



Module 5

Building Fabric 2: Continuous Insulation

Energy Efficiency for Construction



24
partners

12
countries

Date of Event

*Author/ **Institute***

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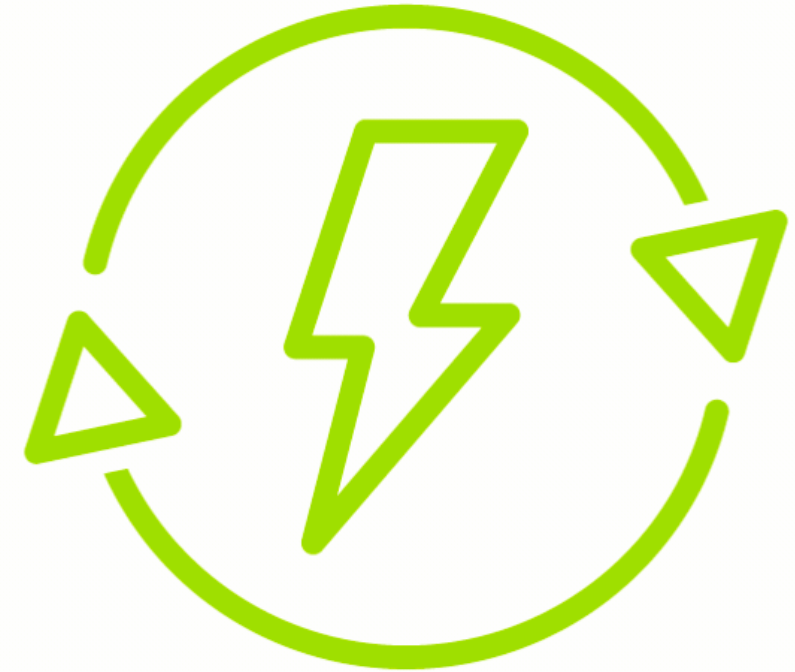


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To equip the learner with the relevant knowledge and skills required to understand the importance of installing continuous insulation around the envelope and how to implement measures to prevent heat loss



Building Fabric 2 | Objectives



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1. Outline the principles of **continuous insulation** and **thermal bridging**
2. Outline the importance of creating a **continuously insulated thermal envelope** in order to reduce heat loss through the building fabric
3. Identify the insulation layer(s) in a range of **construction drawings** for the external envelope.
4. Outline the terms **thermal conductivity**, thermal resistance and U-value and identify the units of measurement used for them
5. Identify insulation materials that are certified and **fit for purpose**
6. Outline the **impact** of the energy efficiency of the building if the specified insulation type is substituted with an alternative type of lower thermal conductivity.
7. Outline the importance of **avoiding thermal bridging** in NZEB buildings
8. Investigate how to prevent thermal bridging at junctions using **Best Practice details**.
9. Outline the risks associated with **poor workmanship** relating to continuity of the insulation layer by considering reducing the number and size of service penetrations
10. Outline the **Best Practice procedures** regarding placement of windows, window sills, and floors in the insulation layer with special emphasis on fire safety and thermal retention.



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Topic 1 – Continuous Insulation

Topic 2 – Thermal Bridging

Topic 3 – Windows and Doors

On the following slides you will
see this icon:



Click and play to find out more



1. Continuous Insulation



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*“The “**fabric first**” approach to building is based on the idea that we should look at designing & constructing the building itself in a way which will **retain** as much heat as required before looking at installing efficient heating and cooling systems”*

Irish Green Building Council



“Build Tight – Heat & Ventilate Right”



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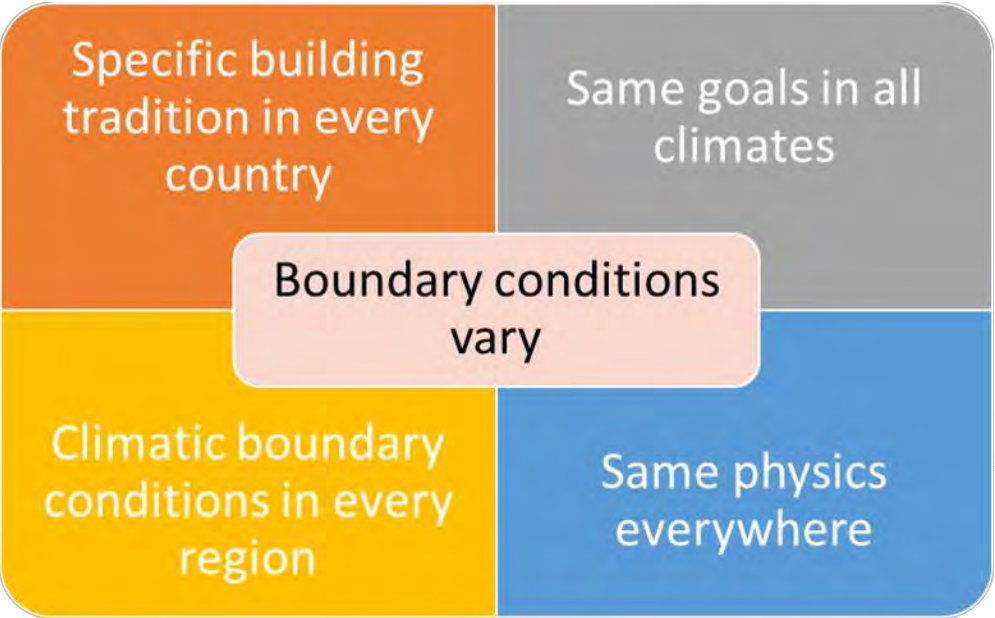
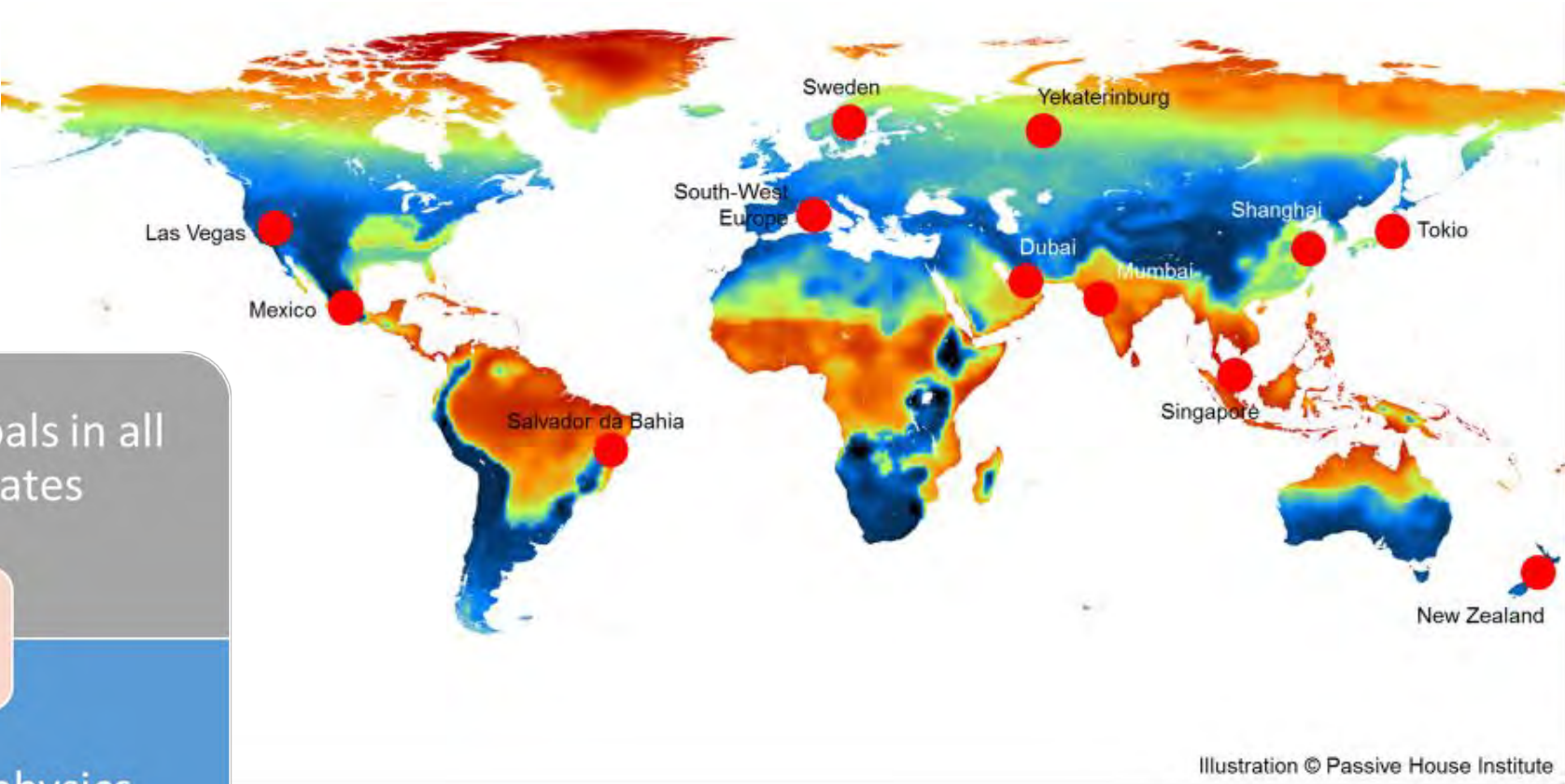
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Building Envelope



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Energy and financial saving potential



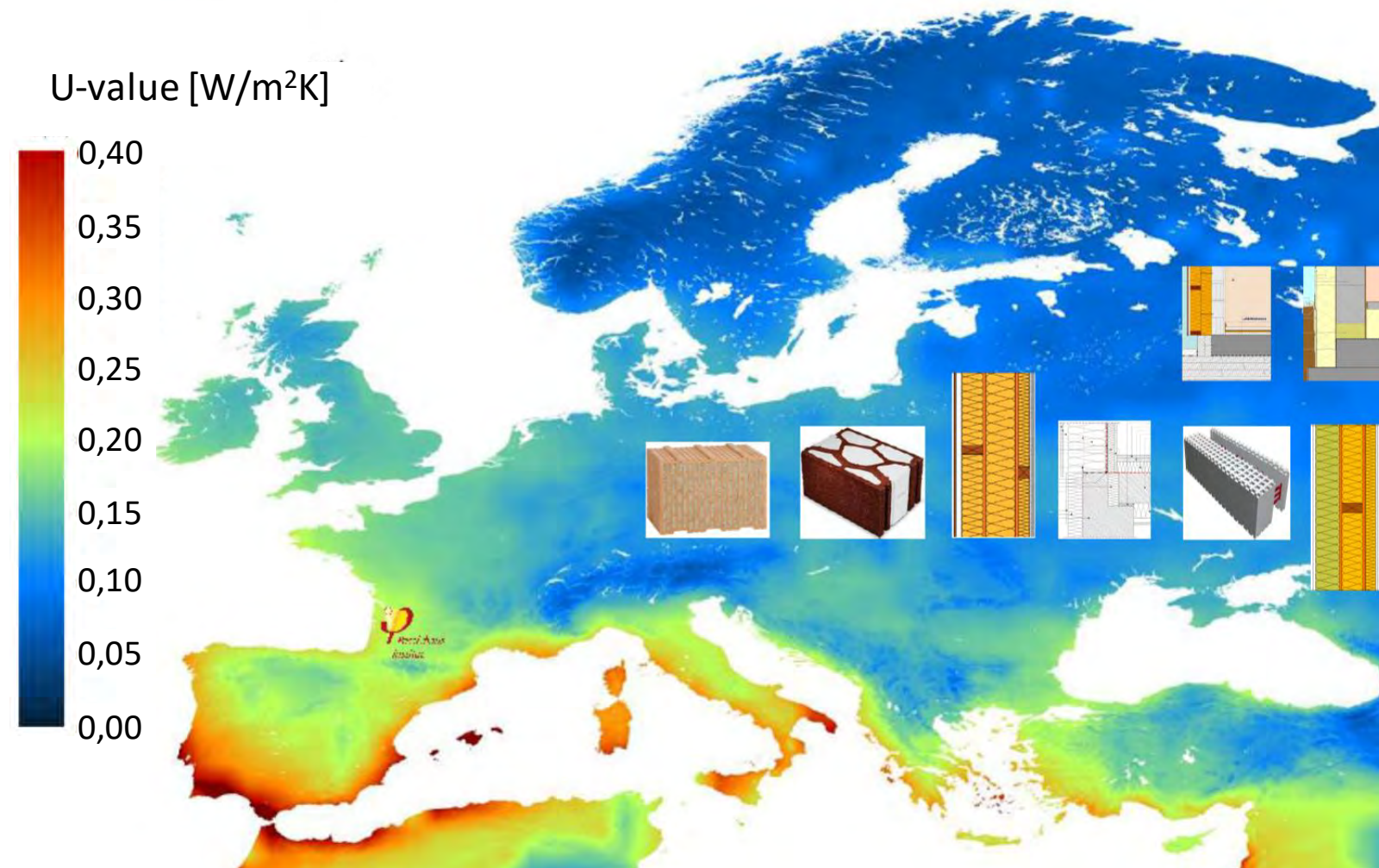
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For colder and temperate climates for NZEB it is recommended:

- higher level of thermal insulation
- triple glazed windows
- summer shading and
- use of passive cooling through

In warmer climates NZEB can be achieved with:

- moderate thermal insulation,
- double glazed windows
- by adding external shading devices
- it is possible to heat with fresh, supply air
- In warmer weather, opening windows at night for passive



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Insulation Systems

It is possible to choose different technologies available on the market for constructing NZEBs



Wood
(wood frame, CLT,
TJI/FJI, ...) + thermal insul.



Aerated
autoclaved
concrete +
therm. insul.



Steel structure
+
therm. insul.



Masonry
+
ETICS



Insulated
concrete
formwork



Types of insulation



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Different insulation materials are possible

Natural



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Synthetic



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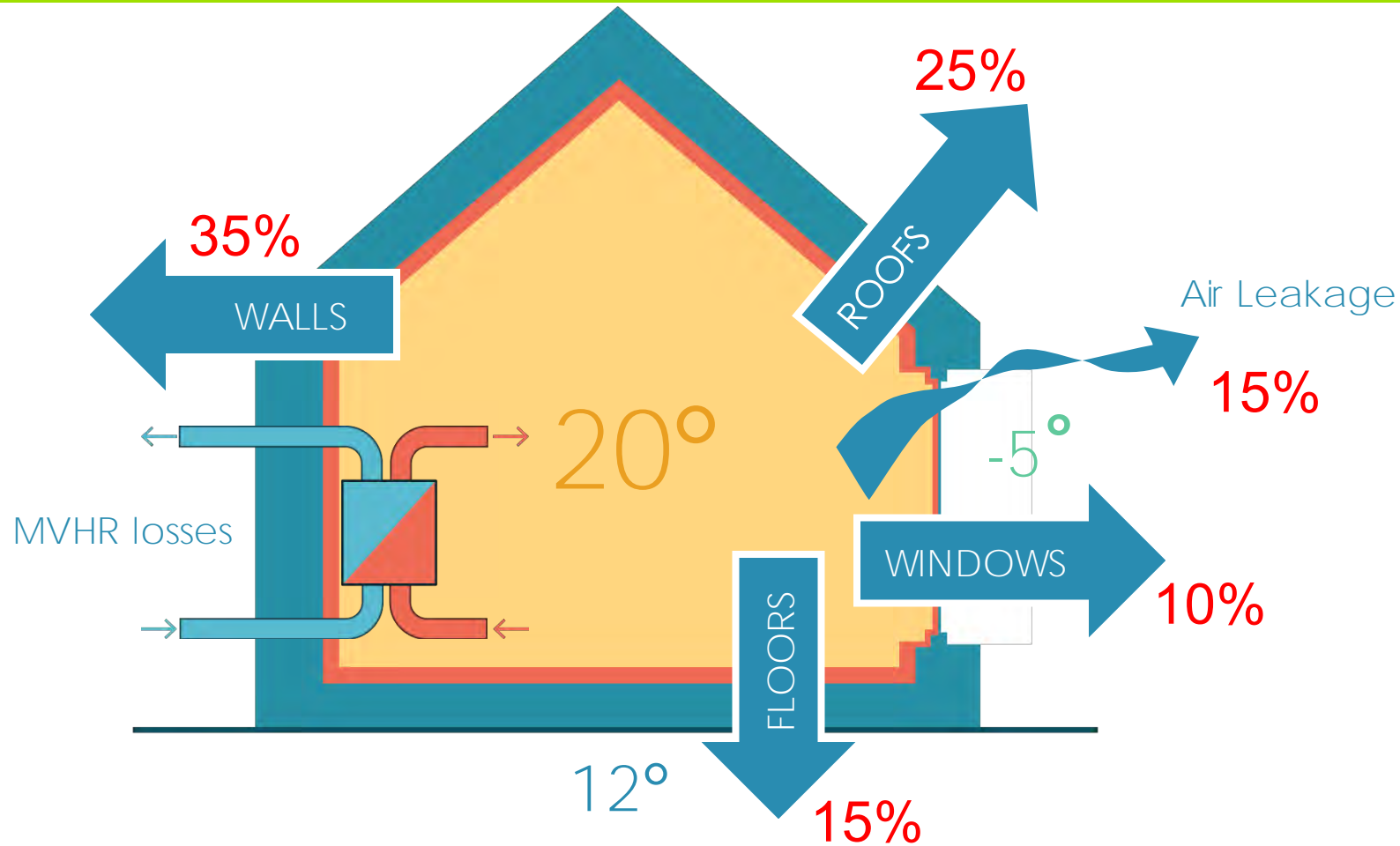
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Transmission Losses and Ventilation Losses - Residential



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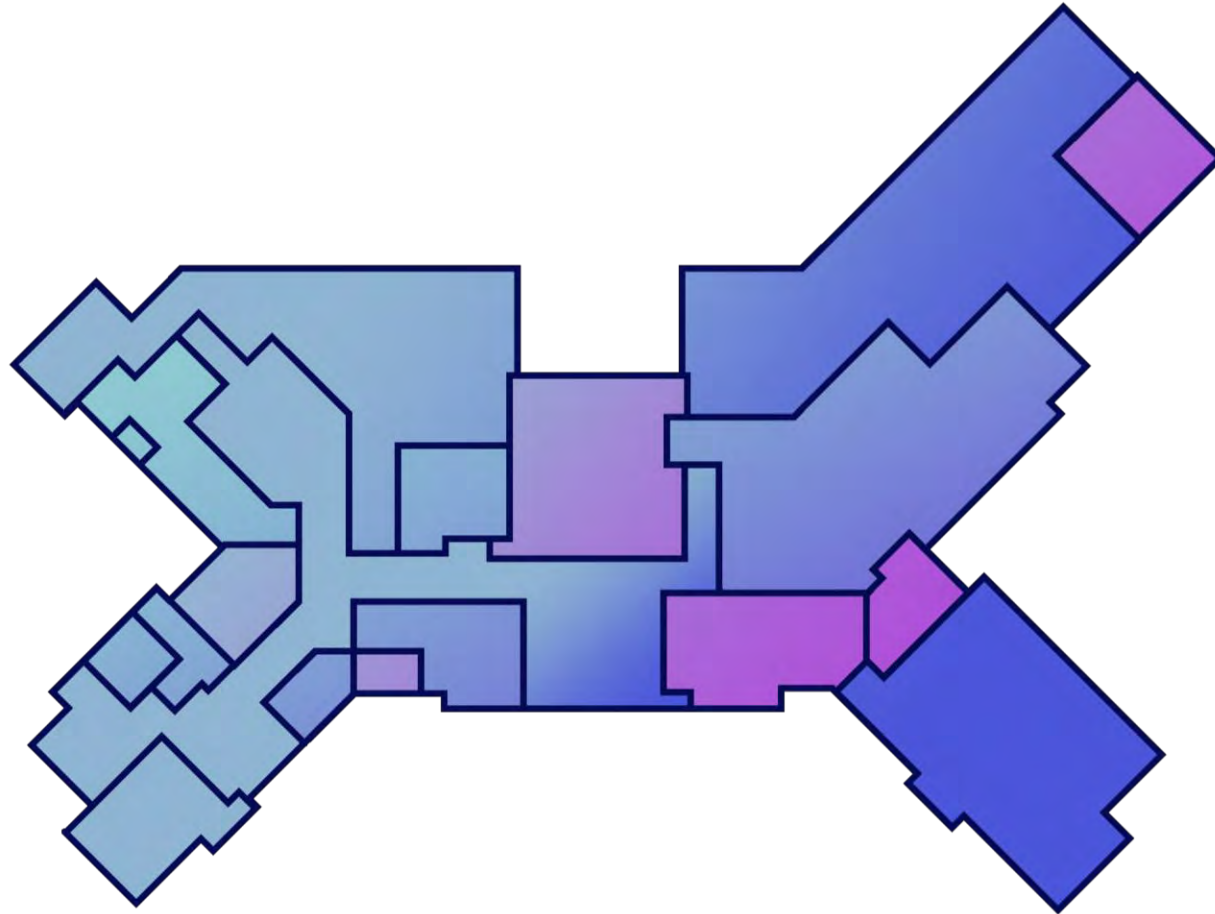
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The greater the surface area, the greater the heat lost

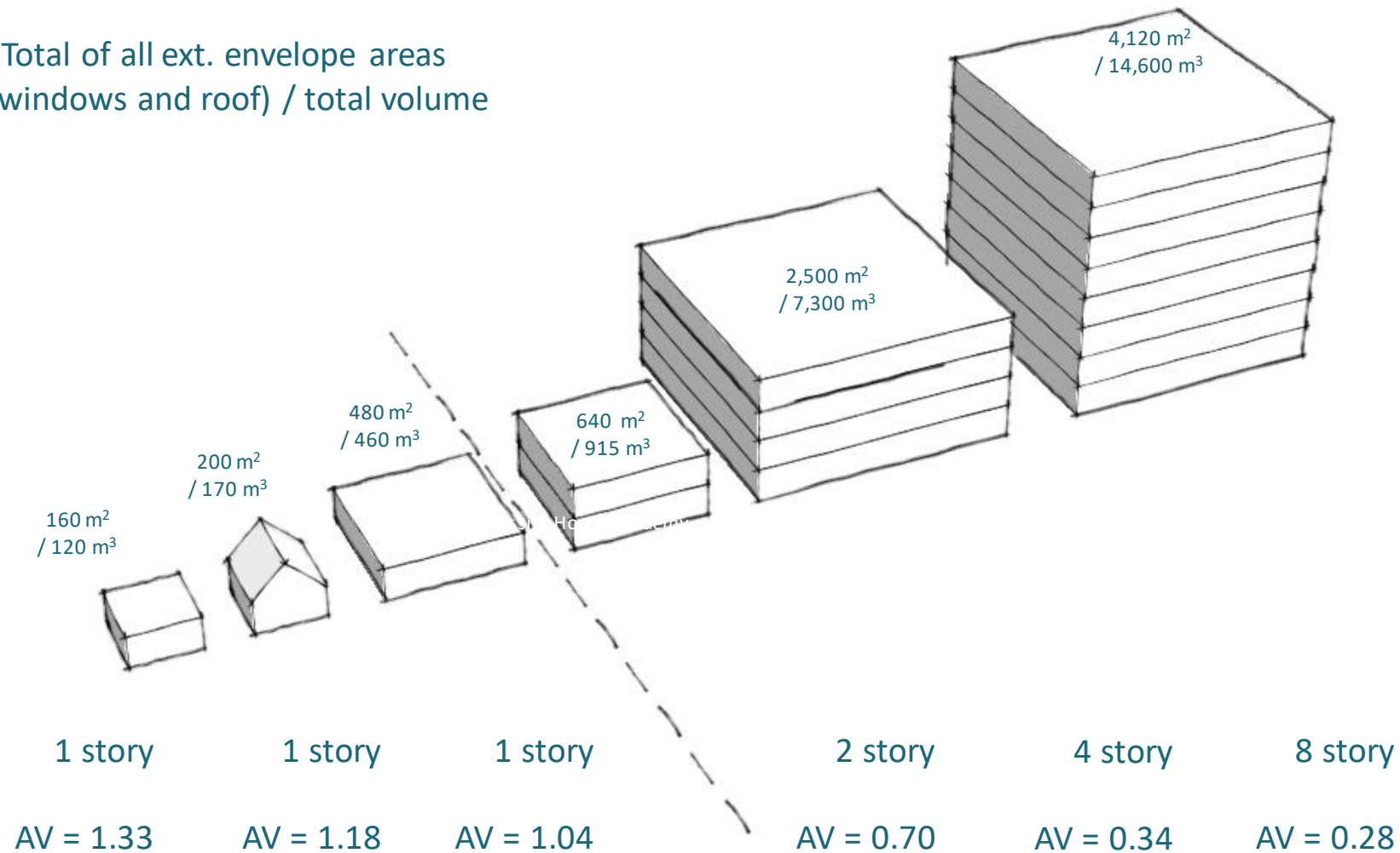


Area to Volume Ratio (A/V)



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A / V Ratio = Total of all ext. envelope areas
(floor, walls, windows and roof) / total volume



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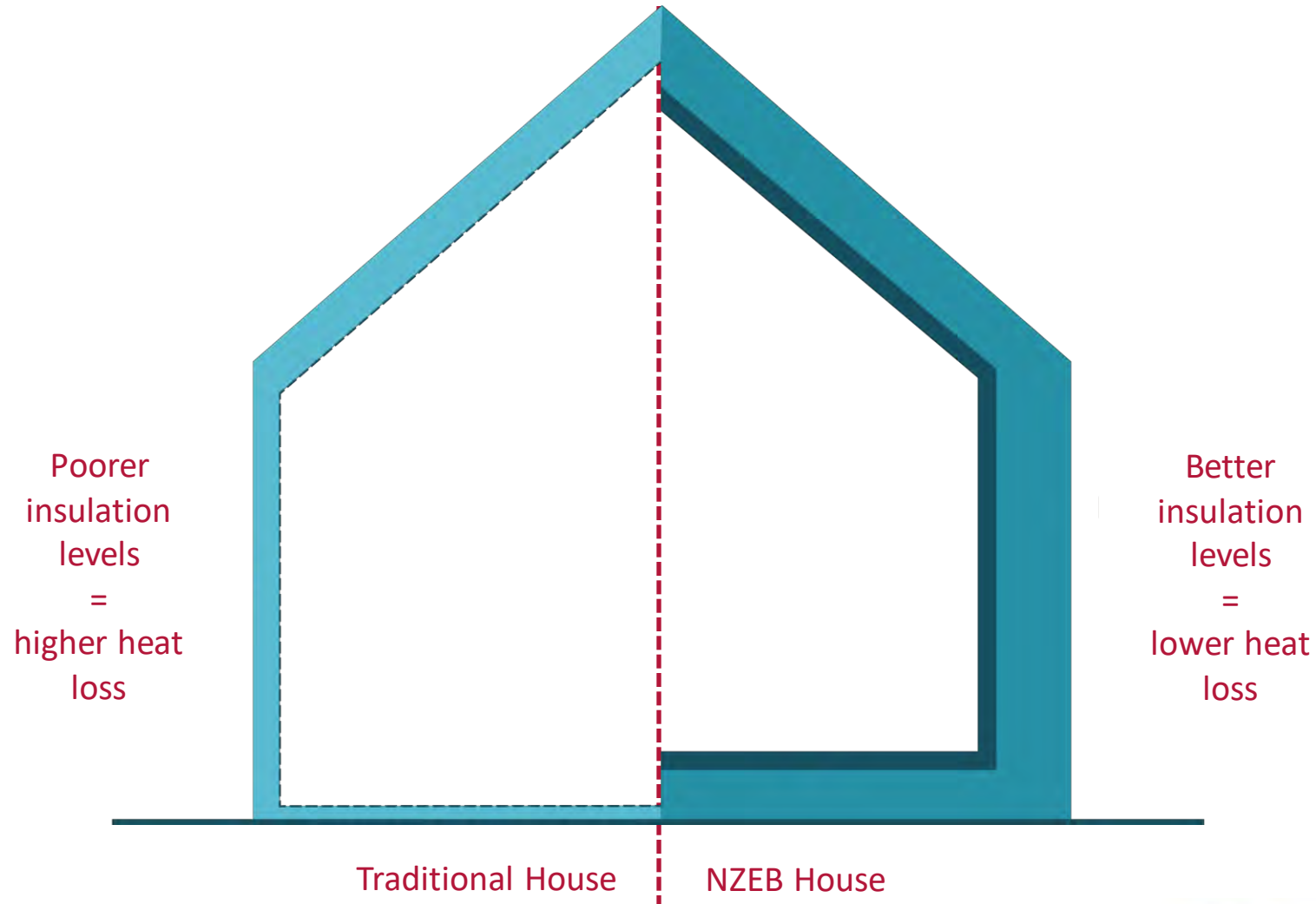
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Continuous Insulation Principle



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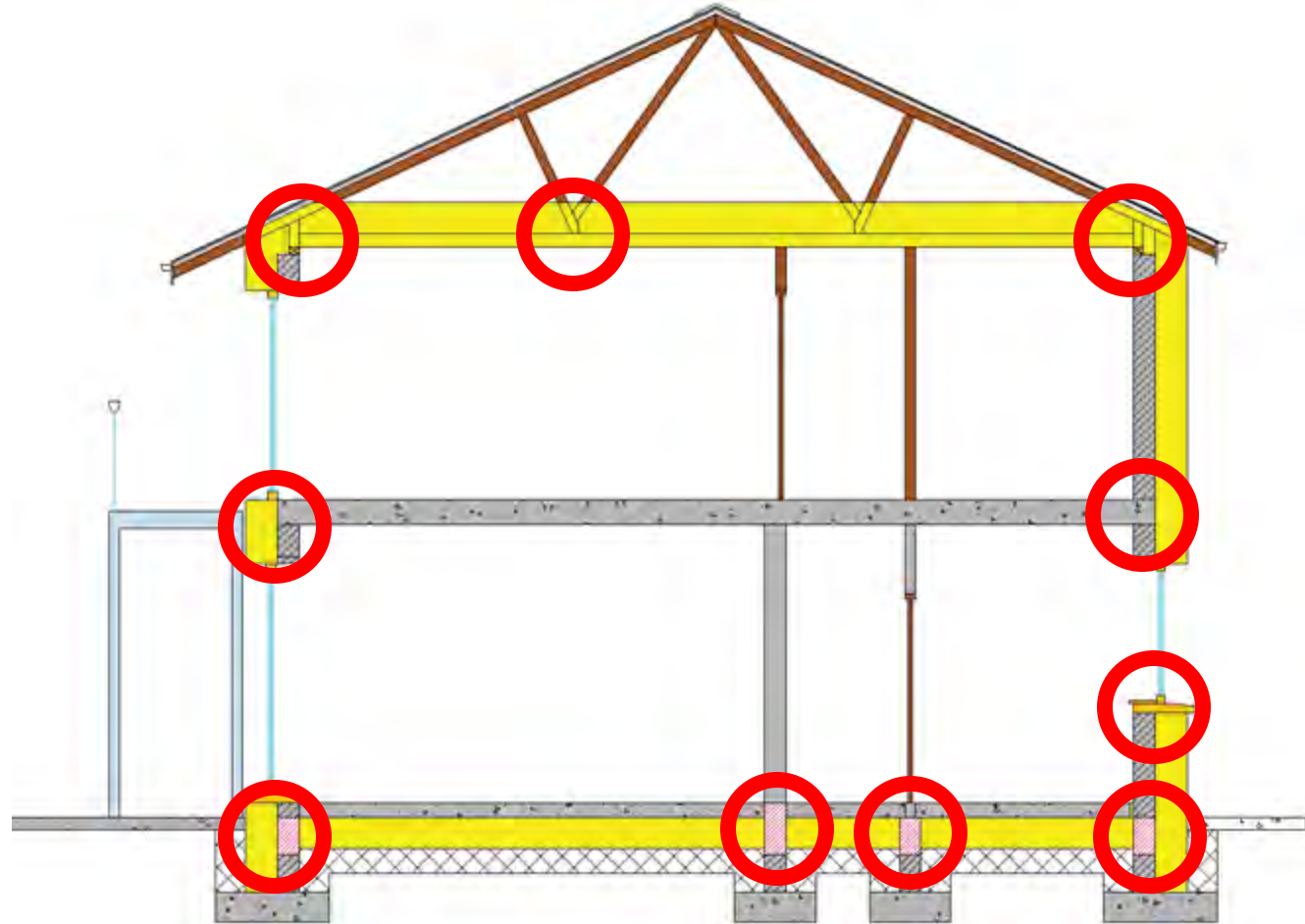


Critical Insulation Continuity Locations



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Critical points to maintain continuity of insulation in the envelope to keep the heat in and cold out. (Red Circles)



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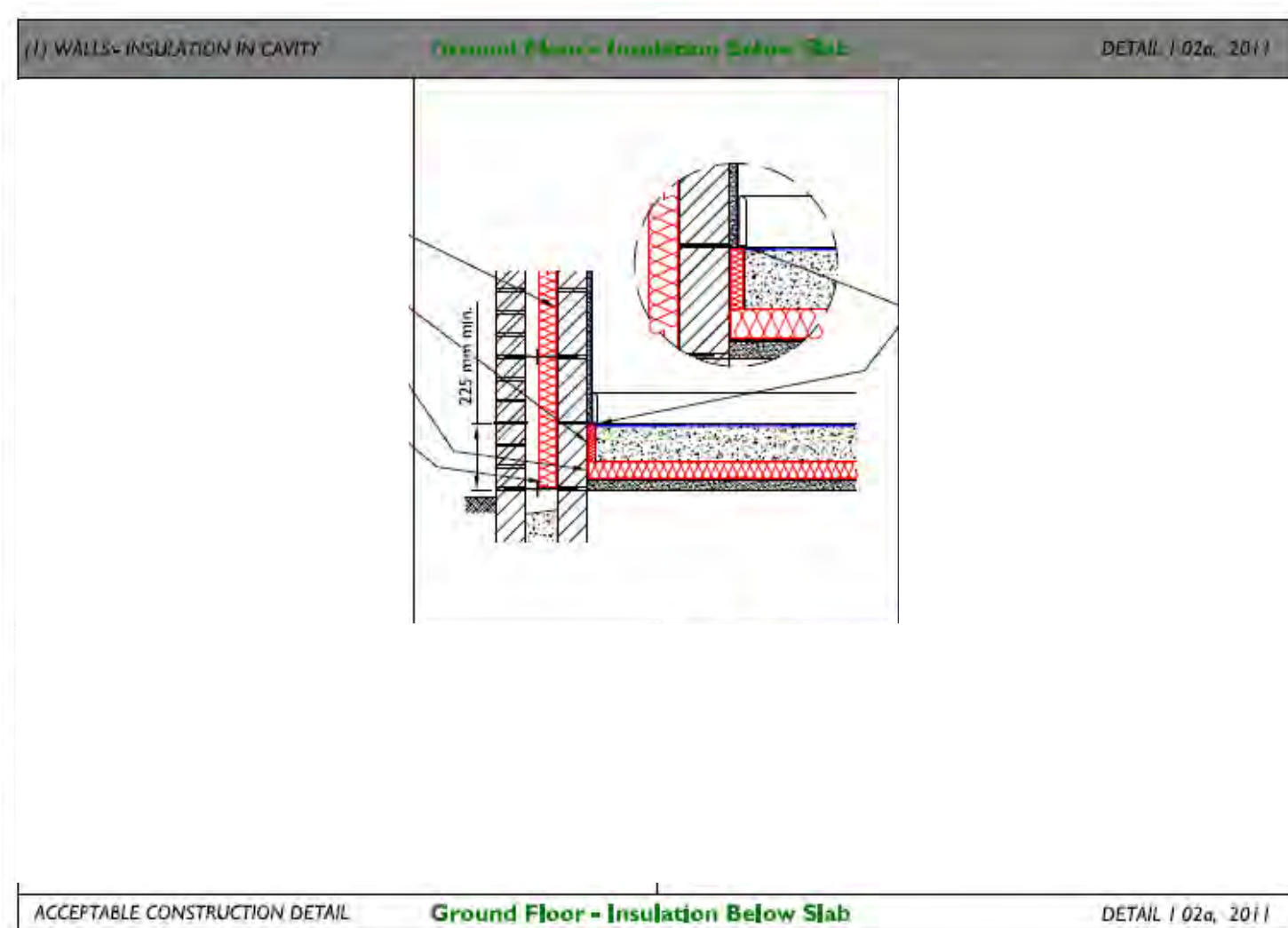


Case study - Acceptable Construction Details (ACD's)



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- ACDs provide general recommendations on insulation and airtightness
- Insulation shown in red, airtightness in blue
- Ensure you are familiar with the ACD's for the construction type you are working on
- Help maintain continuity of insulation and airtightness



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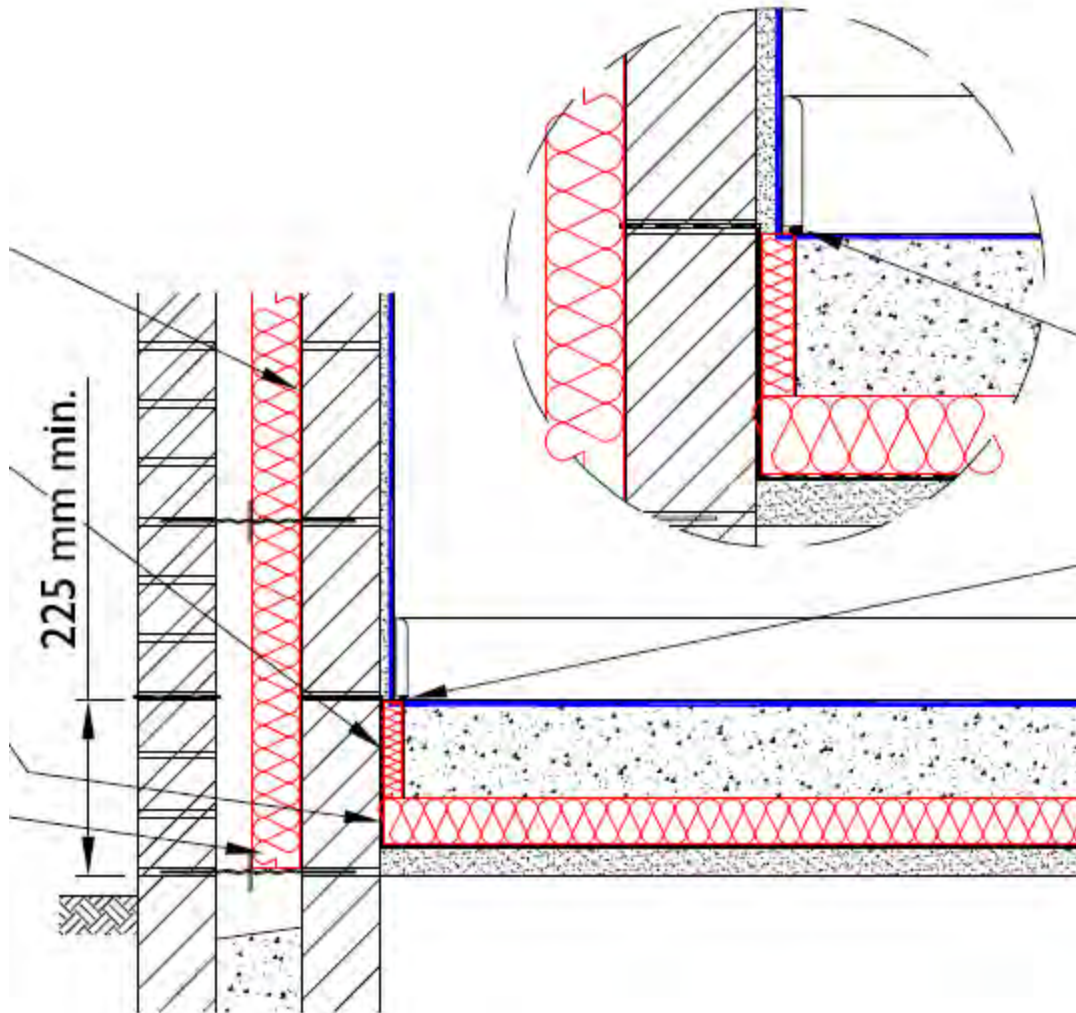
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Be Aware of the ACD's



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- Guidelines for detailing but can be improved upon
- Provide multiple options for **key construction types** (including cavity wall and timber frame)
- Suggest positioning of **insulation** and **air permeability** measures
- **Can be improved upon** significantly



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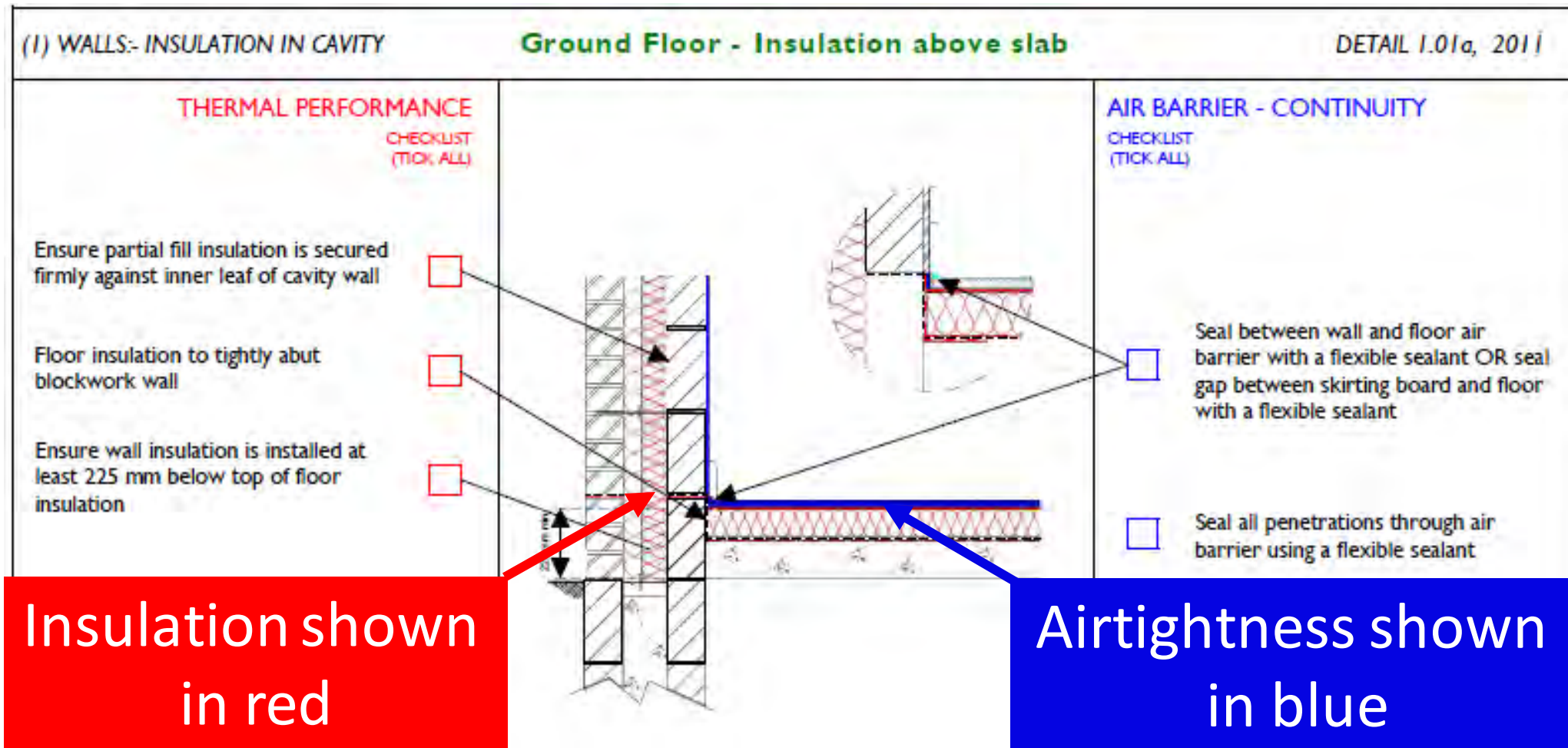
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Case Study - Cavity Wall – Insulation Above Slab - ACD



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Case Study - Cavity Wall – Insulation Above Slab & AAC - ACD



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(1) WALLS:- INSULATION IN CAVITY **Ground Floor - Insulation above slab plus lightweight block** DETAIL 1.01b, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE	AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)	CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)
Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Seal between wall and floor air barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant.
Floor insulation to tightly abut blockwork wall <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant.
Ensure wall insulation is installed at least 225 mm below top of floor insulation <input type="checkbox"/>	Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability
Ensure block with a maximum Thermal Conductivity of .20 W/mK in the direction of heat flow is used and that block is suitable for use in foundations in all conditions. Block is to be installed so to avoid any effect of moisture on Thermal Conductivity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric2

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Case Study - Cavity Wall – Insulation Below Slab - ACD



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11) WALLS- INSULATION IN CAVITY

Ground Floor – Insulation Below Slab

DETAIL 102a, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

- ☐ Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall
- ☒ Install perimeter insulation with a min. R-value of 1.0 m² K/W
- ☐ Floor insulation to rightly abut blockwork wall
- ☐ Ensure wall insulation is installed at least 225 mm below top of floor

225 mm min.

BARRIER - CONTINUITY
(TICK ALL)

- ☐ Seal between wall and floor air barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant
- ☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



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Case Study - Cavity Wall – Insulation Below Slab - AAC



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(1) WALLS- INSULATION IN CAVITY **Ground Floor- Insulation Below Slab Plus (Intermediate Block)** DETAIL 1 026, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)		AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)	
Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Install perimeter insulation with a min. R-value of 1.0 m ² K/W	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Seal between wall and floor air barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant
Floor insulation to tightly abut blockwork wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ensure wall insulation is installed at least 225 mm below top of floor	<input type="checkbox"/>		Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant
Ensure block with a maximum Thermal Conductivity of 0.20 W/mK in the direction of heat flow is used and that block is suitable for use in foundations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



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Case Study - Cavity Wall – Suspended Timber Floor - ACD



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(1) WALLS- INSULATION IN CAVITY

Timber Suspended Ground Floor

DETAIL 1 01. 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

- ☐ Secure partial fill insulation firmly against inner leaf
- ☒ Pack gap between floor joist and blockwork wall with compressible insulation if over 25mm; otherwise inject approved insulating expanding foam. Min. R-value of 0.63 m²/KW
- ☒ Ensure wall insulation is installed at least 200 mm below top of floor insulation
- ☒ Ensure insulation is in contact with the underside of timber flooring

200 mm min.

AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY

CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

- ☐ Seal between wall and floor air barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant
- ☒ Seal joints in timber floor with suitable glue. Fully support and fix any square edge joints in the decking to the joists
- ☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant
- ☒ Provide similar air seals at all internal partitions

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



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Maximum Area-weighted average U-values (W/m²K)



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Building Fabric Element	Pitched Roof (Insulation at ceiling)	Pitched Roof (Insulation on slope)	Flat Roof	Walls	Floors (ground and other exposed floors)	External Doors and Windows
2002	0.16	0.20	0.22	0.27	0.25	2.20
2005	0.16	0.20	0.22	0.27	0.25	2.20
2007	0.16	0.20	0.22	0.27	0.25 0.15 (UF)	2.00
2011	0.16	0.16	0.20	0.21	0.21 0.15 (UF)	1.60
2019	0.16	0.16	0.20	0.18	0.18 0.15 (UF)	1.40



U-values have been steadily improving since 2002

Remember: These are the maximum allowed – in practice much better U-values are typically required to comply with TGD Part L



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Note: 'UF' above denotes under floor heating

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NZEB: Maximum Area-weighted average U-values (W/m²K)



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Building Fabric Element	Pitched Roof (Insulation at ceiling)	Pitched Roof (Insulation on slope)	Flat Roof	Walls	Floors (ground and other exposed floors)	External Doors and Windows
Backstop NZEB	0.16	0.16	0.20	0.18	0.18 0.15 _(UF)	1.40
Reality NZEB Required	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.9



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Table E1.1 Example A: Semi-detached dwelling with gas boiler for space heating and continuous mechanical extract ventilation	
Element or system	Specifications
Dwelling size and shape	Semi-detached house, two-storey Overall internal dimensions: 7 m wide x 9 m deep x 5.1 m high Total floor area 126 m ² Rectangular shape with no irregularities
Opening areas (windows and doors)	25% of total floor area The above includes one opaque door of area 1.85 m ² , any other doors are fully glazed
Walls	U = 0.13 W/m ² K e.g. 150 mm cavity wall with 100 mm cavity insulation of thermal conductivity 0.022 W/mK and 60 mm internal insulation of conductivity 0.022 W/mK
Roof	U = 0.11 W/m ² K e.g. 360 mm insulation of conductivity 0.04 W/mK, between and over ceiling joists
Floor	U = 0.14 W/m ² K e.g. Slab-on-ground floor with 120 mm insulation of conductivity 0.023 W/mK
Opaque door	U = 1.5 W/m ² K
Windows and glazed doors	Double glazed, low E (En = 0.05, soft coat) 20 mm gap, argon filled, PVC frames (U = 1.3 0.9 W/m ² K, solar transmittance = 0.6)



Traditional Cavity Wall



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- Wide cavity required to meet low U-values
- Leads to wider foundation
- Blow-in insulation bead?
- Could combine with internal or external insulation (*BUT - doubling up of effort*)



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Cavity Wall Insulation – Installation and Precautions



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- Insulation should be tight against the inner leaf
- Excess mortar should be cleaned off before fixing insulation
- The insulation layer should be continuous and without gaps
- Insulation batts & boards should butt tightly against each other
- Batts & boards should be cut and trimmed to fit tightly around openings, cavity trays, lintels, sleeved vents and other components bridging the cavity, and should be adequately supported in position
- Critical locations where care should be taken to limit thermal bridging include lintels, jambs, sills, roof/wall junctions and wall/floor junctions
- The method of cavity closure used should not cause thermal bridging at the roof/wall junction



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Cavity Wall Insulation – Installation and Precautions



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- Critical locations where care should be taken to limit thermal bridging include lintels, jambs, sills, roof/wall junctions and wall/floor junctions
- The method of cavity closure used should not cause thermal bridging at the roof/wall junction (see Acceptable Construction Details, section 1 details)



BRE “Good Building Guide 68 Part 2 Installing thermal insulation: Good site practice”



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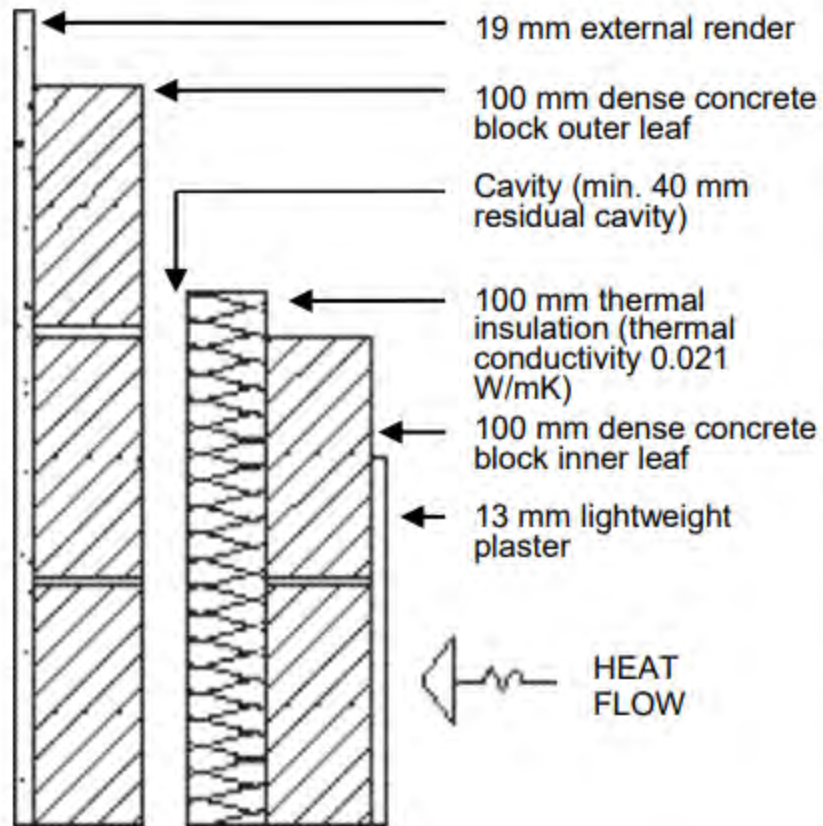


Cavity Wall Width – NZEB Compliance



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Diagram A1 Masonry cavity wall
(Par. A2.1)



Layer/ Surface	Thickness (m)	Conductivity (w/mK)	Resistance (m²K/W)
External surface	-	-	0.040
External render	0.019	1.00	0.019
Concrete block	0.100	1.33	0.075
Low-E Air cavity	0.050	-	0.440
Polyisocyanurate (PIR) Insulation	0.100	0.021	4.760
Concrete block	0.100	1.33	0.075
Plaster (lightweight)	0.013	0.18	0.072
Internal surface	-	-	0.130
Total Resistance	-	-	5.611
U-value of construction = 1 / 5.611 = 0.18 W/m²K			



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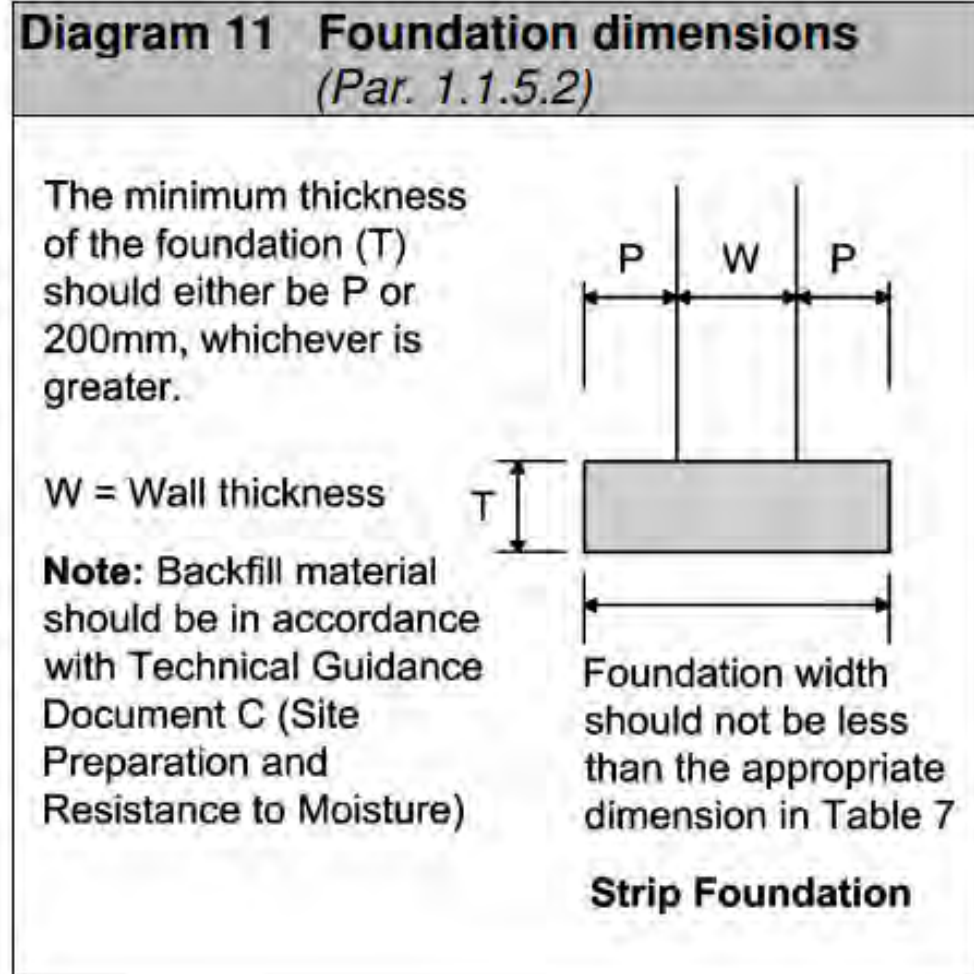
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NZEB Requires Wider Walls & Wider Foundations



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Note: In no case should the width of the foundation be less than the total width of the wall plus 75 mm on each side.



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Full-Fill Cavity Wall Insulation



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Ensure continuous insulation with no mortar snots



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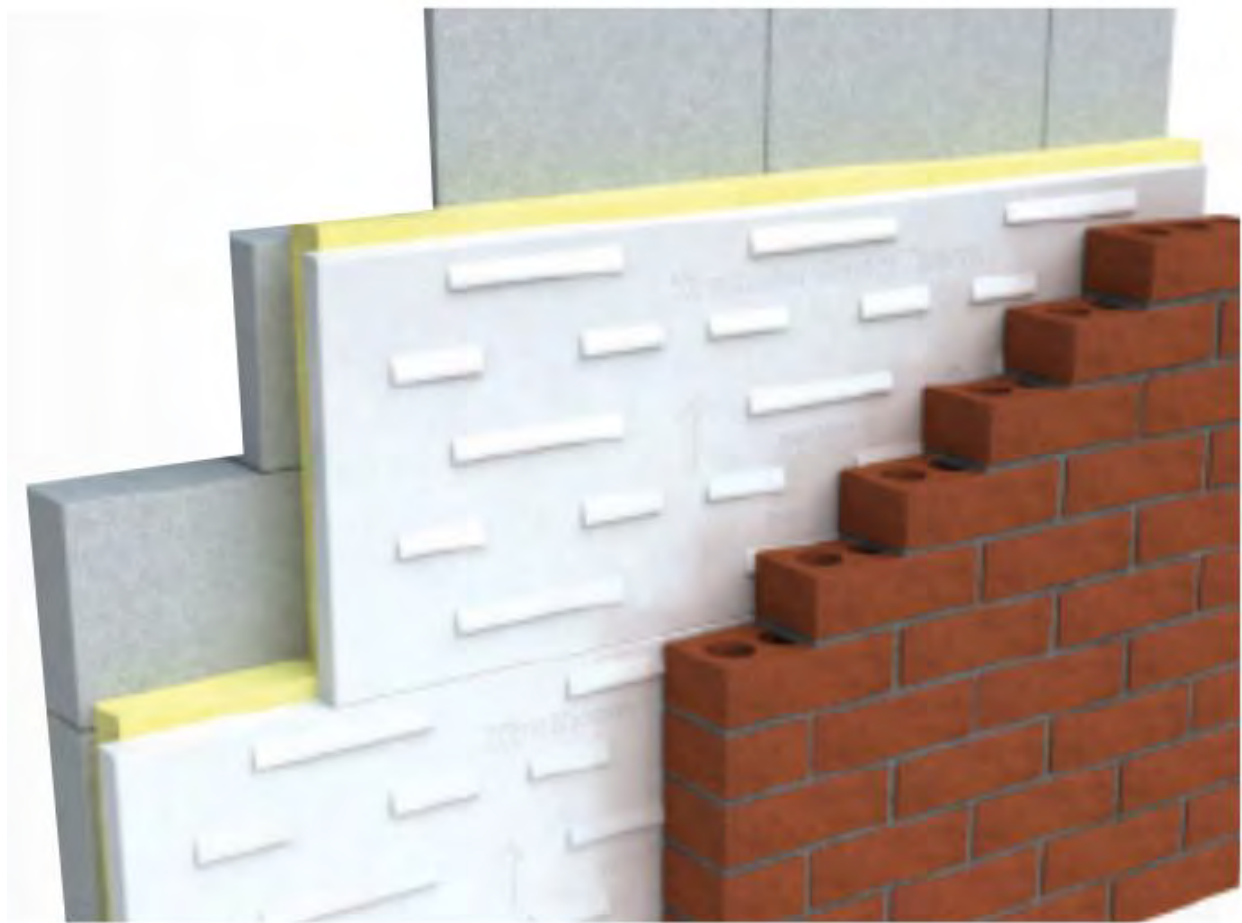
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Cavity Wall Width – NZEB Compliance – Better Than Backstop



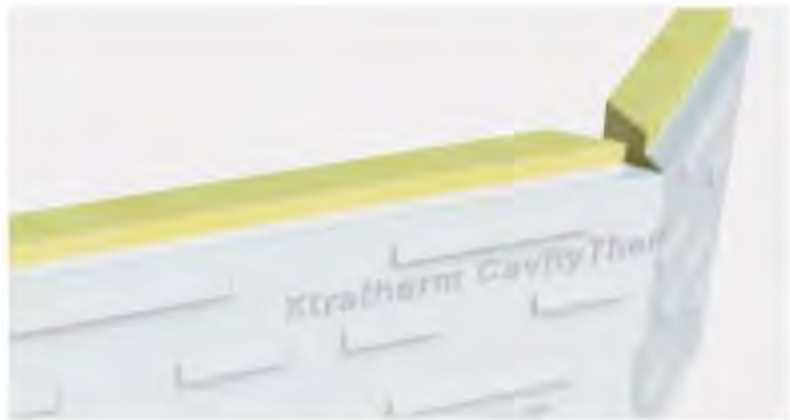
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CavityTherm (Inner block 100)

Block Type	100mm	125mm	150mm
Light	0.17	0.14	0.12
Med	0.19	0.15	0.13
Dense	0.19	0.16	0.13

Plaster Finish



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Image Source: Xtratherm

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Full-Fill Cavity Wall Insulation



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- 150mm of PIR insulation (0.022 W/mK).
For this project
- Additional layer of insulated plasterboard was added to the inside
- The U-value of this wall would be significantly better than the NZEB backstop



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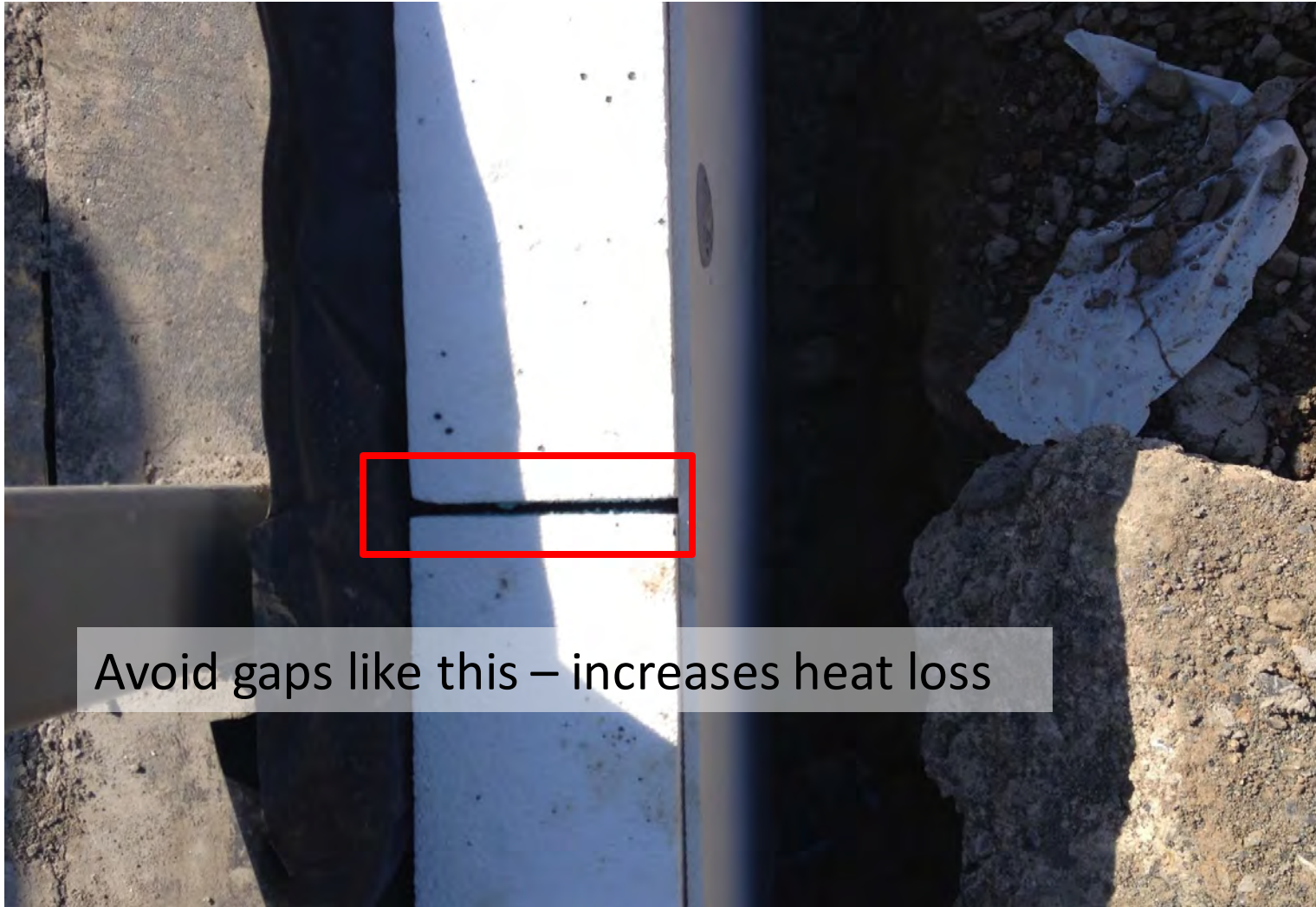
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Insulation Boards to be Tightly Butted



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Avoid gaps like this – increases heat loss



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Better to Mitre Insulation at Corners



Wall Ties



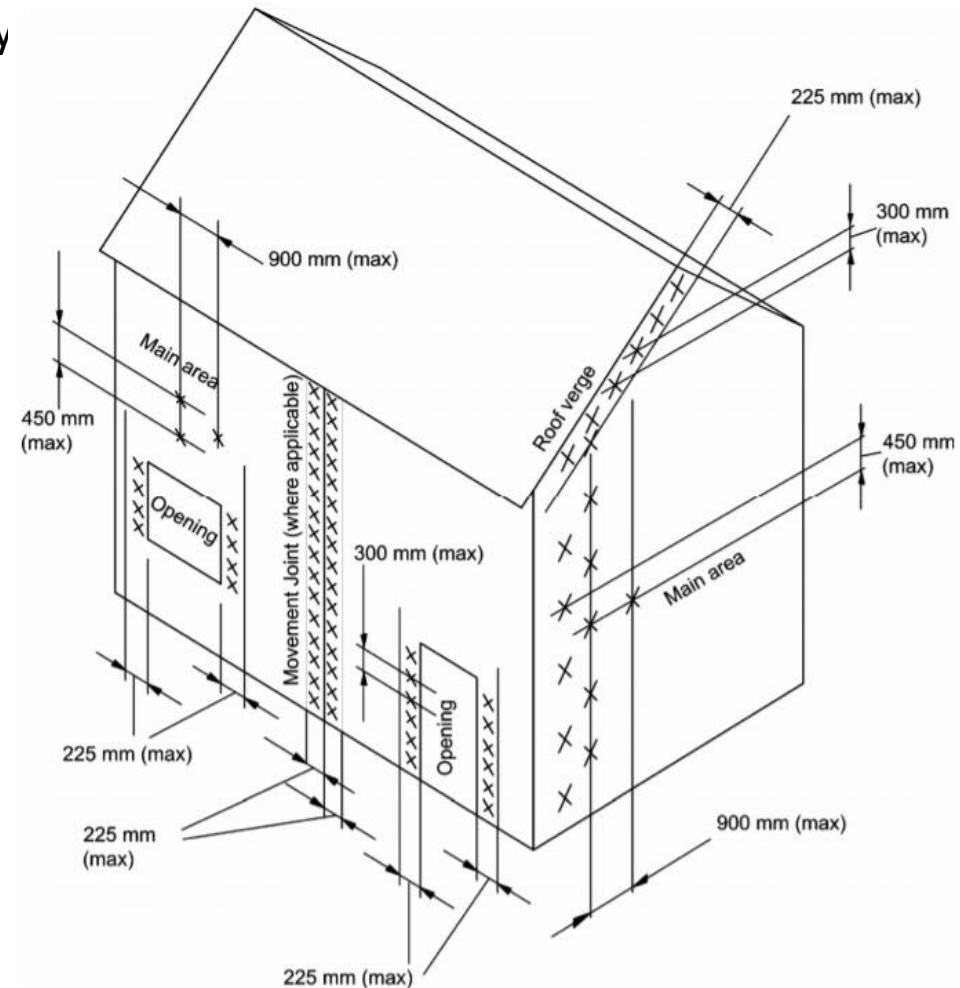
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The number of wall ties required in a cavity wall is generally accepted as follows:

The minimum quantity of ties provided should be:

- 2.5 wall ties per square metre for cavity widths between 50mm and 75mm
- 3 wall ties per square metre for cavity widths between 75mm and 100mm, and
- 4.9 wall ties per square metre for cavity widths between 100mm and 150mm

Extra wall ties are required at the jambs of openings and movement joints



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Wall Ties



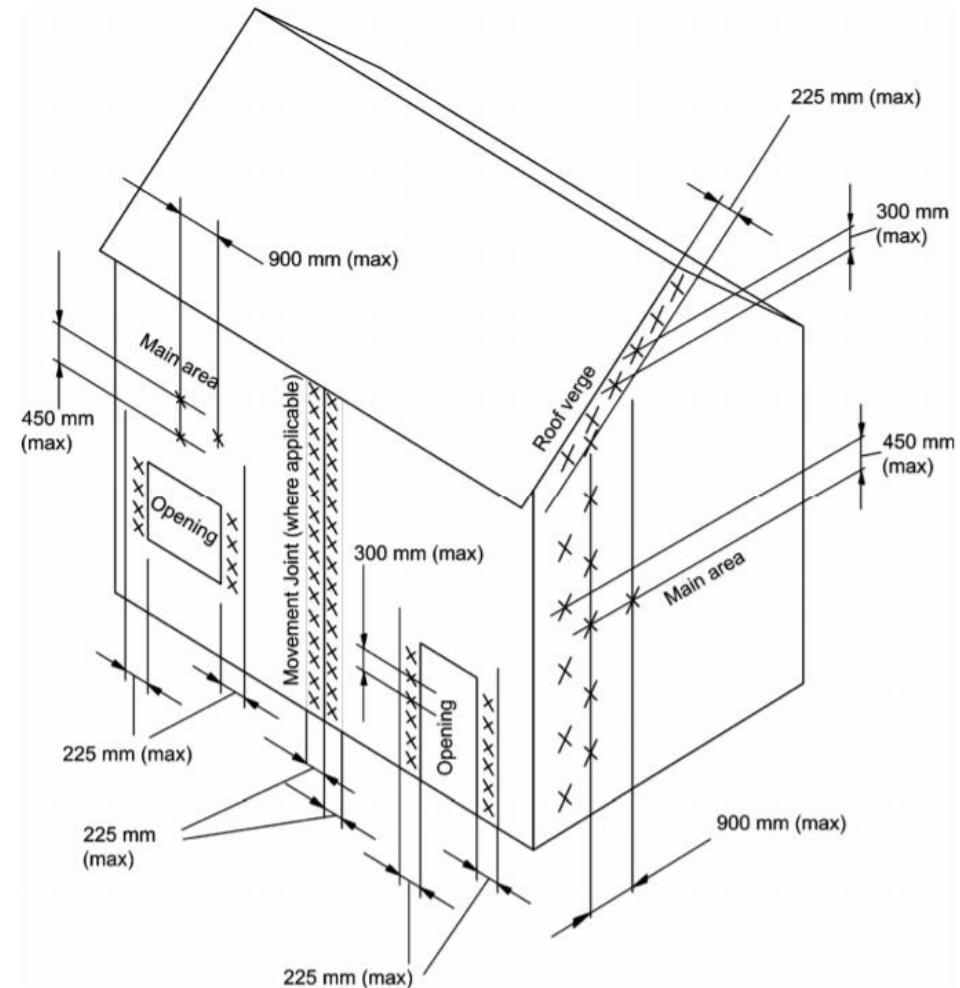
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The number of wall ties required in a cavity wall is outlined in Part A – Structure.

The minimum quantity of ties provided should be:

- 2.5 wall ties per square metre for cavity widths between 50mm and 75mm
- 3 wall ties per square metre for cavity widths between 75mm and 100mm, and
- 4.9 wall ties per square metre for cavity widths between 100mm and 150mm

Extra wall ties are required at the jambs of openings and movement joints (for use of ties in other cavity widths, see S.R. 325).



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Wall Ties & Thermal Bridging



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Table A1 Thermal conductivity of some common building materials

Material	Density (kg/m ³)	Thermal Conductivity (W/mK)
General Building Materials		
Clay brickwork (outer leaf)	1,700	0.77
Clay brickwork (inner leaf)	1,700	0.56
Concrete block (heavyweight)	2,000	1.33
Concrete block (medium weight)	1,400	0.57
Concrete block (autoclaved aerated)	700	0.20
Concrete block (autoclaved aerated)	500	0.15
Concrete block (hollow)	1800	0.835
Cast concrete, high density	2,400	2.00
Cast concrete, medium density	1,800	1.15
Aerated concrete slab	500	0.16
Concrete screed	1,200	0.41
Reinforced concrete (1 % steel)	2,300	2.30
Reinforced concrete (2 % steel)	2,400	2.50
Wall ties, stainless steel	7,900	17.00
Wall ties, galvanised steel	7,800	50.00
Mortar (protected)	1,750	0.88
Mortar (exposed)	1,750	0.94
External rendering (cement sand)	1,800	1.00
Plaster (gypsum lightweight)	600	0.18
Plaster (gypsum)	1,200	0.43
Plasterboard	900	0.25



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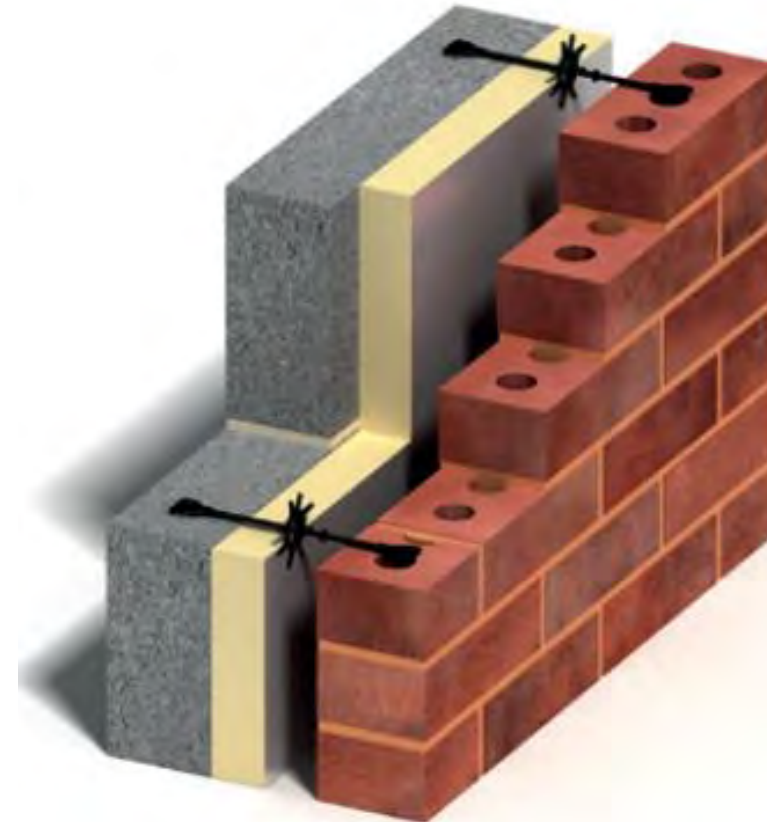
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Wall Ties & Thermal Bridging



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- The Ancon ties are manufactured from basalt fibres set in a resin matrix.
- These ties have a thermal conductivity of just **0.7 W/mK**.



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Cavity Barriers – Why Are they Needed?



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- Hidden voids in the construction of a building provide a **ready route for smoke and flame spread**
- As the **spread is concealed**, it presents a greater danger than a more obvious weakness in the fabric of the building.
- Provisions are made to restrict this **by interrupting cavities which could form a pathway around fire barriers**, and subdividing extensive cavities.



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Cavity Barriers – Positioning

3.6.2 Provision of Cavity Barriers

Cavity barriers should be provided in accordance with the following:

- (a) At the top of an external cavity wall (masonry or framed construction) including any gable wall.
- (b) Vertically at the junction of separating wall and any such wall with an external cavity wall (see Diagram 12).
- (c) Above the enclosures to a protected stairway (see Diagram 11).
- (d) Around all openings (windows, doors, vents, service boxes etc.) in framed construction.

Diagram 11 Roofspaces over protected stairway in dwelling houses (alternative arrangements) Par 3.6.2

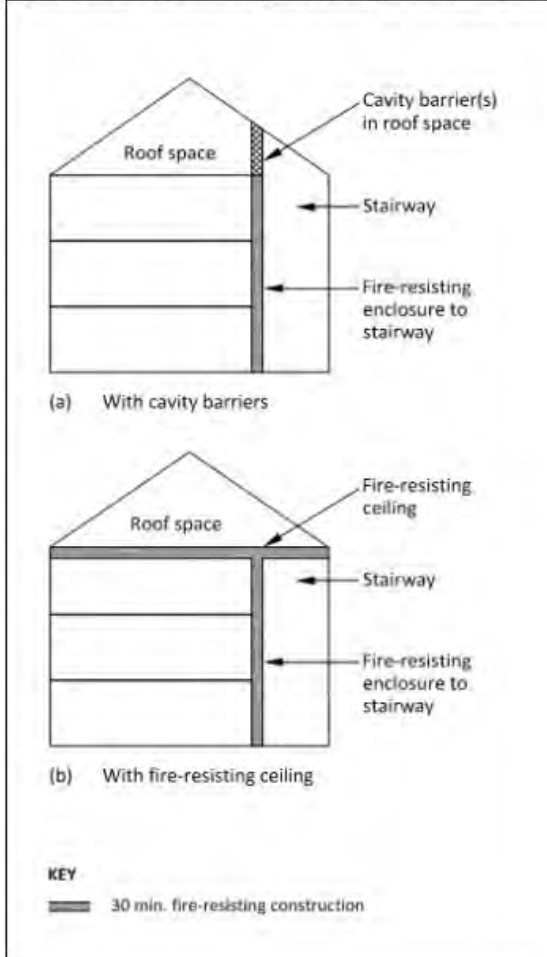
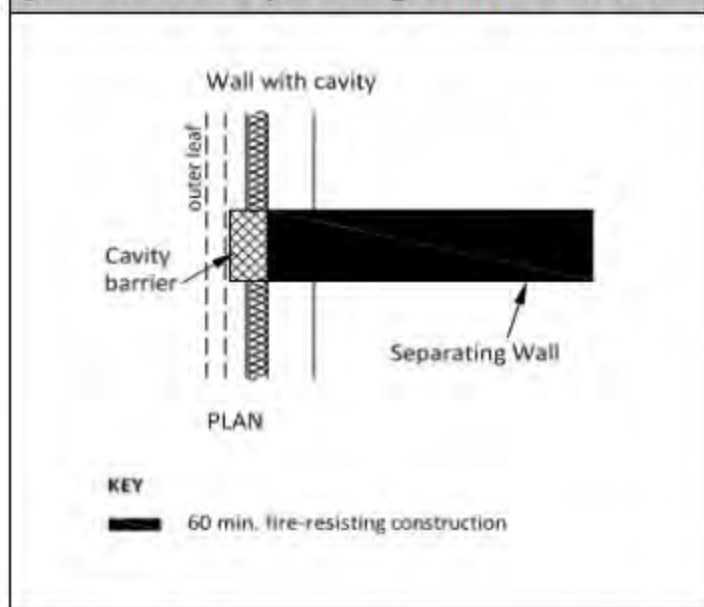


Diagram 12 Vertical cavity barrier at junction of separating wall Par. 3.6.2.



3.6.3 Construction and Fixings for Cavity Barriers

Every cavity barrier should be constructed to provide at least 30 minutes fire resistance

Notes: Any cavity barrier required in framed construction may however be formed of –

- (i) steel at least 0.5 mm thick, or
- (ii) timber at least 38 mm thick, or
- (iii) polythene sleeved mineral wool, or mineral wool slab, in either case under compression when installed in the cavity.

Cavity barriers should be tightly fitted to rigid construction and mechanically fixed in position wherever possible. Where this is not possible (for example, in the case of a junction with slates, tiles, corrugated sheeting or similar materials) the junction should be fire-stopped.

Cavity barriers should also be fixed so that their performance is unlikely to be made ineffective by:

- (a) movement of the building due to subsidence, shrinkage or thermal change and movement of the external envelope due to wind;
- (b) collapse in a fire of any services penetrating them;
- (c) failure in a fire of their fixings; or failure in a fire of any material or construction which they abut.





ALTICLOSER FR

- Provides an effective solution when closing cavities within openings in masonry walls, offering 30min fire resistance performance within cavities up to a maximum width of 100mm. (FR+ 60 min)
- UPVC outer which acts as a damp proof barrier, while the polythene enclosed rock mineral fibre core prevents thermal bridging issues and is a key feature of the products fire resistance capabilities



ANTICLOSER XPS

- The thermal cavity closer incorporates a UPVC outer which acts as a damp proof barrier, while the insulated XPS core prevents thermal bridging problems.

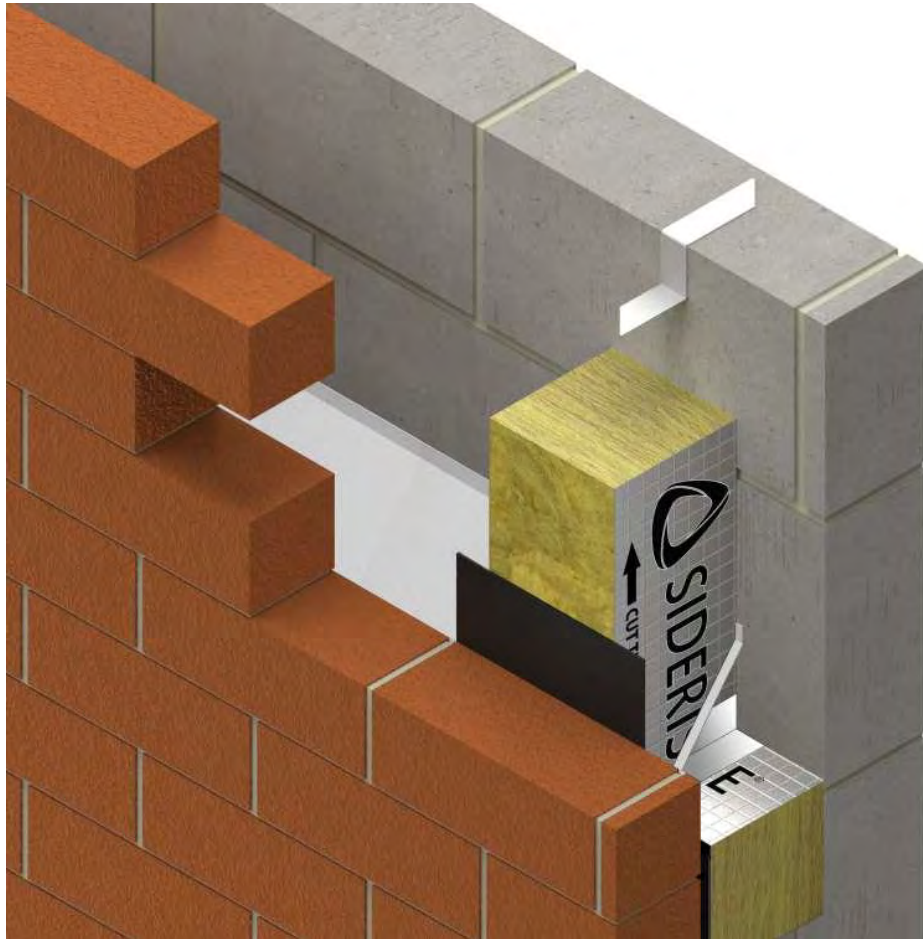


Thermal Cavity Closers & Fire Stop



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SIDERISE EW – Cavity Barriers and Fire Stops for Masonry External Walls



- Fire resistance: up to 2 hours
- Sound reduction: up to 25dB (Rw)
- Integral smoke barrier
- Resilient to accommodate site tolerances without cutting
- Certified 3rd Party Approval



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Image Source: Siderise

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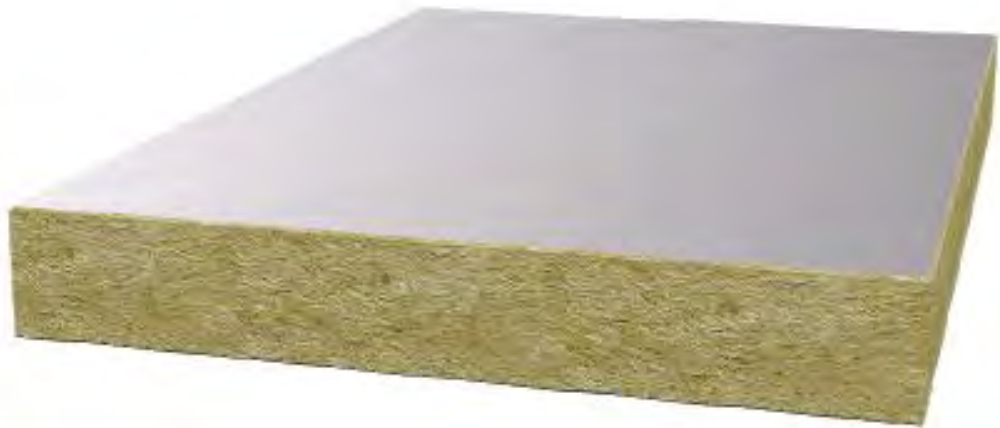


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ROCKWOOL® Mineral Wool Fire Barrier Slab

- Manufactured from non-combustible stone wool
- High density stone wool core
- Foil-faced on both sides
- Prevent the spread of flames
- Inhibits heat and smoke through concealed spaces in buildings
- Improves sound reduction



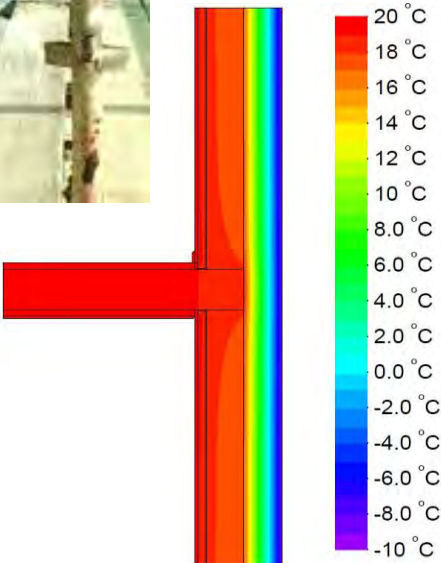
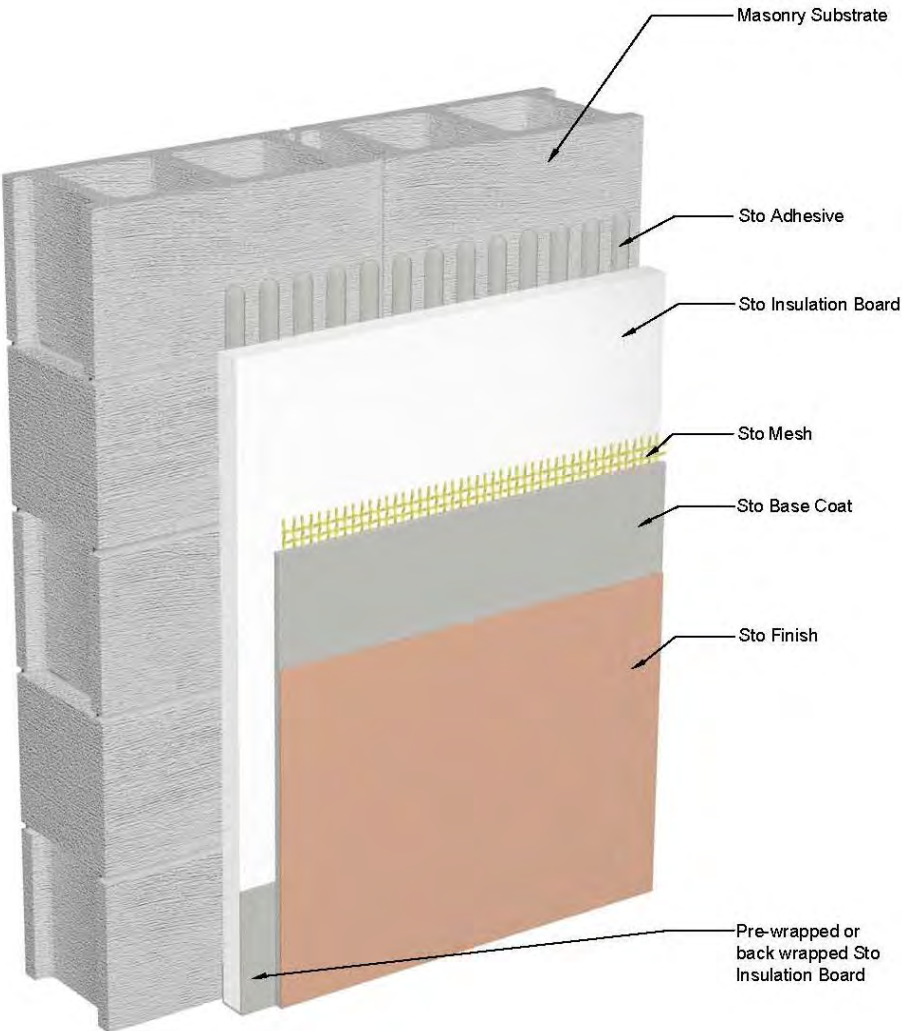
Cavity walls should always have a fire stop closure at the top of the cavity and around openings.



Single Leaf Masonry with Exterior Insulation



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Cavity Wall with Exterior Insulation – Retrofit



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XPS vs EPS



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Extruded polystyrene (XPS)

Manufactured by liquefying polystyrene pellets then injecting a blowing agent under pressure.

The liquid formed is then continuously extruded through a die and expands during the cooling process

Closed cell rigid insulation

No water penetration

Lower Conductivity

Good compressive strength

Expanded polystyrene (EPS)

Manufactured using a mould to contain small foam beads

Heat or steam is then applied to the mould, which causes the small beads to expand and fuse together

Non closed cell rigid insulation

Allows water to penetrate

Higher Conductivity

Weaker strength than XPS



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The EWI Starter Track is a Potential Thermal Bridge



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Preferable to use plastic,
rather than metal



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Exterior Insulation Options on Timber Frame



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Benefit of reducing thermal
bridge through studs

Wood fibre board

1. Made of Recycled Wood-Chips
2. T&G all sides mean no need to align to framing (roof or wall)
3. Water-resistant (WRB), Insulated sheathing + help Windproofing in 1 step
4. Vapour Open



Rockwool

1. Made from fibres which are spun from molten rock
2. Good fire resistant properties
3. Provides good noise insulation
4. Vapour open



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Avoiding cracking



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L-shaped insulation block should
be used at all window corners –
high stress point – prone to
cracking

Avoid joints between
boards at window
corners



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EWI Boards to be Laid in Brick Pattern



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Can your Eaves accommodate external wall insulation?



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Case study - External Insulation, Insulation Above Slab



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(2) WALLS- EXTERNAL INSULATION SOLID MASONRY / CAVITY BLOCK WALLS		Ground Floor - Insulation Above Slab with Lightweight Block	DETAIL 201, 2011
<p>THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Floor insulation to tightly abut blockwork wall</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure wall insulation is installed at least 225 mm below top of floor insulation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure block with a maximum Thermal Conductivity of 0.20 W/mK in the direction of heat flow is used and that block is suitable for use in foundations</p>		<p>AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seal between wall and floor air barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant</p>	
<p><i>Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability</i></p>			



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Department of
Housing, Planning and Local Government Ireland

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Case Study - External Insulation, Insulated Below Slab GF Insulation



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(2) WALLS- EXTERNAL INSULATION
SOLID MASONRY / CAVITY BLOCK WALLS

Ground Floor - Insulation Below Slab
with Lightweight Block

DETAIL 2.02, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

☐ Floor insulation to tightly abut blockwork wall

☒ Install perimeter insulation with a Min. R-value of 1.1 m² K/W

☒ Ensure wall insulation is installed at least 225 mm below top of floor

☒ Ensure block with a maximum Thermal Conductivity of 0.20 W/mK in the direction of heat flow is used and that block is suitable for use in foundations

AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

☐ Seal between wall and floor air barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant.

☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant.

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Case study -External Insulation, Solid Masonry, Insulation Above Slab

(2) WALLS- EXTERNAL INSULATION
SOLID MASONRY / CAVITY BLOCK WALLS

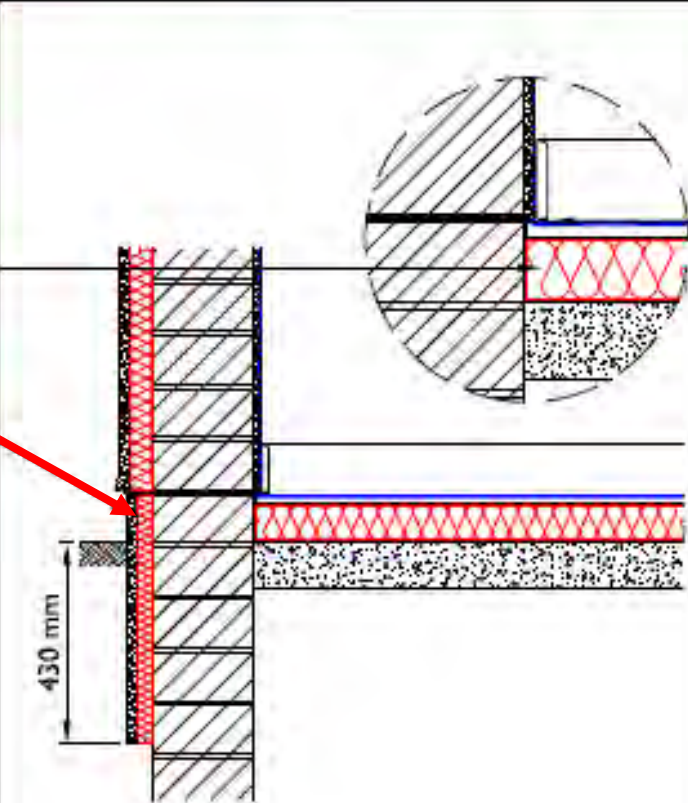
THERMAL PERFORMANCE
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

Floor insulation to tightly abut
blockwork wall

Ensure wall insulation is installed at
least 430 mm below ground level
R-value 4.0 m² K/W

Ground Floor - Insulation Above Slab

DETAIL 201a, 2011





AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

Seal between wall and floor air
barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal
gap between skirting board and floor
with a flexible sealant

Seal all penetrations through air
barrier using a flexible sealant

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability







Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Case Study - External Insulation, Below Slab GF Insulation- ACD

(2) WALLS - EXTERNAL INSULATION
SOLID MASONRY / CAVITY BLOCK WALLS

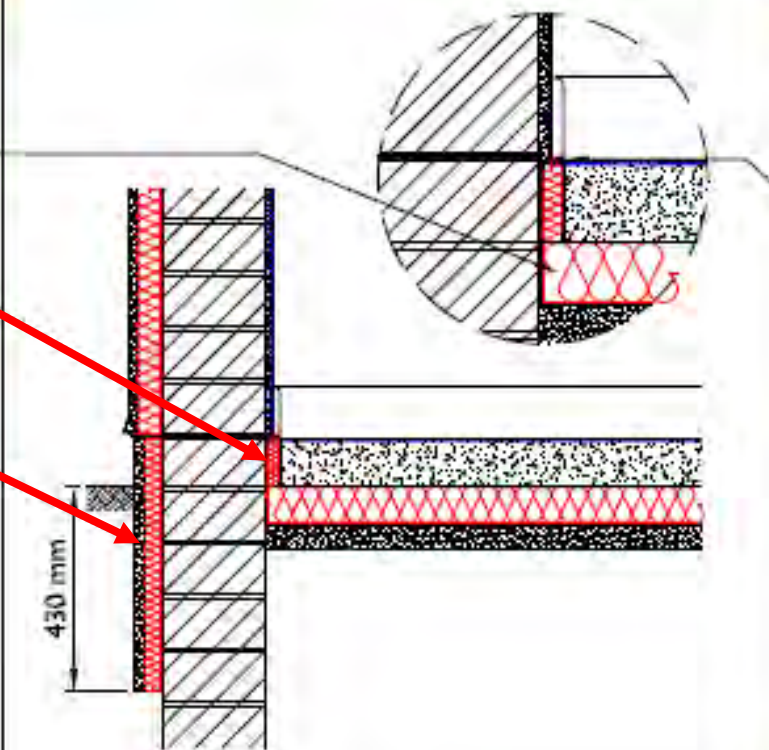
THERMAL PERFORMANCE
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

Floor insulation to tightly abut
blockwork wall

Install perimeter insulation with a Min.
R-value of 1.1 m² K/W

Ensure wall insulation is installed at
least 430 mm below ground level
R-value 4.0 m² K/W

Ground Floor - Insulation Below Slab





AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

Seal between wall and floor air
barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal
gap between skirting board and floor
with a flexible sealant

Seal all penetrations through air
barrier using a flexible sealant

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability







Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Case study - External Insulation, Suspended Timber Floor- ACD



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(2) WALLS- EXTERNAL INSULATION
SOLID MASONRY/ CAVITY BLOCK WALLS

THERMAL PERFORMANCE
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

Pack gap between floor joist and blockwork wall with compressible insulation if over 25 mm; otherwise inject insulating expanding foam. Min. R-value of 0.63 m² K/W

Continue external insulation at least 750 mm below top of floor insulation

Ensure insulation is in contact with underside of timber flooring

Timber Suspended Ground Floor

550 mm

AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

☐ Seal between wall and floor air barrier with a flexible sealant OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant

☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant

☒ Seal joints in timber floor with suitable glue. Fully support and fix any square edge joints in the decking to the joists

☒ Provide similar air seals at all internal partitions

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



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Case Study - Internal Wall Insulation – Without Service Void



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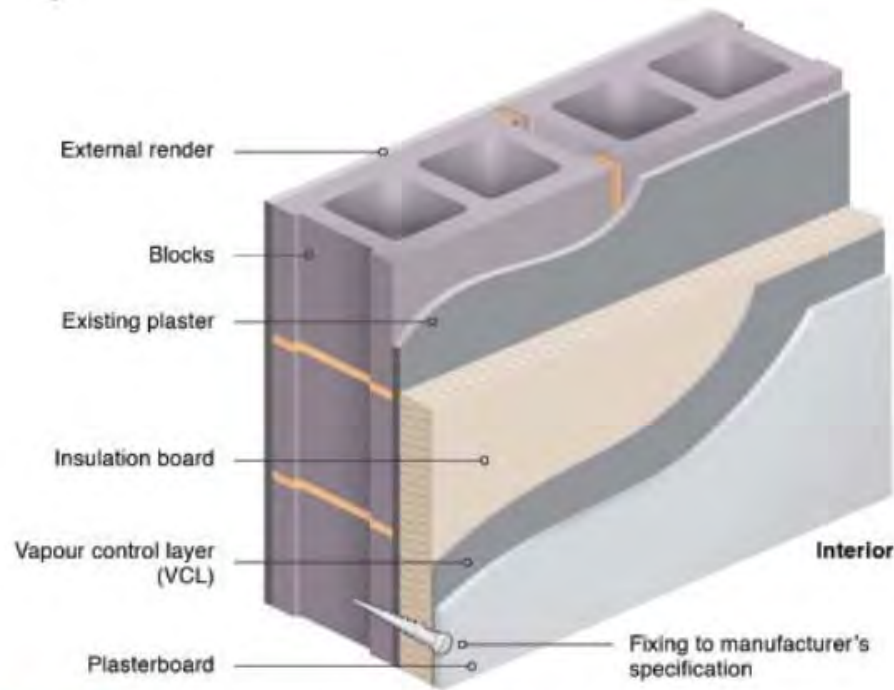


Figure 60 - Thermal laminated board fixed to internal face of wall

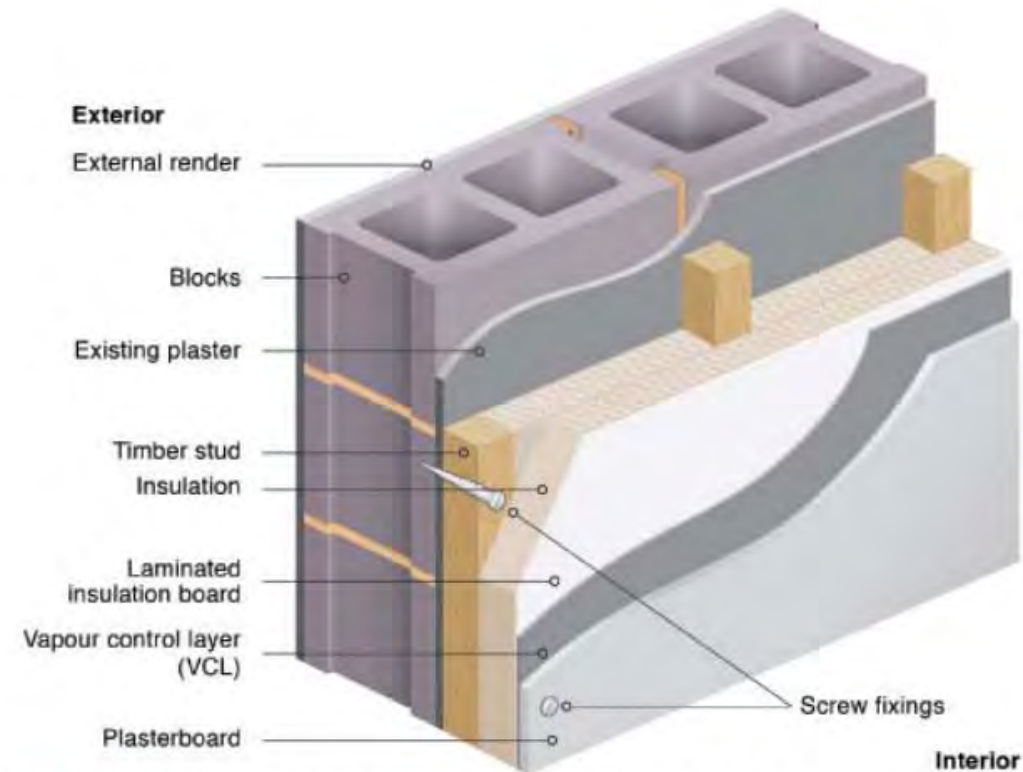


Figure 62 - Thermal laminate board over insulation between battens



Continuity of vapour control layer!!

- to ensure vapour and air tightness, all edges of insulation boards should be continuously sealed at floors, ceilings and jambs. Care should be taken to ensure insulation boards are continued to the floor level. All board joints should be taped and all service entry points sealed to ensure the continuity of the vapour control layer;



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Case study - Internal Wall Insulation – With Service Void



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7.3.3.3.4 Secondary layer over insulation between battens with service void fixed to single leaf walls

Figure 63 shows the use of a timber batten to form a service void over insulation between studs (new or existing).

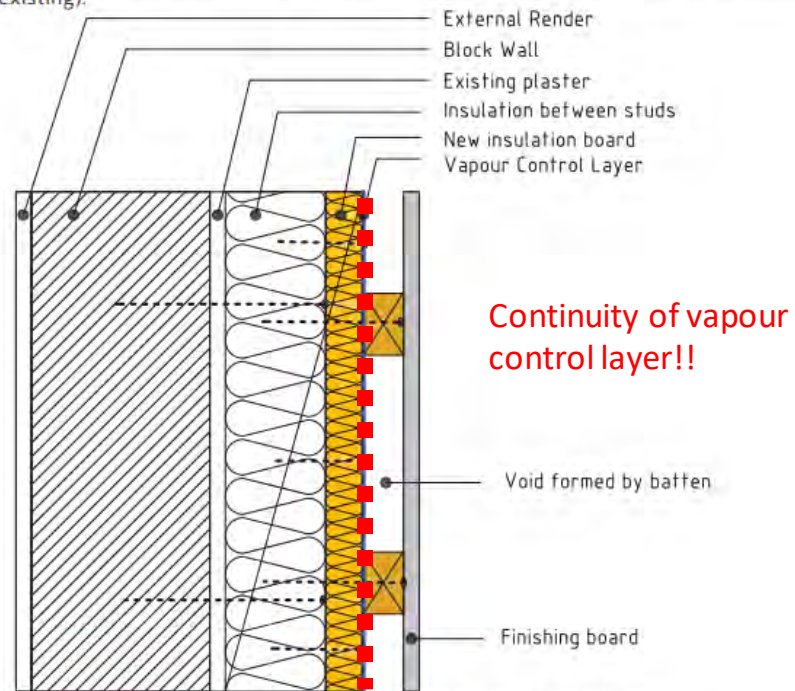


Figure 63 - Service void formed by timber batten

Timber studs

Figure 64 - Insulation board fixed to wall with cavity formed by Metal Furring (MF)

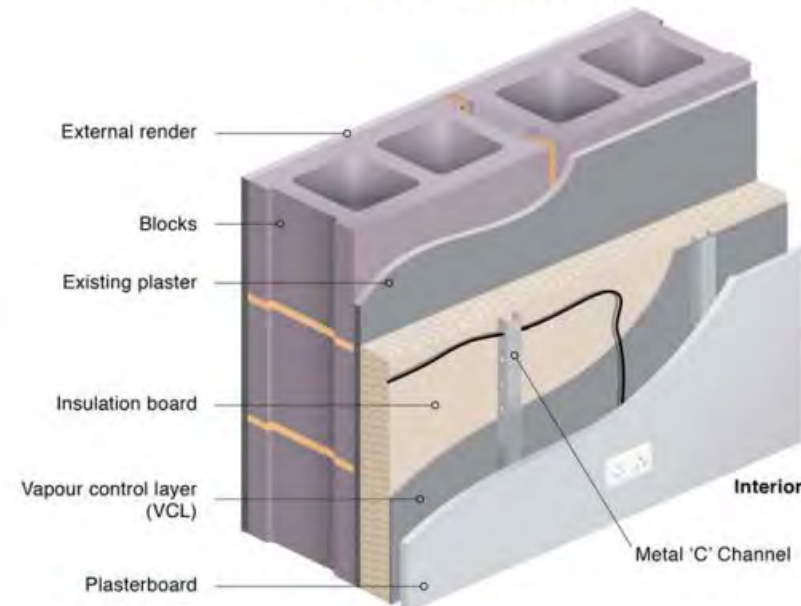


Figure 65 - Internal insulation and Metal Furrings channels

Metal studs



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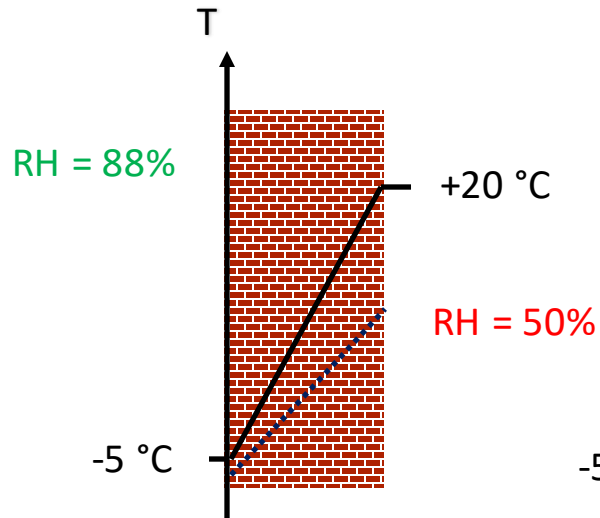
Exterior Insulation is Safest – Interior Insulation Should have Vapour Control Layer



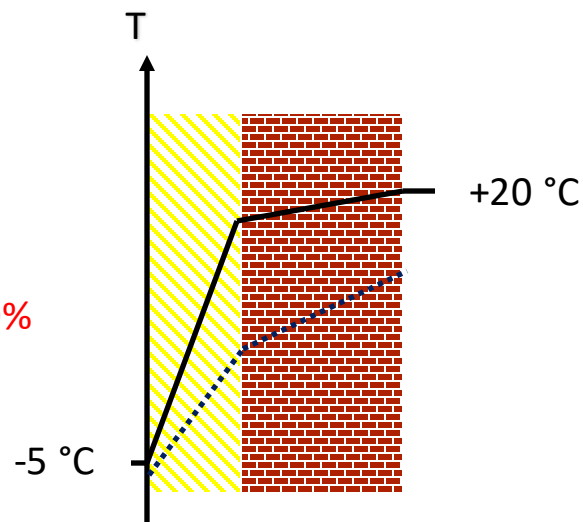
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————— Temperature Dew-point Temperature

Existing Wall



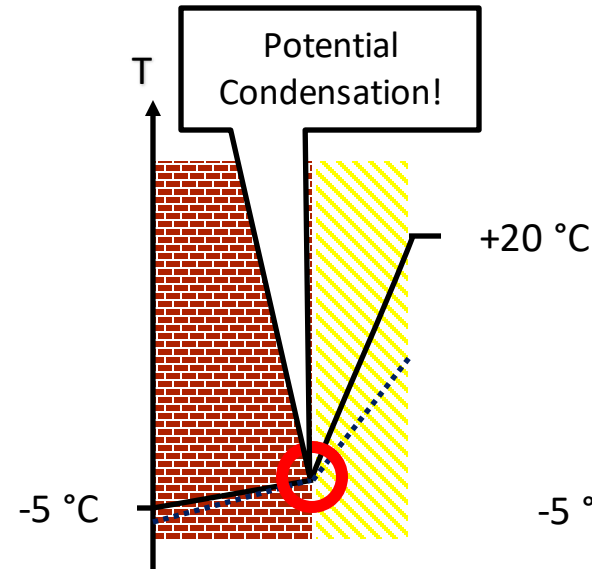
External Insulation



→ dryer

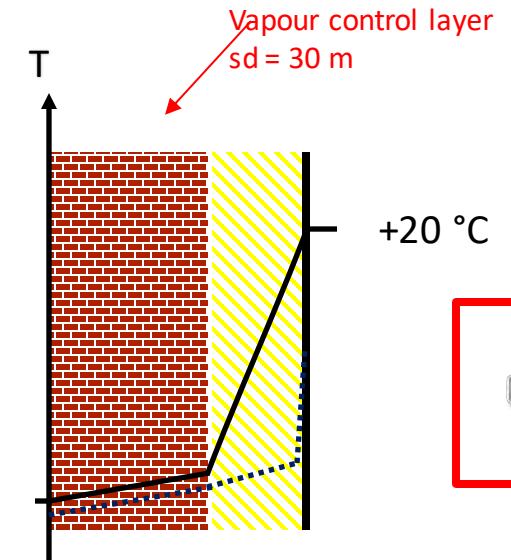
EPS $\lambda = 0.035 \text{ W/mK}$, 150mm

Internal Insulation



→ wet

clay bricks $\lambda = 0.25 \text{ W/mK}$ 200mm



→ dryer, still humid



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Data Source: MosArt-WWETB

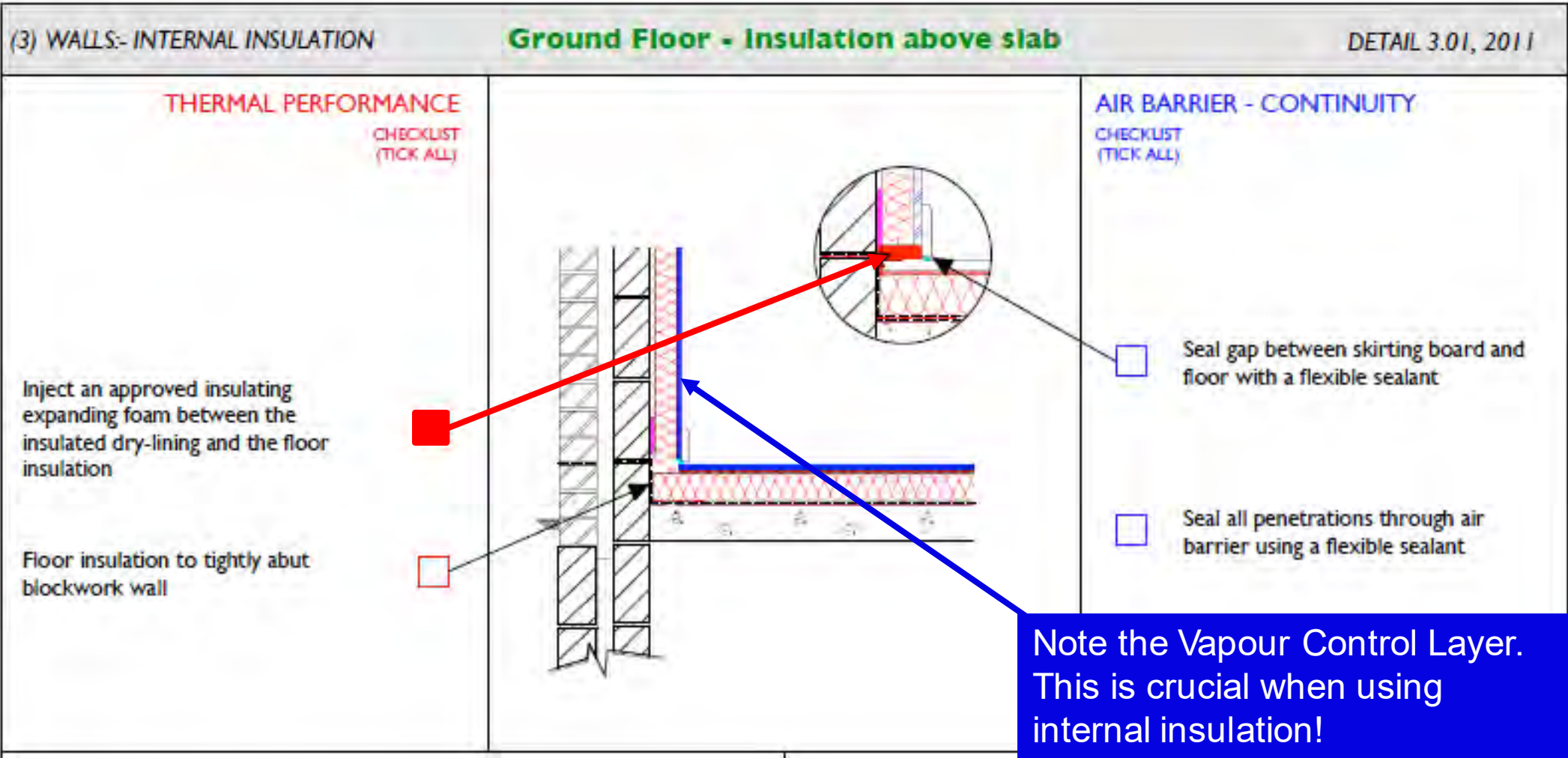
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Case Study - Cavity Wall , Internal Insulation, Above Slab- ACD



Case Study - Cavity Wall , Internal Insulation, Below Slab- ACD



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(3) WALLS:- INTERNAL INSULATION

Ground Floor - Insulation below slab

DETAIL 3.02, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)		AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)
Inject insulating expanding foam between the insulated dry-lining and the floor insulation / timber floor finish	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Install perimeter insulation with an R-value as per relevant detail in section I, 4 or 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant
Ensure continuity between insulation below slab and insulation around perimeter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant
Floor insulation to tightly abut blockwork wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Note the Vapour Control Layer.
This is crucial when using
internal insulation!



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric2

Data Source: Department Housing,
Planning and Local Government Ireland

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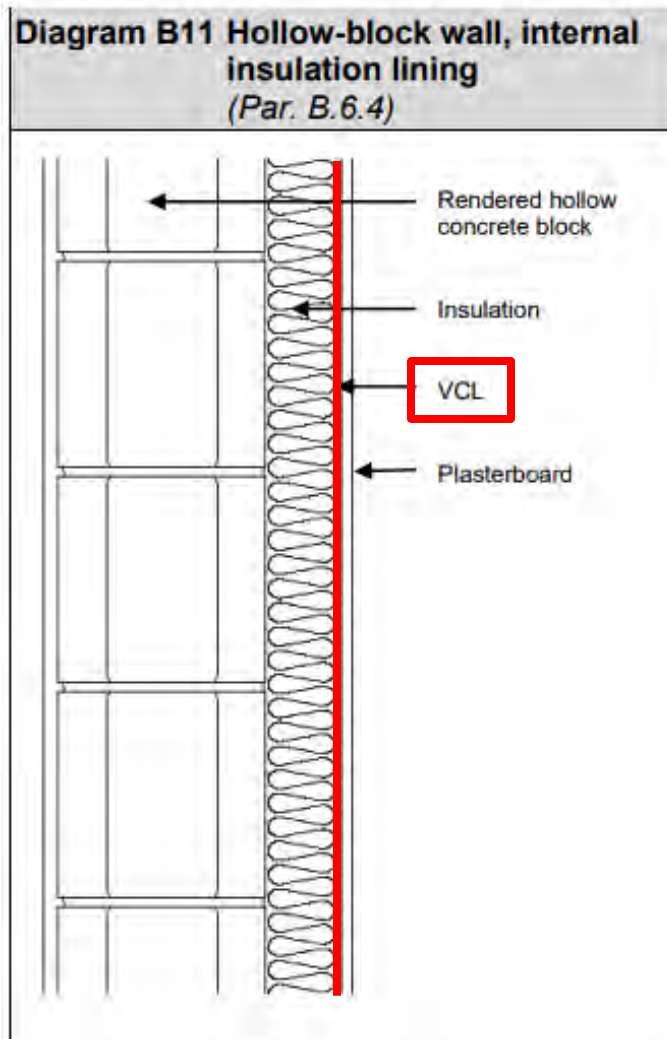
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Case Study -Hollow Block Wall Width –Compliance



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- Hollow concrete block wall, rendered externally, internal insulation lining with plasterboard finish
- The insulation is installed on the inner face of the masonry walls
- It may be installed between preservative-treated timber studs fixed to the wall
- Or in the form of insulated plasterboards
- Or as a combination of these
- Take note of the vapour control layer, which is installed on the warm side of the insulation



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric2

Image Source: Department Housing, Planning and
Local Government, Part L of the Building Regulations

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Hollow Block Wall, Internal Insulation, Above Slab- ACD

(6) WALLS:- INTERNAL INSULATION- CAVITY BLOCKS

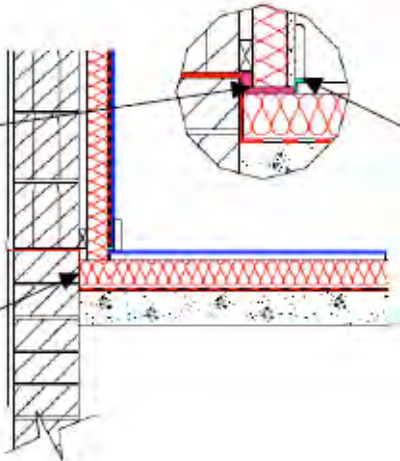
Ground Floor - Insulation above slab

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)

Inject an approved expanding foam between the insulated dry-lining and floor insulation or use an approved adhesive tape at junction of both insulations

Floor insulation to tightly abut block wall



(6) WALLS:- INTERNAL INSULATION- CAVITY BLOCKS

Ground Floor - Insulation Below slab

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

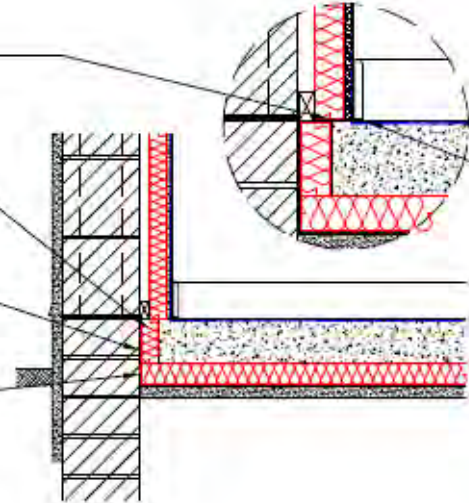
CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)

Inject an approved expanding foam between the insulated dry-lining and the concrete floor / perimeter insulation

Install perimeter insulation with a min. R-value of 4.35 m² K/W

Ensure continuity between insulation below slab and insulation around perimeter

Floor insulation to tightly abut blockwork wall



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Image Source: Department Housing,
Planning and Local Government Ireland

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Insulation between and across studs

- Insulation can be installed to the full depth between the studs
- Where the chosen stud depth is not sufficient to accommodate the required thickness of insulation additional insulation may be provided by internally insulating
- The VCL should be on the warm side of the insulation
- If different types of insulation are used between and inside the studs, the vapour resistance of the material between the studs should not exceed that of the internal insulation
- Air gaps in the insulation layer, and between it and the vapour barrier, should be avoided



Cellulose Insulation



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1. Made of recycled paper
2. Less health associated risks
3. Flows almost like liquid, meaning there are no gaps after installation



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Upper left – Ecocel, Upper right -
purchased by MosArt (AdobeStock_28294685), Lower –
purchased by MosArt (AdobeStock_330572761)

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Blown-In Cellulose Insulation



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- Hole made in airtight membrane – later sealed with airtight tape
- Pumping commenced after service cavity battens have been put in place – prevents damage from ‘bulging’ insulation



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: MosArt

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Blown-In Cellulose Attic Insulation



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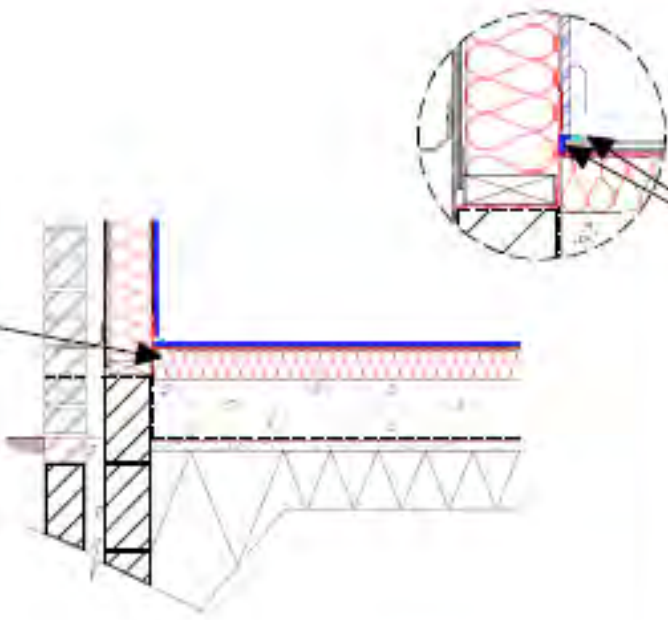
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Case Study - Timber Frame, Insulation Above Slab - ACD



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(4) TIMBER FRAME	Ground Floor - Insulation above slab	DETAIL 4.01, 2011
<p>THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Floor insulation must tightly abut sole plate inner face</p>		<p>AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seal between wall and floor air barrier OR seal gap between skirting board and floor using a flexible sealant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant or tape</p> <p><i>Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability</i></p>



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Department
Housing, Planning and Local Government Ireland

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Case study - Timber Frame, Insulation Below Slab- ACD



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(4) TIMBER FRAME

Ground Floor - Insulation below slab

DETAIL 4.02, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)		AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)
<p>Floor slab perimeter insulation to have a min. R-value of $1.14 \text{ m}^2 \text{ K/W}$</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Seal between wall and floor air barrier OR seal gap between skirting board and floor using a flexible sealant</p>
<p>Floor insulation must tightly abut concrete block inner face</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant or tape</p>

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

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Case study - Timber Frame, Suspended Timber Ground Floor - ACD



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(4) TIMBER FRAME		Timber Suspended Ground Floor	DETAIL 4.03, 2011
<p>THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <p>Ensure insulation is in contact with underside of timber flooring</p>		<p>AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Seal between wall and floor air barrier, OR seal gap between skirting board and floor with a flexible sealant<input type="checkbox"/> Seal joints in timber floor with suitable glue. Fully support and fix any square edge joints in the decking to the joists<input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant or tape <p><i>Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability</i></p>	



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Department Housing, Planning and Local Government

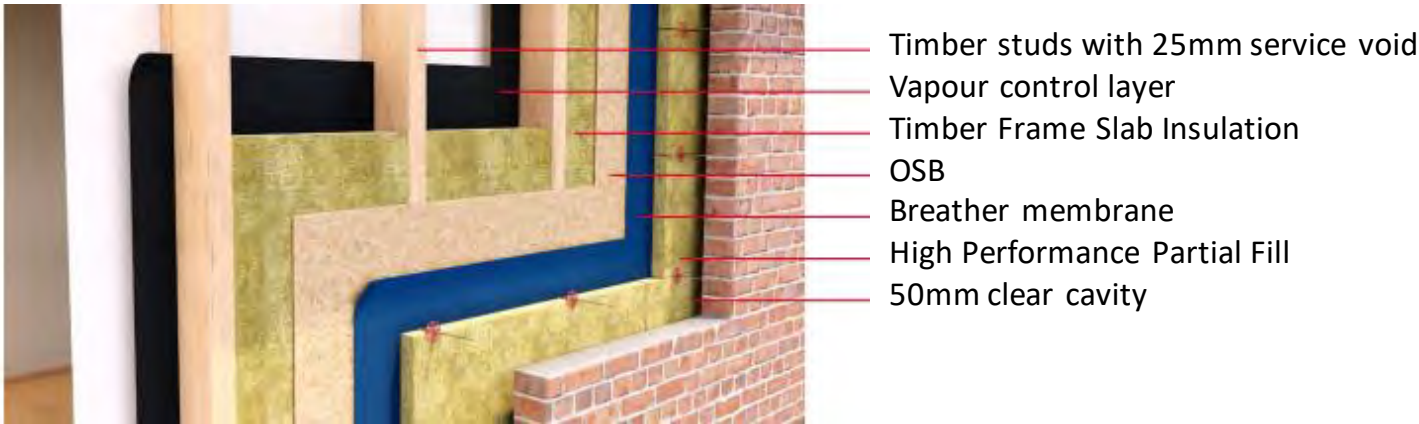
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Timber Frame Wall Width



U-Value (W/m²K)	TF034 Slab (mm)	Stud Depth	High Performance Partial Fill	VCL	Breather Membrane
0.23	90	89	50	Y	Y
0.21	90	89	50	Y	Y
0.21	90	89	50	Y	Y
0.19	140	140	50	Y	Y
0.17	140	140	50	Y	Y
0.17	140	140	50	Y	Y



Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs)



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- SIP's are made of a large EPS boards sandwiched between two OSB boards
- The entire house consists of a small number of panels, which are constructed off-site
- Usually achieve excellent airtightness results due to the requirement only to seal between panels with airtight tape
- Lightweight, making them easy to handle on site
- Not everybody is comfortable using EPS insulation, with many preferring 'natural' insulation like cellulose



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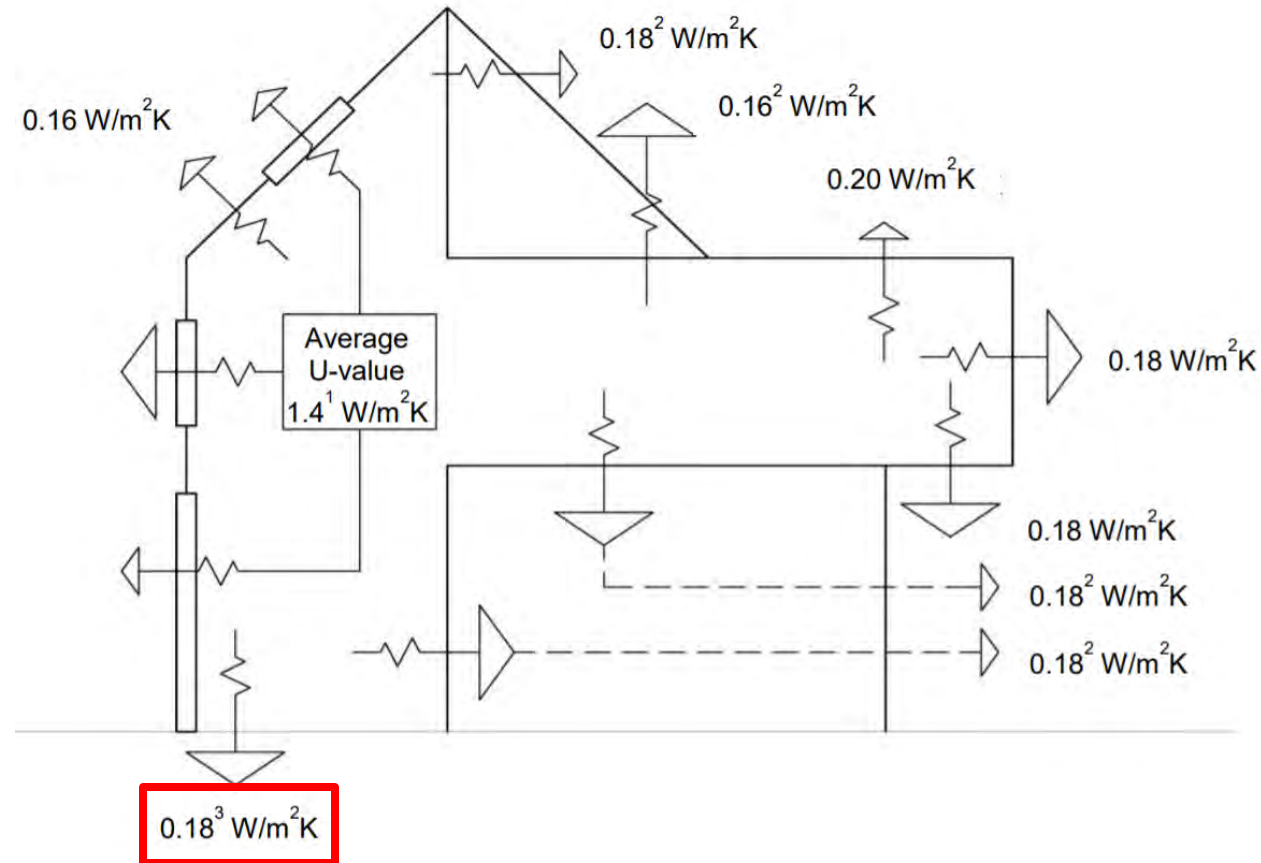


Floor Insulation - NZEB Compliance



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Table 1 Maximum elemental U-value (W/m ² K) ^{1, 2}		
Column 1 Fabric Elements	Column 2 Area-weighted Average Elemental U-value (U _m)	Column 3 Average Elemental U-value – individual element or section of element
Roofs		
Pitched roof		
- Insulation at ceiling	0.16	0.3
- Insulation on slope	0.16	
Flat roof	0.20	
Walls	0.18	0.6
Ground floors ³	0.18	0.6
Other exposed floors	0.18	0.6
External doors, windows and rooflights	1.4 ^{4,5}	3.0



However: “Where the source of space heating is underfloor heating, the maximum floor U-value should be 0.15 W/m²K”



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Department of Housing, Planning and
Local Government, Part L of the Building Regulations

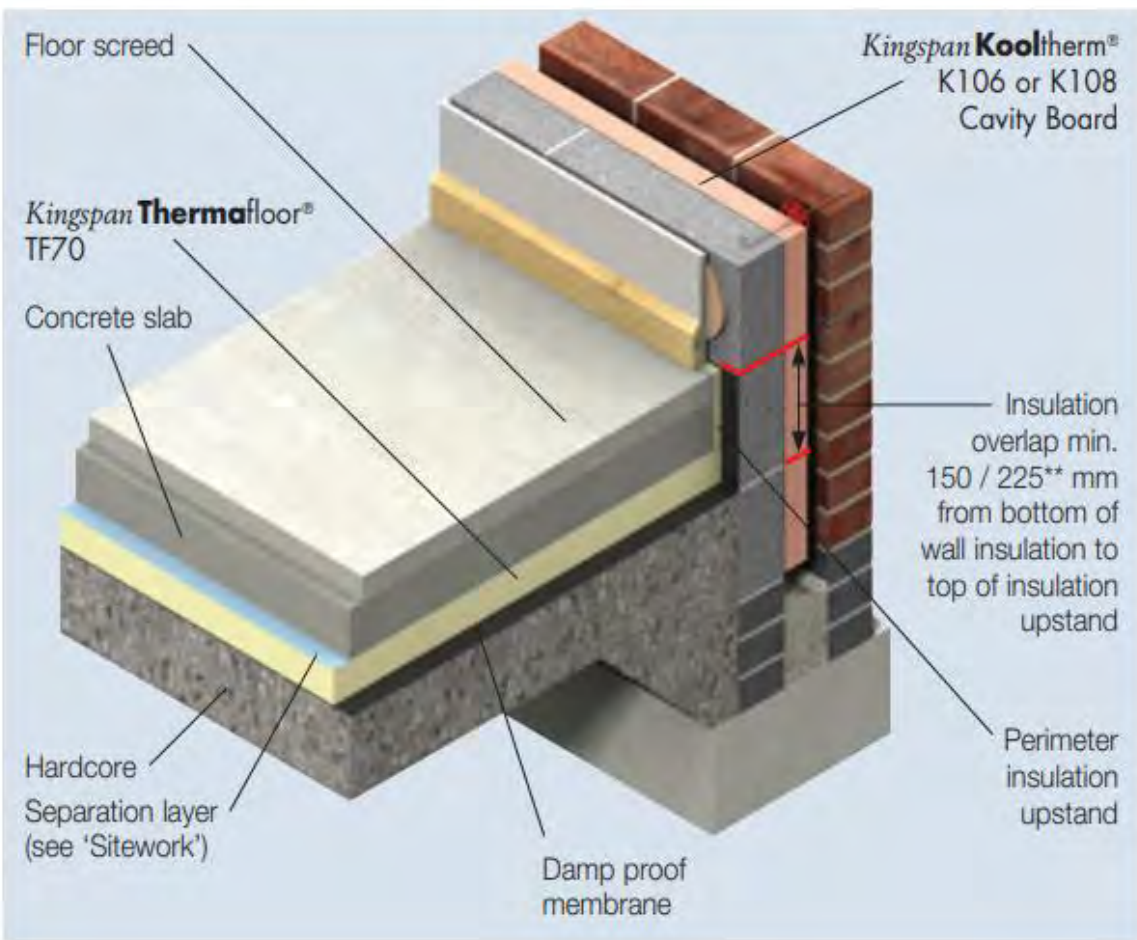
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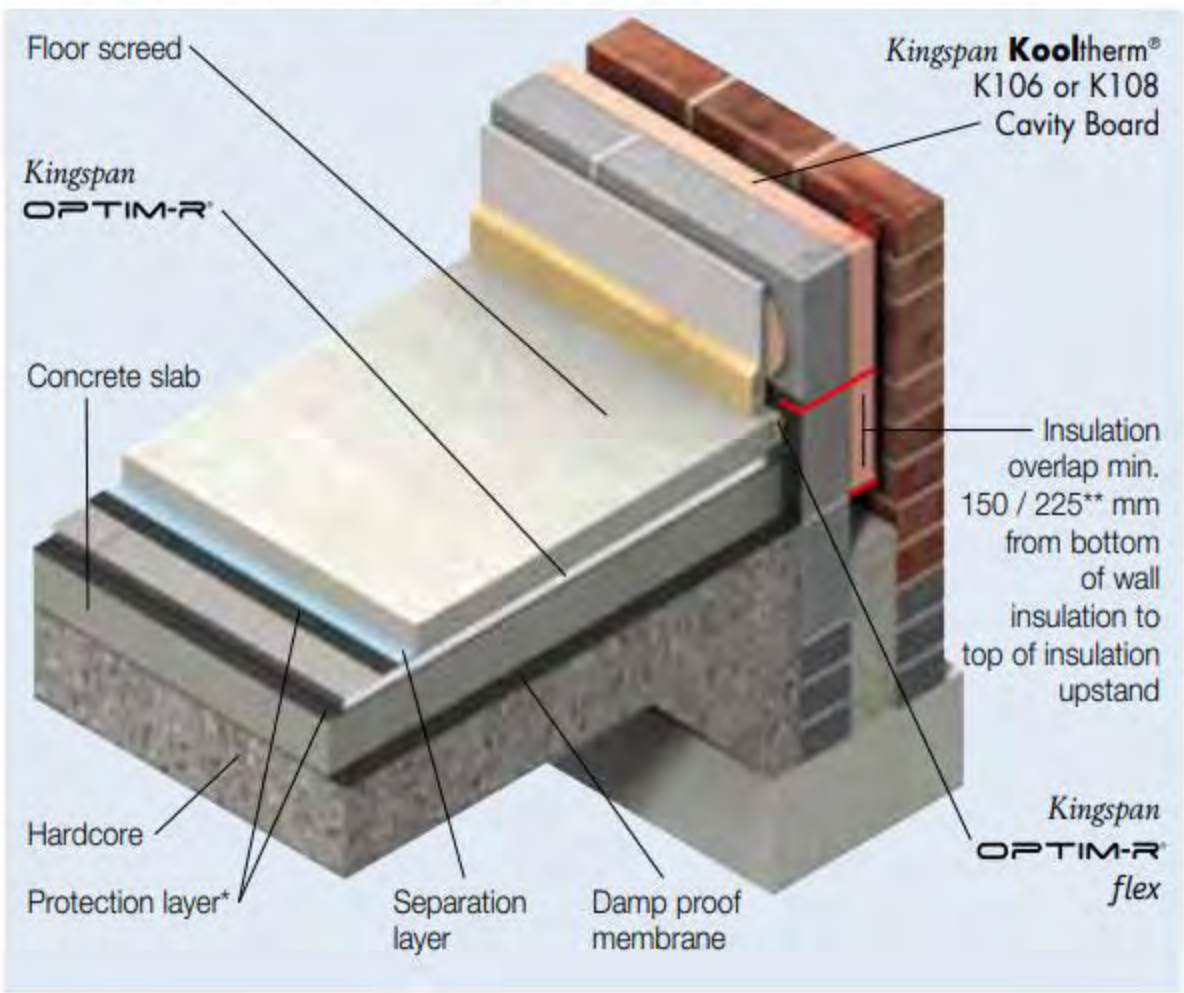
Insulation Below the Floor Slab



U-values (W/m²·K) for Various Thicknesses of <i>Kingspan Thermafloor® TF70 and Floor Perimeter / Area Ratios</i>						
Insulant Thickness (mm)	Perimeter / Area (m⁻¹)					
	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7
30	X	X	X	X	X	X
40	0.23	X	X	X	X	X
50	0.20	0.24	X	X	X	X
60	0.19	0.21	0.23	0.24	X	X
70	0.17	0.19	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.23
75	0.16	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.22
80	0.16	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.21
90	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.19
100	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.18
110	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.16
120	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.15
125	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15
130	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.14
140	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13
150	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13
160	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.12
80 + 90*	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
75 + 100*	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
90 + 90	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.11
90 + 100*	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10



Insulation Below the Floor Screed



U-values (W/m ² ·K) for Various Thicknesses of the Kingspan OPTIM-R Flooring System and Floor Perimeter / Area Ratios						
Insulant Thickness (mm)	Perimeter / Area (m ⁻¹)					
	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7
20	0.19	0.22	0.24	0.26	0.27	0.28
25	0.17	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.25
30	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.21	0.21	0.22
40	0.13	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.18
50	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15
60	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13
30 + 40***	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.12
40 + 40	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10



Floor Insulation – Two Layers, with Brick Pattern



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Important to overlap joints in insulation to minimise risk of thermal looping and thermal bridging



Cut boards accurately to avoid gaps



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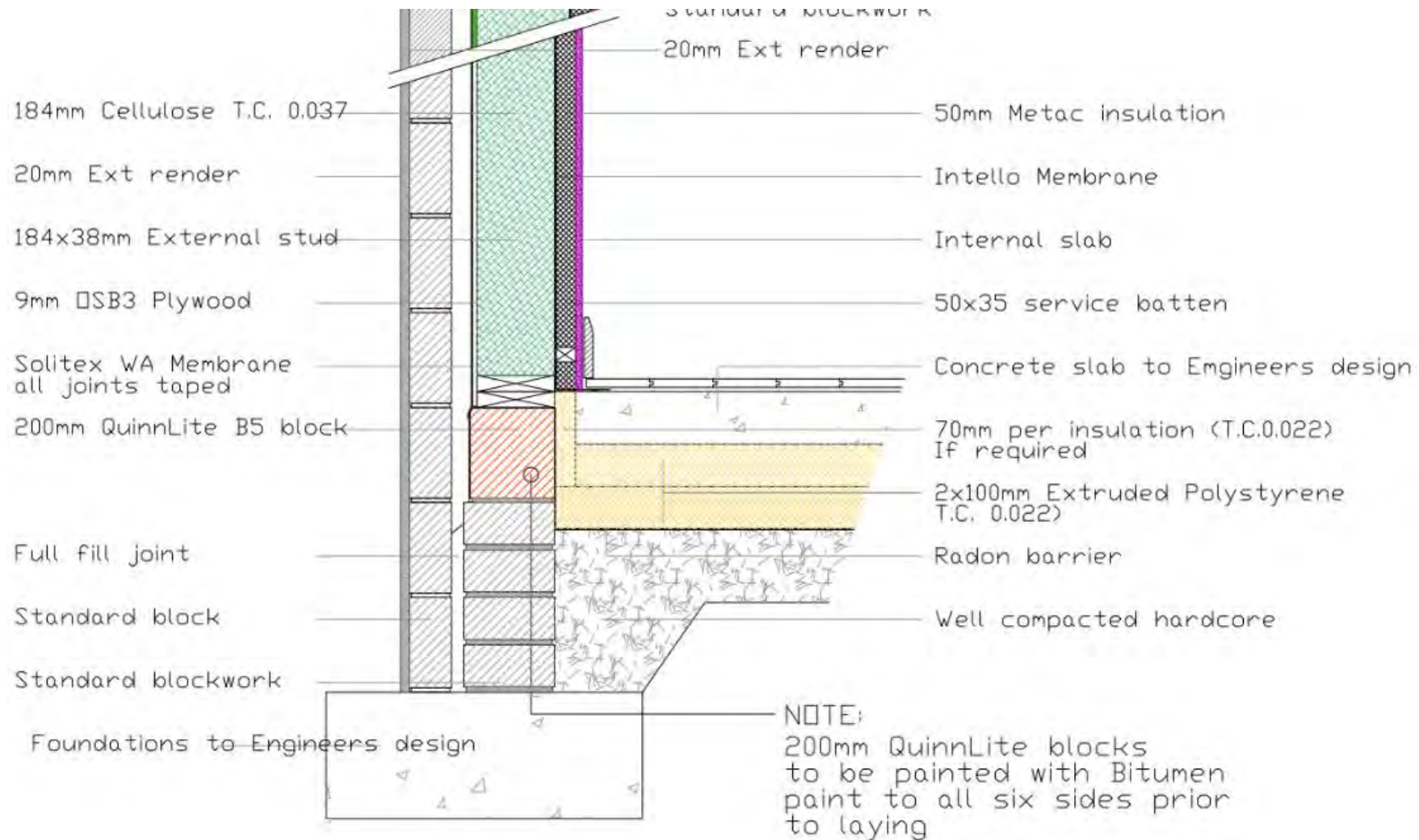
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Foundation Types – Strip Foundation with Rising Wall



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Michael Bennett & Sons Building Contractors

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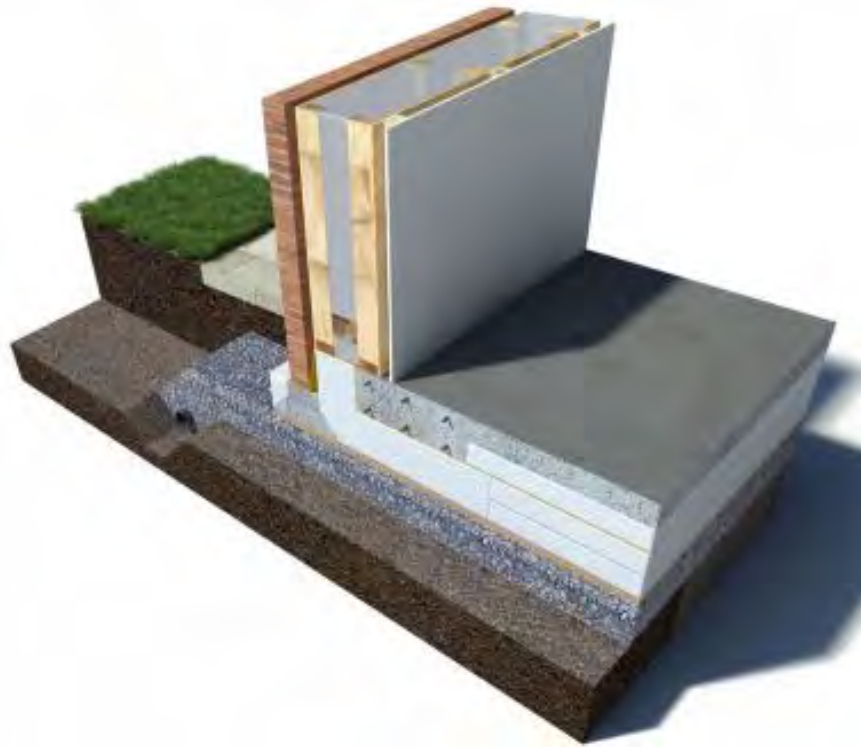
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Foundation Type – Insulated Raft Foundation



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KORE

- Can meet and exceed building regulations
- Eliminates the critical wall to floor thermal bridge - Risk of condensation and mould growth behind the skirting board is greatly reduced
- Reduces the quantity of concrete for foundation by approximately 50%
- Suitable for all ground conditions
- The thermal capacity of KORE EPS will not diminish over time and is unaffected by water
- Exceptional compressive strength makes the product suitable for use in domestic and commercial applications
- Suitable with underfloor heating systems



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Kore

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Thermal Conductivity of Concrete Blocks



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Table A1 Thermal conductivity of some common building materials		
Material	Density (kg/m ³)	Thermal Conductivity (W/mK)
General Building Materials		
Clay brickwork (outer leaf)	1,700	0.77
Clay brickwork (inner leaf)	1,700	0.56
Concrete block (heavyweight)	2,000	1.33
Concrete block (medium weight)	1,400	0.57
Concrete block (autoclaved aerated)	700	0.20
Concrete block (autoclaved aerated)	500	0.15
Concrete block (hollow)	1800	0.835
Cast concrete, high density	2,400	2.00
Cast concrete, medium density	1,800	1.15
Aerated concrete slab	500	0.16
Concrete screed	1,200	0.41
Reinforced concrete (1 % steel)	2,300	2.30
Reinforced concrete (2 % steel)	2,400	2.50
Wall ties, stainless steel	7,900	17.00
Wall ties, galvanised steel	7,800	50.00
Mortar (protected)	1,750	0.88
Mortar (exposed)	1,750	0.94
External rendering (cement sand)	1,800	1.00
Plaster (gypsum lightweight)	600	0.18
Plaster (gypsum)	1,200	0.43
Plasterboard	900	0.25



The values in this table are indicative only. Certified values, should be used in preference, if available



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric2

Image Source: Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government

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Conventional Concrete Blocks, Lightweight Concrete Blocks & Aerated Autoclaved Concrete Blocks



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<i>Standard Block 215x450x100</i>	Concrete Blocks	Lightweight Concrete Blocks	AAC Blocks
Composition	Mixture of Portland Cement, Sand & Gravel	Mixture of Cement, foamed blast-furnace slag, expanded clay or shale, furnace bottom ash (FBA), pulverised fuel ash (PFA), or the less common pumice (a volcanic material)	Mixture of cement, lime, sand, pulverised fuel ash (PFA), water, lime & aluminium sulphate powder.
Colour	Grey	Heather/Purple	Light Grey
Weight	20-22 Kg	20kg	15.9kg



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Dense Concrete Blocks



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Advantages



Durable



Reusable



High Thermal Mass



High Strength



Some Products have Recycled Aggregate



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Disadvantages



Use of new aggregates and sand is bad for the environment & exhausts natural resources



Non-renewable materials



Use of cement contributes to global warming



Poor insulating properties








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Advantages

	Moderate thermal mass - higher than AAC
	Makes use of secondary aggregates
	Good insulating properties
	Durable
	Reusable with lime mortar

Disadvantages

	Use of virgin clay causes land degradation and resource depletion
	High embodied energy involved in the production of some aggregates
	Use of cement contributes to global warming



Aerated Autoclaved Concrete Blocks



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Advantages



Moderate thermal mass



Uses industrial waste (PFA) as a prime constituent



Very good insulating properties



Based on volume, aerated blocks contain around 25% less embodied energy than other concrete blocks



Good workability



Lighter weight saves energy in transportation



Reasonable sound absorption properties



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Disadvantages



Non-renewable materials



Prone to impact damage



Use of aluminium adds embodied carbon



Use of cement contributes to global warming



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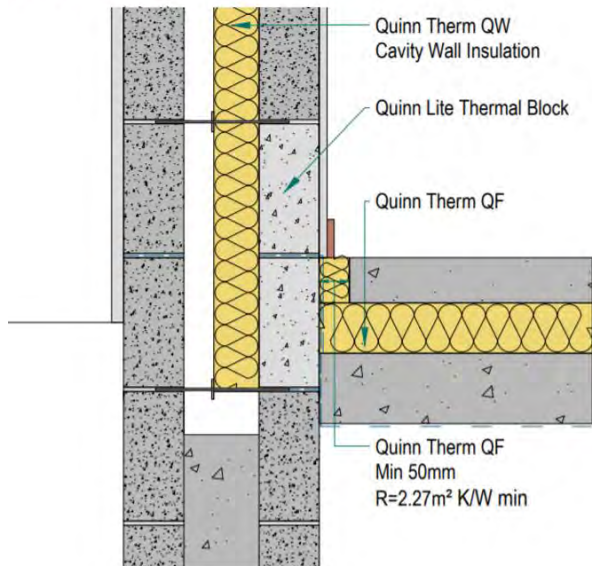
AAC Blocks – Cavity Wall Insulation



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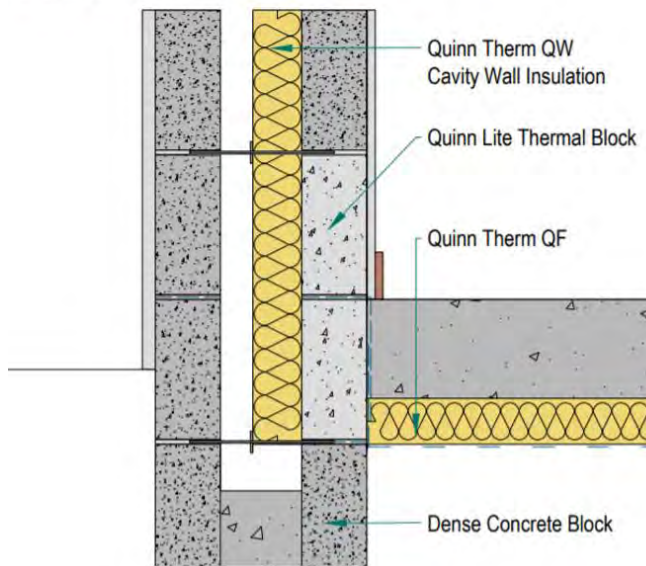
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Partial Fill Cavity Wall / Solid
Ground Floor Slab Insulation
Over Structural Slab.

NSAI modeller no.

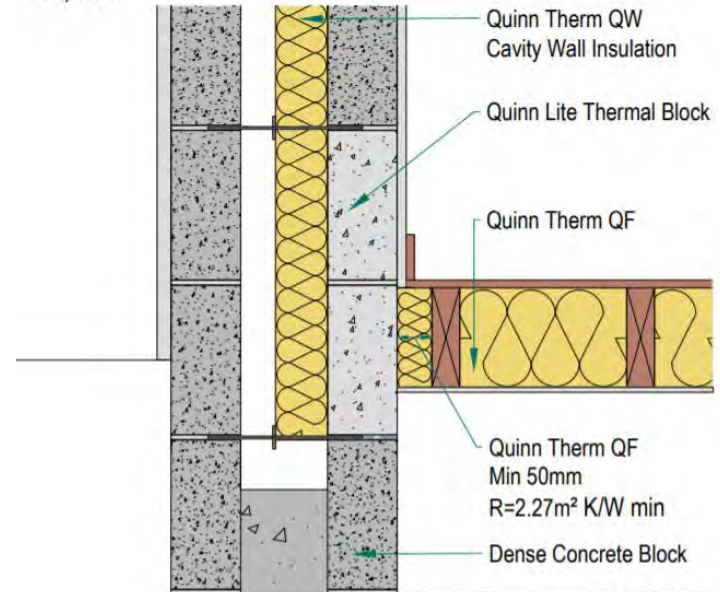
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Partial Fill Cavity Wall / Solid
Ground Floor Slab Insulation
Under Structural Slab

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Partial fill cavity wall with internal
insulation / Suspended timber
floor insulated between joists



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

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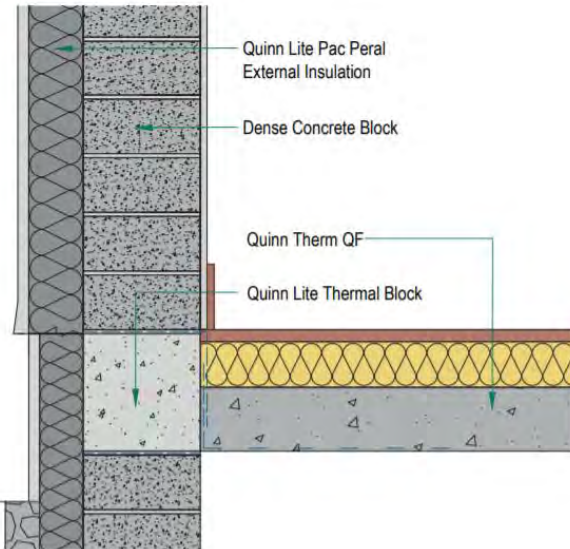
AAC Blocks – External Insulation



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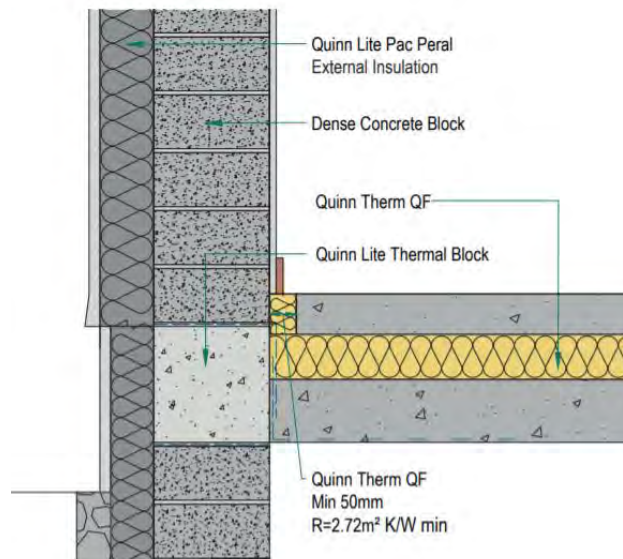
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Ground Floor - Insulation above slab

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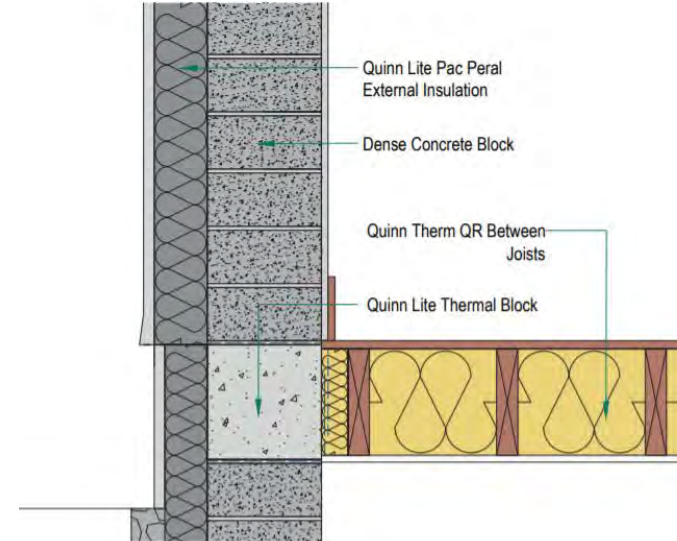
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Ground Floor - Insulation below slab

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Timber Suspended Ground Floor



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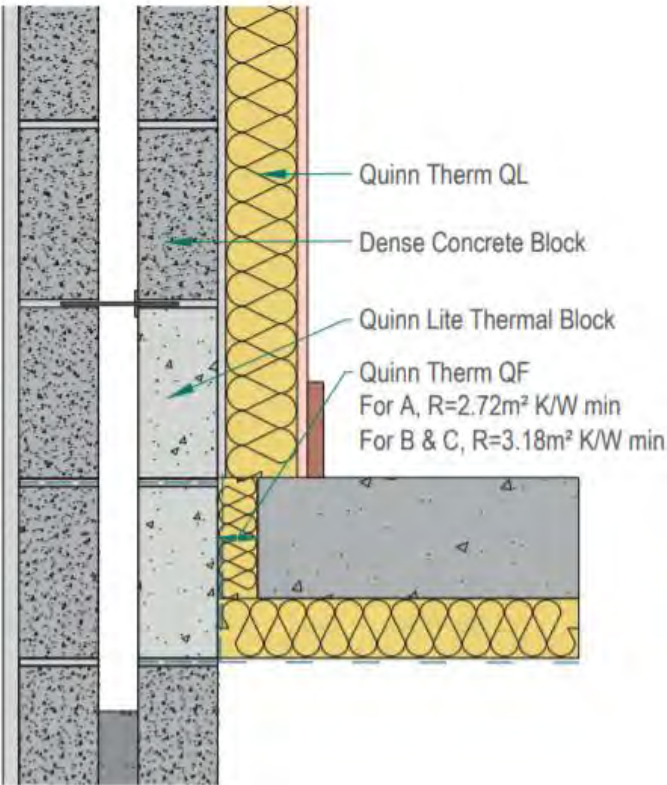
AAC Blocks – Internal Insulation



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NSAI modeller no.

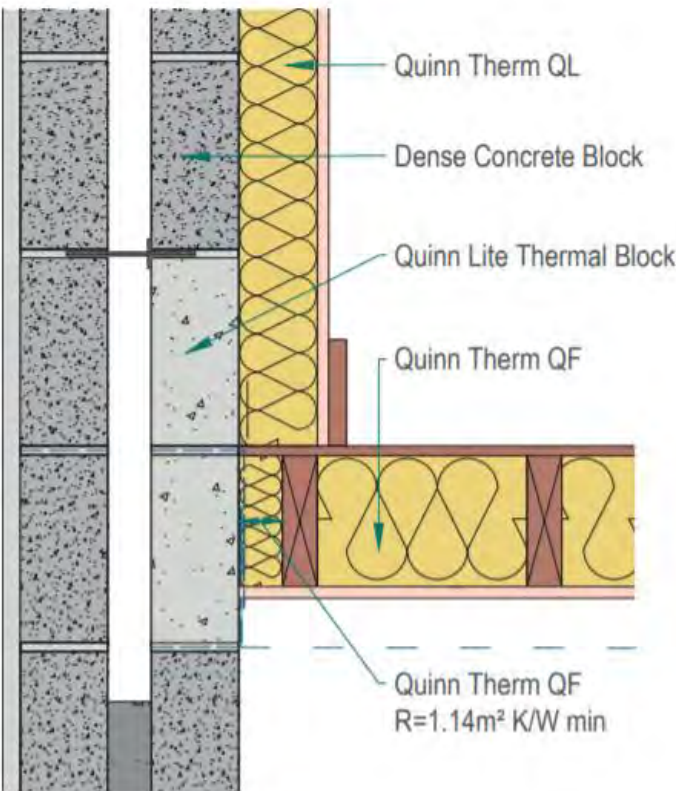
TM/02



Ground floor - insulation below slab

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Timber suspended ground floor



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Mannock

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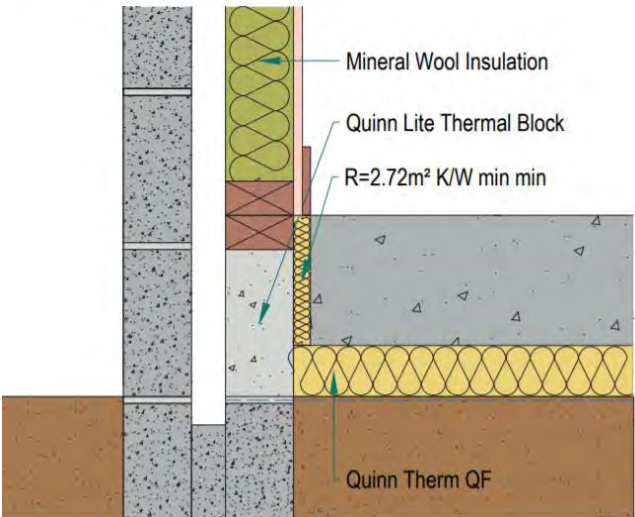
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AAC Blocks – Timber Frame

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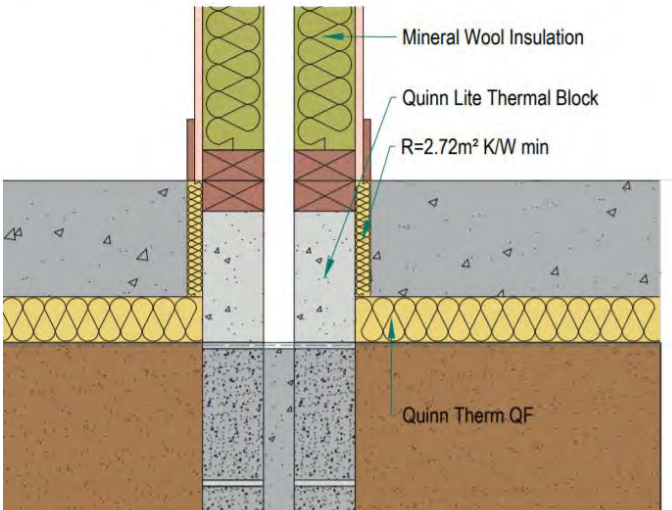
TM/02



Ground floor - insulation below slab

NSAI modeller no.

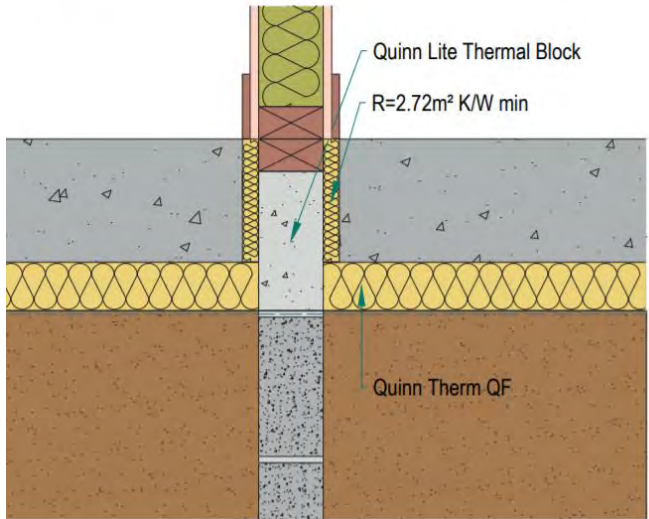
TM/02



Timber Frame - Separating wall
through ground floor

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Timber Frame – Partition wall through
ground floor



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AAC Blocks – Disadvantages



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- The production cost per unit for AAC Block is higher than standard blocks
- Care must be taken during manufacturing to ensure the final surface of the aerated concrete is not too smooth
- Efflorescence damage occurs through the high absorption and retention of water. Any expansion of the water retained in the AAC may cause cracking
- Strength of AAC is reduced when wet and long term exposure to moisture will cause the disintegration of the material
- Aggressive environments may be also a disadvantage to using AAC



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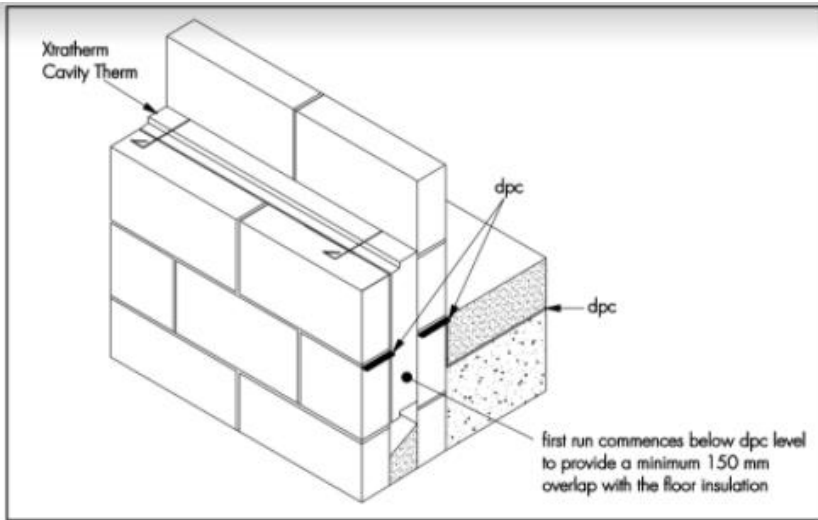
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BBA Accredited Moisture Resistant Insulation Types



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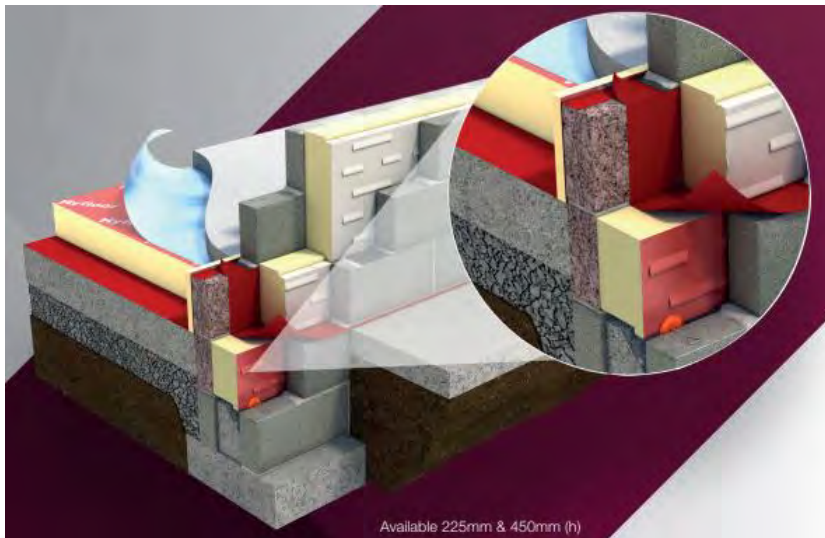
Xtratherm Cavity Therm

- 150mm below DPC

Xtratherm Foundation Riser

Y-values achieved < 0.05 U-values achieved $0.11-0.15$ W/m^2K

- Suitable for multi storey buildings with a high compressive strength of $7.5N/mm^2$ and $13N/mm^2$
- Complies with standard construction
- Traditional construction avoiding need for engineering assurances
- 225mm below DPC allows for the overlap between floor & wall insulation



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric2

Image Source: Xtratherm

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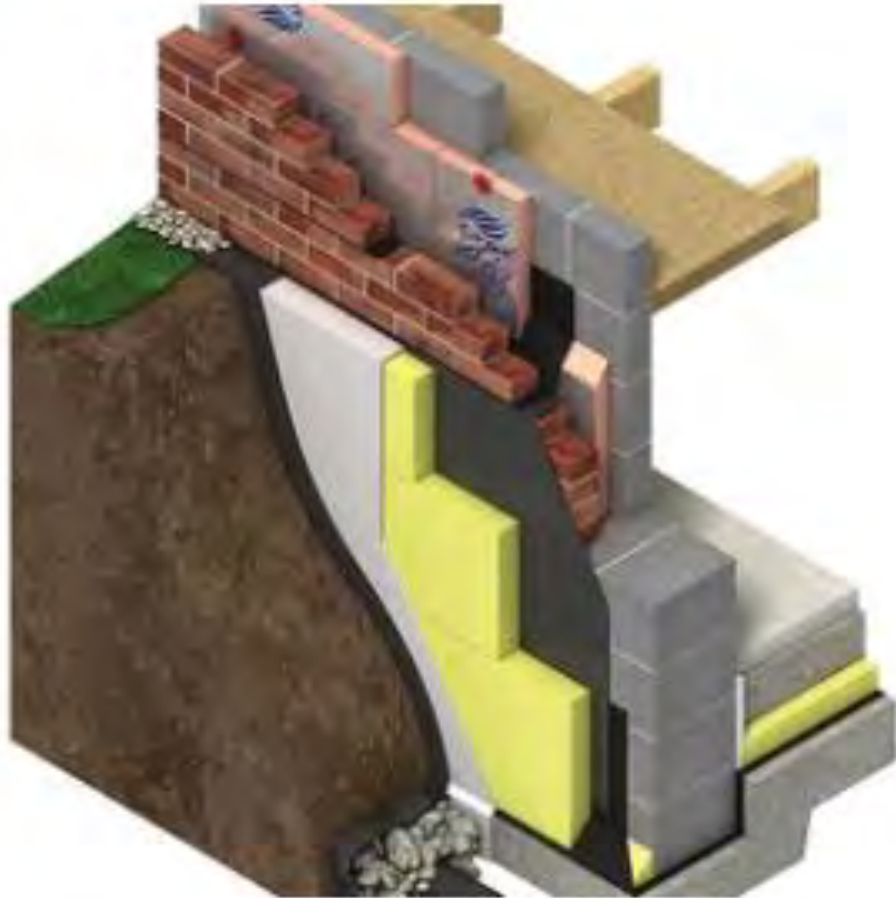




KORE

- KORE External and KORE External Plinth are **water repellent**
- External Plinth board is also manufactured to a very high density, EPS200, made specifically to insulate the plinth below the damp proof course
- KORE Plinth is designed and manufactured to insulate below the damp proof course and has very low water absorption properties





Kingspan GreenGuard

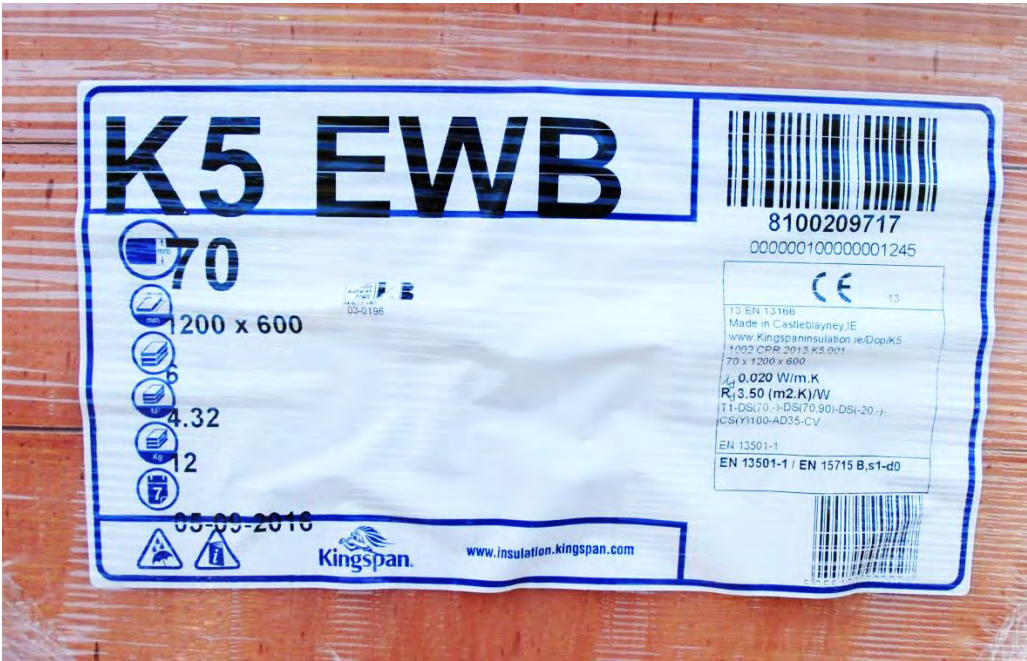
- High performance extruded polystyrene insulation offering thermal conductivities as low as 0.034 W/mK
- High compressive stress
- Resistant to ground moisture penetration
- Unaffected by air infiltration



Check Deliveries to Ensure You Get What You Specified



Conductivity is king!



Deliver The U-Value Specified



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Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

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Do forget issues with wind!



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- Traditionally, attic hatches have not been given enough attention with regards to air-sealing and insulation
- Think of it like the access hatch to a submarine!
- Seal it up – 100%



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Building Fabric 2

Image Source: MosArt

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Access to Deeply Insulated Attic



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Upstand to attic hatch to retain insulation
in airtight ceiling with service cavity

Completed opening with insulated and airtight
hatch. No ladder was provided to this project
because there was no cold water tank installed



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: MosArt

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Certified Airtight and Insulated Attic Hatches

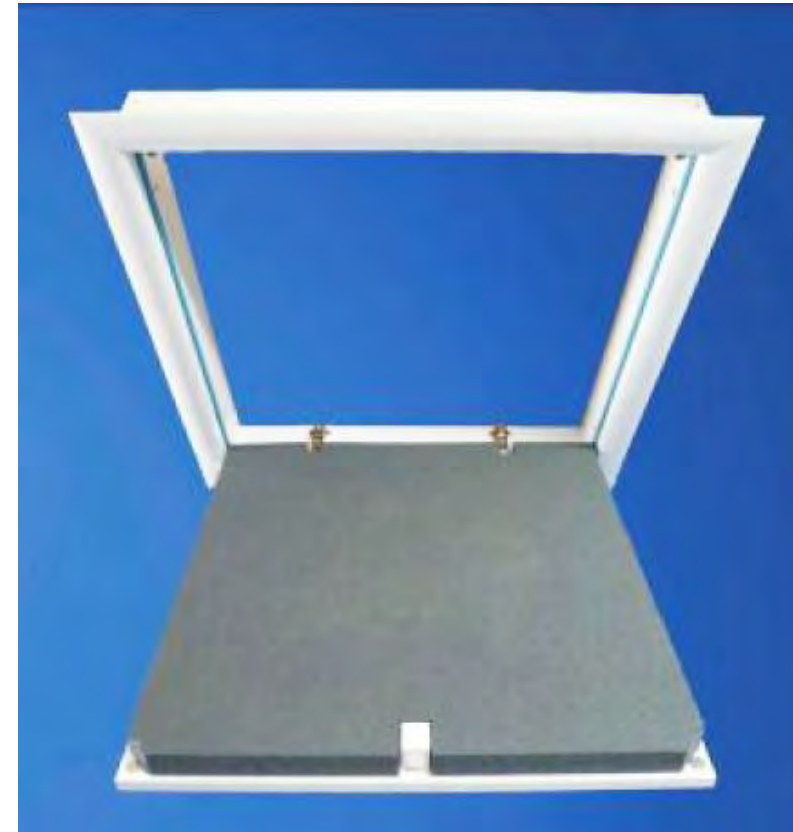


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Examples of Certified Attic Hatches:



Wellhofer Airtight Attic Hatch with Ladder



Wellhofer Airtight Attic Hatch



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Wellhofer

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Airtight and Insulated Attic Hatch



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Wellhöfer Passive House Attic Hatch

Passive House certified airtight attic hatch

Heat transition coefficient (u-value)	0.48 W/m ² K
Length of ceiling opening	1.3 m
Width of ceiling opening	650 mm
Depth	500 mm
Ceiling height compatibility	2.46 m to 2.579 m
Air permeability (q₅₀-value)	1 m ³ /mh



- Using pre insulated, airtight attic hatches can simplify installation and guarantee quality.



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Ecological Building Systems

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Module 5

Building Fabric 2: Thermal Bridging

Energy Efficiency for Construction



24
partners

12
countries

Date of Event

Author/ Institute

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To equip the learner with the relevant knowledge and skills required to understand the importance of installing continuous insulation around the envelope and how to implement measures to prevent heat loss



Building Fabric 2 | Objectives

1. Outline the principles of **continuous insulation** and **thermal bridging**
2. Outline the importance of creating a **continuously insulated thermal envelope** in order to reduce heat loss through the building fabric
3. Identify the insulation layer(s) in a range of **construction drawings** for the external envelope.
4. Outline the terms **thermal conductivity**, thermal resistance and U-value and identify the units of measurement used for them
5. Identify insulation materials that are certified and **fit for purpose**
6. Outline the **impact** of the energy efficiency of the building if the specified insulation type is substituted with an alternative type of lower thermal conductivity.
7. Outline the importance of **avoiding thermal bridging** in NZEB buildings
8. Investigate how to prevent thermal bridging at junctions using **Best Practice details**.
9. Outline the risks associated with **poor workmanship** relating to continuity of the insulation layer by considering reducing the number and size of service penetrations
10. Outline the **Best Practice procedures** regarding placement of windows, window skills, and floors in the insulation layer with special emphasis on fire safety and thermal retention.



Topic 1 – Continuous Insulation

Topic 2 – Thermal Bridging

Topic 3 – Windows and Doors

On the following slides you will
see this icon:



Click and play to find out more



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Energy and Buildings

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2. Thermal Bridging



Reminder!

A thermal bridge occurs at any location in a building where there is a **break in the continuity of the insulation layer**

The heat loss coefficient of a linear thermal bridge is influenced by the severity of the thermal bridge, and the length of the thermal bridge:



$$H_{TB} = L \times \Psi$$

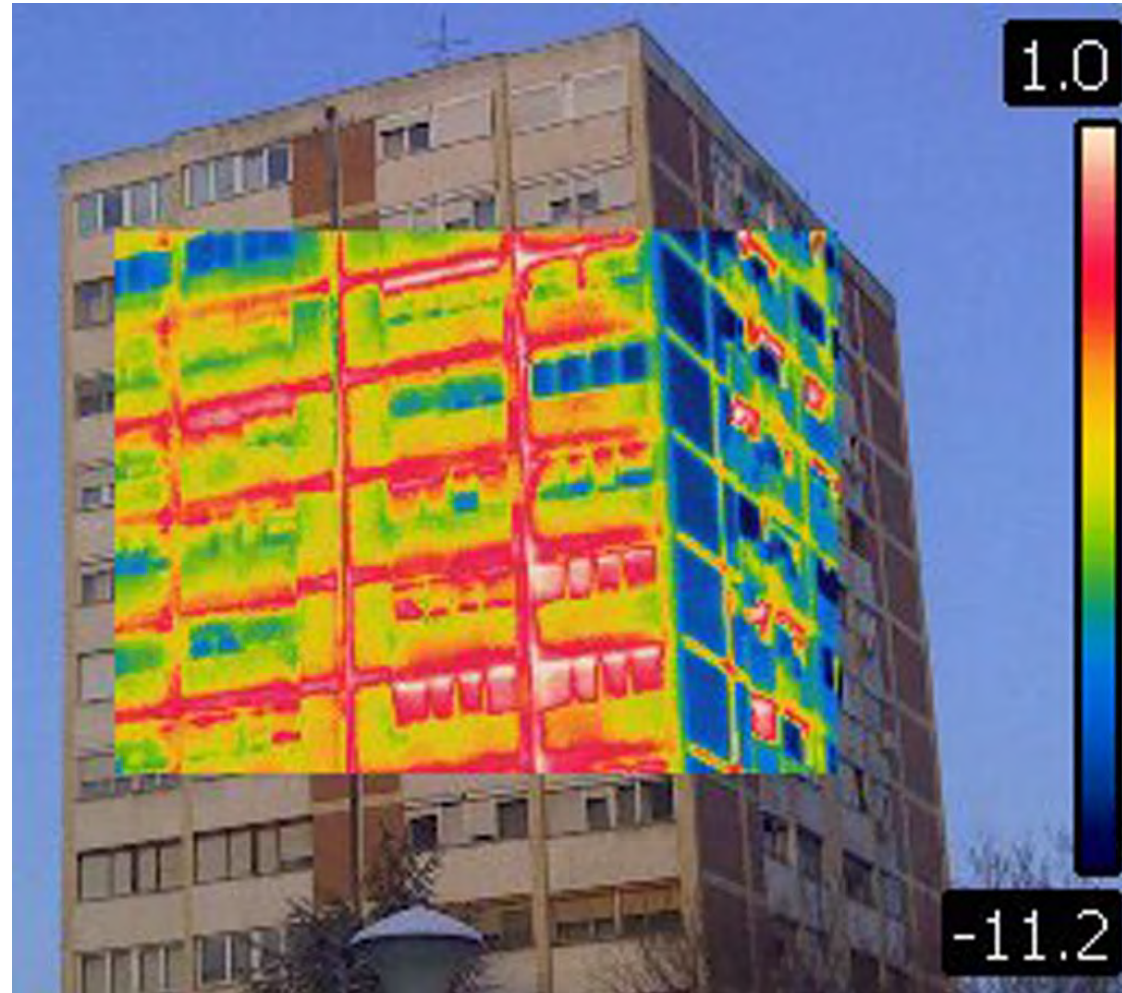
H_{TB} = Transmission heat loss coefficient (W/K)

L = Length of the thermal Bridge over which Ψ applies (m)

Ψ = Linear thermal transmittance (W/mK)



Thermographic images of Thermal Bridges



Evidence of heat loss through floor slabs and party walls in apartment blocks



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Left
purchased by MosArt (iStock 913851964)

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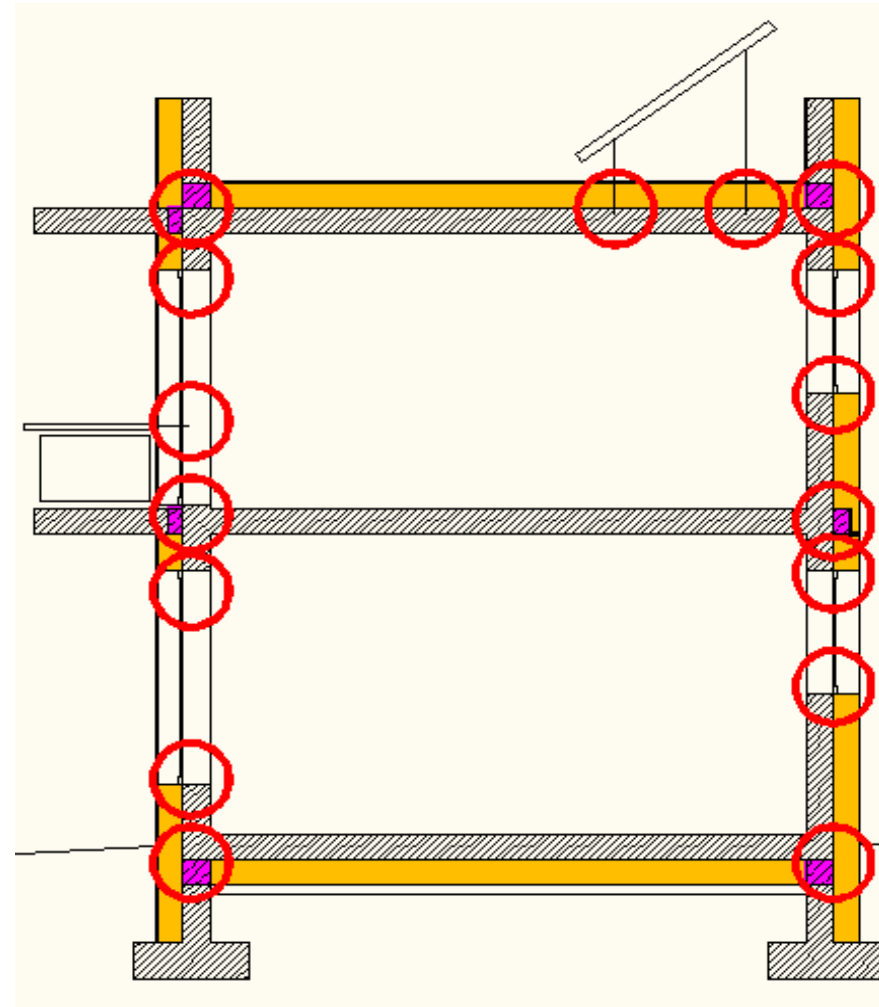


“Repeating” Thermal Bridges through Studs

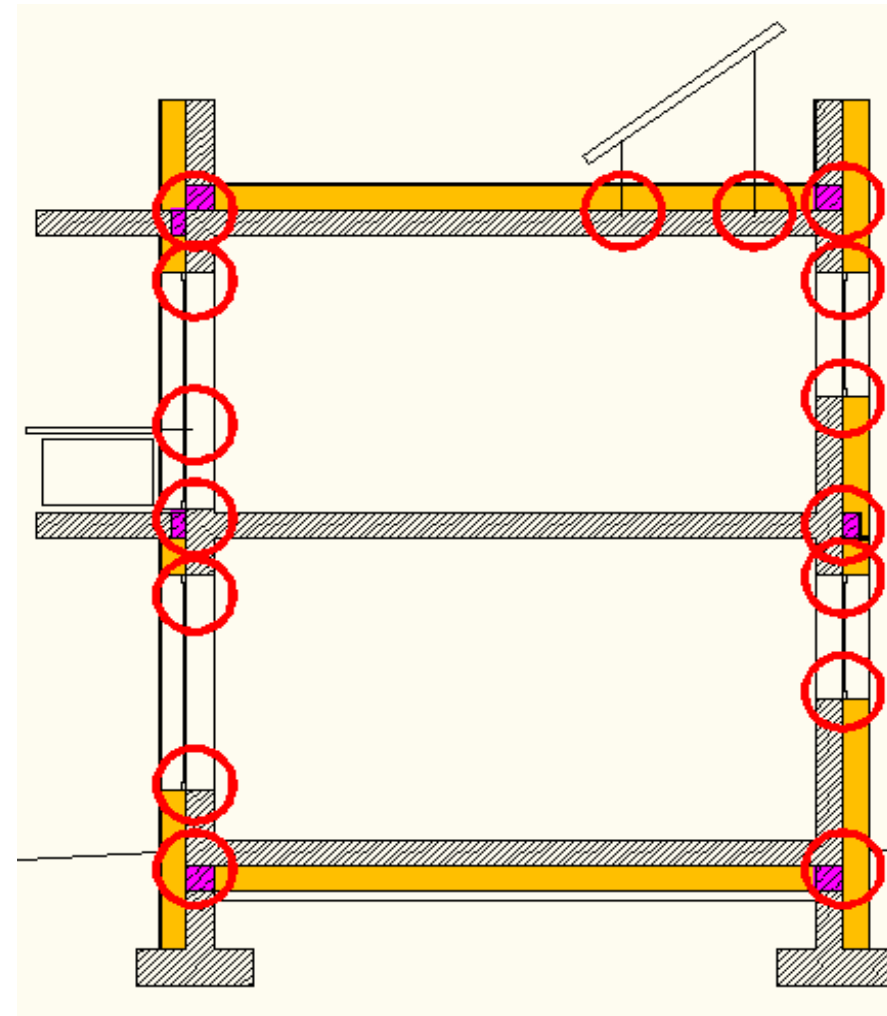
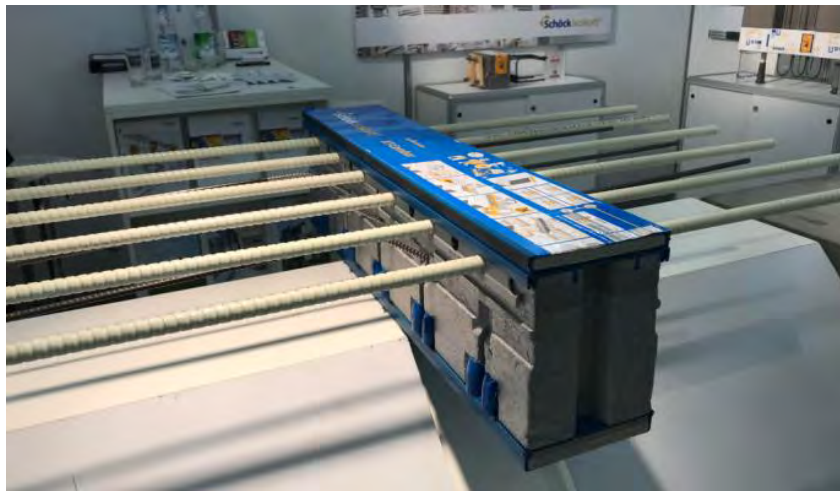


Typical Locations of Thermal Bridges

- Thermal bridges can be found at **all junctions** and **penetrations**
- Arises due to challenge in **connecting insulation planes**
- **Solutions** for most situations are now readily available
- Failure to minimise thermal bridge effect will most likely result in **mould** and poor indoor air quality



Typical Locations of Thermal Bridges



Steel Junctions cause Thermal Bridging



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

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MosArt

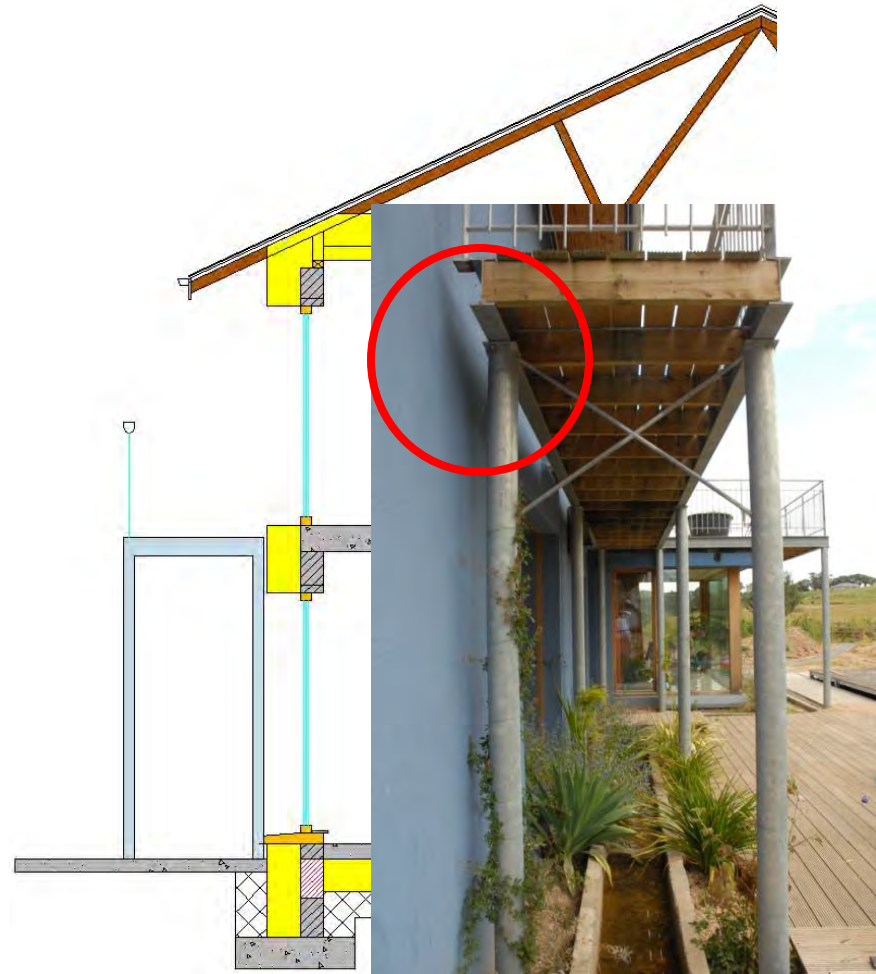
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Standalone Balconies Reduce Thermal Bridging



‘Out of the Blue’
Passive House –
free-standing
balcony



In this project, the balcony system looks as though it counter levered,
but is in fact thermally separated from the main structure



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

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Steel Beam Externally Insulated by Cavity Wall Insulation



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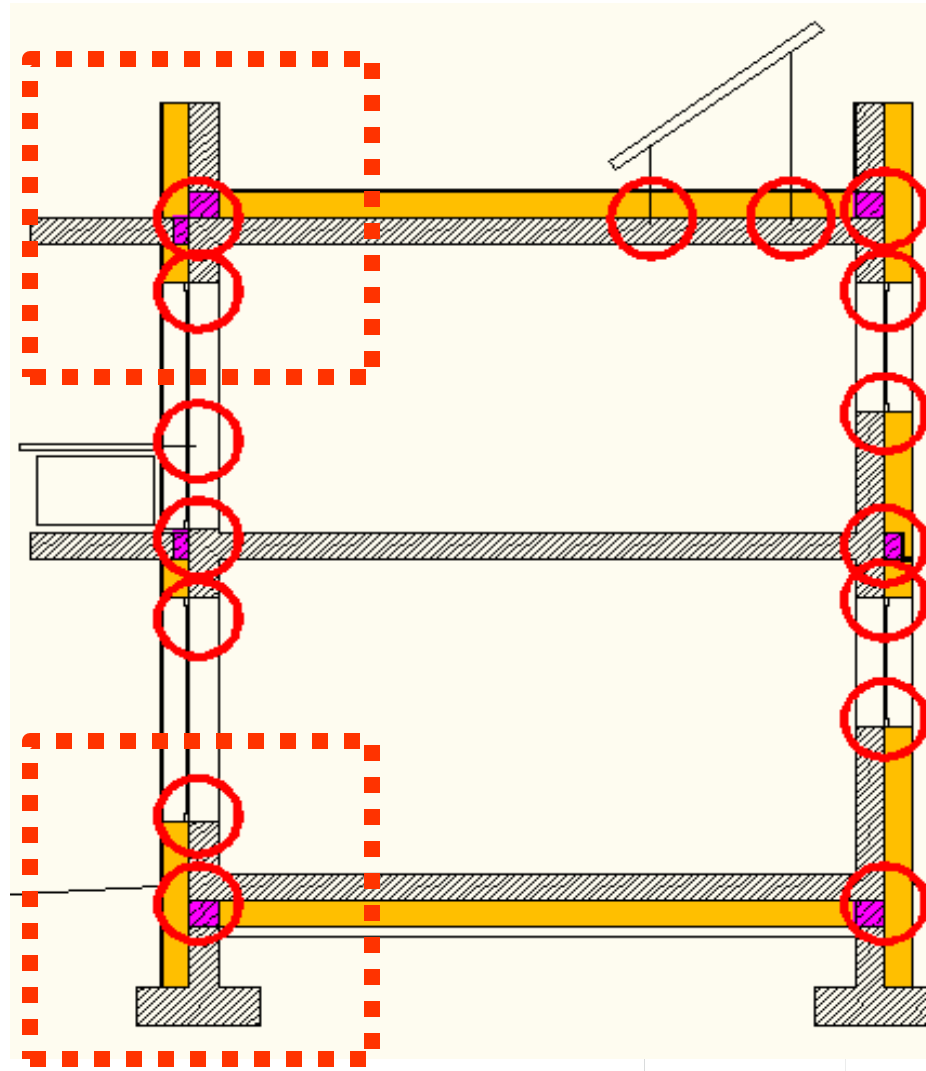
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Typical Locations of Thermal Bridges



Mould Very Common at Wall to Roof Junction



Can cause both
health problems
for occupants
and structural
problems



Mould Very Common at Wall to Roof Junction



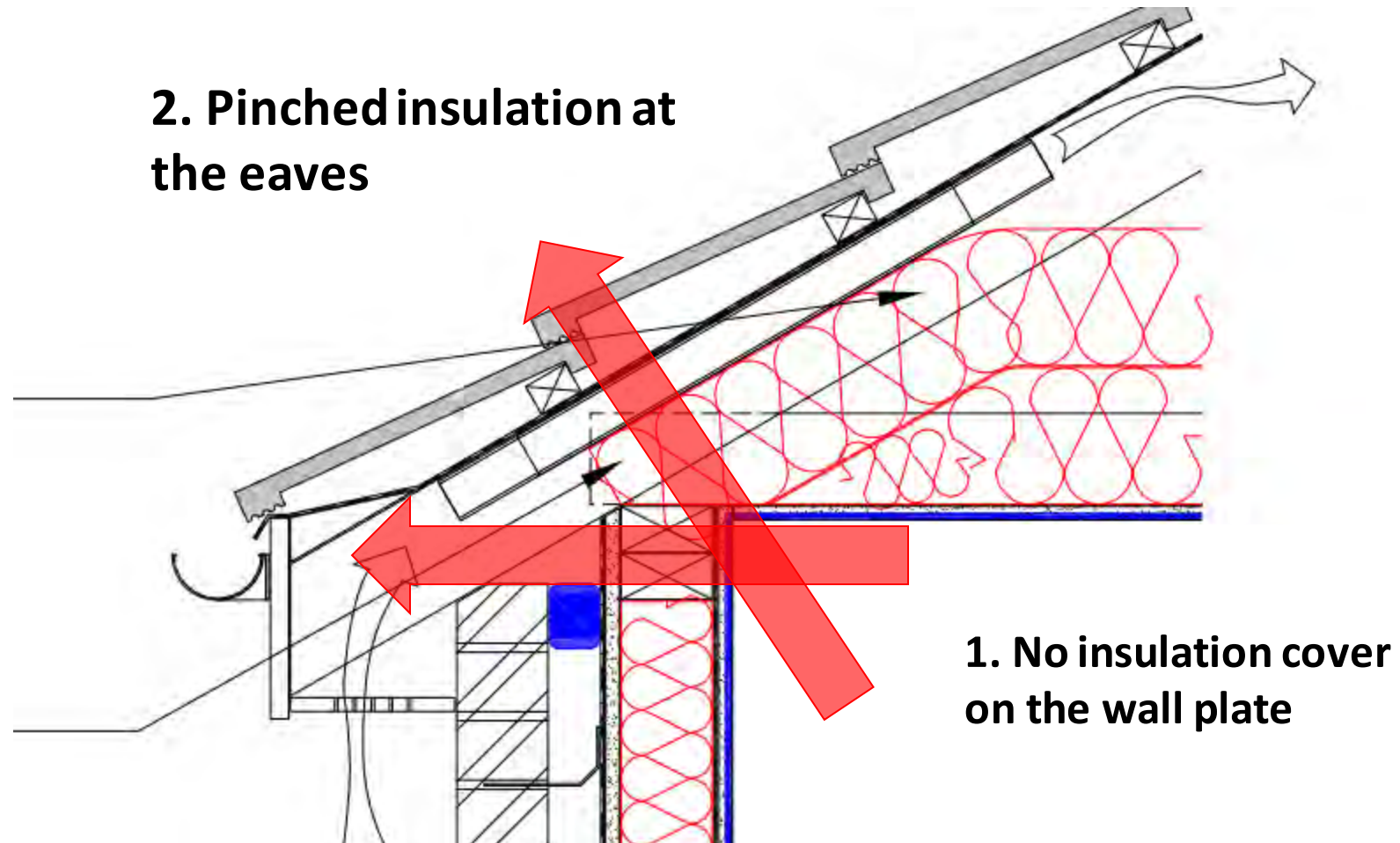
Can cause both
health problems for
occupants and
structural problems



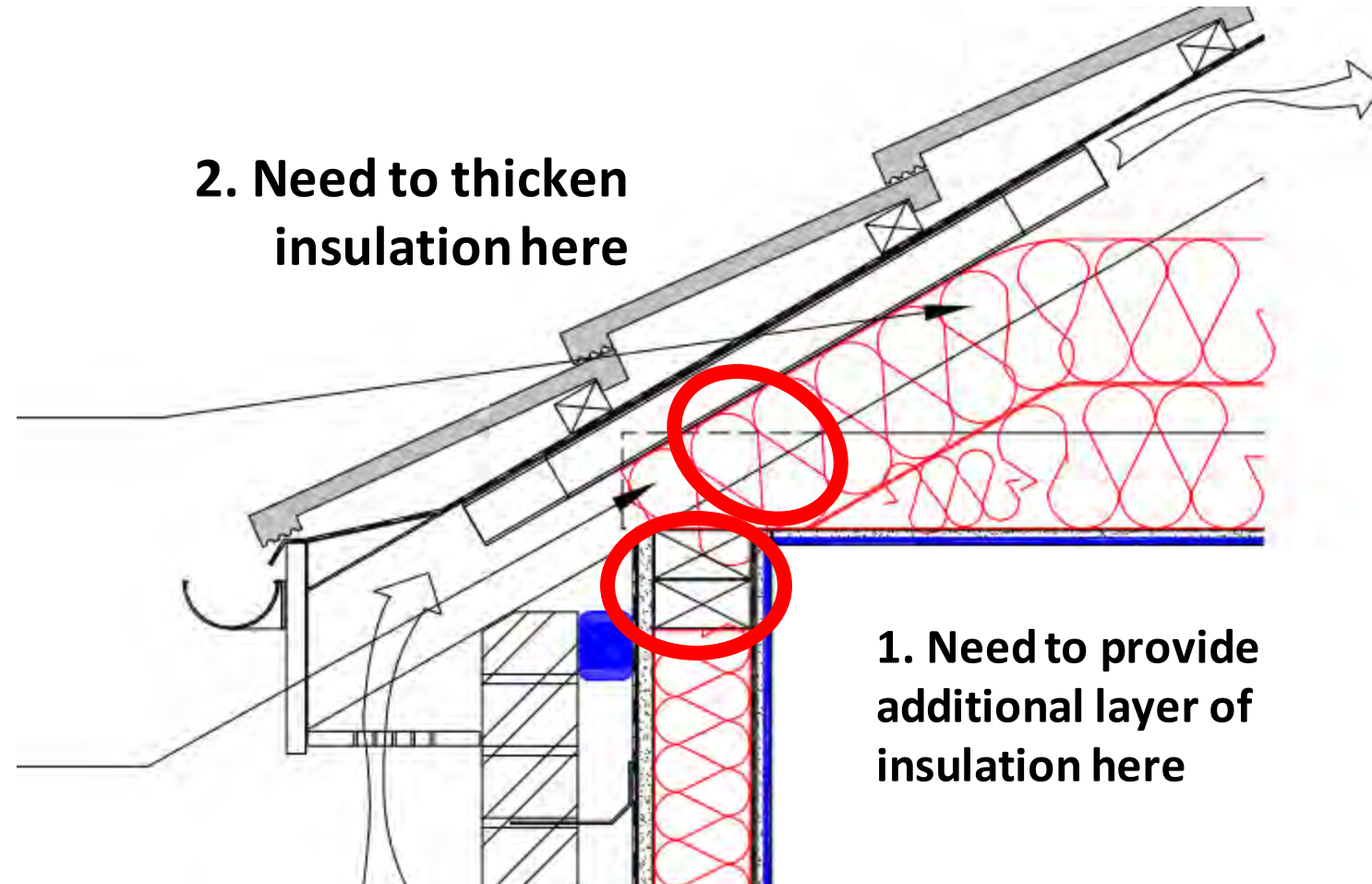
Vinyl Wallpaper Hiding the Ugly Reality of Mould



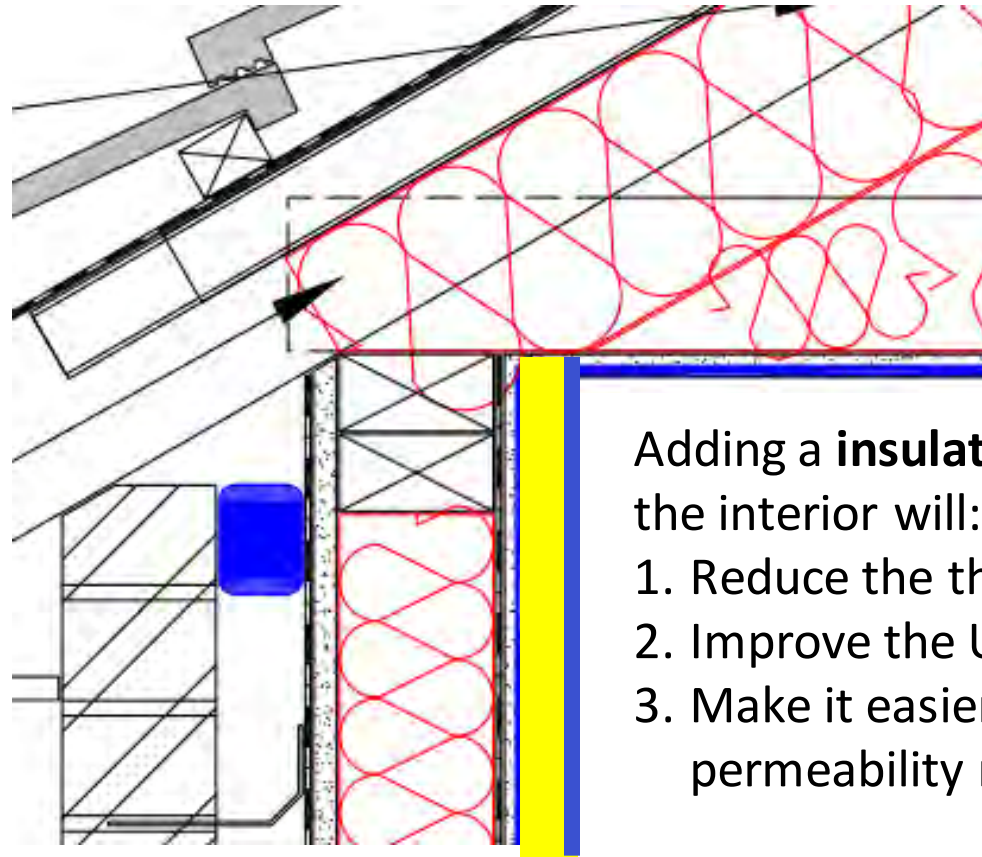
Spot the Thermal Bridges



How can We Solve These Thermal Bridges?



How can We Solve the Wall Plate Thermal Bridge?

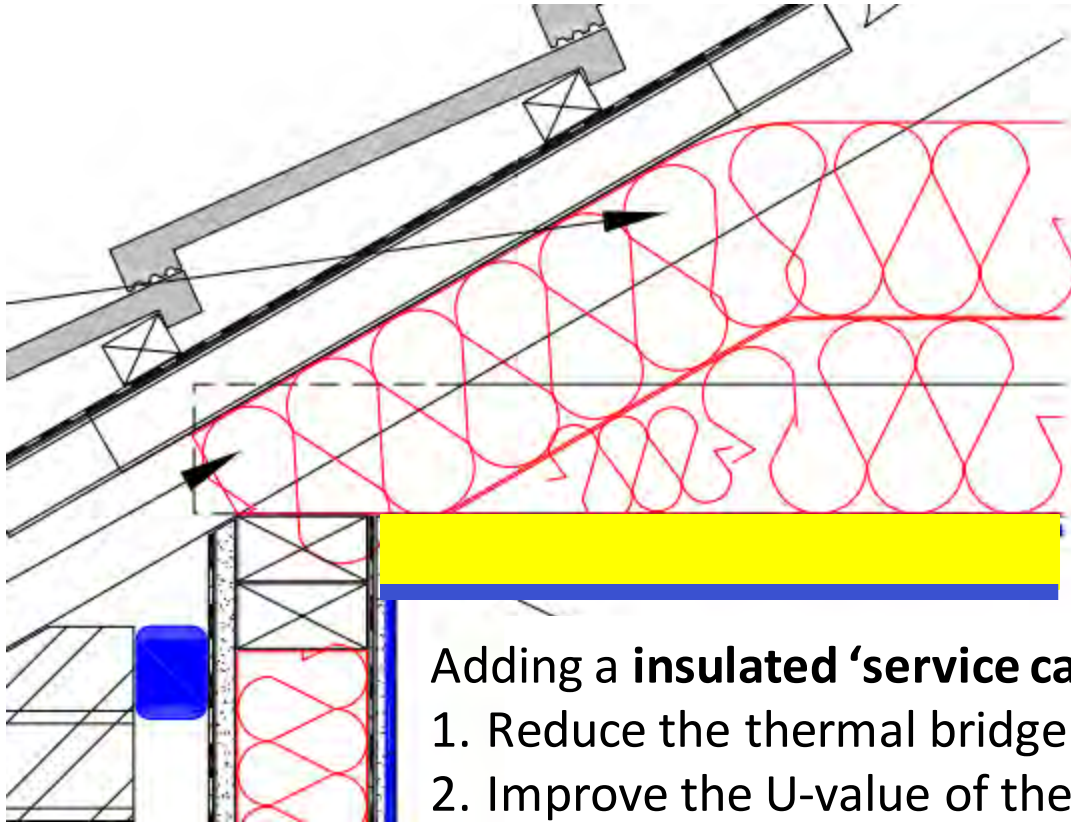


Adding a **insulated ‘service cavity’** on the interior will:

1. Reduce the thermal bridge
2. Improve the U-value of the wall
3. Make it easier to get a lower air permeability result



How can We Solve the Eaves Thermal Bridge?



Option 1

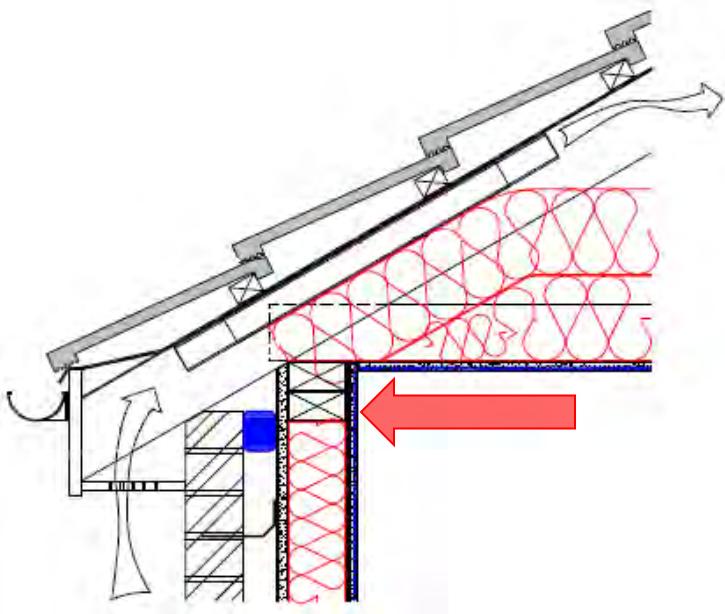


Adding a **insulated ‘service cavity’** to the ceiling will:

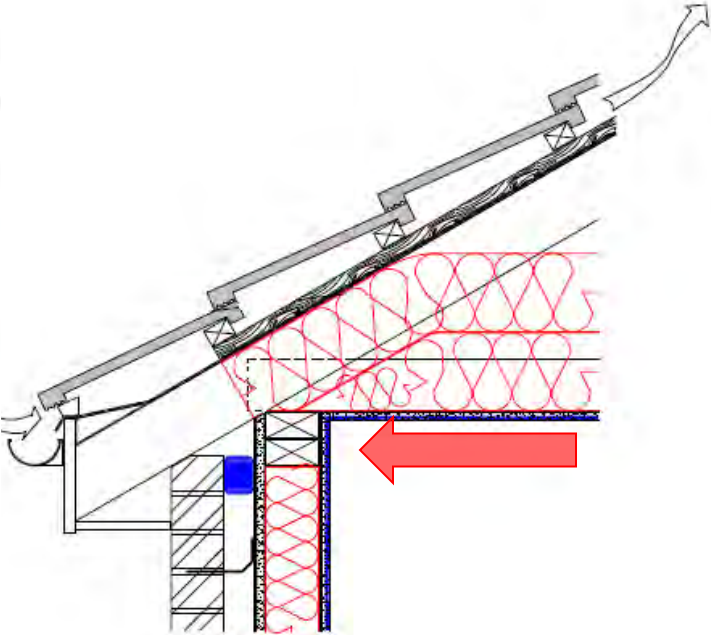
1. Reduce the thermal bridge
2. Improve the U-value of the ceiling
3. Make it easier to get a lower air permeability result



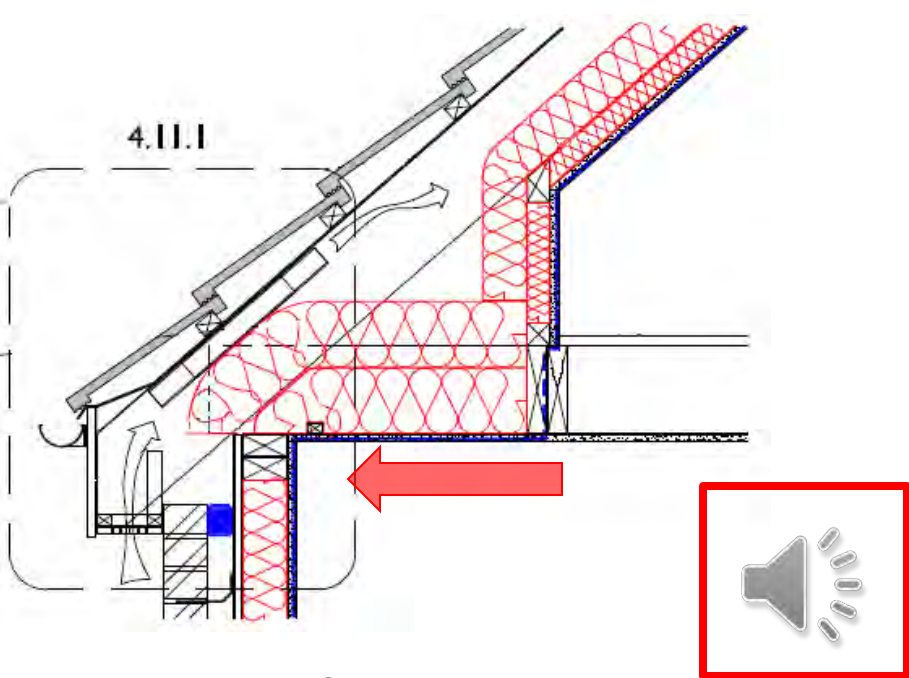
Eaves Insulation – Timber Frame – Thermal Bridging – ACD’s



Eaves – Ventilated attic



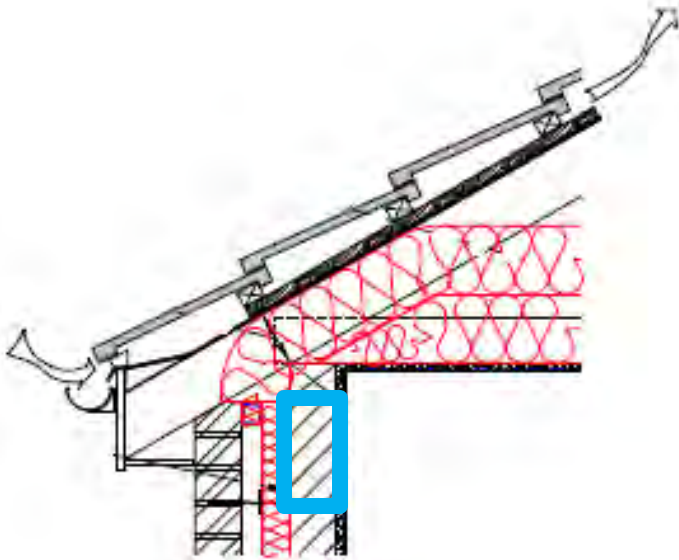
Eaves – Unventilated attic



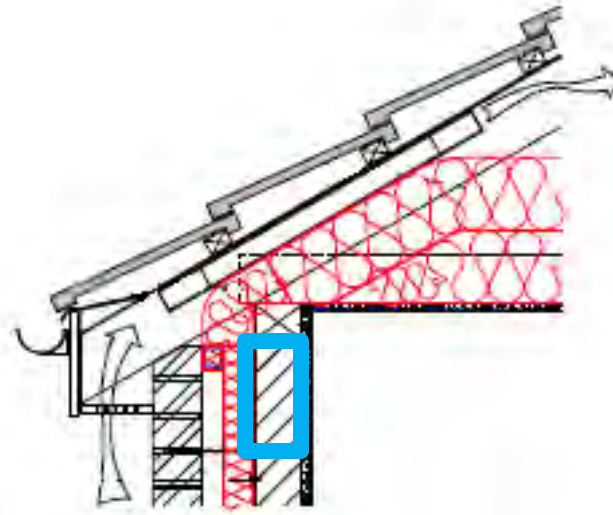
Eaves – Insulation
Between and under rafters
Unventilated rafter void -
Dormer



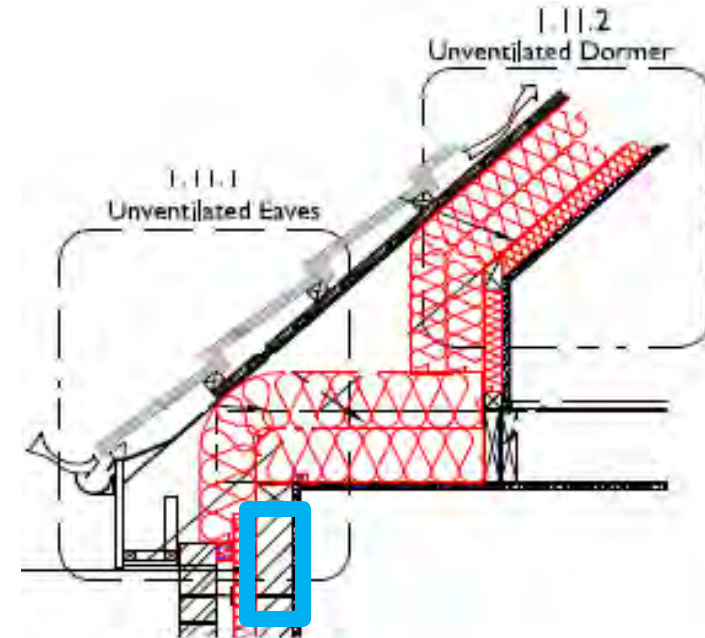
Eaves Insulation – Cavity Wall – Thermal Bridging – ACD's



Eaves – Unventilated attic



Eaves – Ventilated attic



Eaves – Insulation



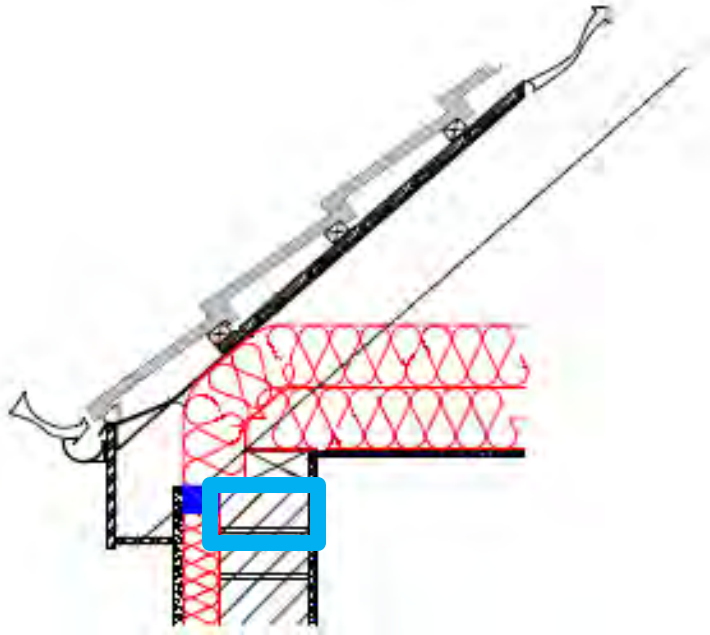
Improvements to these details:

- Above insulation thickness in walls is not enough to meet NZEB
- Details would be improved with low conductivity block

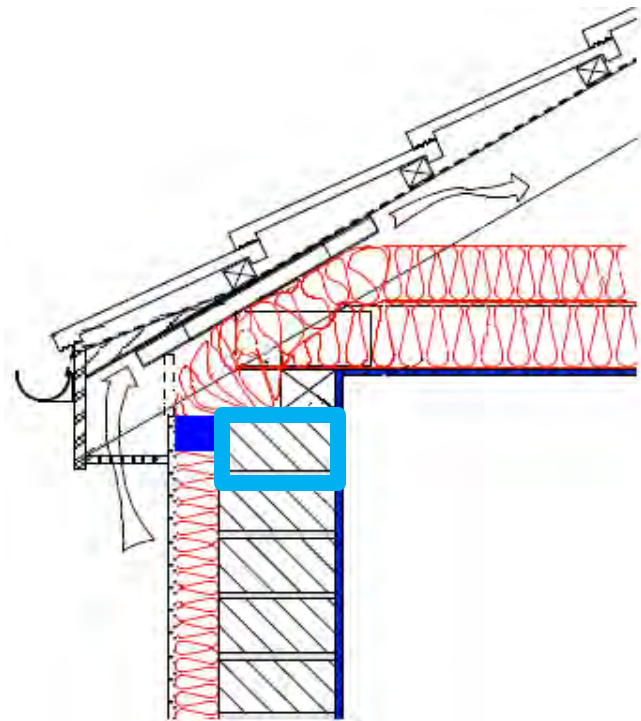
Between and under rafters
Unventilated rafter void -
Dormer



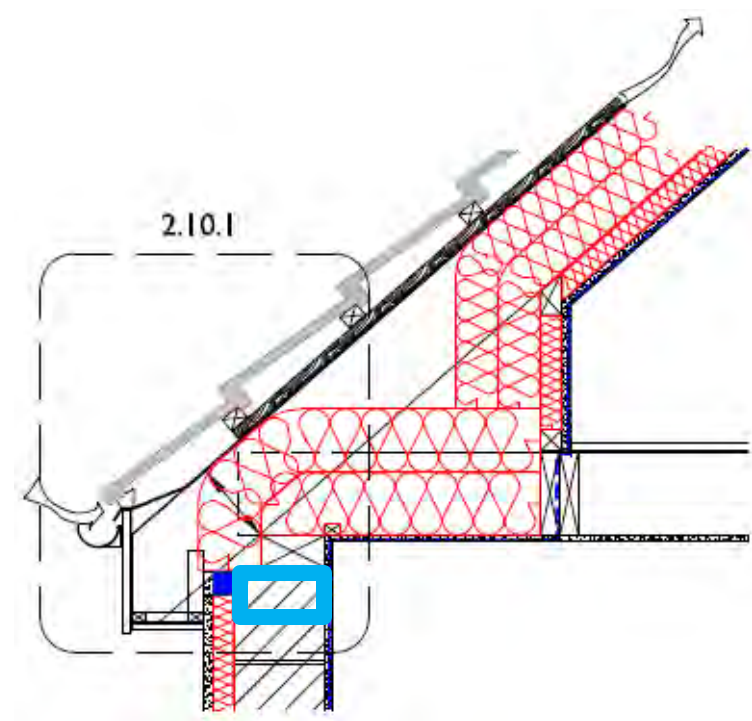
Eaves Insulation – External Wall Insulation – Thermal Bridging – ACD's



Eaves – Unventilated attic



Eaves – Ventilated attic



Eaves – Insulation

Between and under rafters
Unventilated rafter void -
Dormer



Improvements to these details:

- Above insulation thickness in walls is not enough to meet NZEB
- Details would be improved with low conductivity block



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Department of housing, Ireland

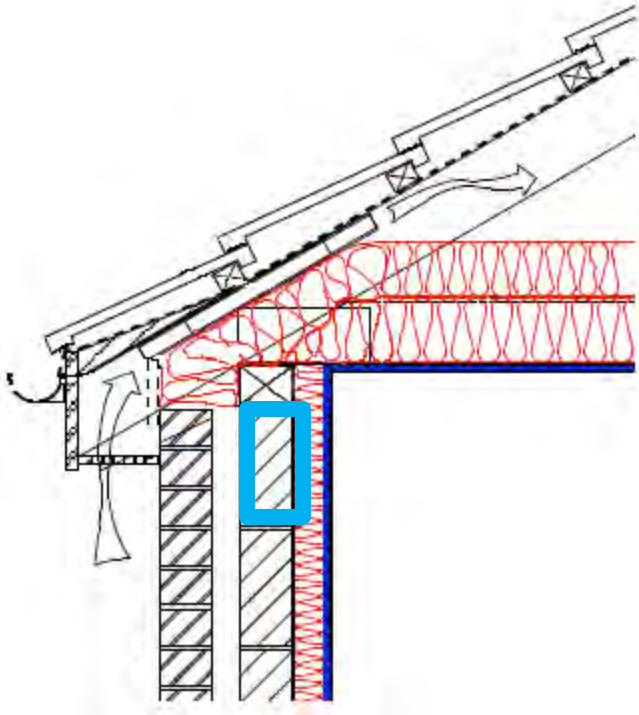
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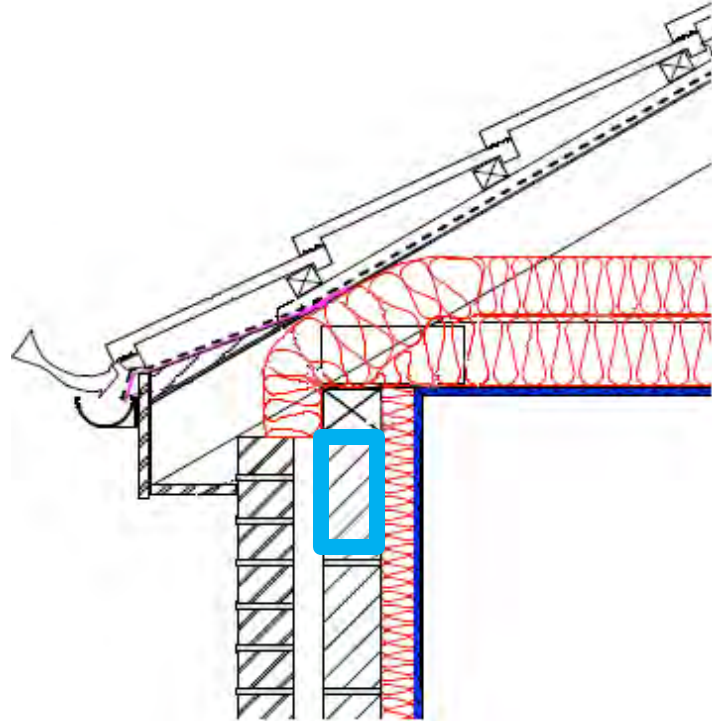
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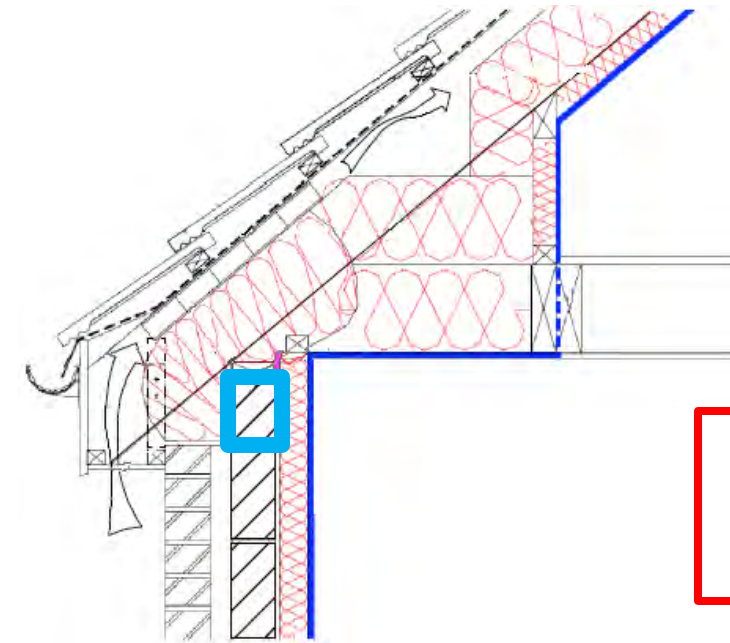
Eaves Insulation – Internal Wall Insulation – Thermal Bridging – ACD's



Eaves – Unventilated attic



Eaves – Ventilated attic



Eaves – Insulation

Between and under rafters
Unventilated rafter void -
Dormer



Improvements to these details:

- Above insulation thickness in walls is not enough to meet NZEB
- Details would be improved with low conductivity block



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: Department of housing, Ireland

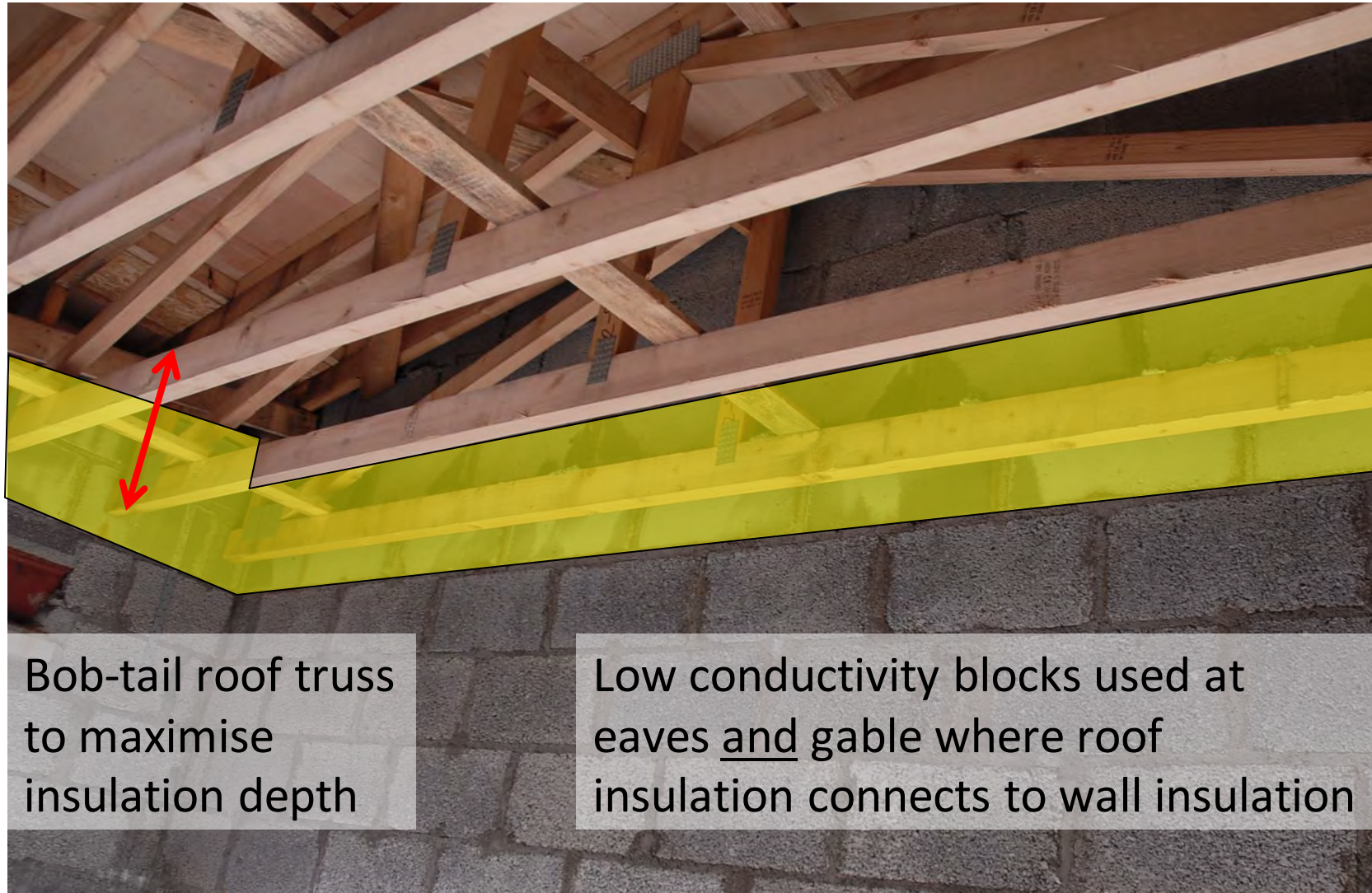
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Can You Spot Two Clever Thermal Bridge Details Here?

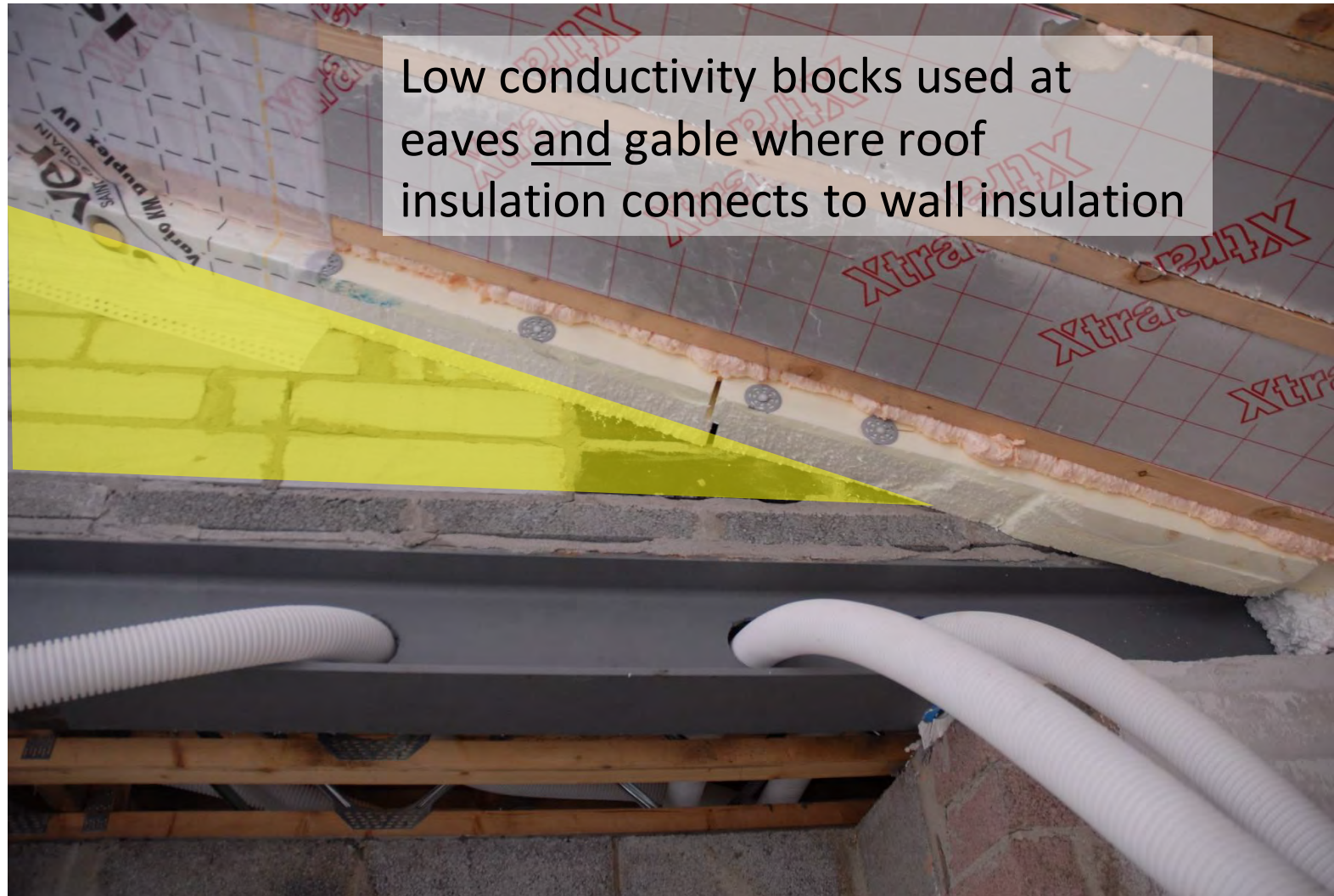


Bob-tail roof truss
to maximise
insulation depth

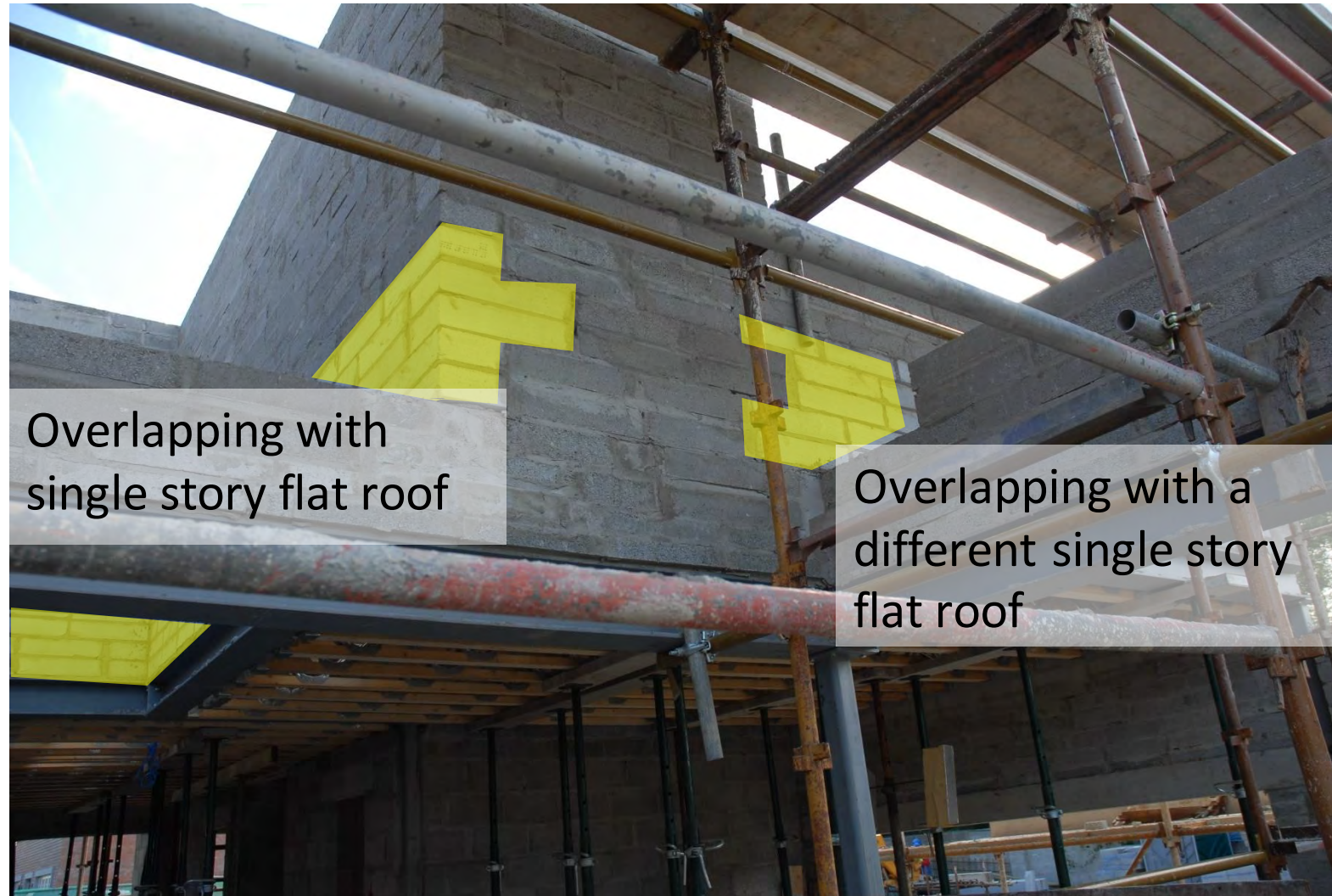
Low conductivity blocks used at
eaves and gable where roof
insulation connects to wall insulation



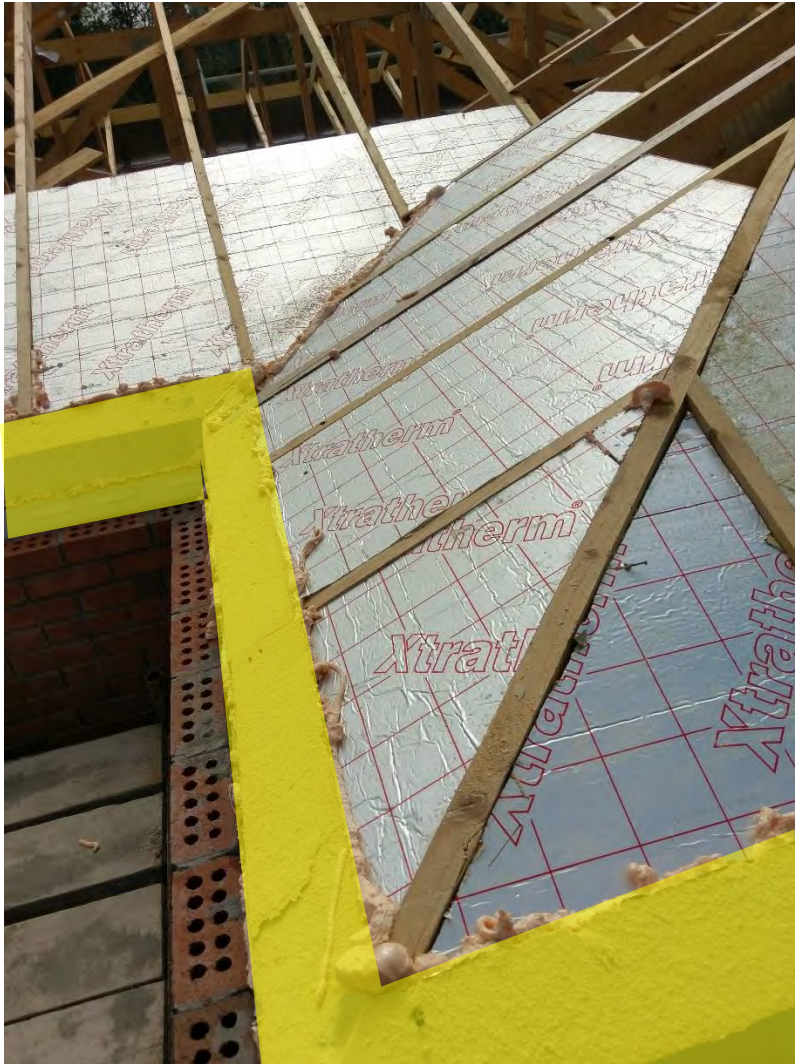
Aerated Blocks in Gable Wall



Use of Low Conductivity Blocks Exactly Where Needed



Thermal Bridge Free Eaves Detailing



Roof insulation overlaps perfectly
with cavity wall insulation

Quilt insulation layer provided
directly below the rafters reducing
the thermal bridge effect



Thermal Bridge Free Attachment of Fascia



Skinny rafters fixed over main rafters to provide ventilation zone and attach fascia



Alternative Approach to Overlapping Roof and Wall Insulation



Mould Very Common at Wall to Floor Junction



Case Study: Floor to Wall Junction in Cavity Wall

QUINN LITE

Identifier

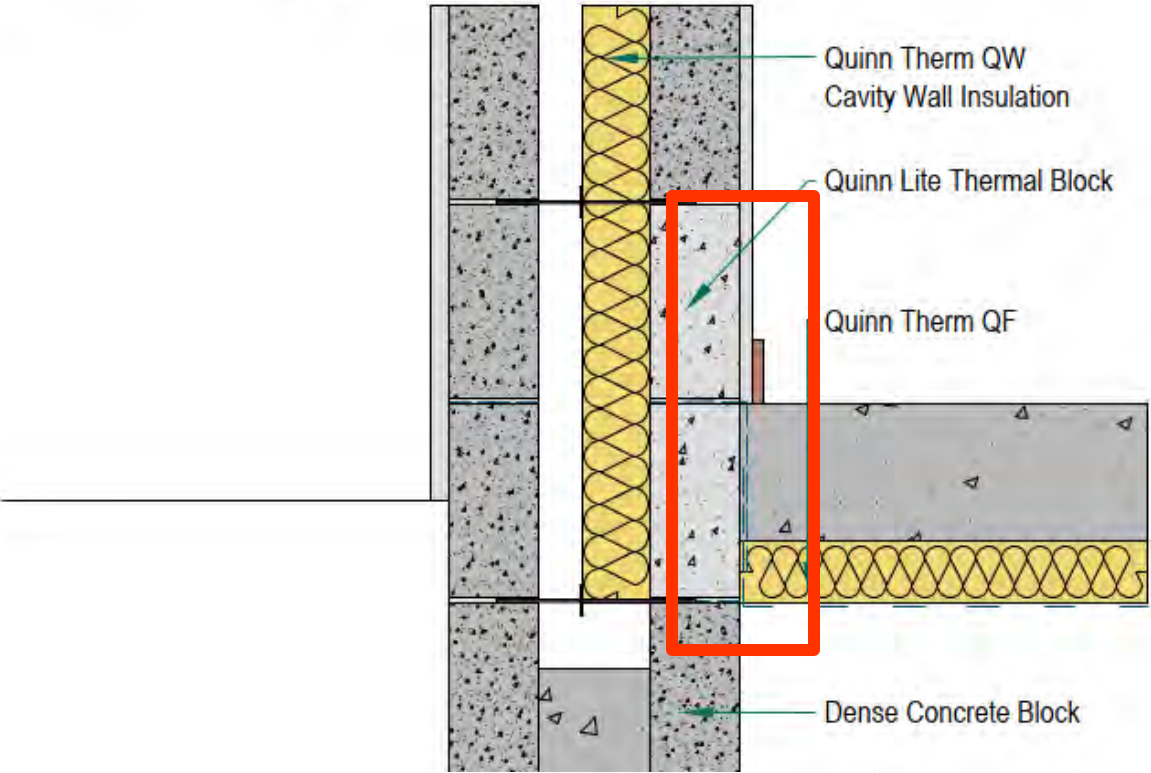
1.02

NSAI modeller no.

TM/02

Description

Partial Fill Cavity Wall / Solid Ground
Floor Slab Insulation Under Structural
Slab



Aerated Concrete Blocks at Floor Connection



Blocks with reduced thermal conductivity used in the same plane
as the floor insulation



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: MosArt

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Thermal Separation of Envelope and Ground (1/3)



Thermal Separation of Envelope and Ground (2/3)



Thermal Separation of Envelope and Ground (3/3)



Floor insulation installation to align with low conductivity blocks

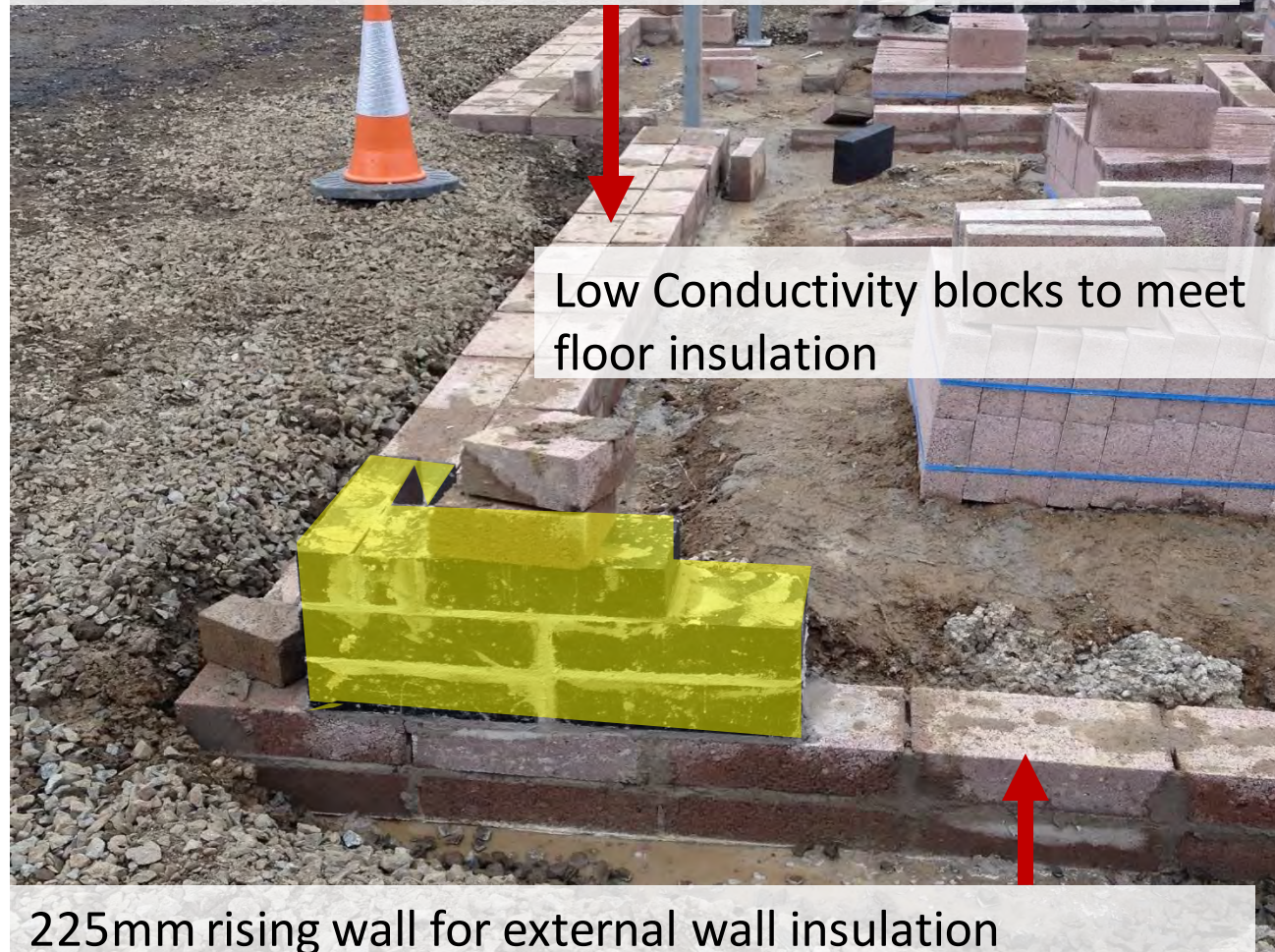


Edge of floor slab insulation used to separate concrete floor from rising wall

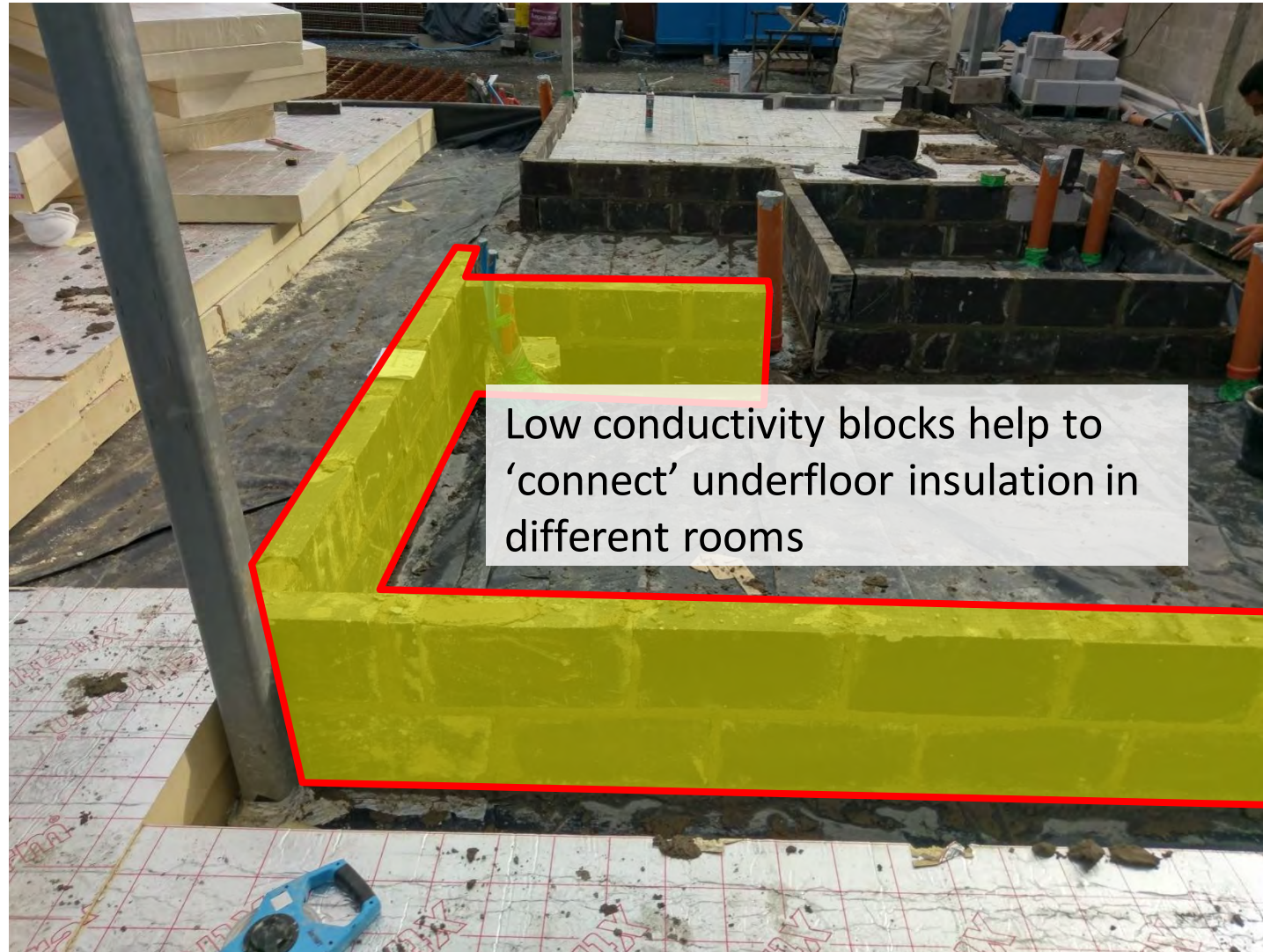


Rising Wall Types and Components

450mm rising wall for insulated cavity and brick facade

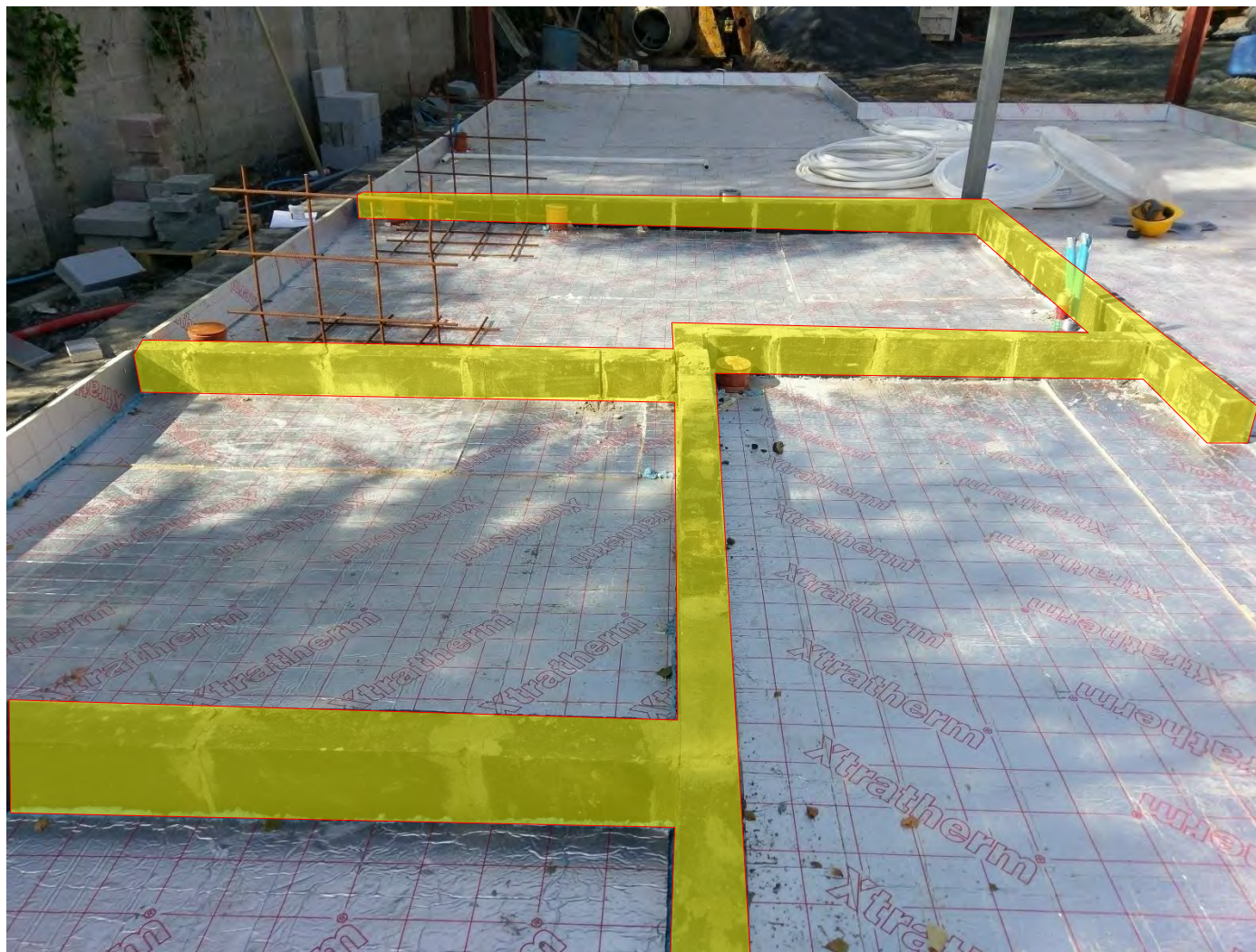


Need to Thermally Separate Internal Wall Too



Floor Insulation of Individual Rooms

Insulation cut
to fit neatly to
each internal
room



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: MosArt

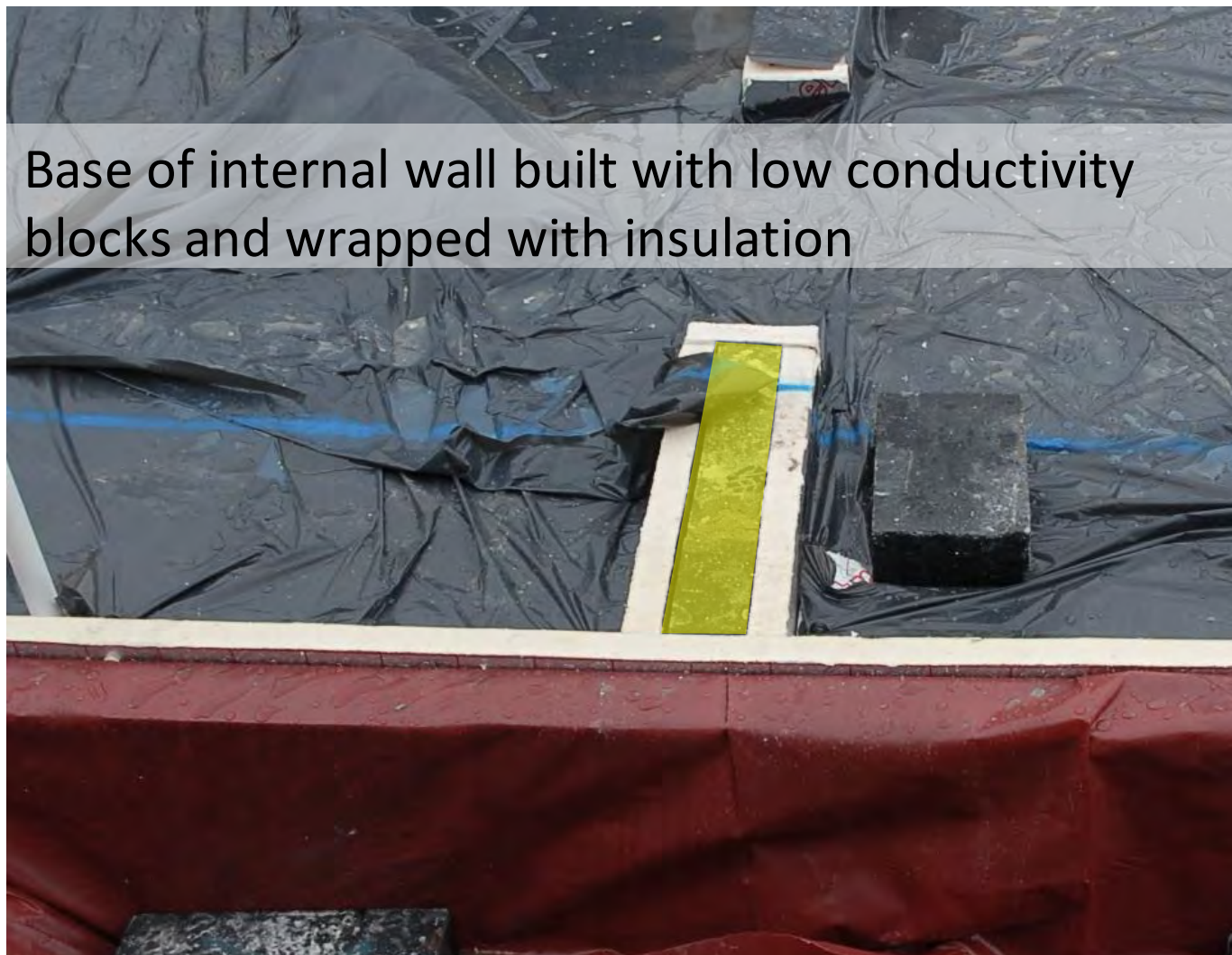
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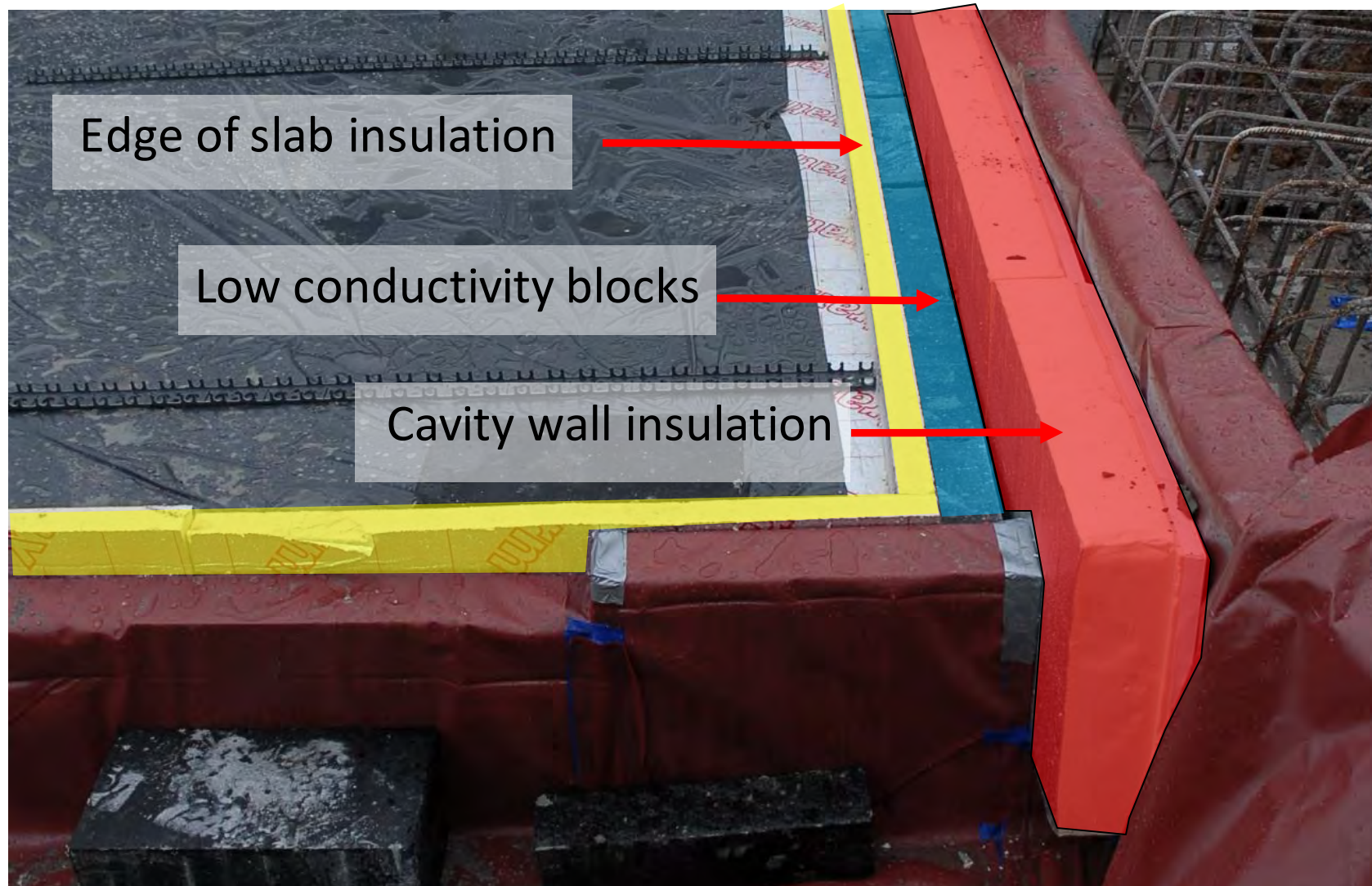
Base of internal wall built with low conductivity
blocks and wrapped with insulation



Low Conductivity Blocks Under Radon Barrier



Cavity Wall Insulation



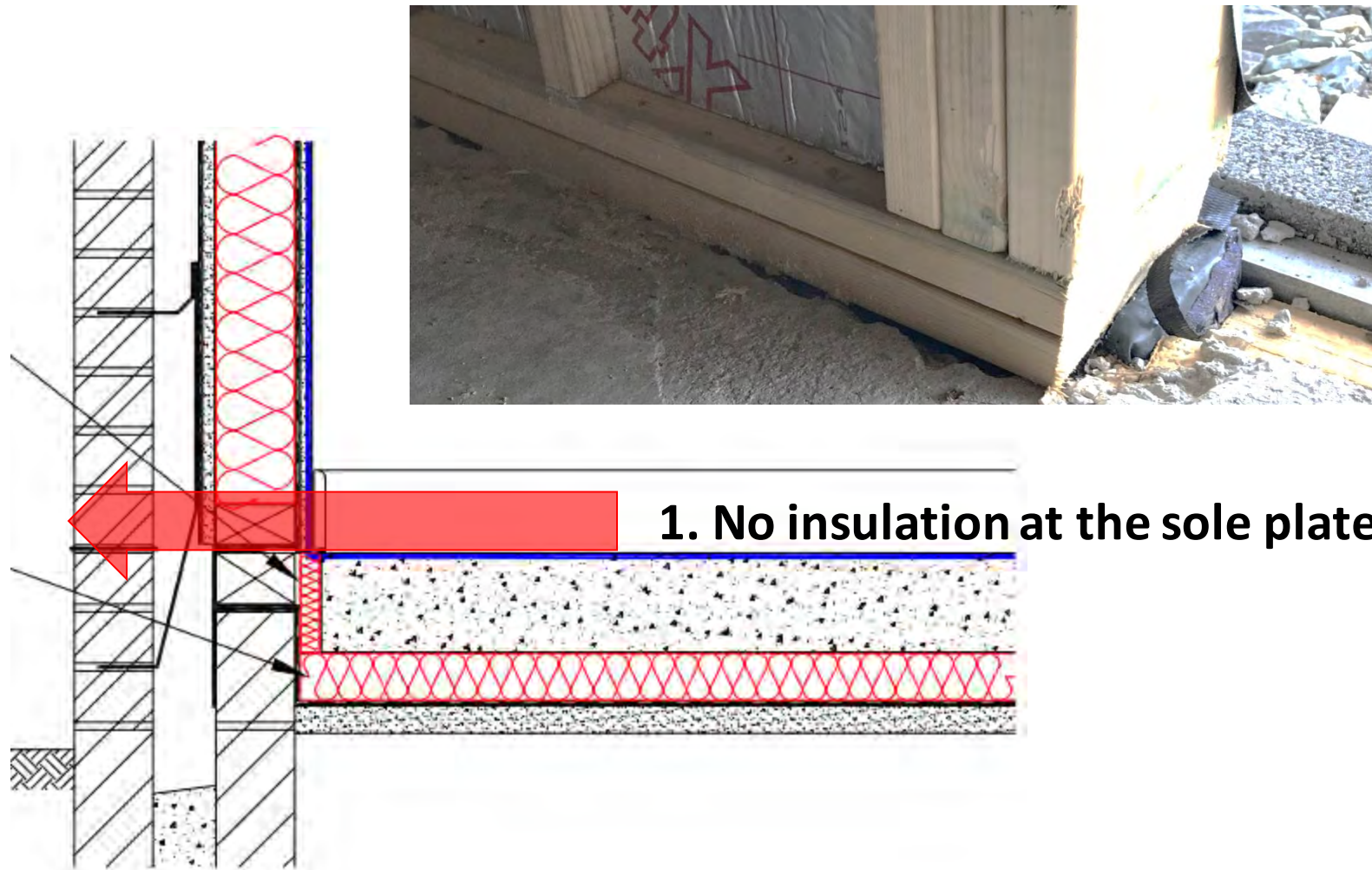
Thermal Bridging Caused by Mortar Droppings



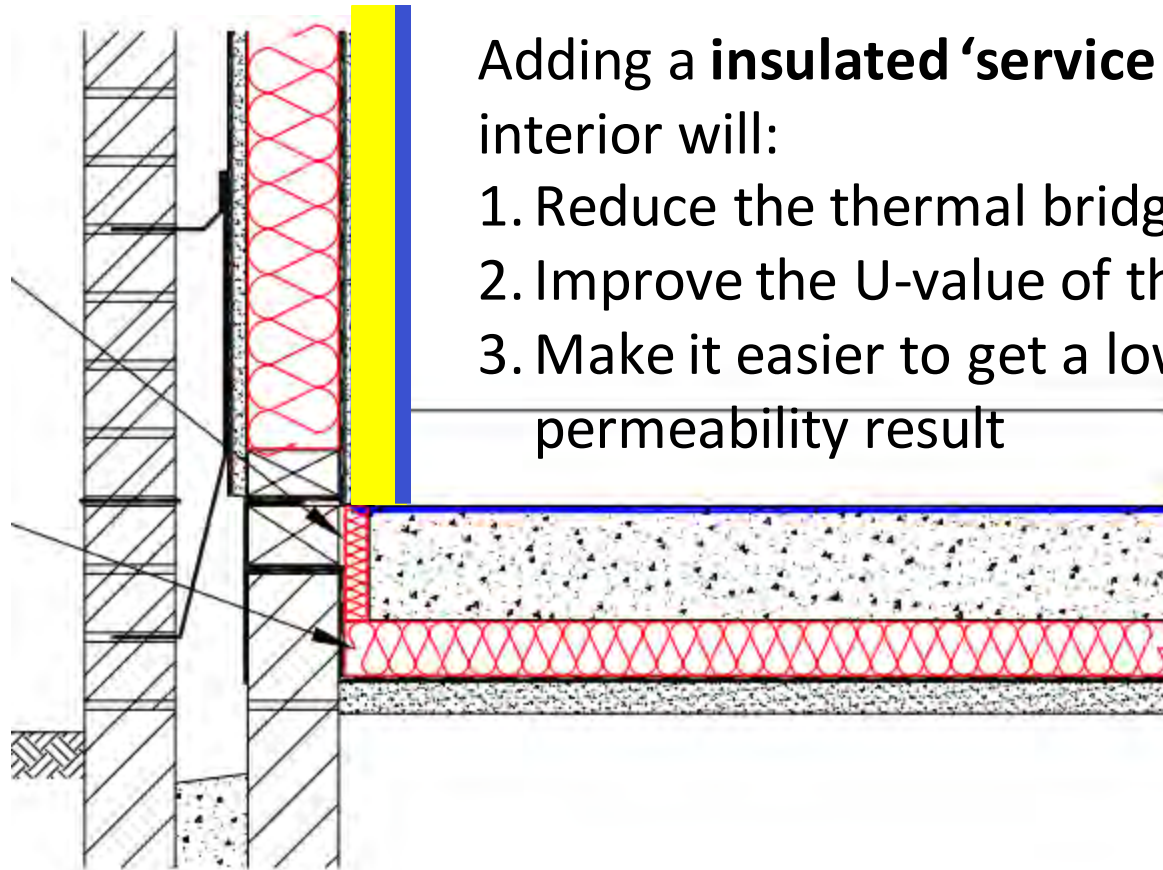
Mortar must
be removed



Spot the Thermal Bridge



How Can We Solve the Sole Plate Thermal Bridge?



Adding a **insulated ‘service cavity’** on the interior will:

1. Reduce the thermal bridge
2. Improve the U-value of the wall
3. Make it easier to get a lower air permeability result



Case study - Cavity Wall: Concrete Forward Sill – Thermal Bridging – ACD’s

(1) WALLS- INSULATION IN CAVITY

Opportunity - Concrete Forward Sill

DETAIL 1.26, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)		AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)
<div>Install proprietary cavity closer or block of insulation with path of minimum thermal resistance through the closer of not less than 2.90 m² K/W (manufacturers certified data)</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Apply flexible sealant to junctions between plaster/plasterboard and sill board, and between sill board and window frame</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure air barrier continuity between the window and the wall air barrier line</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> If forming the wall air barrier with a blockwork inner leaf or with scratch coat on blockwork, install a flexible sealant between the cavity closer and blockwork wall</div>
<div>Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>		<p>Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability</p>

What do you think of this insulation thickness?
Way too thin!



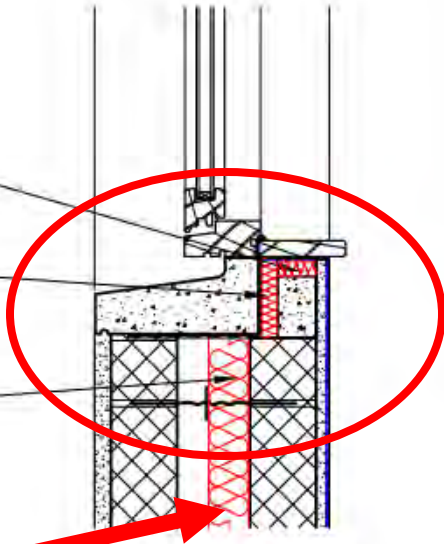
Case Study - Cavity Wall: Concrete Back Sill – Thermal Bridging – ACD's

Alternative Detail (Appendix 2)

Concrete Back sill detail (Insulation below wood sill section)

Diagram 2, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE		AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)		
Install insulation under sill with a min. R-value of 0.65 m ² K/W	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure air barrier continuity between the window and the wall air barrier line
Install perimeter insulation with a min. R-value of 1.09 m ² K/W	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	



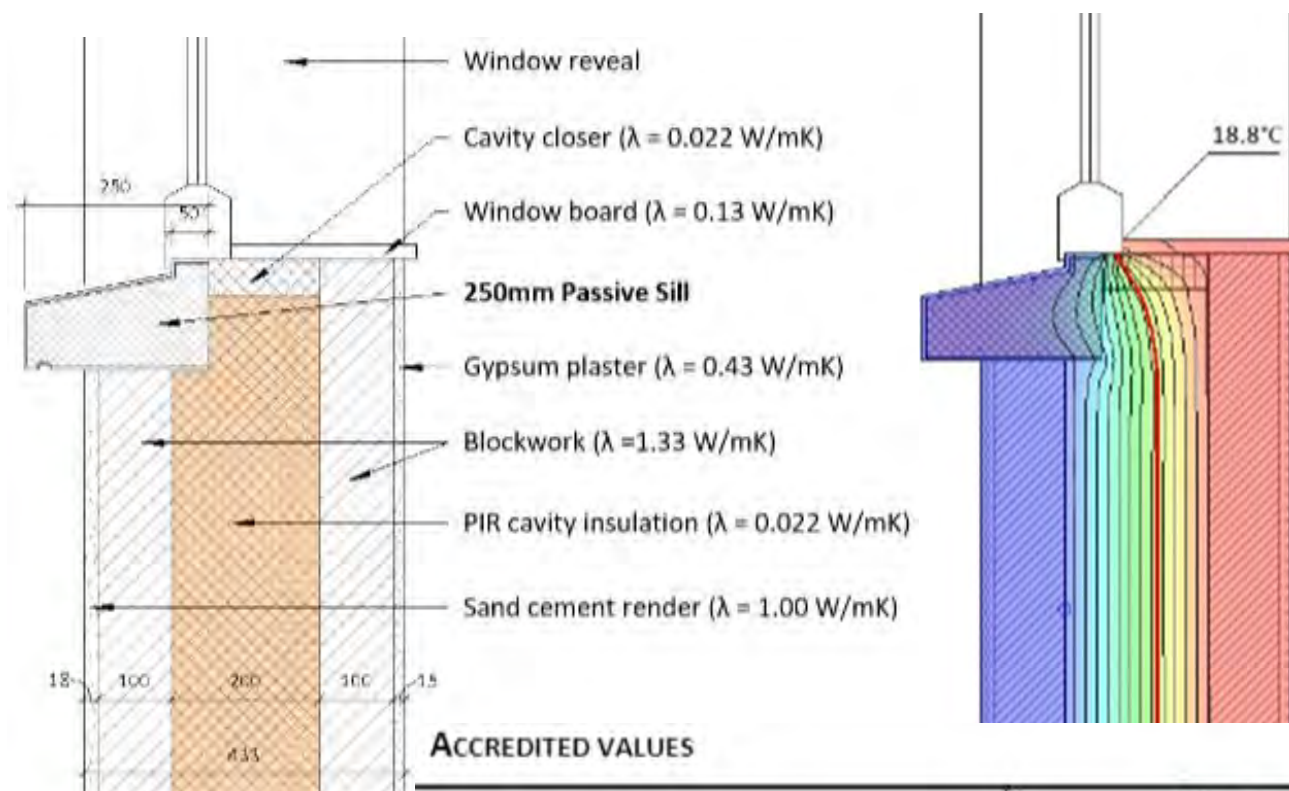
Need much more insulation to comply with NZEB

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



Full Fill Cavity Wall Insulation – Passive Window Sills

200mm PIR cavity insulation with 250mm Passive Sill - Wall U-value – 0.11 W/m²K



	Ψ -value (W/mK)
Acceptable Construction Details	+0.019
Concrete Sill	+0.019
Passive Sills	+0.010

- Designed to work with cavity wall construction and are installed in the same way as a traditional sill.
- Excellent insulation value
- Reduces thermal bridging
- Improves the overall performance of the window.
- 10% of the weight of a traditional sill
- 3 different finishes, sandstone, grey granite or white granite



Case Study - External Wall Insulation - Window Sills – Thermal Bridging – ACD’s

(2) WALLS:- EXTERNAL INSULATION
SOLID MASONRY / CAVITY BLOCK WALLS

DETAIL 2.22, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

Install insulation to underside of sill

☐

Need much more insulation to comply with NZEB

Open - Sill

AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

☐ Fill gap between frame / packer and blockwork with expanding foam or flexible sealant

☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant

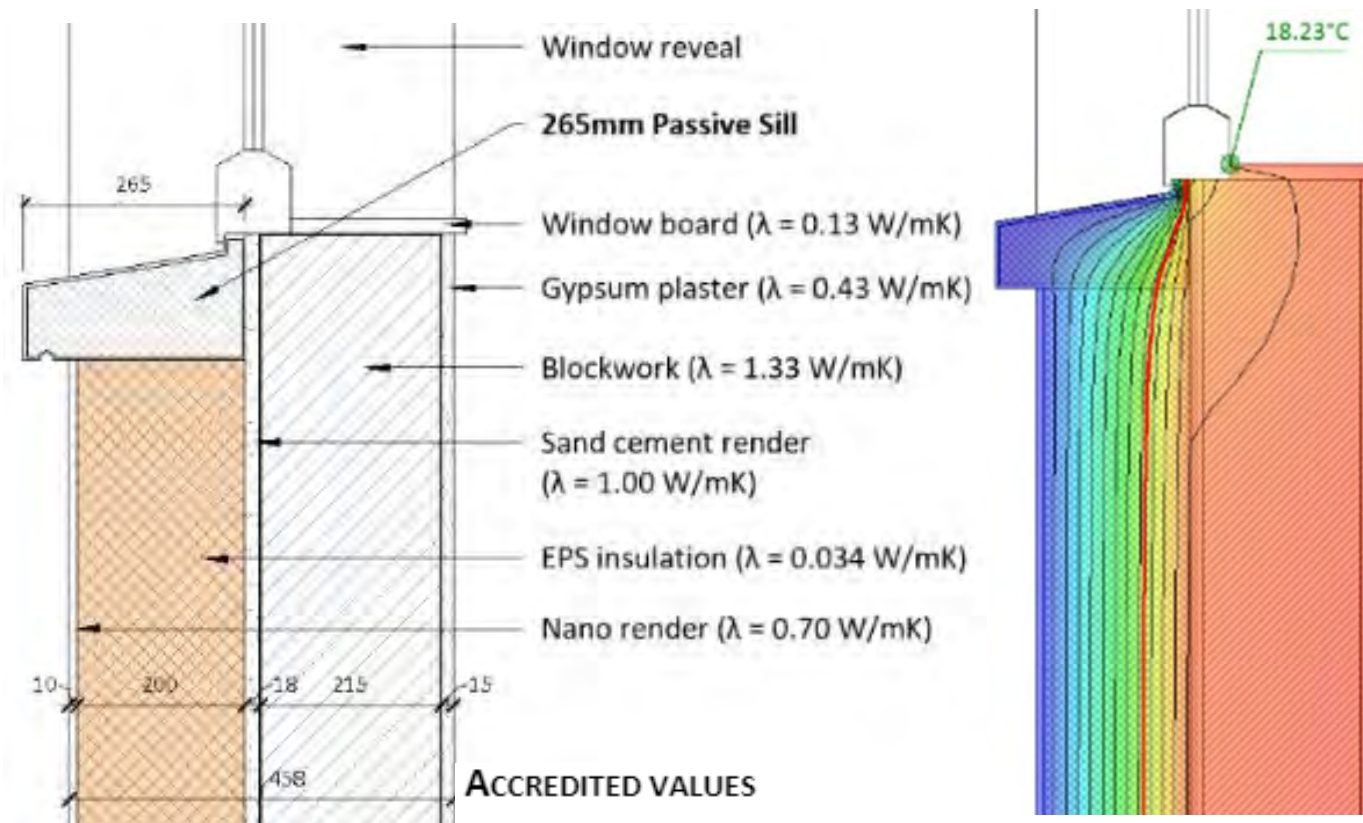
☐ Apply flexible sealant to junctions of frame with external render and with internal air barrier

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



External Wall Insulation - Window Cills – Passive Sills

200mm EWI
with 265mm
Passive Sill -
Wall U-value
– 0.16
W/m²K



	Ψ -value (W/mK)
Acceptable Construction Details	+0.109
Concrete Sill	-
Passive Sills	+0.110



Case Study - Internal Wall Insulation - Window Sills – Thermal Bridging – ACD’s

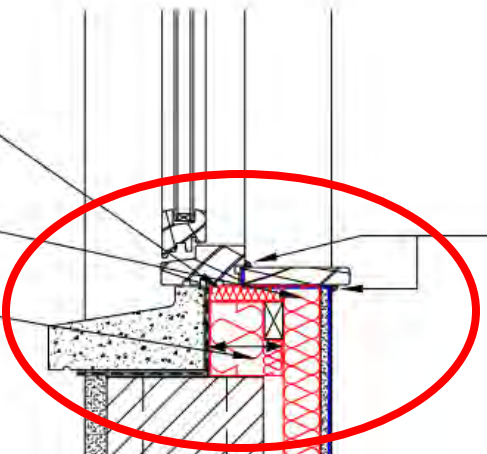
(6) WALLS:- INTERNAL INSULATION-
CAVITY BLOCKS

Open Sill

DETAIL 6.21, 2011

THERMAL PERFORMANCE
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

- ☐ Minimum R-value of 0.65 m² K/W for insulation under sill
- ☐ Ensure insulated dry-lining tightly abuts underside of windowboard
- ☐ Insulation to have a minimum R-value of 2.17 m² K/W



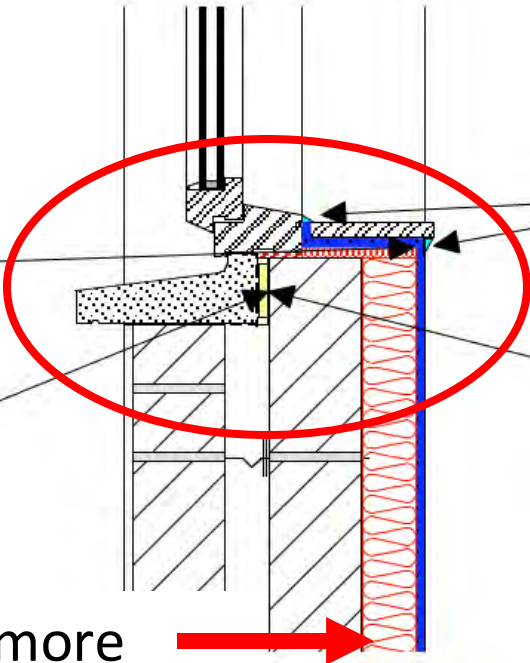
AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

- ☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using approved adhesive tape or exible sealant
- ☐ Apply flexible sealant to interface between plasterboard and windowboard, and between windowboard and frame
- ☐ Form air barrier to wall with scratchcoat to blockwork
- ☐ Ensure air barrier continuity between window, and wall plasterboard

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability and may effect a reduced testing regime.



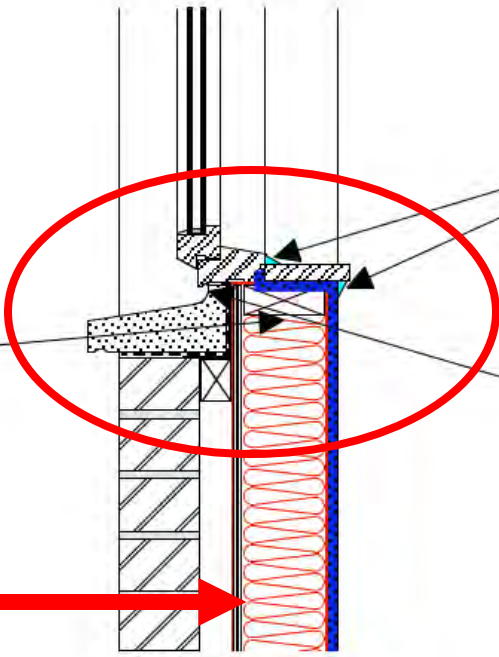
Case Study - Internal Wall Insulation - Window Cills – Thermal Bridging – ACD's

(3) WALLS:- INTERNAL INSULATION		Ope - Concrete Forward Sill	DETAIL 3.24, 2011
THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)		AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure insulated dry-lining tightly abuts underside of windowboard		<input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Install proprietary cavity closer, or block of insulation, with thermal resistance path through closer having a minimum R-value as per relevant detail in section 1, 4 or 5		<input type="checkbox"/> Apply flexible sealant to interface between plasterboard and windowboard, and between windowboard and frame	
		<input type="checkbox"/> If forming air barrier to walls with blockwork inner leaf, or with scratch coat on blockwork, install a flexible sealant between cavity closer and blockwork wall	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure air barrier continuity between window, and wall plasterboard	
		Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability	

Need much more
insulation to comply
with NZEB



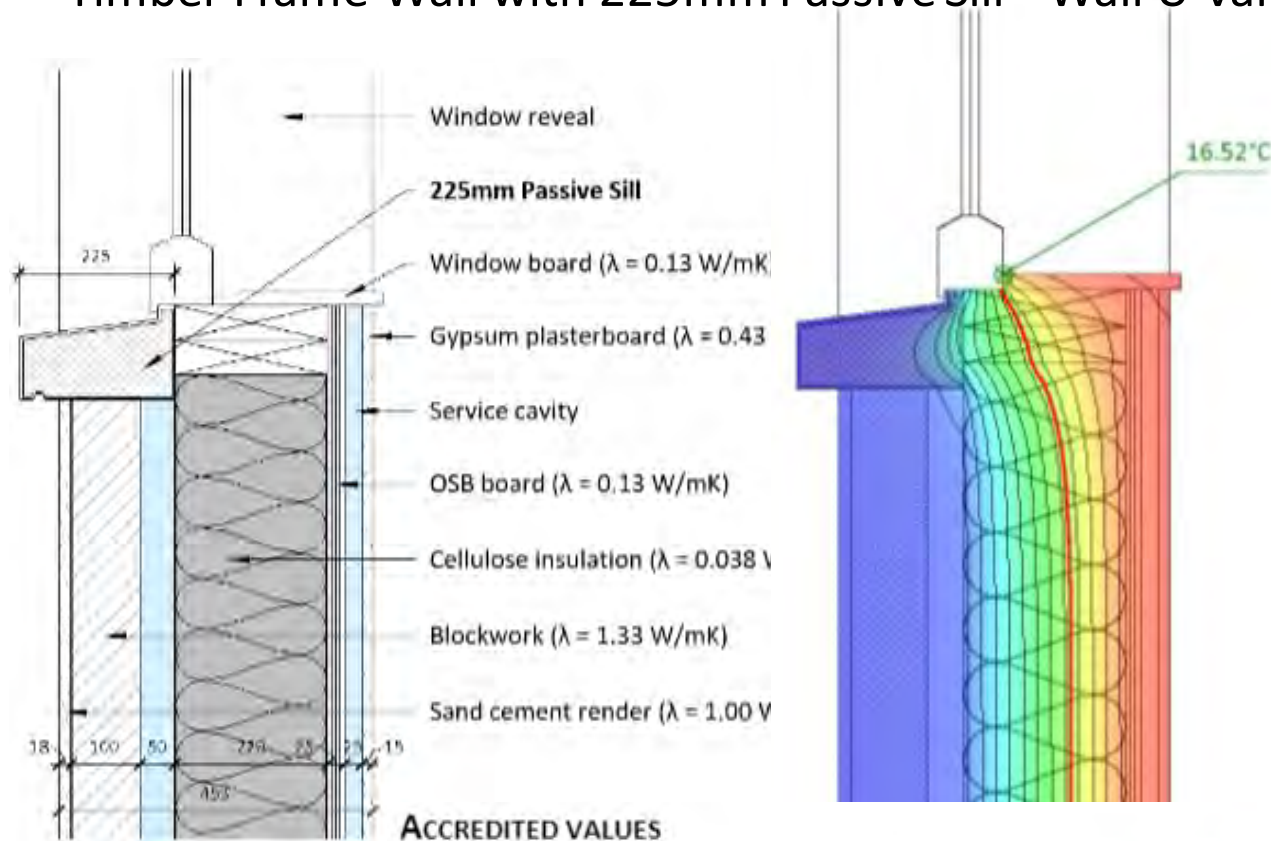
Case Study - Timber Frame - Window Sills – Thermal Bridging – ACD's

(4) TIMBER FRAME	Ope - Sill	DETAIL 4.22, 2011
<p>THERMAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure insulation brought tight to underside of cill plate</p> <p>Need more insulation to comply with NZEB</p>		<p>AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Apply flexible sealant to junction between lining and windowboard, and between windowboard and frame<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure air barrier continuity between wall linings and frame<input type="checkbox"/> Apply external flexible seal around frame<input type="checkbox"/> Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant or tape <p><i>Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability</i></p>



Timber Frame - Window Cills – Passive Sills

Timber Frame Wall with 225mm Passive Sill - Wall U-value – 0.14 W/m²K



	ψ-value (W/mK)
Acceptable Construction Details	+0.034
Concrete Sill	+0.078
Passive Sills	+0.051

- Works with timber frame construction
- Installed in the same way as a traditional sill
- Excellent insulation value
- Reduces cold bridging at this point
- Improves the overall performance of your window.
- 10% of the weight of a traditional concrete or stone sill and reduces the risk of manual handling injuries on site
- 3 different finishes, sandstone, grey granite or white granite



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Image Source: Passivesills

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Case Study - Concrete & Steel Split Lintel – Thermal Bridging – ACD’s

(1) WALLS:- INSULATION IN CAVITY

Open Split Lintels – Steel and Concrete

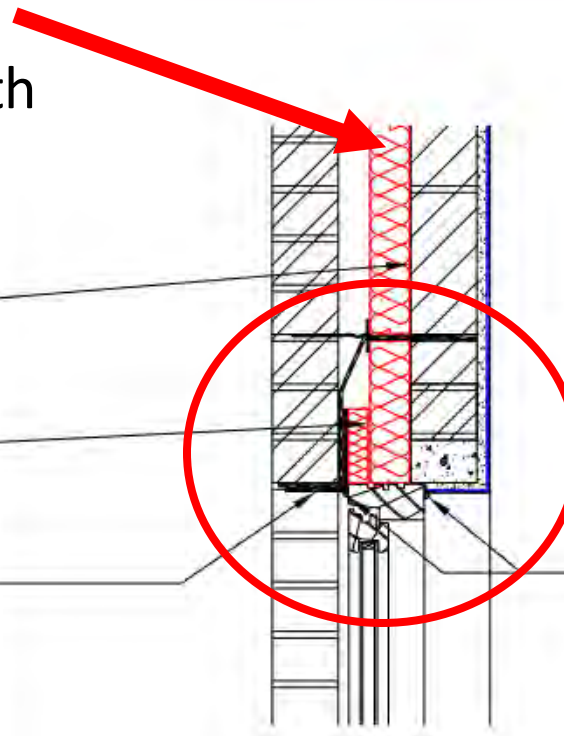
DETAIL 1.21, 2011

Need much more insulation to comply with NZEB

Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall ☐

Continue insulation to width of the cavity ☐

Stainless Steel angle to support outer leaf ☐




AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY

CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)

☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant

☐ Apply flexible sealant to all interfaces between internal air barrier and window / door frame members

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability





(1) WALLS:- INSULATION IN CAVITY

Need much more insulation to comply with NZEB

- Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall
- Continue insulation to width of the cavity
- Install proprietary cavity closer with path of minimum thermal resistance through the closer of not less than $4.29 \text{ m}^2 \text{ K/W}$ (manufacturers certified data)
- Ensure all gaps around and between lintels are tightly packed with insulation

Open - Pre-stressed concrete lintels

DETAIL 1.23.1 + 1.23.2, 2011

The diagrams show cross-sections of concrete lintels in a cavity wall. Red hatched areas represent insulation. Red circles and arrows point to gaps and interfaces that require additional insulation for NZEB compliance.

AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY

CHECKLIST (TICK ALL)

- ☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant
- ☐ If forming the air barrier to the walls with a blockwork inner leaf or a scratch coat on blocks, install a flexible sealant between the cavity closer and blockwork wall
- ☐ Apply flexible sealant to all interfaces between internal air barrier and window / door frame members

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



Case study - Galvanised Steel Top Hat Lintels – Thermal Bridging – ACD's

Alternative Detail (Appendix 2)

Galvanised Steel top hat lintel detail bridging
masonry cavity wall

Diagram 1, 2011

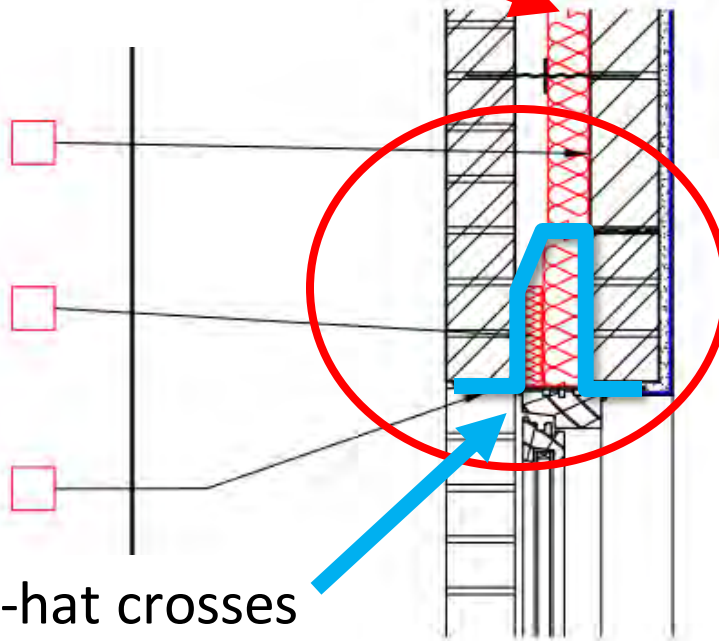
Need much more
insulation to comply
with NZEB

Ensure partial fill insulation is
secured firmly against inner leaf of
cavity wall

Ensure thickness of lintel material
is not more than 3.2mm

Ensure lintel is fully insulated and
does not have a base plate

Steel top-hat crosses
insulation – thermal bridge



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Image Sources: Left: Department of housing, Ireland, Right: IG Lintels

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Case Study - Perforated Stainless Steel Lintel – Thermal Bridging – ACD's

(1) WALLS:- INSULATION IN CAVITY

**Open - Perforated Steel Lintel
(Stainless Steel)**

DETAIL 1/22, 2011

Need much more insulation to comply with NZEB

Ensure partial fill insulation is secured firmly against inner leaf of cavity wall

Continue insulation to width of the cavity

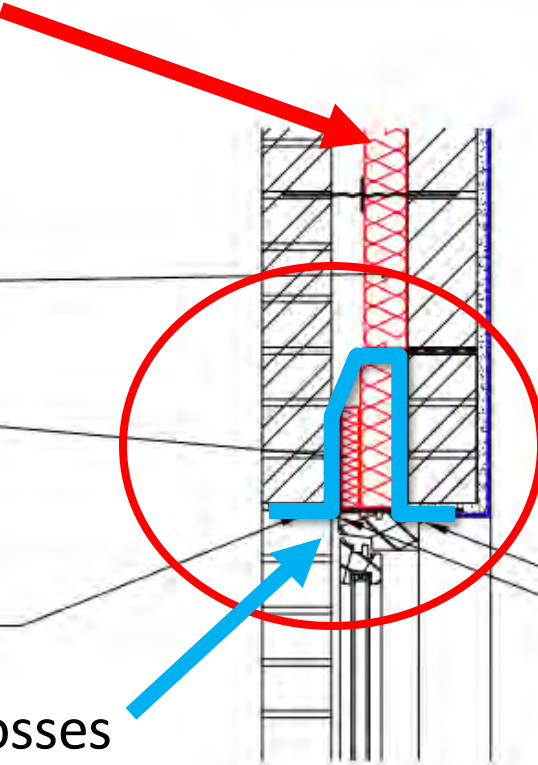
Stainless steel lintel with perforated base plate. Base plate thermal conductivity not exceeding 7 W/mK. Thickness of lintel material no more than 3

Steel top-hat crosses insulation – thermal bridge

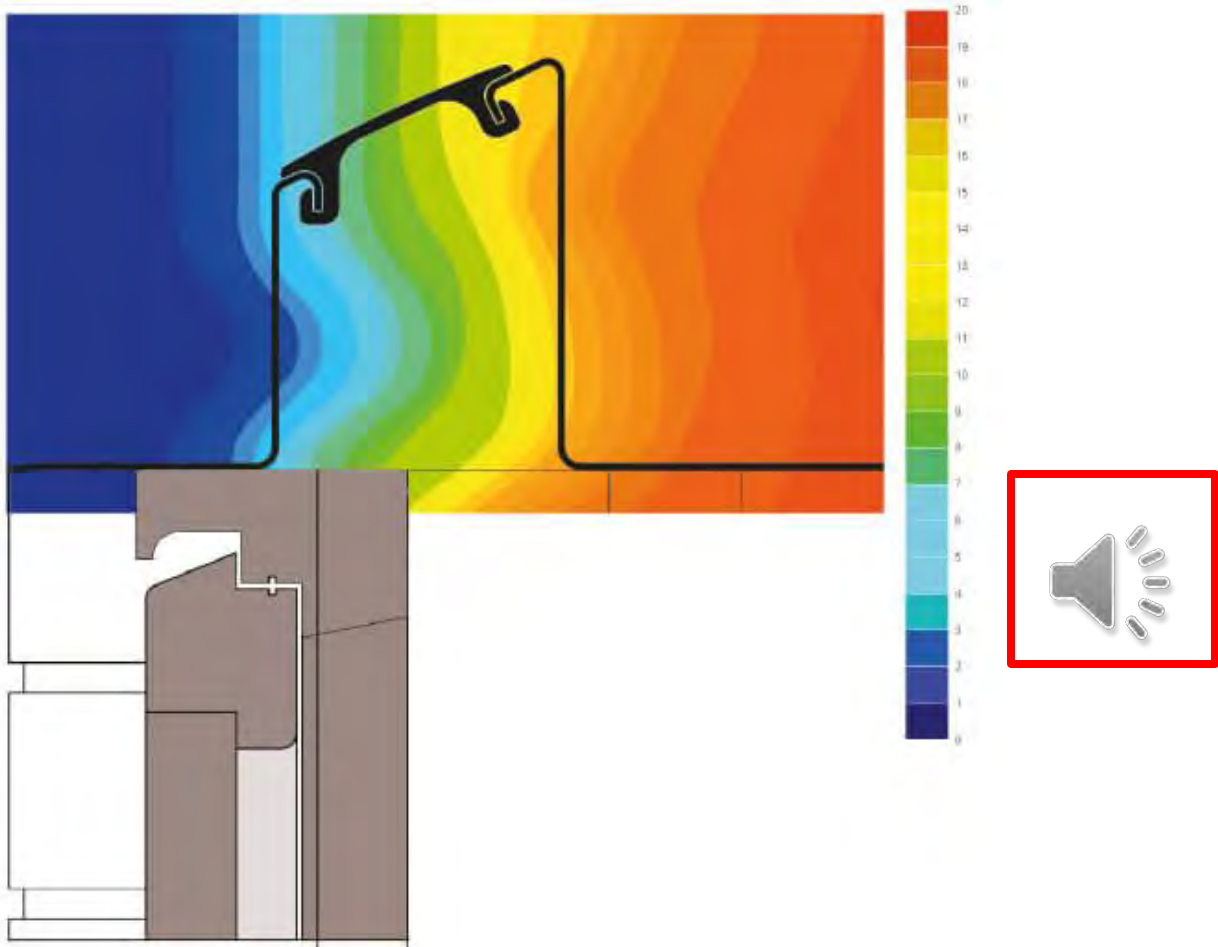
AIR BARRIER - CONTINUITY
CHECKLIST
(TICK ALL)

- ☐ Seal all penetrations through air barrier using a flexible sealant
- ☐ Apply flexible sealant to all interfaces between internal air barrier and window / door frame members

Complying with checklist will help achieve design air permeability



GRP Hi-Therm Lintels– Thermal Bridging – ACD’s



Hi-therm + Lintel = 80% improvement over the default or accredited lintel Psi-value



Comparing Different Lintels – Thermal Bridging – ACD's

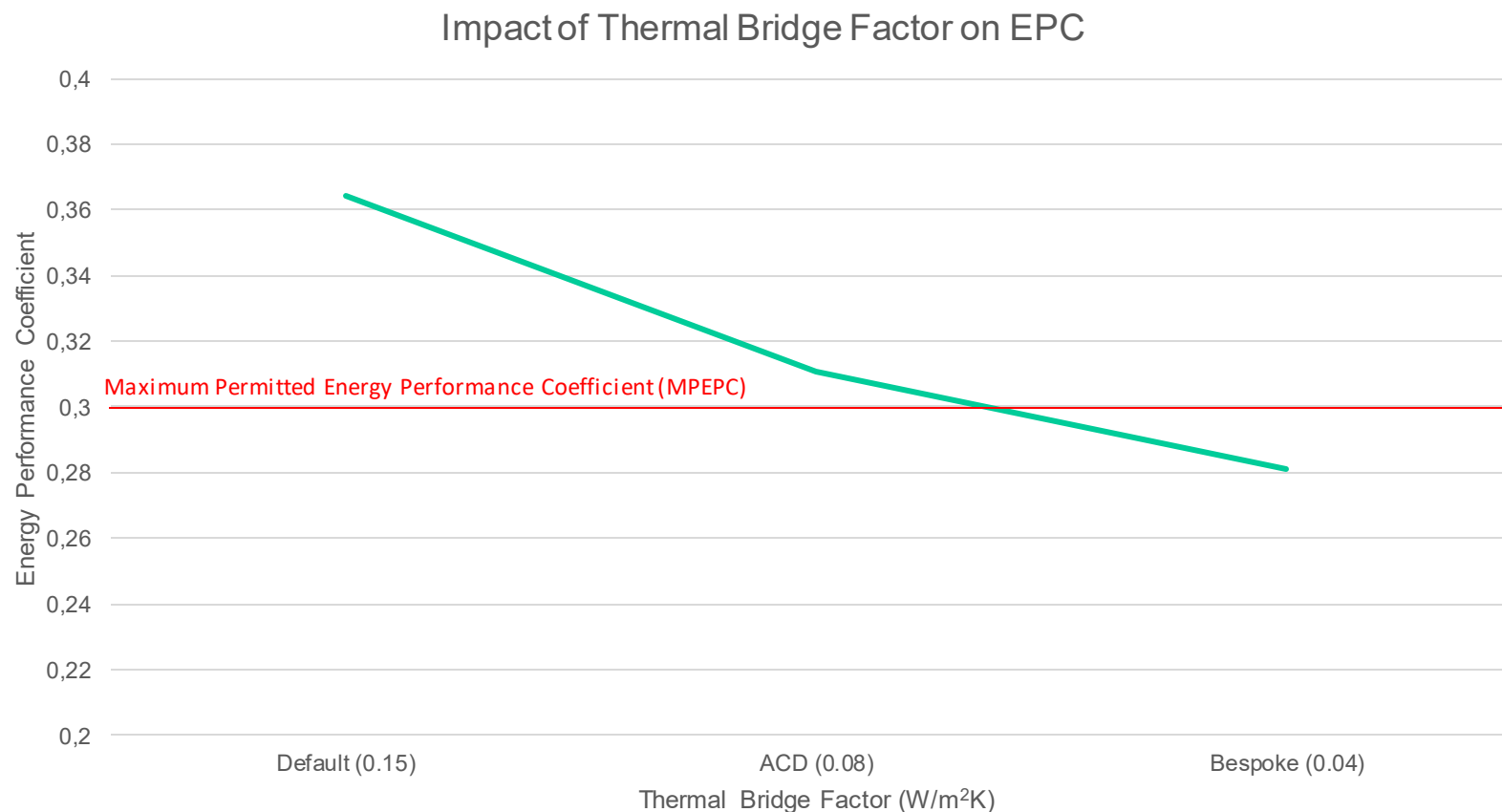
Lintel Construction	Thermal Conductivity
Hi-therm+ Lintel	0.03 – 0.06 W/m.K
Standard Lintel	0.22 W/m.K
Default Non Plated Steel Lintel	0.33 W/m.K
Plated Steel Lintel	0.5 W/m.K



*Depending on wall construction.



The Impact of the Thermal Bridge Factor in DEAP



- The chart above shows how the thermal bridge factor impacts the energy performance coefficient of an NZEB dwelling.
- As you can see, only the bespoke thermal bridge factor is compliant with NZEB in this case.
- The dwelling used for this study is the 'Example A' dwelling presented by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Part L 2019.



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Image Source: MosArt

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Module 5

Building Fabric 2: Windows and Doors

Energy Efficiency for Construction



24
partners

12
countries

Date of Event

*Author/ **Institute***

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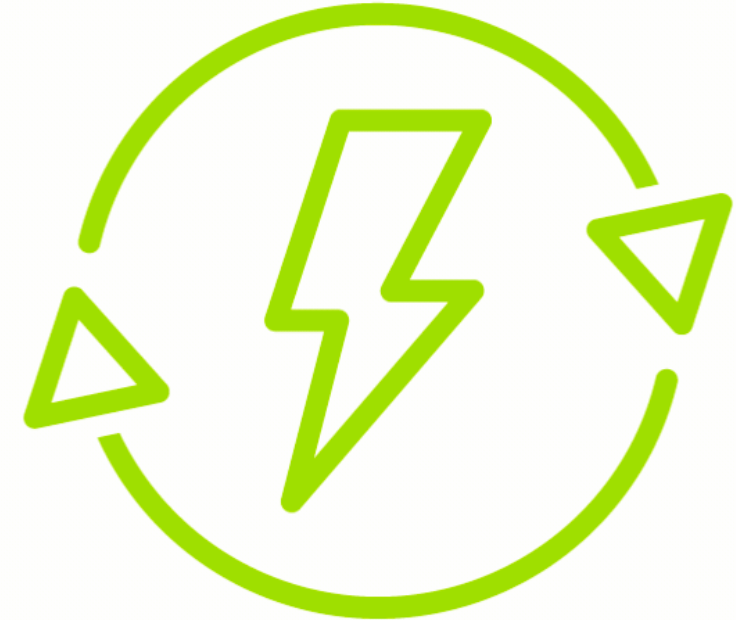
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To equip the learner with the relevant knowledge and skills required to understand the importance of maintaining continuous insulation around the envelope and how to implement measures to prevent heat loss



Building Fabric 2 | Objectives



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1. Outline the principles of **continuous insulation and thermal bridging**
2. Outline the importance of creating a continuously insulated thermal envelope in order to **reduce heat loss** through the building fabric
3. Identify the insulation layer(s) in a range of **construction drawings** for the external envelope.
4. Outline the terms thermal conductivity, thermal resistance and U-value and identify the **units of measurement** used for them
5. Identify insulation materials that are certified **and fit for purpose**
6. Outline the **impact** of the energy efficiency of the building if the specified insulation type is substituted with an alternative type of lower thermal conductivity.
7. Outline the importance of **avoiding thermal bridging** in NZEB buildings
8. Investigate how to prevent thermal bridging at junctions using **Best Practice details**.
9. Outline the risks associated with **poor workmanship** relating to continuity of the insulation layer by considering reducing the number and size of service penetrations
10. Outline the **best practice procedures** regarding placement of windows, window sills, and floors in the insulation layer with special emphasis on fire safety and thermal retention.



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Topic 1 – Continuous Insulation

Topic 2 – Thermal Bridging

Topic 3 – Windows and Doors

On the following slides you will
see this icon:



Click and play to find out more



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3. Windows and Doors



Reality Bites: Optimal Performance Spec for House



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or heat pump

Table E1.1 Example A: Semi-detached dwelling with gas boiler for space heating and continuous mechanical extract ventilation	
Element or system	Specifications
Windows and glazed doors	Double Triple glazed, low E ($E_n = 0.05$, soft coat) 20 mm gap, argon filled, PVC frames ($U = 1.3$ 0.9 W/m ² K, solar transmittance = 0.6)



Cost optimal windows for NZEB likely to require triple- glazing!



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Image [Source](#): Department of Housing, Planning and Local
Government Ireland

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Energy and Comfort Related Window Functions



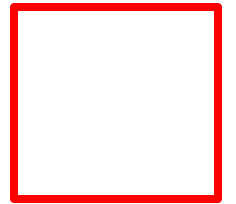
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- Insulating element
- Solar gains
- Provide natural light
- Passive summer ventilation
- Protection from overheating (with low solar gain glass)
- Noise protection

Other:

- Means of emergency egress
- Security



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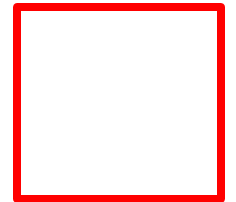
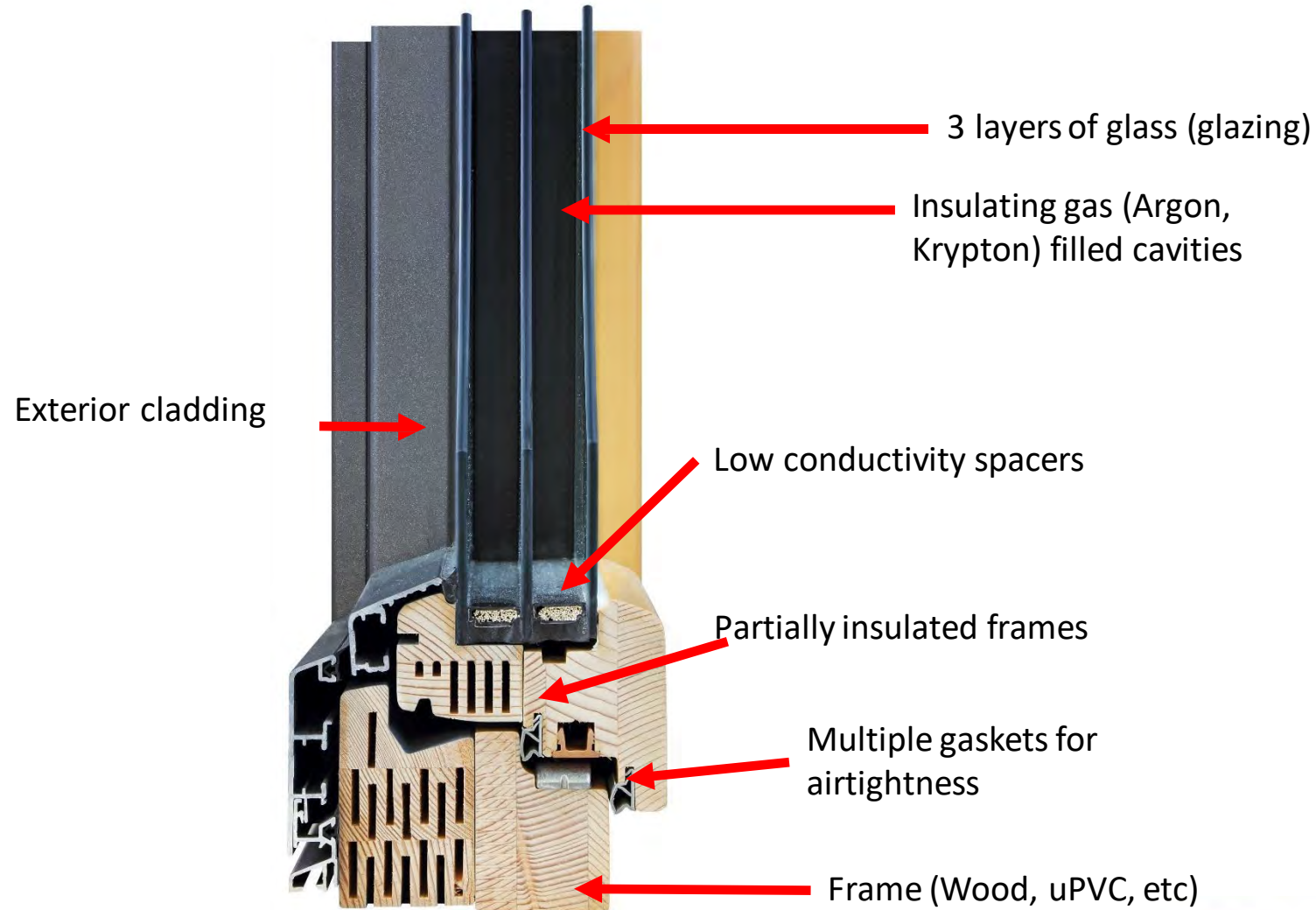
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High Performance Window Elements



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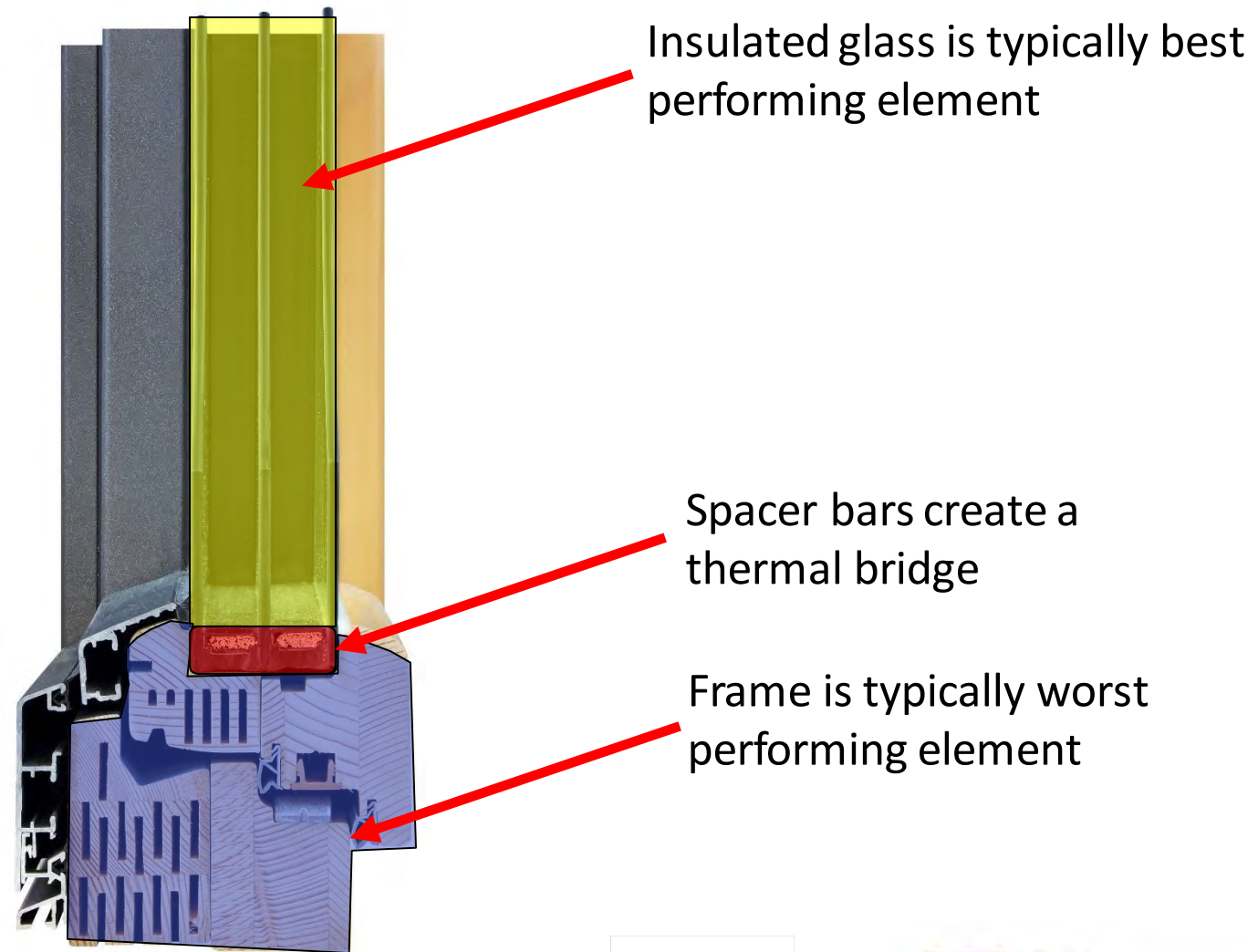
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High Performance Window Elements



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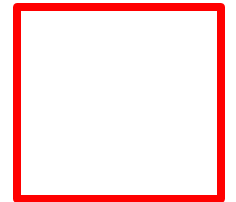
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Notice Anything Special About this Window Frame?



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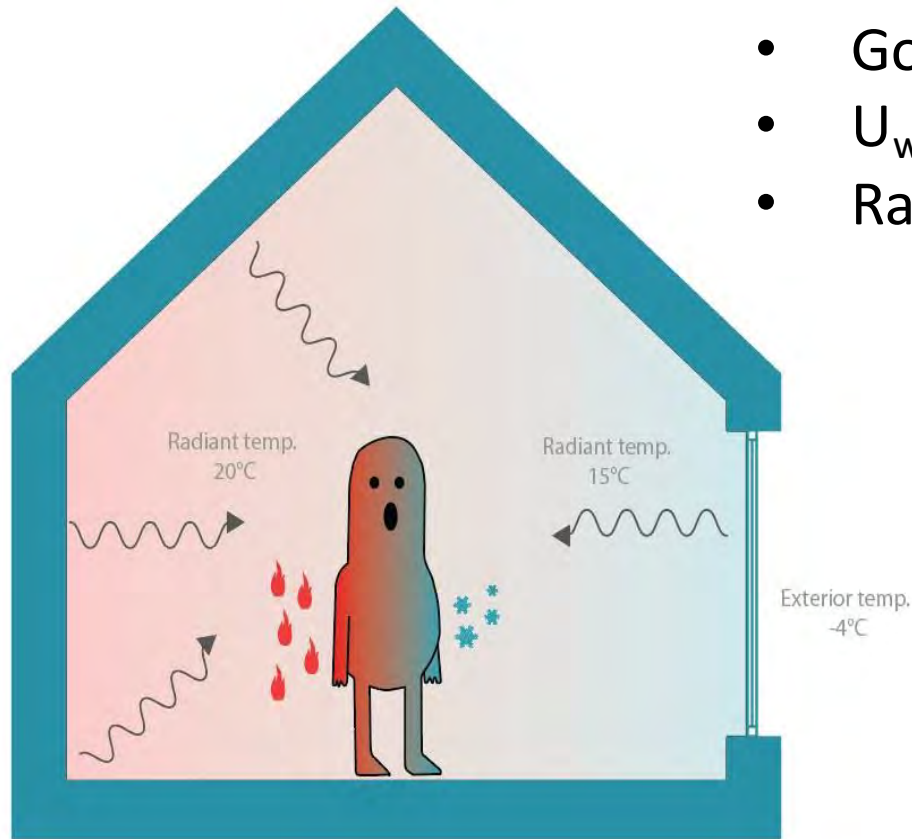
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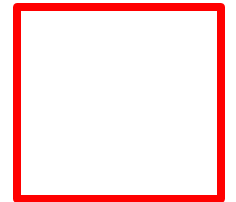
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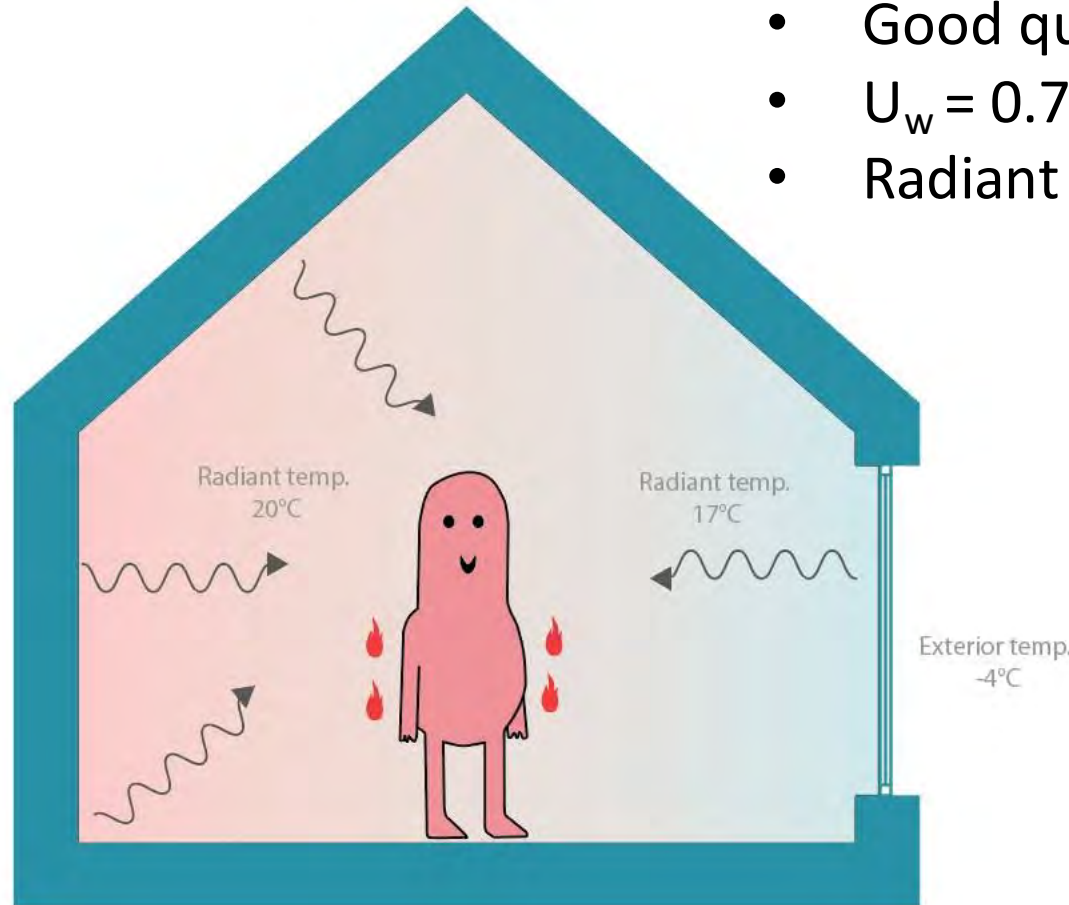




- Good quality double-glazed window:
- $U_w = 1.13 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$
- Radiant temperature difference: 5 C

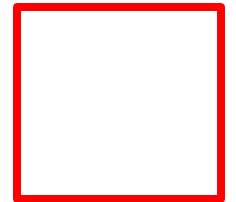
- The surface of the glass when it's cold outside is too low.
- A radiator near the window is required to provide comfort





- Good quality triple-glazed window:
- $U_w = 0.70 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K})$
- Radiant temperature difference: 3 C

- The surface of the glass is comfortable even when its very cold outside
- A radiator adjacent to the window is not needed for comfort

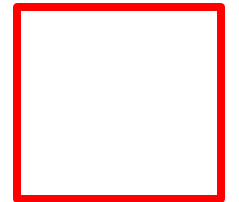


Windows – Getting the Energy Balance Right



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Windows are the weakest part of the thermal envelope, but they also provide free solar gains – plus, you need to consider overheating risk!



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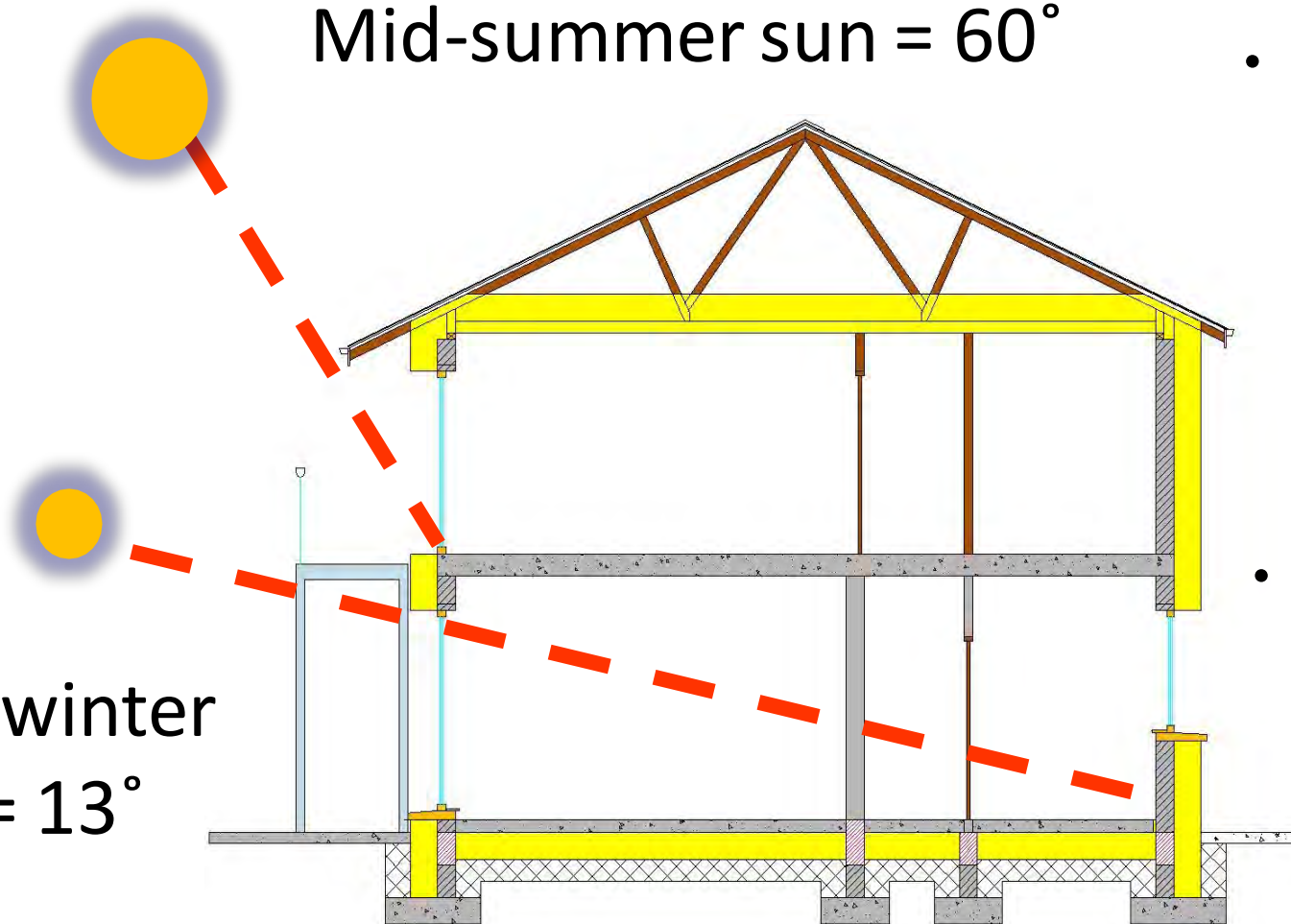


Solar Shading (South)



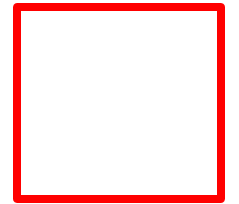
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Mid-summer sun = 60°



Mid-winter
sun = 13°

- Shading can also be provided with **deciduous trees** which are bare in winter and allow solar gains into the building
- You can also use glass with a low g-value (solar heat gain coefficient)



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

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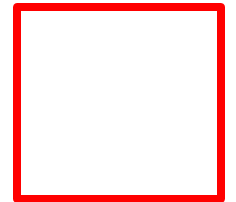


Best Practice for Placement of Windows



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- Windows should **sit in the same plane as the insulation** to ensure continuity of the insulation
- Ideally in the **middle of the wall insulation**, difficult due to fixings
- In solid masonry with external wall insulation, fit the window just in front of the exterior of the wall, **structural support necessary**
- **Heat loss rises** if window is in masonry plane
- More **choice of position of window in timber frame** construction, it can be on the inside or the outside
- Setting the window deep in the **reveal will reduce solar gain**
- The exterior of the frame should be **wrapped in insulation**
- If the window is to the interior, the **reveal should be wrapped in insulation**



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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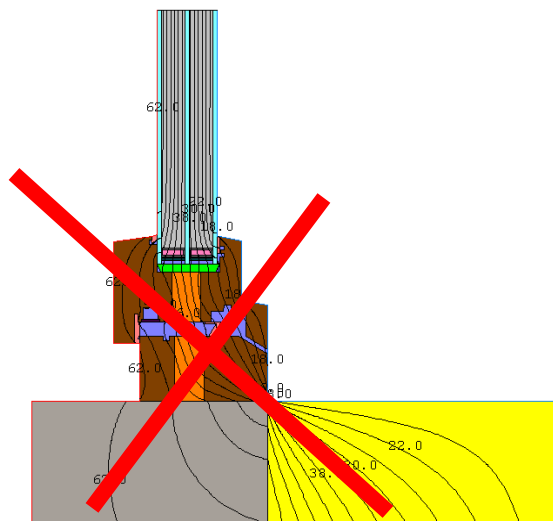
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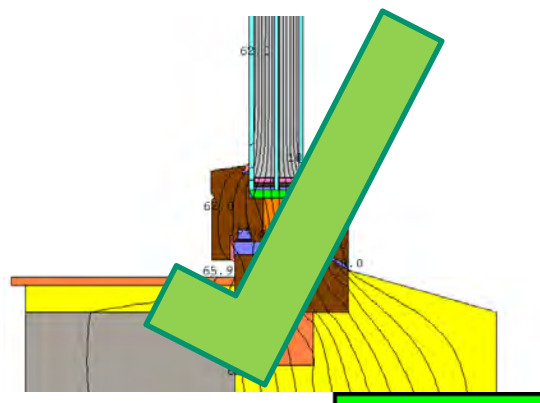
Window Fitting Thermal Bridge



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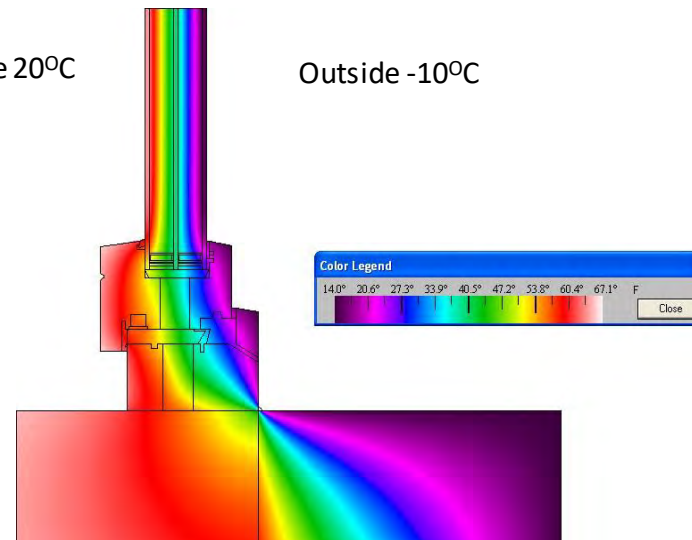
Ψ_e (for PHPP) 0.187 W/mK



Ψ_e (for PHPP) 0.01 W/mK

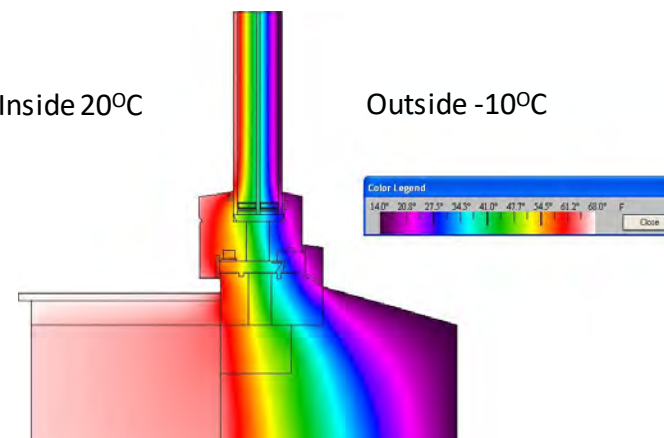
Inside 20°C

Outside -10°C



Inside 20°C

Outside -10°C



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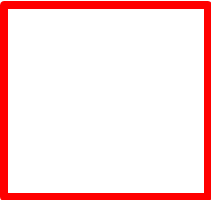
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Energy Efficiency for Construction:
Building Fabric 2

Image Source: MosArt

EWI – External Wall Insulation



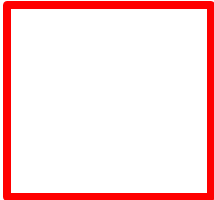
Insulation placed externally on masonry buildings dramatically reduces thermal bridging



Windows Supported in EWI by Compacfoam



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Structural insulation that can be bolted to masonry to support windows and doors



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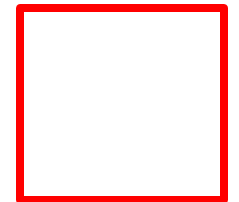
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External Wall Insulation using PIR



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Window first supported by Compacfoam insulation, then surrounded by external wall insulation



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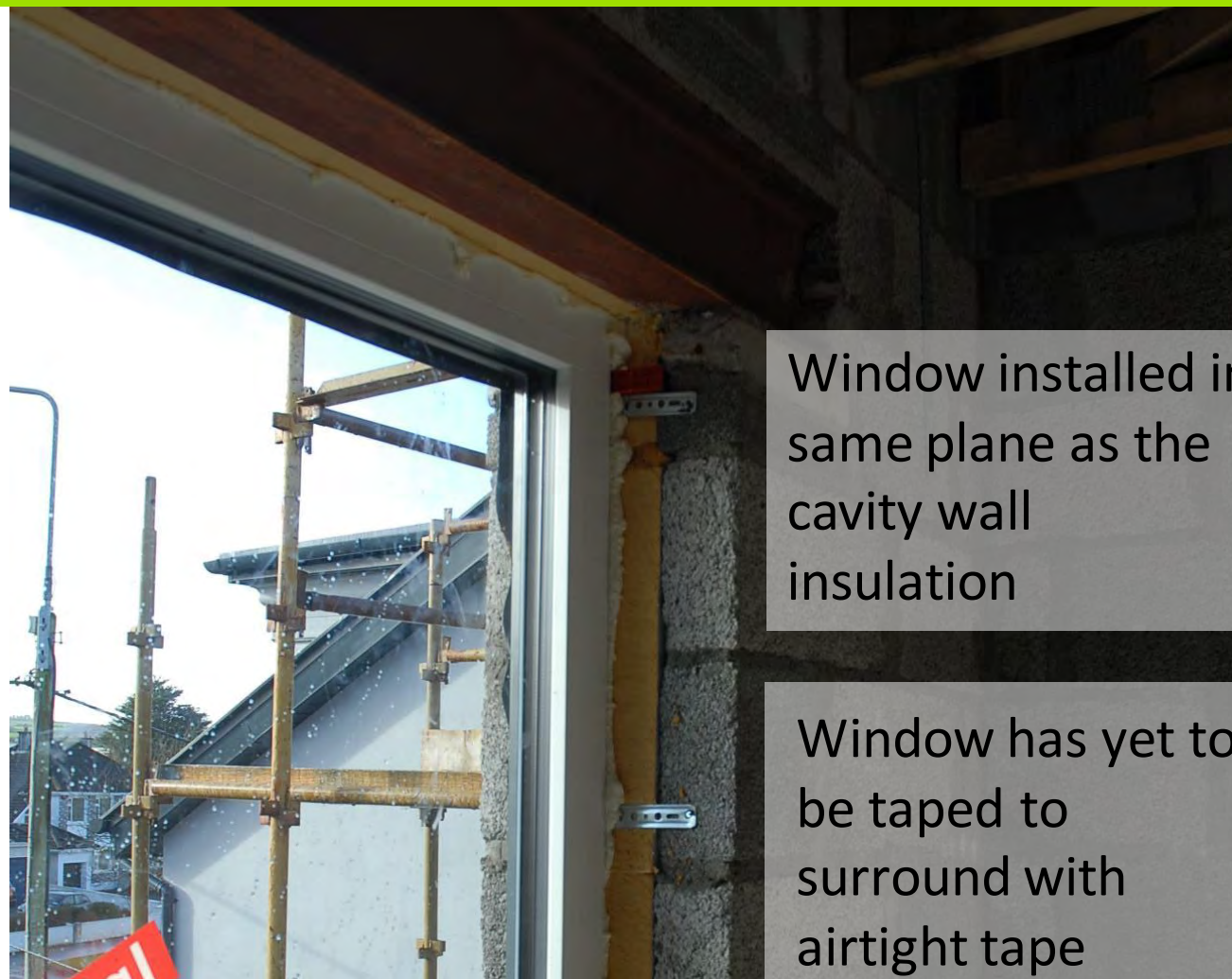
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Window Installation in Cavity Wall

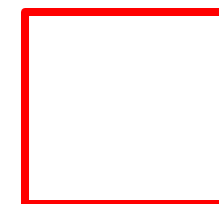


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Window installed in
same plane as the
cavity wall
insulation

Window has yet to
be taped to
surround with
airtight tape



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Non –Metal Flashing: Pro Clima Extoseal



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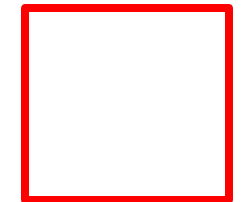
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Metal Exterior Sill Pans



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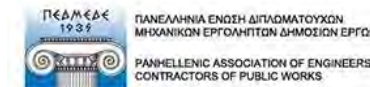


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