summary

- Three continuous, comprehensive barriers: bulk water, air, thermal
- Design for drying (vapor profile)
- Weatherlap everything, back up adhesives with mechanical fastening
- Lots of considerations for WRB & window location – just be sure to connect them
- No single way to skin the cat, mock up everything

# BuildingGreen, Inc.

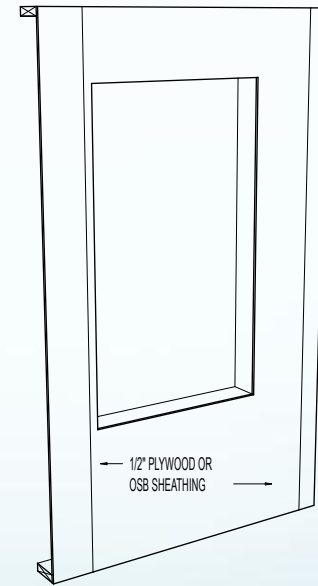
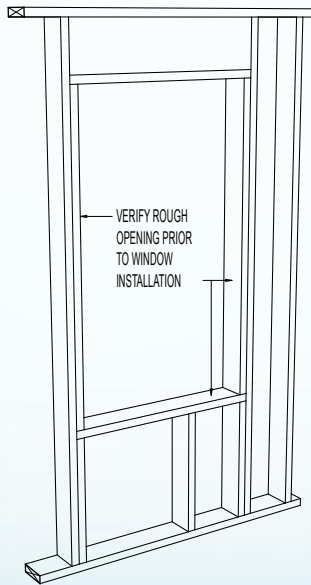
- Founded in 1985
- Based in Brattleboro, Vermont
- 20 employees
- Supported by subscriptions, book sales, online memberships
- Does not carry advertising



*BuildingGreen offices in the old Estey Organ Factory, Brattleboro*



# “Regular” Best Practice



FLANGED WINDOW INSTALLATION // WATER MANAGED //  
BUILDING PAPER // STEP 1

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Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

6-00121

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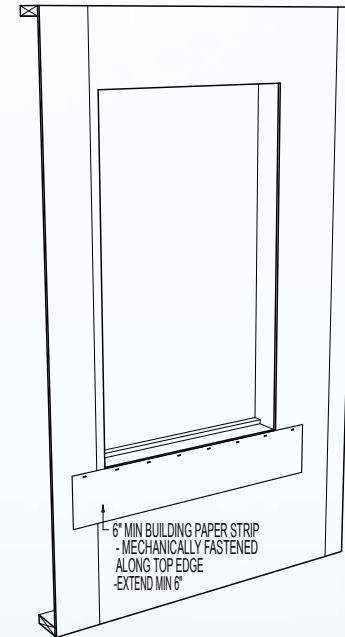
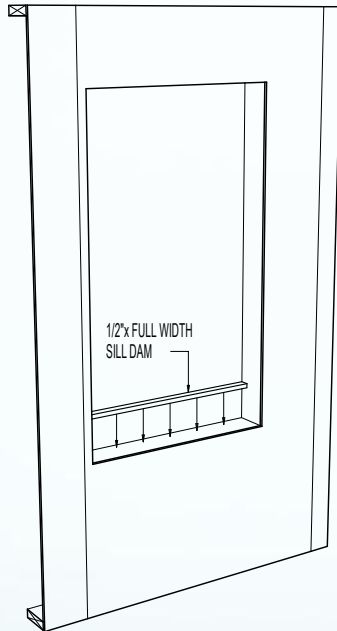
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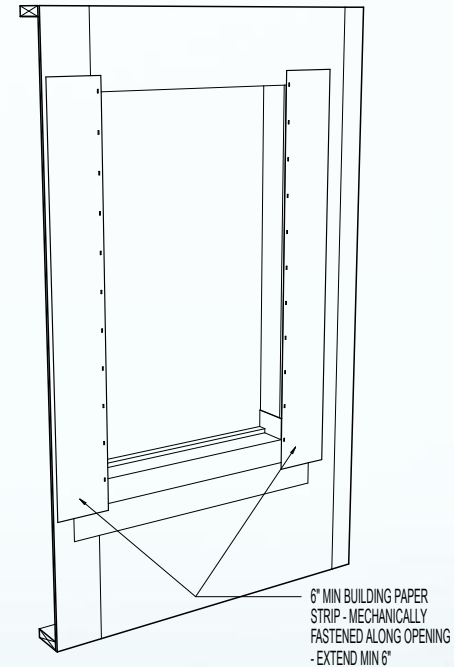
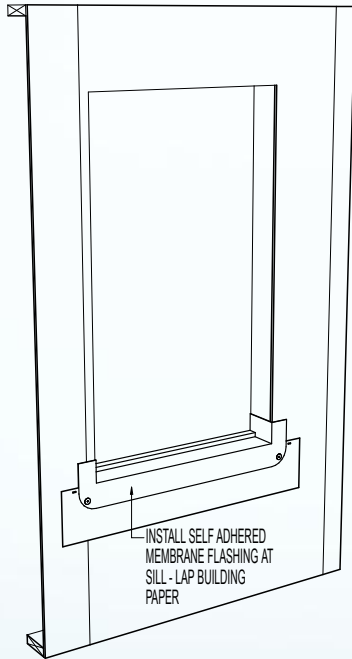
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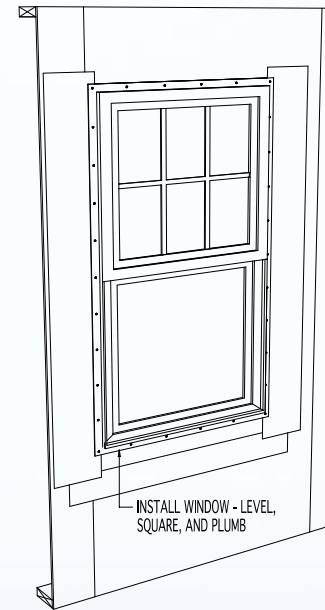
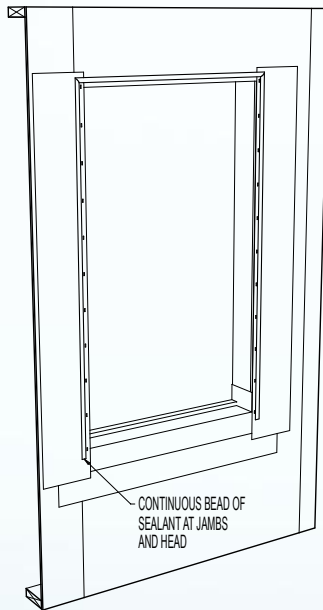
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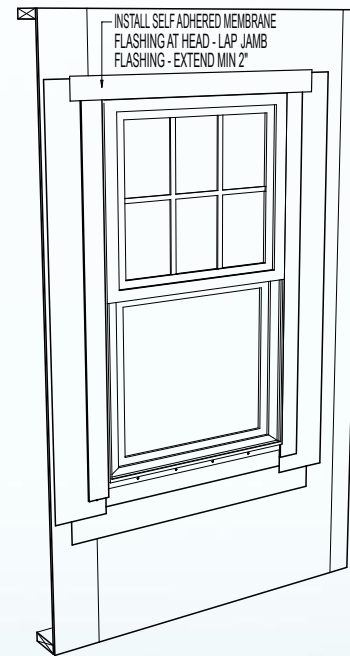
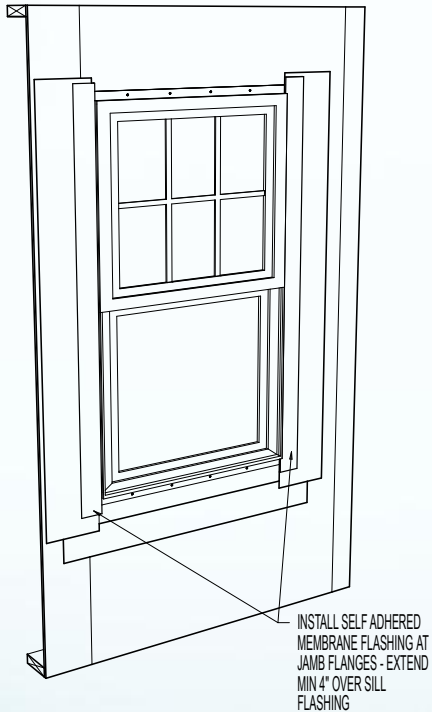
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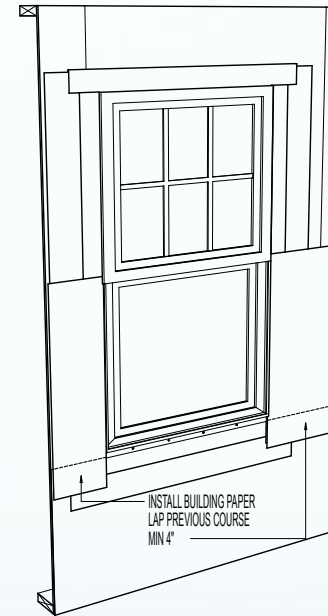
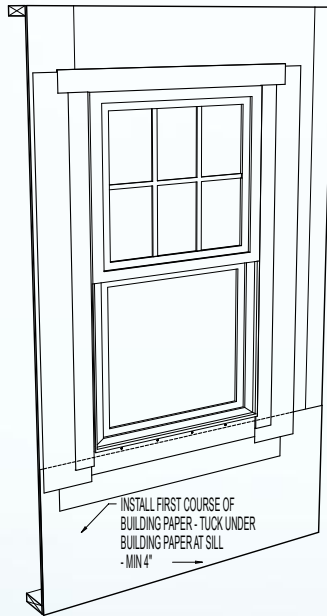
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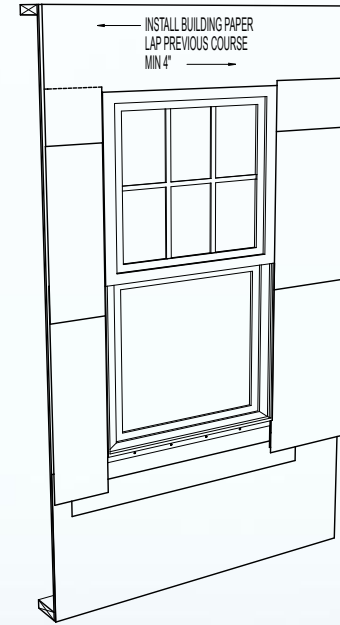
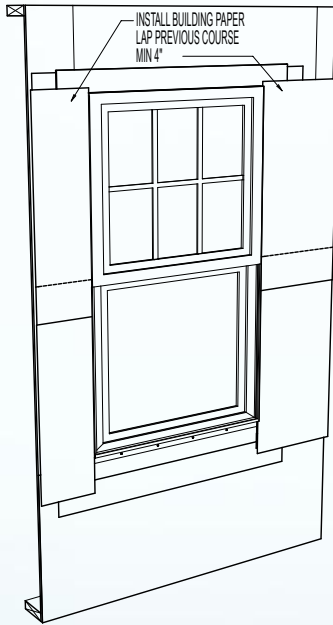
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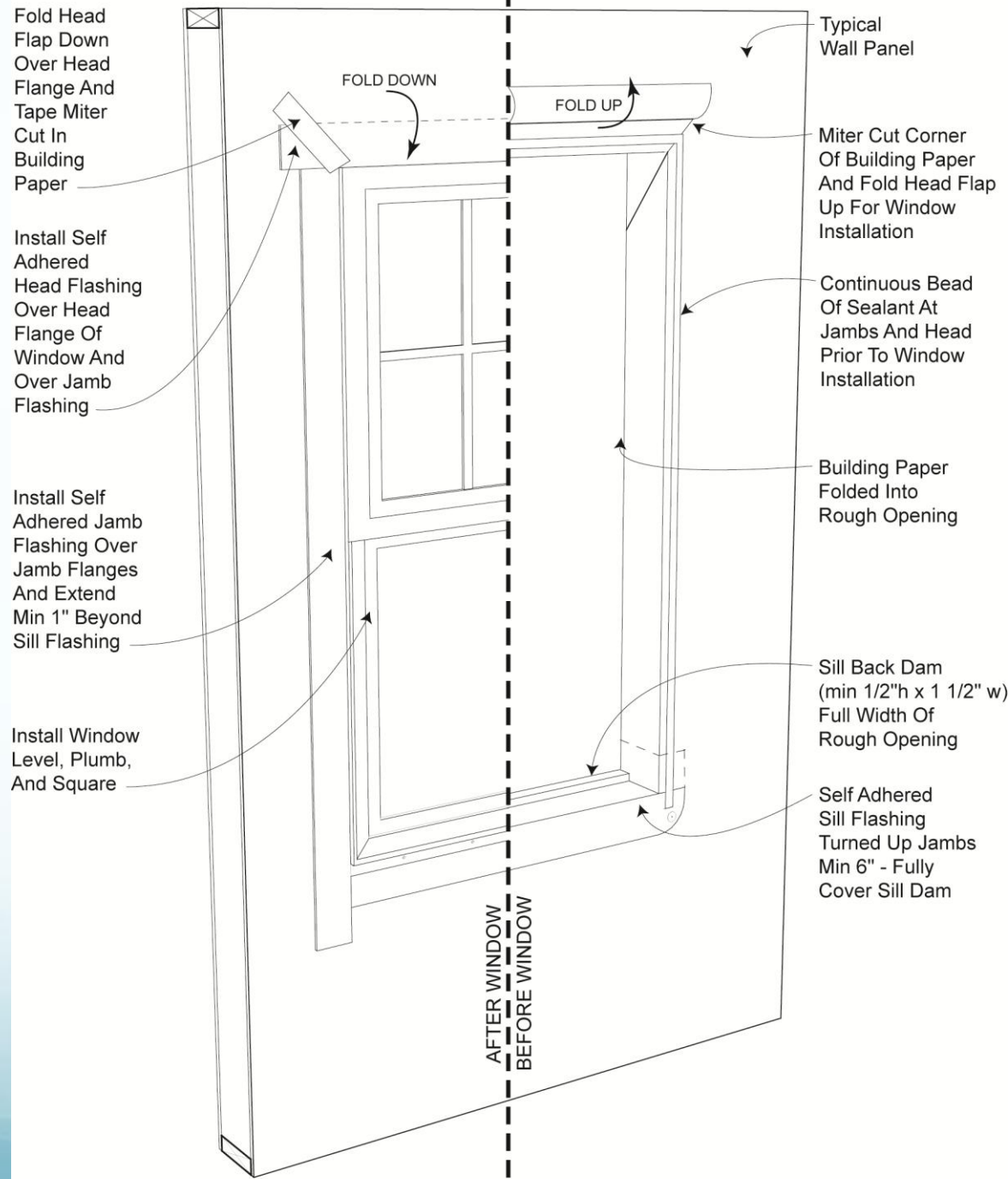
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# Window first? Rough opening?

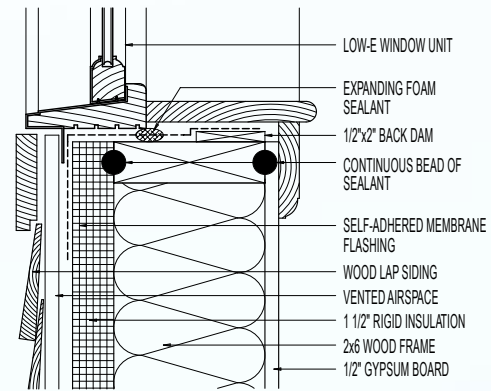
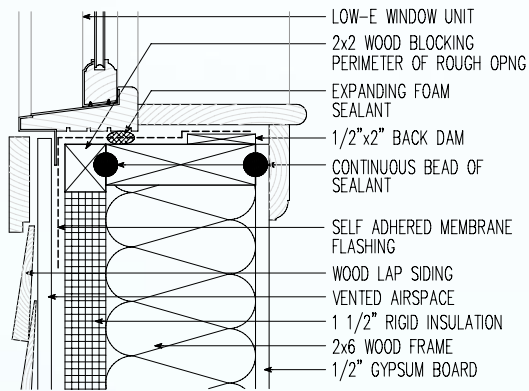


# Best Practices, cont'd

- Water-manage both RO and unit installation
- WRB goes up first, typically
- Weatherlap everything
- Mechanically support adhesives



# 1.5-inch exterior rigid - sill



WINDOW SILL // NAILING FLANGE // 2x2 WOOD BLOCKING //  
WOOD LAP SIDING // 1 1/2" RIGID INSULATION

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Scale: 3" = 1'-0"

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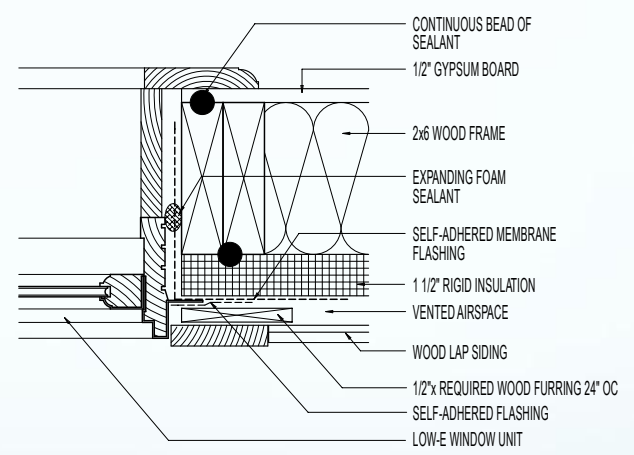
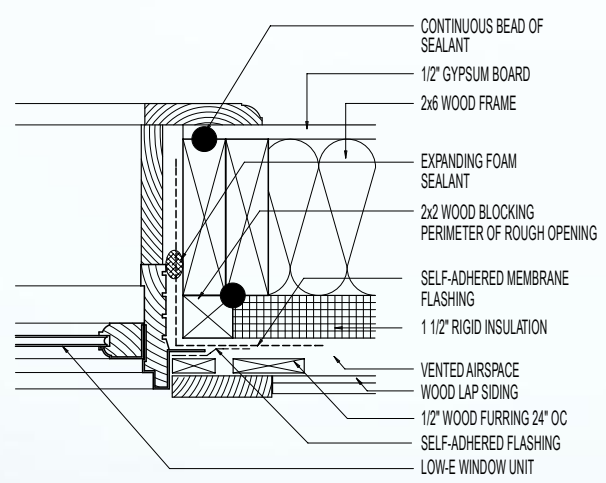
WINDOW SILL // NAILING FLANGE //  
WOOD LAP SIDING // 1 1/2" RIGID INSULATION

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Scale: 3" = 1'-0"

3-00204

# 1.5-inch exterior rigid - jamb



WINDOW JAMB // NAILING FLANGE // 2x2 WOOD BLOCKING //  
 WOOD LAP SIDING // 1 1/2" RIGID INSULATION

3-00202

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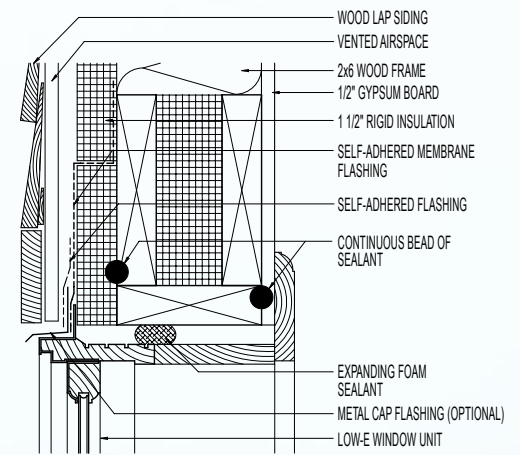
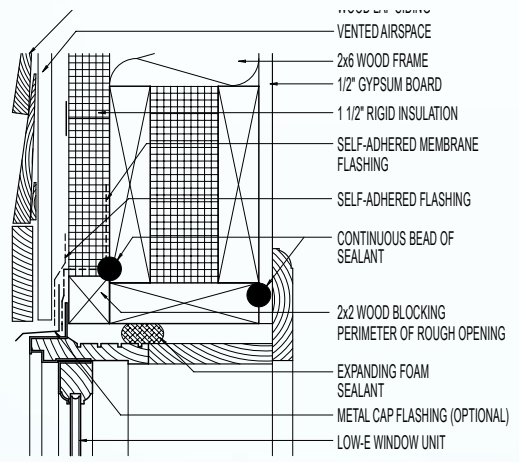
WINDOW JAMB // NAILING FLANGE //  
 WOOD LAP SIDING // 1 1/2" RIGID INSULATION

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Scale: 3" = 1'-0"

# 1.5-inch exterior rigid – head



WINDOW HEAD // NAILING FLANGE // 2x2 WOOD BLOCKING // WOOD LAP SIDING // 1 1/2" RIGID INSULATION	<h2>3-00203</h2>	WINDOW HEAD // NAILING FLANGE // WOOD LAP SIDING // 1 1/2" RIGID INSULATION	<h2>3-00206</h2>
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