

Nebraska's New Residential Energy Code

Requirements and Best Practices

Nebraska Energy Code Training Program

Instructor: Matt Belcher

April 29, 2021: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm CST







Housekeeping

- Attendees are muted upon entry
- Questions? Enter them in the chat box
- Webinar is being recorded slides and recording will be sent to attendees
- CEU's will be available upon request (ICC)
 - Course: 28218, CEUs: 0.20
- Email nwestfall@mwalliance.org with questions







About MEEA

- MEEA is a nonprofit membership organization with 160+ members, including:
 - Utilities
 - Research institutions
 - State and local governments
 - Energy efficiency-related businesses
- MEEA helps stakeholders understand and implement costeffective energy efficiency strategies









About the Nebraska Training Program

- Goal: prepare the Nebraska workforce for upcoming changes in construction best practices
 - Residential and Commercial Energy Code
 - Building Science
 - Practical Solutions
- Focused on providing training to builders, code officials, design professionals, public officials and students
- For more information, visit: <u>https://www.mwalliance.org/nebraska-energy-codes-training-program</u>





About Verdatek Solutions



Matt Belcher









Introduction Poll #1

- What is your profession?
 - Code Official
 - Home Builder
 - State/local government
 - Energy Rater/Consultant
 - Architect/Engineer
 - Non-profit
 - Academic
 - Utility
 - Other (type in chat)







Introduction Poll #2

- How long have you been in the construction industry?
 - 0-5 years
 - 5-10 years
 - 11-15 years
 - 16-20 years
 - 21+ years







Introduction Poll #3

- How familiar are you with the residential provisions in the 2018 IECC?
 - Extremely Familiar
 - Somewhat Familiar
 - Somewhat Unfamiliar
 - Not familiar at all







Training Objectives

What is the 2018 Energy Code?

- Inside the Energy Code:
 - Building Envelope
 - Interior Comfort/Health
 - Remodeling

Performance Buildings











Today's Agenda

- Code Requirements in the 2018 IECC
- Moisture Management
- Air Movement
- Heat Transfer
- Performance Testing
- HVAC System
- Key Takeaways









What is the 2018 IECC?

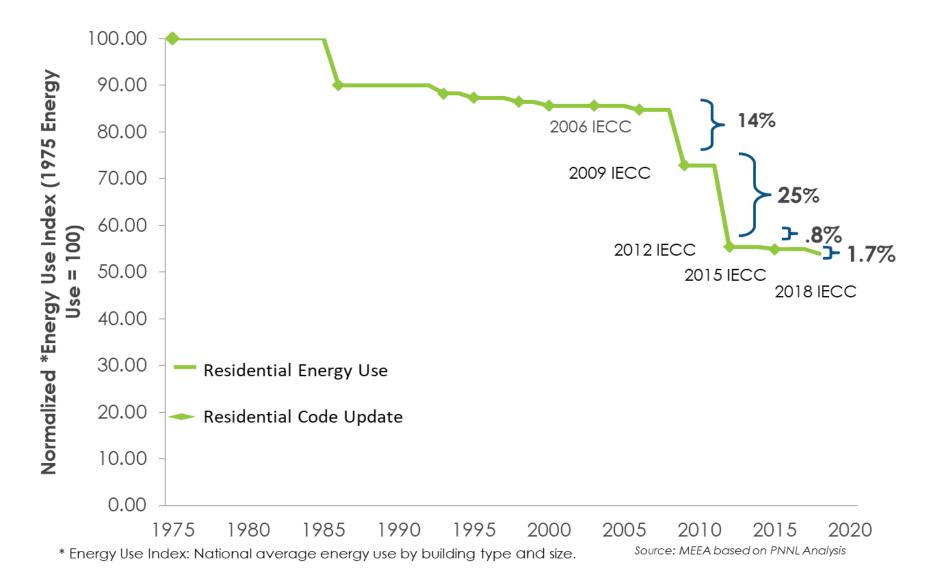
(Nothing scary, really!)







Model Energy Code Efficiency



Nebraska Residential Field Study

- Conducted in 2017 by Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. 2009 IECC was the baseline.
- Collected and analyzed several data points for new homes, including:
 - Envelope air leakage
 - Efficacy in lighting
 - Duct leakage
 - Ceiling & exterior wall insulation
 - Basement & slab insulation
 - Windows

For More Information and Data:

https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ Nebraska_Residential_Compliance_Evaluation_final.pdf





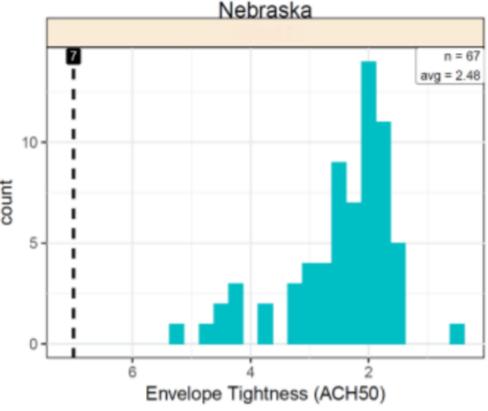


Nebraska Residential Field Study -Results

- Overall, not too bad! But room to improve.
 - Envelope Air Leakage: Better than code (7 ACH50)
 - Not all would meet 2018 IECC
 - Efficacy in Lighting: Average; some good, some not
 - Duct Leakage: Ugh!
 - Needs significant improvement to meet 2018 IECC
 - Ceiling Insulation:
 - Amount: Good+ (Average: R-42.5)
 - Install: Not as good. Reduces compliance (R-factor)





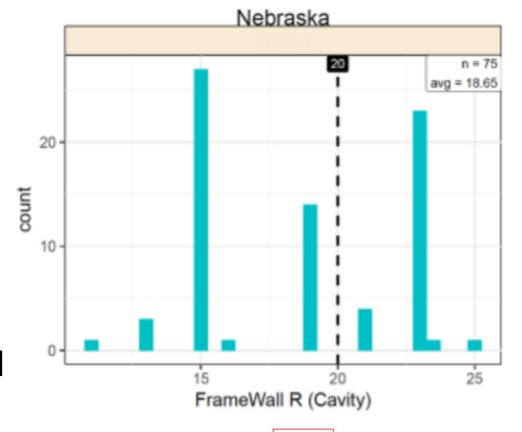




Nebraska Residential Field Study - Results

- Frame Wall Insulation: Most common installation was below code
 - Even continuous insulation < Code
 - Quality of Installation an issue
- Basement Insulation: Meets code(average), but room to improve
- Slab insulation: Meets or exceeds code
- Windows: Meets code but will need to upgrade to meet 2018 IECC

Frame Wall R-Value (Cavity)









So, What's Changed since 2009?



2018 IECC / IRC Section 11

- Creates a Residential Energy Code separate from the Commercial Energy Code
- Adds testing and verification requirements
- Promotes Innovation through Energy Ratings Index (ERI)
 - Uses a HERS-type index as an "equivalent" for residential applications
 - Mandatory requirements still apply







Energy Certificate

 Energy Certificate located on circuit breaker box includes key energy efficiency measures and is signed by the builder

Air Sealing

- All holes between floors and through exterior walls/ceilings have been sealed in accordance with table R402.4.1.1
- Building or dwelling unit is tested to verify air leakage rate of ≤ 3 Air Changes per Hour (ACH)
- Building or dwelling unit must have continuous air barrier installed







Ducts

- All ducts are sealed with approved materials (e.g. mastic or UL 181 tape) - duct tape is not acceptable
- All ducts outside conditioned space are tested to verify duct leakage with a total duct leakage or leakage to the outside test
- Supply & return ducts in attic insulated to \geq R-6 when ducts are outside conditioned space and \geq R-8 when ducts are outside the building thermal envelope

Building Cavities

 Building framing cavities shall not be used as supply ducts or plenums





Heating and Cooling

- Controls: Programmable thermostat installed
- Equipment sized per ACCA Manuals S & J

Lighting

- Minimum of 90% high-efficacy lamps installed
- Recessed lighting in thermal envelope IC-rated and airtight

Mechanical Ventilation

- Installed according to requirements in the International Mechanical Code
- Required for all homes ≤ 5 ACH per Section M303.4 (3 ACH is a 2018 IECC mandatory requirement)







Other requirements

- Wood-burning fireplaces have tight flue dampers or doors, and outdoor combustion air
- Mechanical system piping insulated to min R-3 for fluids >105° F or <55° F
- Circulating hot water systems shall be insulated to at least R-2. Systems shall include an automatic, or readily accessible, off-switch.







Energy Code Compliance Pathways

Prescriptive Method Requirements

All mandatory and prescriptive requirements must be met

Total UA Method Requirements

- All mandatory and prescriptive requirements (other than Table R402.1.2) must be met
- Include documentation to demonstrate compliance with the UA Trade-off method. Compliance software submittal must include completed compliance form, inspection checklist and certificate demonstrating compliance with 2018 IECC levels





Energy Code Compliance Pathways

Simulated Performance Requirements (Section R405)

- All mandatory requirements must be met
- Submit an energy cost analysis report which demonstrates that the proposed design (as built) home is more efficient than the standard reference design home

Energy Rating Index Requirements (Section R406)

- All Mandatory requirements met. Meet or exceed 2009 IECC prescriptive envelope requirements
- ERI score of 61 or lower. Submit report demonstrating compliance





Indicates Change

Table R402.1.2 Insulation Requirements By Component

Requirement	2009 IECC	2018 IECC
Ceiling R-value	R-38	R-49
Wall R-value	R-20 or R-13+5	R-20 or R-13+5
Floors over unconditioned space	R-30	R-30
Basement R-value	10/13	15/19
Slab R-value and depth	10, 2 ft.	10, 2 ft. *R-5 insulation shall be provided under the full area of a heated slab
Crawl space wall R-value	10/13	15/19



Table R402.1.2 Fenestration Requirements By Component

Requirement	2009 IECC	2018 IECC
Fenestration U-factor (windows, glass, opaque and swinging doors with <50% glazing)	.35	0.30
Skylight U-factor	.60	0.55







Requirement	2009 IECC	2018 IECC
Eave Baffle	NO REQUIREMENT	For air permeable insulations in vented attics, a baffle shall be installed adjacent to soffit and eave vents. Baffles shall maintain an opening equal or greater size than the vent. The baffle shall extend over the top of the attic insulation. The baffle shall be permitted to be any solid material. (402.2.3)
Hot water pipe insulation	NO REQUIREMENT	Insulated to R-3, ¾ or larger pipes with exceptions (403.5.3)







Indicates Change

Requirement	2009 IECC	2018 IECC
Duct Insulation	Supply ducts in attics shall be insulated to a minimum of R-4. Exception: Ducts or portions thereof in conditioned space (403.2.1)	Supply and Return ducts in attics shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6 or R-8 , depending on diameter. All other ducts shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6 or R-4 . Exception: Ducts or portions in conditioned space (403.3.1)
Duct Testing	Post construction: Leakage to Outdoors: 8 cfm/100 sq. ft. Total Leakage: 12 cfm/100 sq. ft. Rough-in: Total Leakage: 6 cfm/100 sq. ft. Exception: Duct tightness test not required if most ducts located entirely within building envelope. (403.2.2)	Ducts tested to the following leakage rates: Post construction: Total Leakage: 4 cfm/100 sq. ft. Rough-in: Total Leakage: 4 cfm/100 sq. ft. Exception: Duct tightness test not required if all ducts located entirely within building envelope. (403.3.4)

Other changes in the 2018 IECC



Indicates Change

Requirement	2009 IECC	2018 IECC
Thermally Isolated sunroom U-factor	Maximum fenestration U-factor shall be 0.50 and maximum skylight U-factor shall be 0.75. (402.3.5)	Maximum fenestration U-factor shall be 0.45 and maximum skylight U-factor shall be 0.70. (402.3.5)
Buried Ducts in Attic	Not referenced	Ducts tested to have a maximum leakage rate of 1.5 cfm25/100 sq. ft. to the outside, are insulated with ≥ R-8 insulation, and have at least R-19 insulation above and to the sides of the ducts, count as being in conditioned space. (403.3.6)









Performance Testing

A Great Benefit (and a new code requirement)









- Blower door test documents a home's air leakage performance
- Required by code
- Third party verification (some areas; performed by Inspectors)
- Provides solid data for final equipment adjustment and energy use/cost forecast
- Great liability protection for all involved



ate: May 02, 2012 Rating No.: 8016891 - 097

 Building Name:
 802EastMcCartyStreet
 Rating Org.:
 ASERusa

 Owner's Name:
 River City Habitat for Humanit
 Phone No.:
 314-894-230

 Property:
 802 East McCarty Street
 Rater's Name:
 Gary Fries

 Address:
 Jefferson City, MO 65101
 Rater's No.:
 8016891

Builder's Name: River City Habitat for Humanit

File Name: 8016891 - 097 - eSTAR 2.0, TC, NR - 802 East M Rating Date: 12/01/11

Whole House Infiltration

	Diowei	Diower door test	
	Heating	Cooling	
NaturalACH:	0.23	0.16	
ACH @ 50 Pascals:	3.78	3.78	
CFM @ 25 Pascals:	427	427	
CFM @ 50 Pascals:	670	670	
Eff. Leakage Area: [sq.in]	36.8	36.8	
Specific Leakage Area:	0.00018	0.00018	
ELA/100 sf shell: [sq.in]	0.96	0.96	

Rating Type

Confirmed

Duct Leakage

Leakage to Outside Units	Ductwork
CFM @ 25 Pascals:	25
CFM25 / CFMfan:	0.0214
CFM25/CFA:	0.0181
CFM per Std 152:	N/A
CFM per Std 152 / CFA:	N/A
CFM @ 50 Pascals:	39
Eff. Leakage Area: [sq.in]	2.15
Thermal Efficiency:	N/A
Total Duct Leakage Units	CFM25/CFA
Total Duct Leakage:	0.0181

Ventilation

Mechanical:	Air Cycler
Sensible Recovery Eff. (%):	0.0
Total Recovery Eff. (%):	0.0
Rate (cfm):	50
Hours/Day:	24.0
Fan Watts:	150.0
Cooling Ventilation:	Natural Ventilation

ASHRAE 62.2 - 2010 Ventilation Requirements

For this home to comply with ASHRAE Standard 82.2 - 2010 Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings, a minimum of 44 cfm of mechanical ventilation must be provided continuously 24 hours per day. Alternatively, an intermittently operating mechanical ventilation system may be used if the ventilation rate is adjusted accordingly. For example, a 88 cfm mechanical ventilation system would need to operate 12 hours per day, as long as the system operates to provide required average ventilation once each hour

REM/Rate - Residential Energy Analysis and Rating Software v12.98

This information does not constitute any warranty of energy cost or savings.

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Date: May 02, 2012

Building Name: 123 Main Street

Owners Name: Jane Smith

Property 123 Main Street Address: Omaha, NE 68007

Builder's Name: **ABC** Construction

Weather Site: Omaha, NE

File Name: 101682391-097

eSTAR

Rating No.: 81158891-901

Rating Org.: Raters USA

Phone: 555-555-5555

Rater's

John Williams

Name:

Rater's No: 1234567

Rating Type: Confirmed

Rating Date: 12/01/20

AIR LEAKAGE REPORT

May 02, 2012 Rating No. 8016891 - 097

802EastMcCartyStreet Rating Org.: **ASERusa** River City Habitat for Humanit Phone No.: 314-894-2300 802 East McCarty Street Property Rater's Name: Gary Fries 8016891 Address Jefferson City, MO 65101 Rater's No.

River City Habitat for Humanit Builder's Name:

Columbia, MO Confirmed Rating Type File Name: 8016891 - 097 - eSTAR 2.0, TC, NR - 802 East M Rating Date: 12/01/11

Whole House Infiltration

Weather Site:

Heating	Cooling
0.23	0.16
3.78	3.78
427	427
670	670
36.8	36.8
0.00018	0.00018
0.96	0.96
	0.23 3.78 427 670 36.8 0.00018

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Whole House Infiltration

	Blower Door Test	
	Heating	Cooling
Natural ACH:	0.23	0.16
ACH @ 50 Pascals:	3.78	3.78
CFM @ 25 Pascals:	427	427
CFM @ 50 Pascals:	670	670
Eff. Leakage Area (sq. in)	36.8	36.8
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ELA/100 sf shell (sq. in)	0.96	0.96

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 8016891

Builder's Name: River City Habitat for Humanit

eather Site: Columbia, MO Rating Type: Confirmed e Name: 8016891 - 097 - eSTAR 2.0, TC, NR - 802 East M Rating Date: 12/01/11

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Hours/Day:	24
Fan Watts:	150.0
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MEEA MIDWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE



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Mechanical: Sensible Recovery Eff. (%): Total Recovery Eff. (%): Pate (xfm):

Oblisible Recovery Lil. (70).	0.0
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Air Cycler

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Ventilation and I.A.Q.



Building Envelope +

Air Sealing Package +

HVAC Design, Equipment & Installation +

ERV/HRV +

Water Heating Design

= Occupant Comfort









Any questions?









Moisture Management

It Connects EVERYTHING!







The Major "Damage Functions"

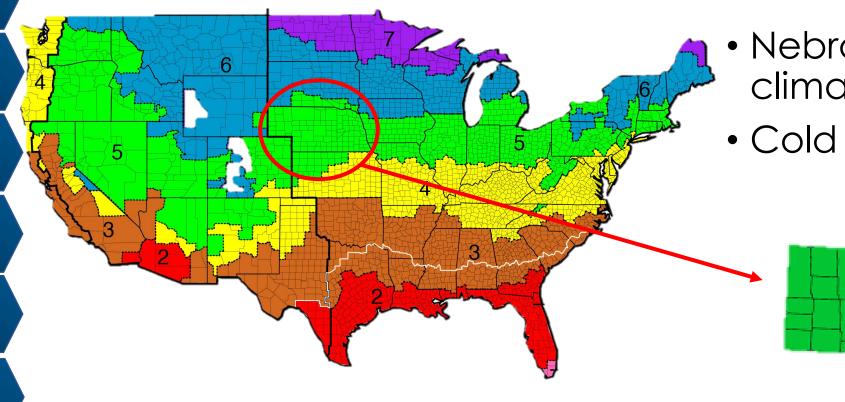
- Liquid water (bulk and capillary)
- Air-borne water
- Vapor
- Radiation (UV degradation)
- Pests
- People



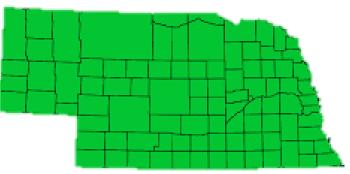




Climate Zones



- Nebraska has only one climate zone – 5A
- Cold & Moist climate









Prioritizing Moisture Movement

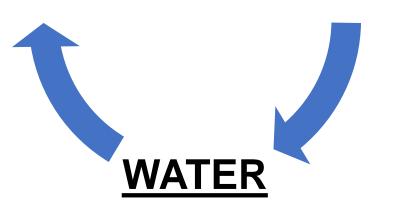
#1 – Bulk Water

#2 – Capillary Water

#3 – Air-Transported Moisture

#4 – Diffusive Moisture Movement











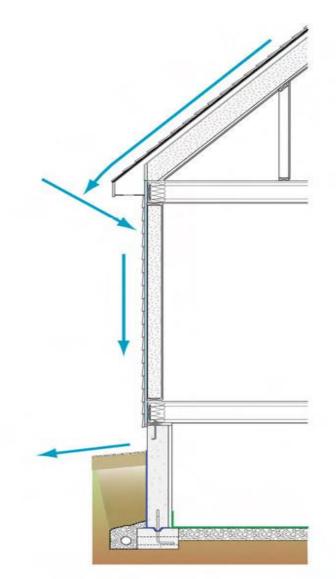
Bulk Water Management – Priority #1



The key is proper drainage!









Always Allow For Drying

Exterior Conditions

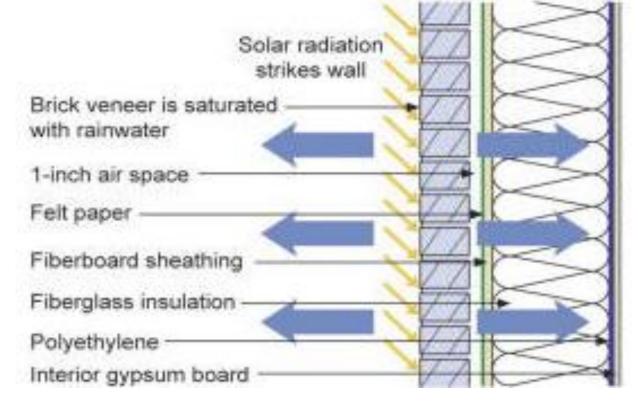
Temperature: 80° F Relative Humidity: 75% Vapor Pressure: 2.49 kPa

Conditions Within Cavity

Temperature: 120° F Relative Humidity: 100% Vapor Pressure: 11.74 kPa

Interior Conditions

Temperature: 75° F Relative Humidity: 60% Vapor Pressure: 1.82 kPa



Vapor is driven both inward and outward by a high vapor pressure differential between the brick and interior and the brick and exterior

Properly Lap Flashing

• The mason's flashing (black) was installed after and in front of the house wrap (green). This is reverse flashing that will trap any drain water that gets past the brick veneer.









Direct Water Away From Corners

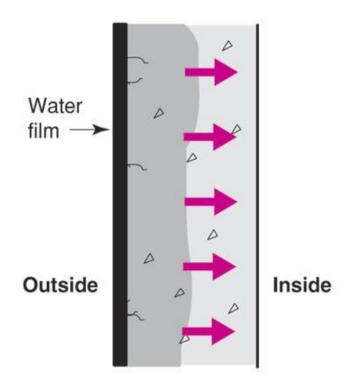


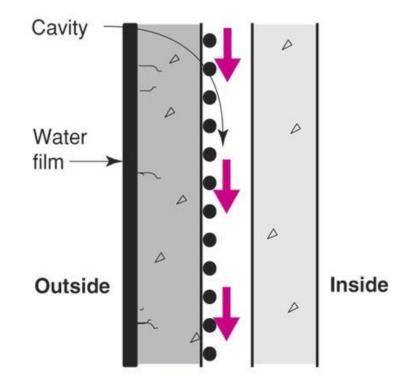






Capillary Moisture Flows - Priority #2





Capillary suction draws water into porous material and tiny cracks Cavity acts as capillary break and receptor for capillary water interrupting flow

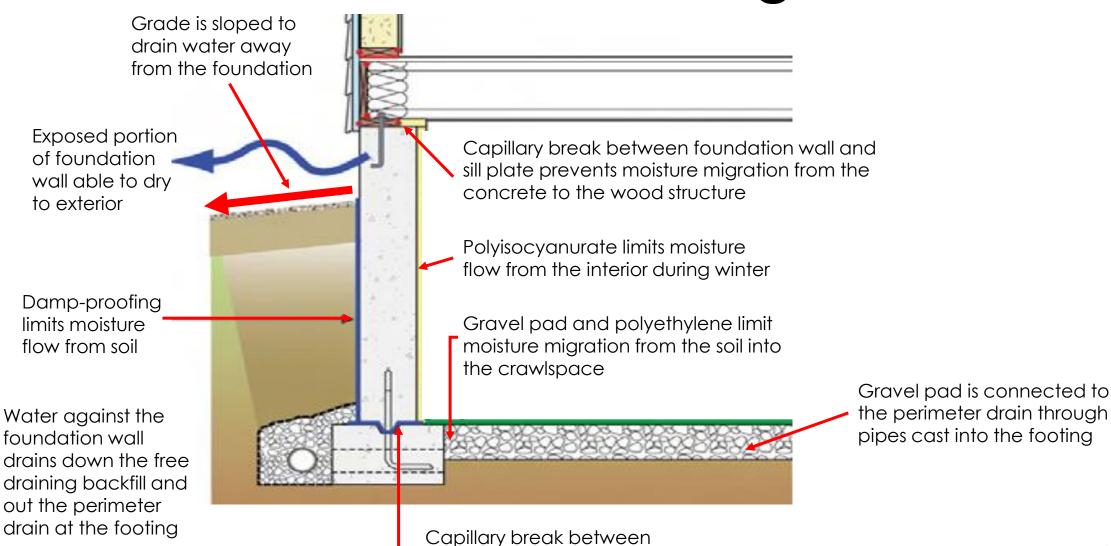
Image courtesy of Building Science Corp.







Foundation Moisture Management



footing and foundation wall

Sill Plates Need Capillary Breaks





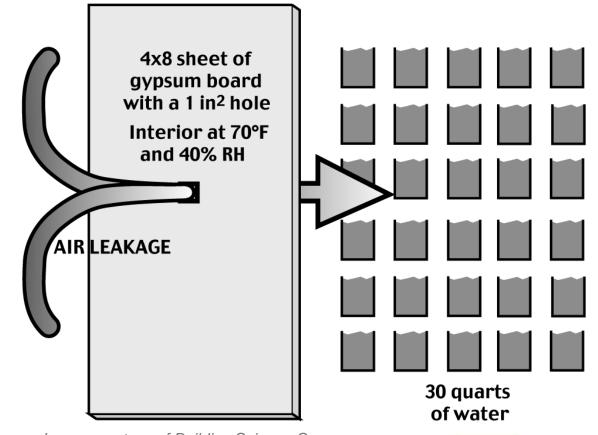






Air Transport of Moisture – Priority #3

- Air carries a *lot* of water
- Air leakage
 - Moisture flow
 - 4X8 Drywall
 - 70 F
 - 40% RH
 - 1 square inch hole
- Flow quantity
 - 30 Quarts of water!!



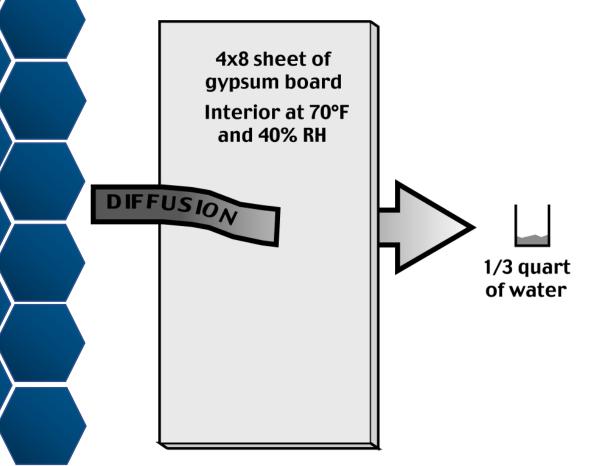








Diffusion – Priority #4



- Migration of moisture by means of vapor pressure differential
- Occurs in either direction based on climate conditions and exterior/interior levels of humidity
- Different building materials have different permeability

Image courtesy of Building Science Corp.









Air Movement

Air Movement Seeks Balance





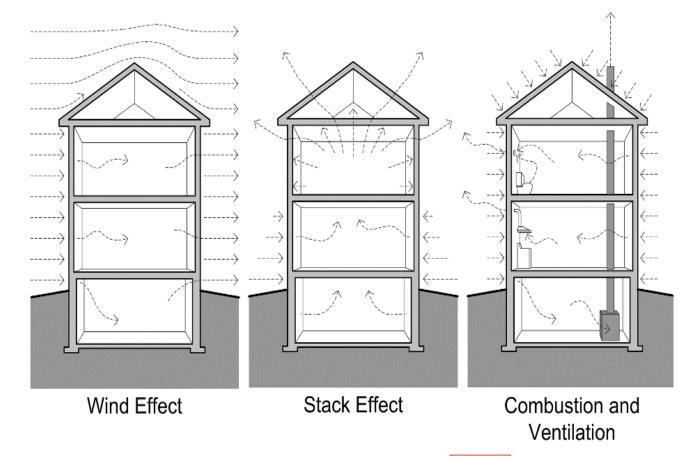


How Does Air Get Around?

Air In = Air Out

For air movement you need:

- A hole
- A driving force
- Another hole

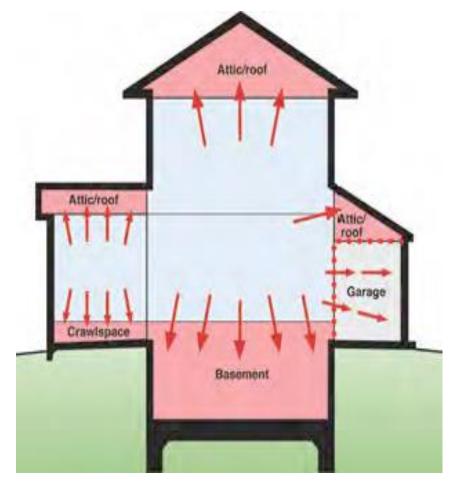








Internally Generated Air Pressure



Expansion of Conditioned Space

- Conditioned space boundaries moving towards exterior surfaces of building
- Garage isolated from house by air barrier/pressure boundary
- Garage ventilated and conditioned independently of rest of conditioned spaces

Image by Belcher Homes

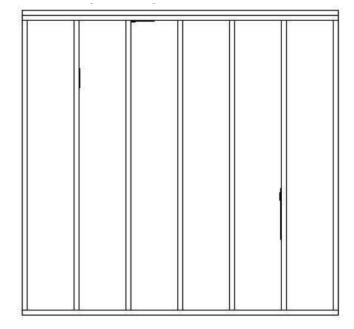


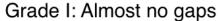




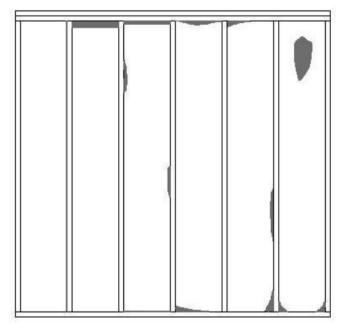
Batt Insulation Grading

Code Compliant

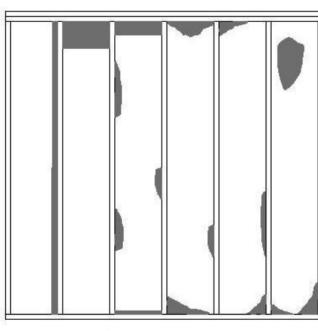




Not Acceptable



Grade II: Up to 2%



Grade III: 2% - 5%

RESNET protocol for the effect of missing insulation on installation grade

Diagrams from the HERS Standards









Heat Transfer

A Triple Threat

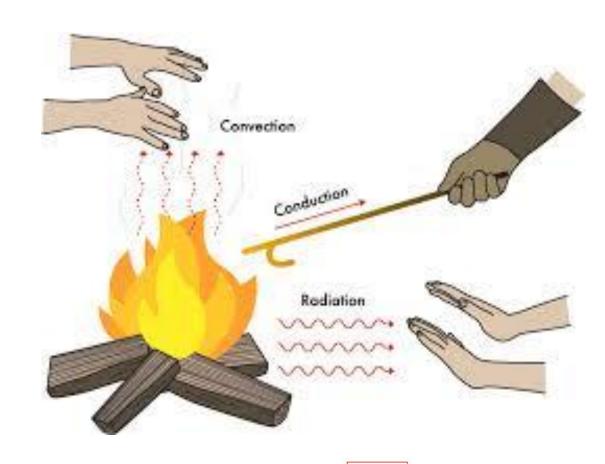






Heat Transfers in 3 Ways

- Convection Through fluids (liquid or gas)
- Conduction Through solids
- Radiation Mostly windows



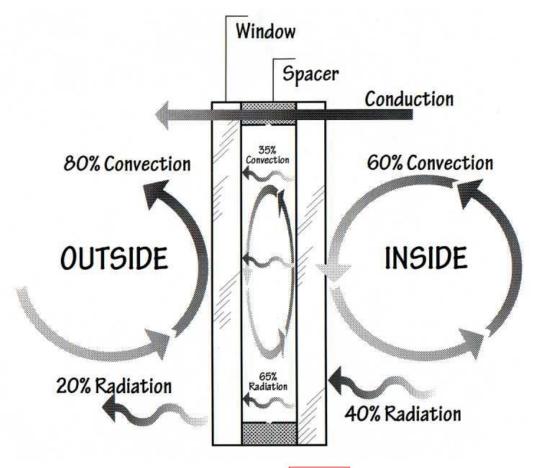






Practical Application - Windows

- Heat always moves from hot to cold
- Always a mix of transfers
- Different rates of transfer can be important



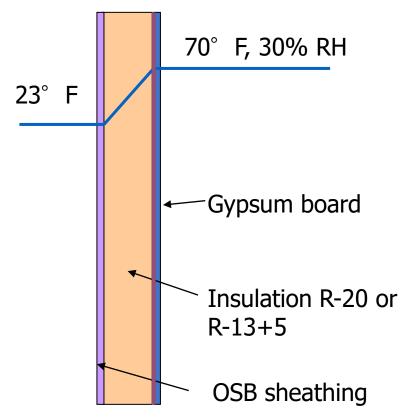






Condensing Surface Temperatures

- Dewpoint of interior air = 37°F
- Where will condensation occur?
 Inside surface of exterior sheathing
- One Solution?
 Interior vapor retarder, but what type and at what "cost?"









Major Building Envelope Protection Systems

- Water Barrier
- Air Barrier
- Thermal Barrier
- Vapor Profile (not just the designated vapor retarder)
- Maintenance documents







"You don't get what you expect, you get what you inspect!"









HVAC System

Don't Forget the "V"







HVAC Design and Loads

Oversized systems:

- Less comfort
- Less efficient
- Poorly handles moisture
- Premature equipment failure

Right-sized systems:

- Better operating efficiencies
- Greater comfort
- Healthier indoor environments
- Better moisture control







HVAC Design and Loads

- Properly designed HVAC systems rely on scientific criteria and a systematic method to match the loads required for health and comfort:
 - ACCA Manual J Residential Load Calculation
 - ACCA Manual S Residential Equipment Selection
 - ACCA Manual D Residential Duct Systems
- Reports should be submitted with permit application









HVAC Design and Loads

Today's homes risk health problems for occupants because:

- They are not properly ventilated:
 - < 3 ACH
- More chemicals and products are used in and around a house:
 - Concentration levels are often 2 to 100 times higher than outside.







Balanced Ventilation

- Blows air into and out of the house
- Is cost effective by reclaiming energy from exhaust and supply airflows (60%-80%!)
- Balances exhaust and supply flows (minimizes pressure differential)
- Maintains the Minimum Ventilation Guideline automatically with proper set-up









Appraisals and Resale Value



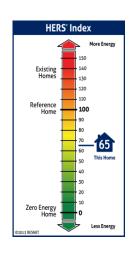




Green Appraisers

- Unlike granite countertops, energy efficiency investments are not always visible at a glance
- Utilize certifications, labels, ratings, and scores
- Make sure appraisers are accurately valuing sustainable properties
 - Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum - Assists appraisers in analyzing residential "Green" features and properties.















Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum!

- Resources for realtors and appraisers on properly valuing energy efficiency/green features
 - Educational materials
 - List of designated appraisers
 - Trainings
- For more information: <u>http://www.appraisalinstitute.org/education/green_energy_addendum.aspx</u>





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Marketing High Performance homes







High Performance Homes

- High-performing homes cost less to heat and cool, are more comfortable, and are healthier for their occupants.
- 69% of real estate agents said promoting energy efficiency in listings was very or somewhat valuable
- Immediate benefits energy savings, comfort, and health
- Long term-benefits higher selling price





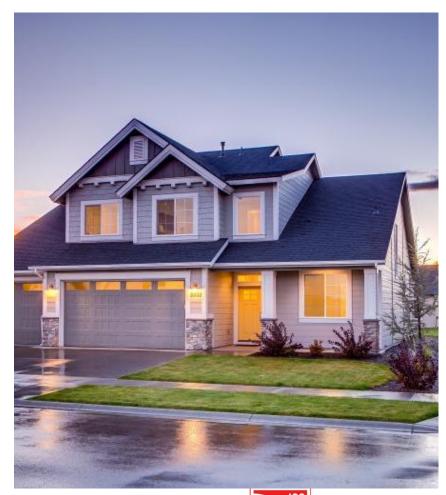


Energy Efficiency is a Must-Have for Home Buyers

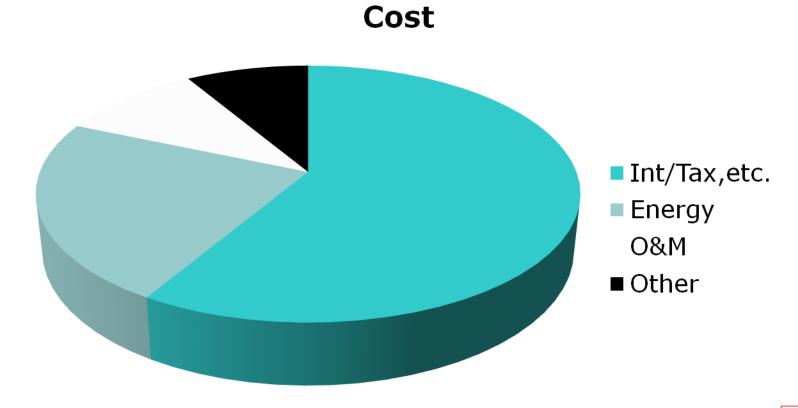
- A survey done by the NAHB in 2018 showed 46% of builders reported that marketing green homes was easier than marketing non-green homes
- Energy efficient homes also keep residents in their homes longer and sell more quickly than non-energy efficient homes.
- Green certified homes have a higher market value than less efficient homes
- The odds of mortgage default are also one-third less for ENERGY STAR rated homes







Equity!









Key Takeaways

- 2018 IECC has new requirements for:
 - Air sealing
 - Duct sealing
 - U-Factor
 - R-Values
 - Performance Testing
- Controlling moisture is critical
 - Proper air sealing is key
 - Right-sizing HVAC is required
 - Mechanical ventilation must be installed and takes on new importance









Thank you!

Questions?

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matt@verda-solutions.com

Nicole Westfall, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance nwestfall@mwalliance.org







Nebraska Energy Code Stakeholder Survey

- Goal: to better understand how different stakeholders interact with the energy code and energy efficient technologies
- 15-minute survey
- Results will also help identify topics to include in the trainings
- Attendees of this training will receive a link to take this survey (in addition to this training evaluation) – your participation is greatly appreciated!







