

## Building Solutions



# FINALLY, THE TRUTH ABOUT CONDENSATION



CEU Credits: 1.5

# Presenter: Dan Tempas

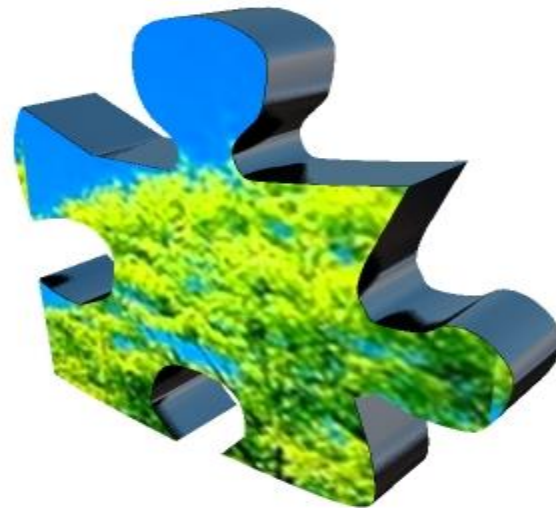
- ❑ Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois
- ❑ 30+ years experience in building and construction industry
  - ❑ STYROFOAM™ technical service, product development
  - ❑ LEED Associate
  - ❑ Building Solutions Technical Support Team
  - ❑ Co-inventor of THERMAX™ Wall System
  - ❑ Developed presentations on NFPA 285, THERMAX™ Wall System, Ultra Wall System
  - ❑ Previously presented various topics at RESNET, CSI, and IMI



# Condensation: Scope

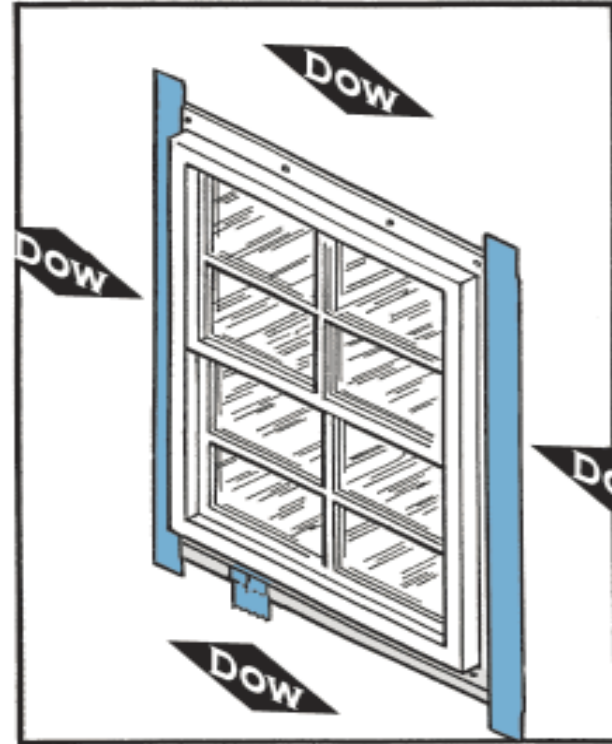
Why This Talk?

- Misconceptions
- Errors
- Incompleteness



# Condensation: Scope

Not About  
Bulk Water



# Condensation: Scope

Bulk  
Water is  
Important!



# ■ Condensation: The Real Story

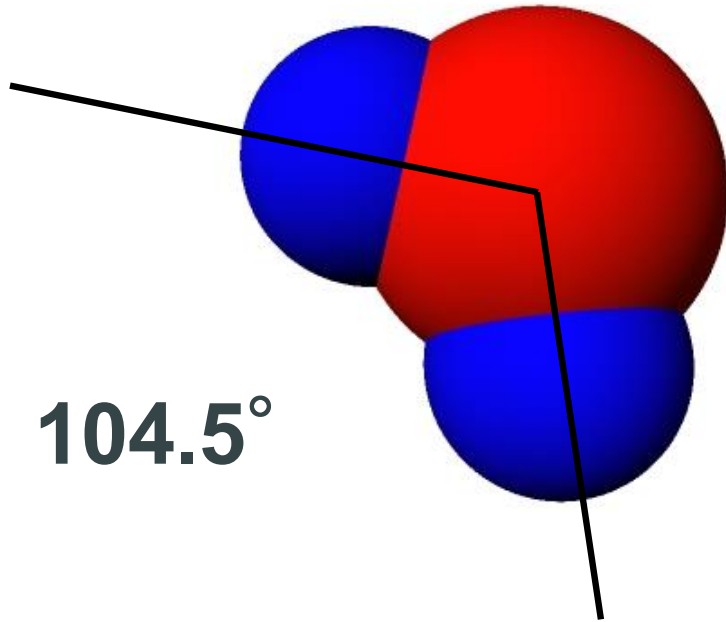
- **Properties of Water**
- **Terms Relating to Condensation**
- **Wetting and Drying**
- **Analyzing Assemblies**
- **Wall Design**

# ■ Condensation: The Real Story

- **Properties of Water**
- Terms Relating to Condensation
- Wetting and Drying
- Analyzing Assemblies
- Wall Design

# Condensation: Water Properties

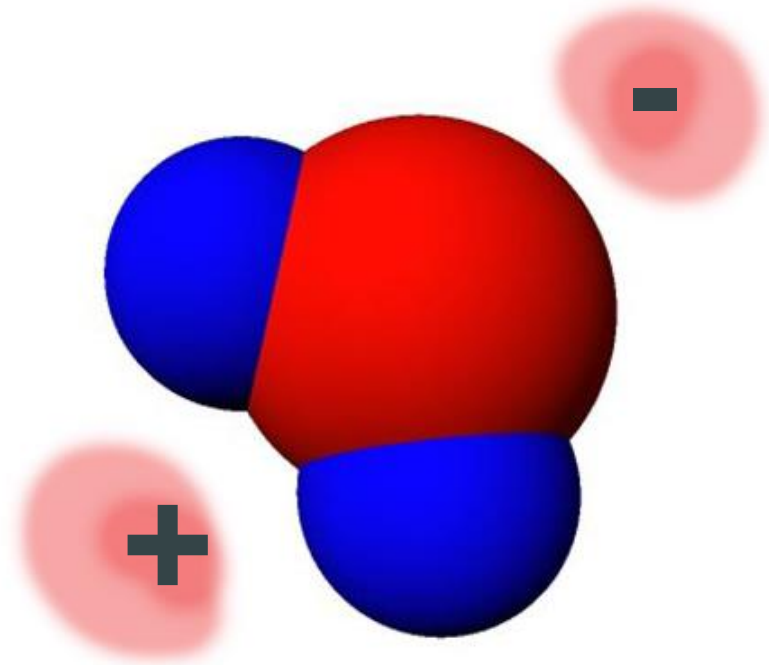
## Structure





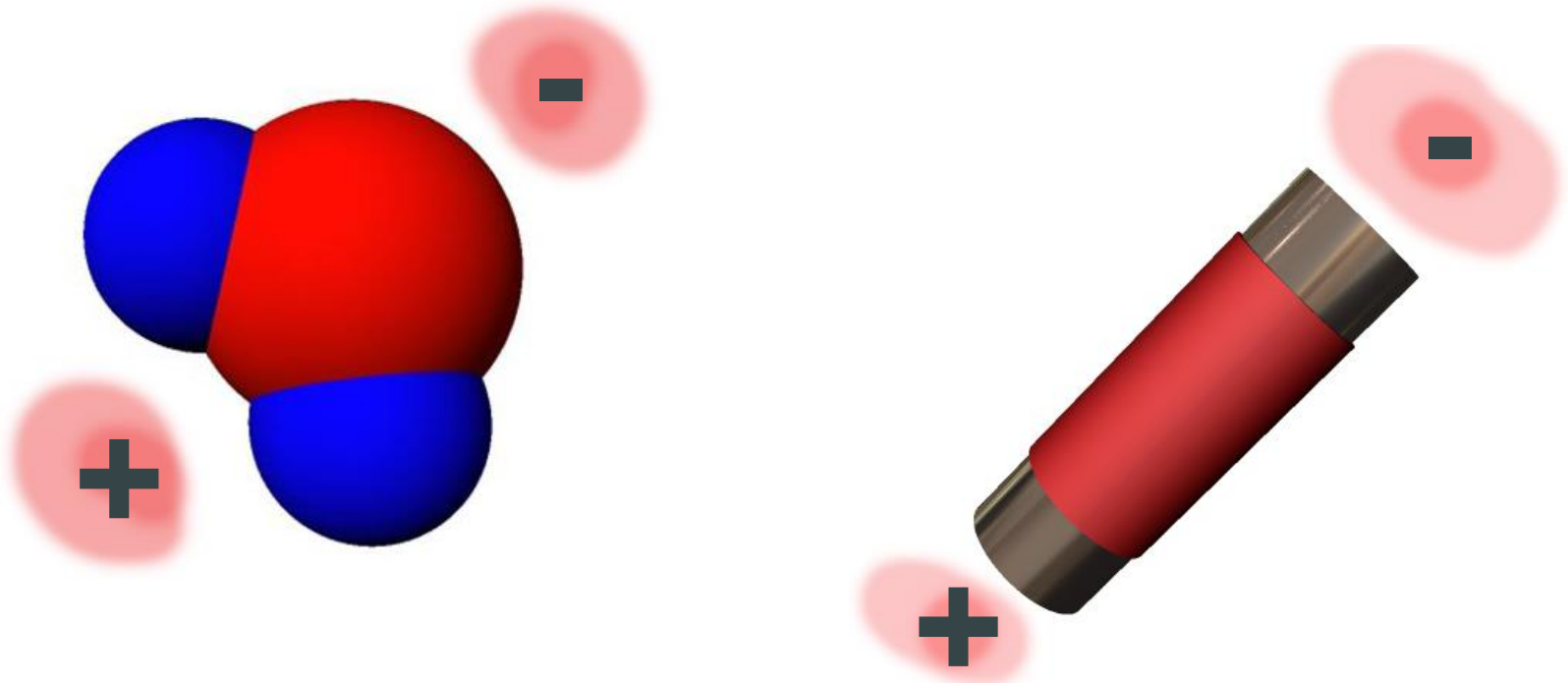
# Condensation: Water Properties

## Structure



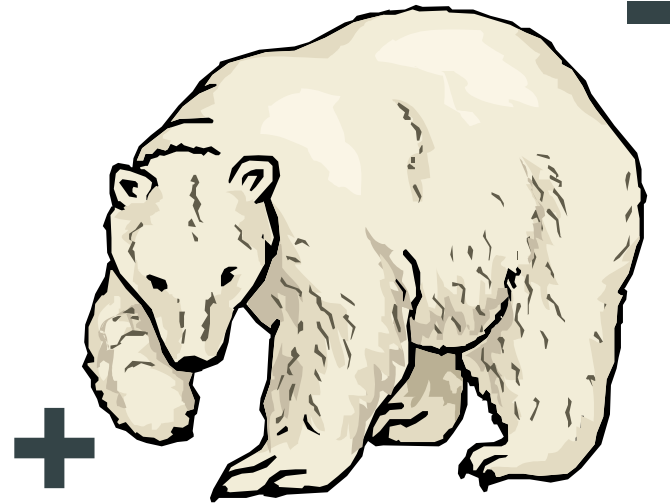
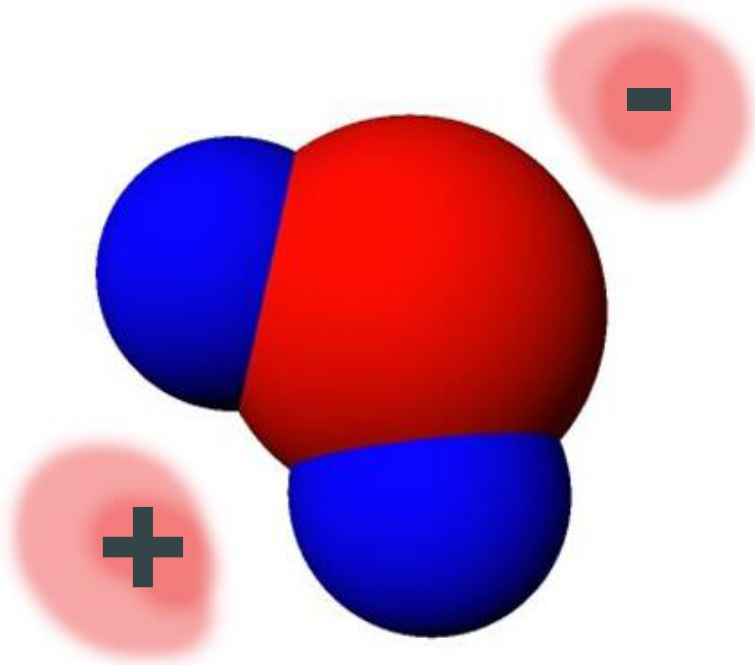
# Condensation: Water Properties

## Structure



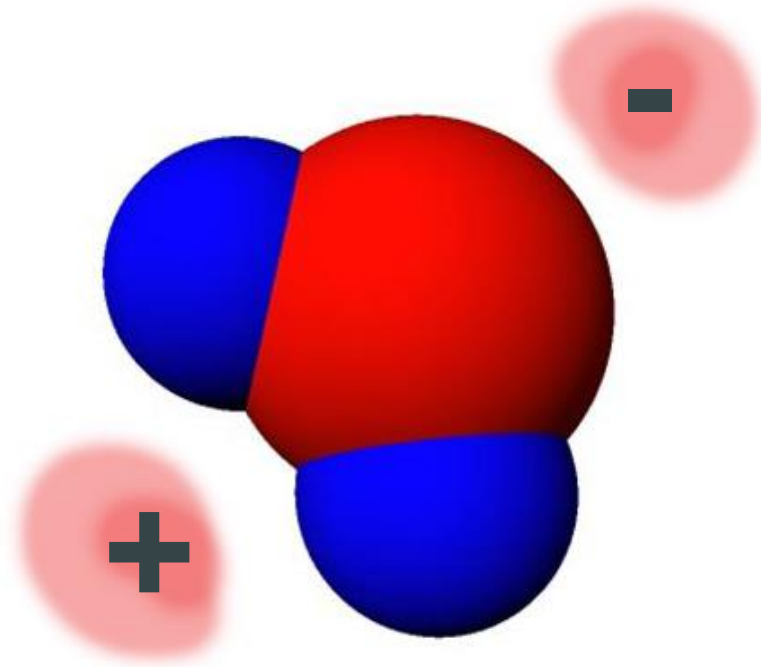
# Condensation: Water Properties

## Structure



# Condensation: Water Properties

## Structure



# Condensation: Water Properties

## Structure



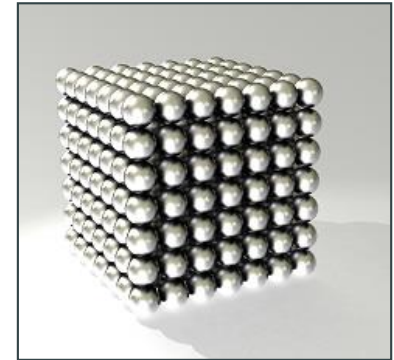
# ■ Condensation: Water Properties

## Structure



# Condensation: Water Properties

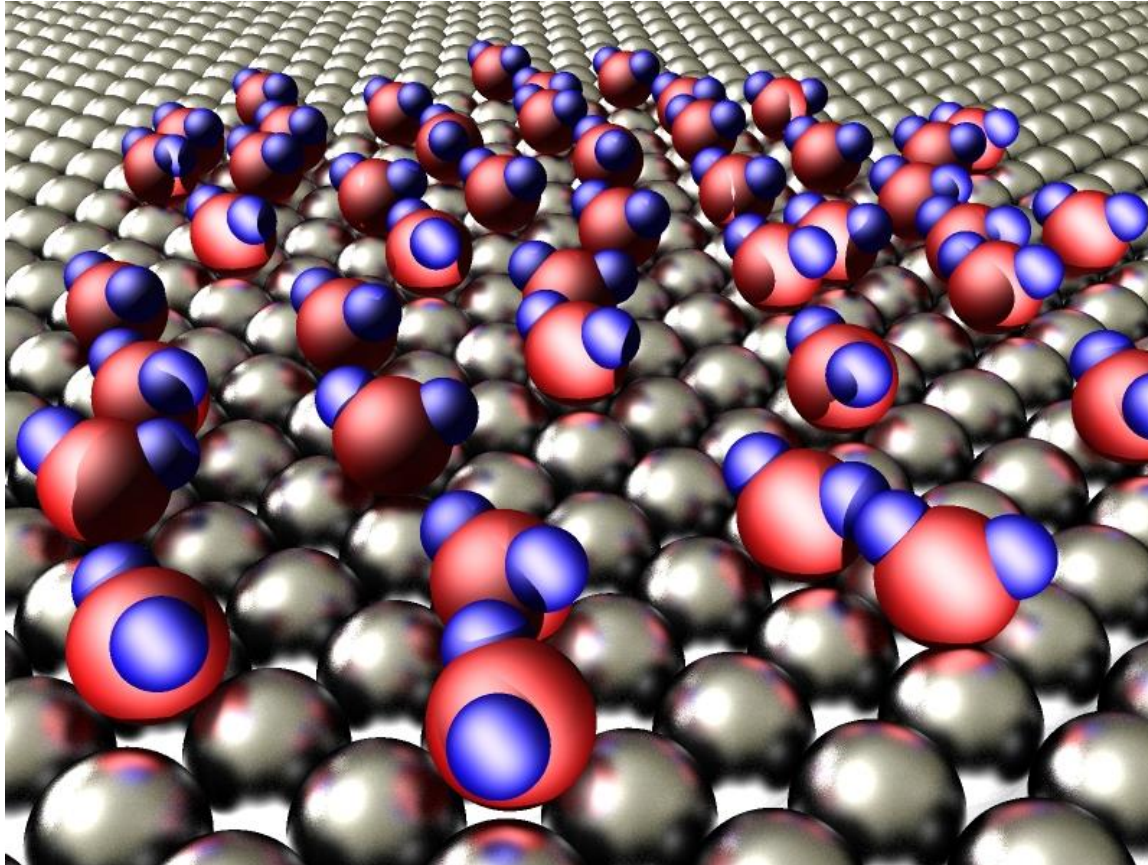
Phases of Water:





# Condensation: Water Properties

Phases of Water: Adsorbed

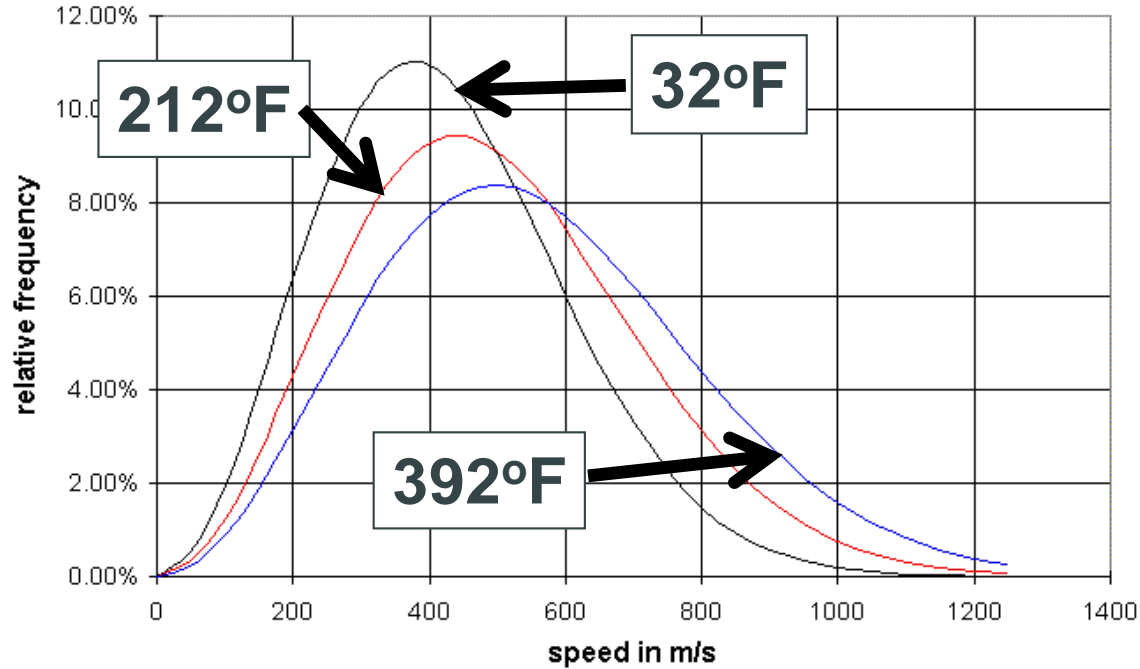




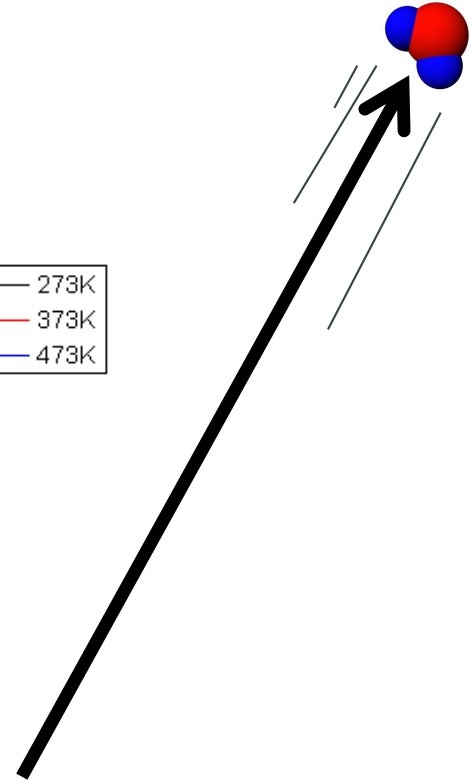
# Condensation: Water Properties

## Effect of Temperature

Maxwell-Boltzmann speed distribution

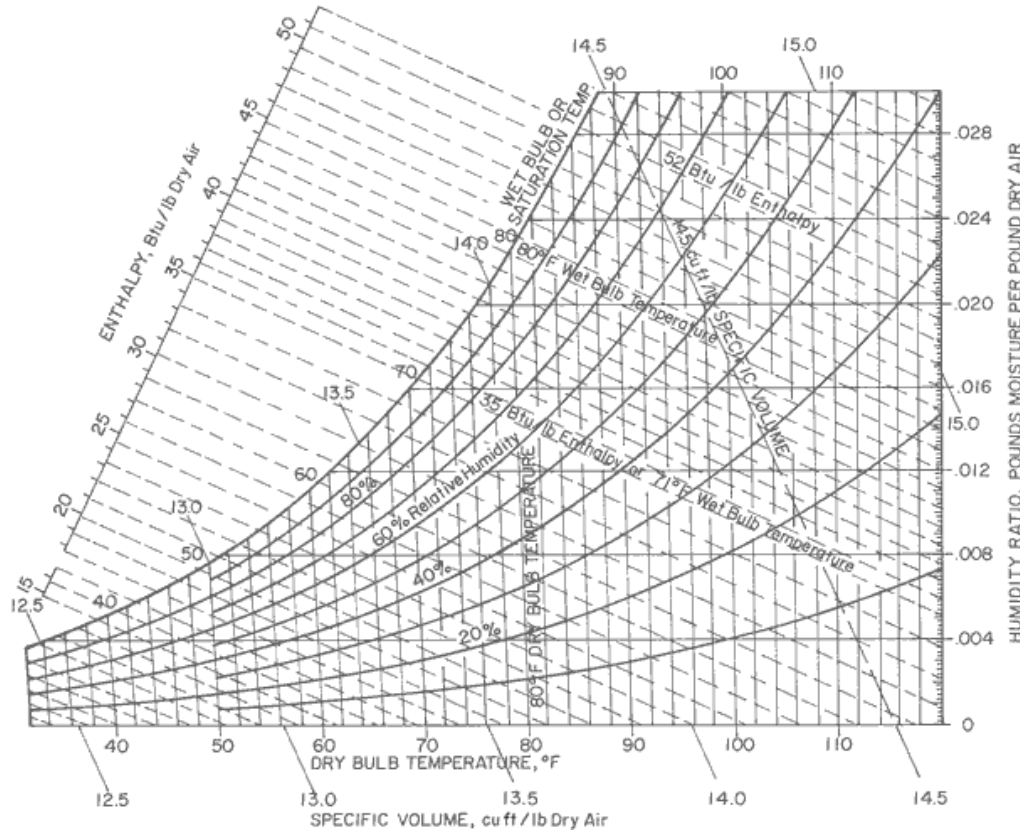


Velocity in m/s



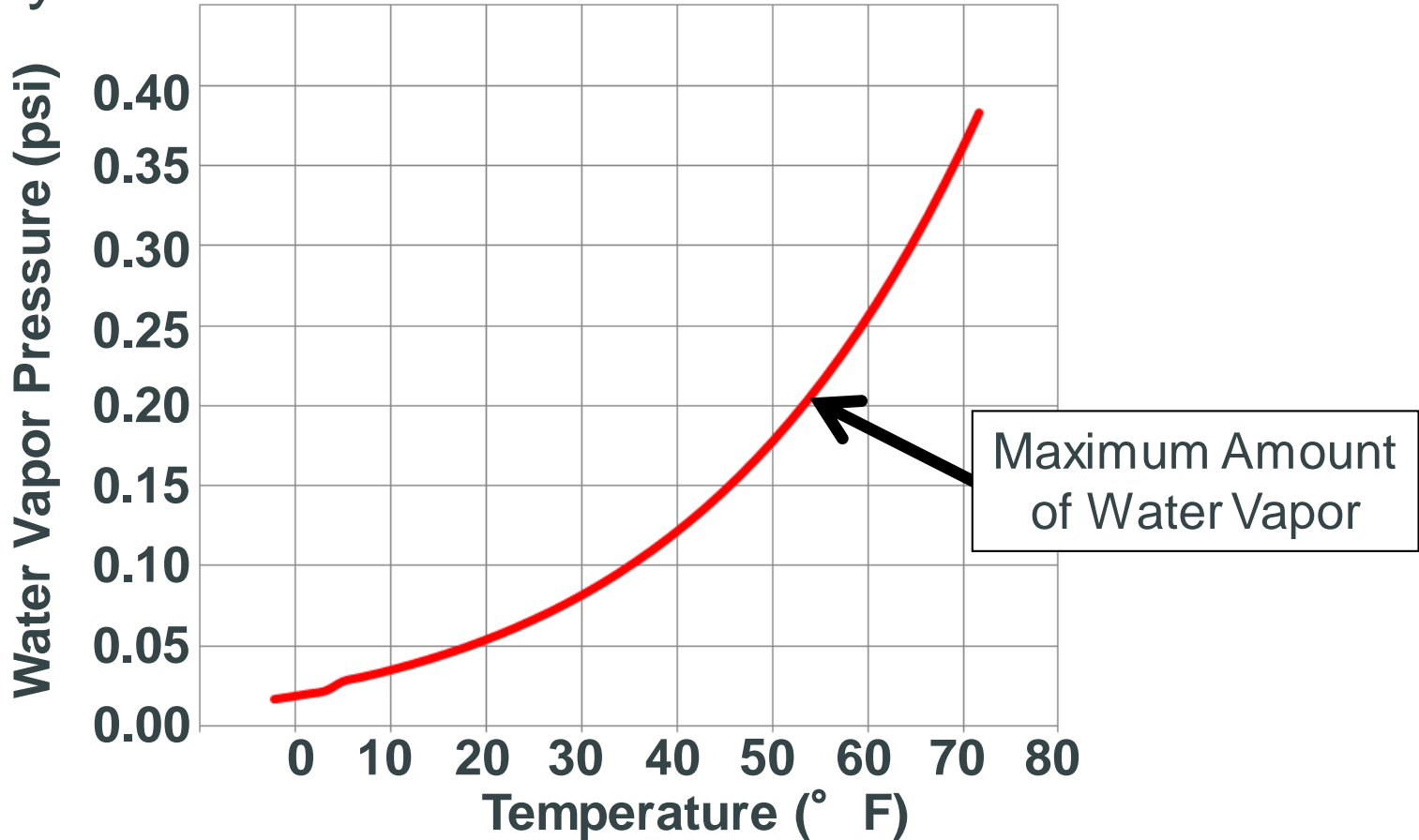
# Condensation: Water Properties

## Psychrometric Chart



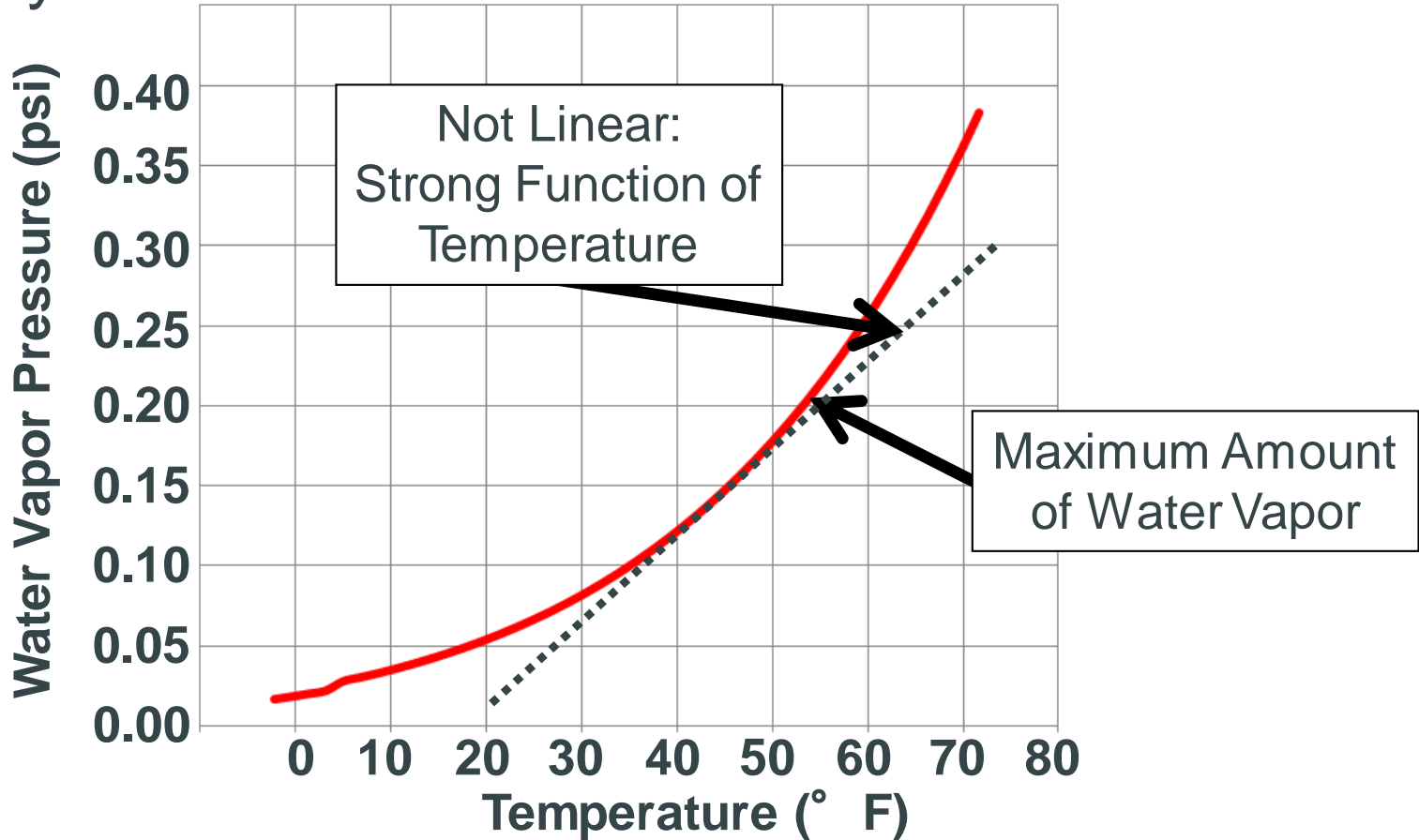
# Condensation: Water Properties

## Psychrometric Chart



# Condensation: Water Properties

## Psychrometric Chart



# ■ Condensation: The Real Story

- Properties of Water
- **Terms Relating to Condensation**
- Wetting and Drying
- Analyzing Assemblies
- Wall Design

# Condensation: Terms

## Absolute Humidity

Measured in:

- Lbs water/lb air
- Grains WV/cubic foot
- Water Vapor Pressure (Psi)
- Dewpoint Temperature

# ■ Condensation: Terms

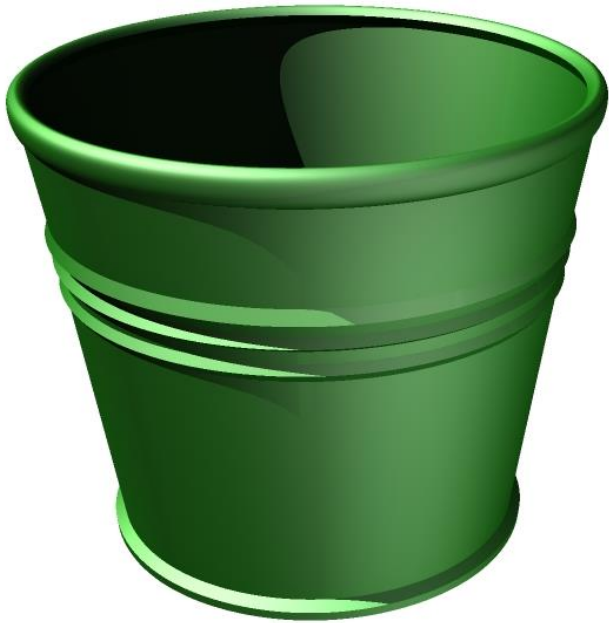
## Relative Humidity

Need 2 pieces of information:

- Temperature (°F)
- Percent (%)

# Condensation: Terms

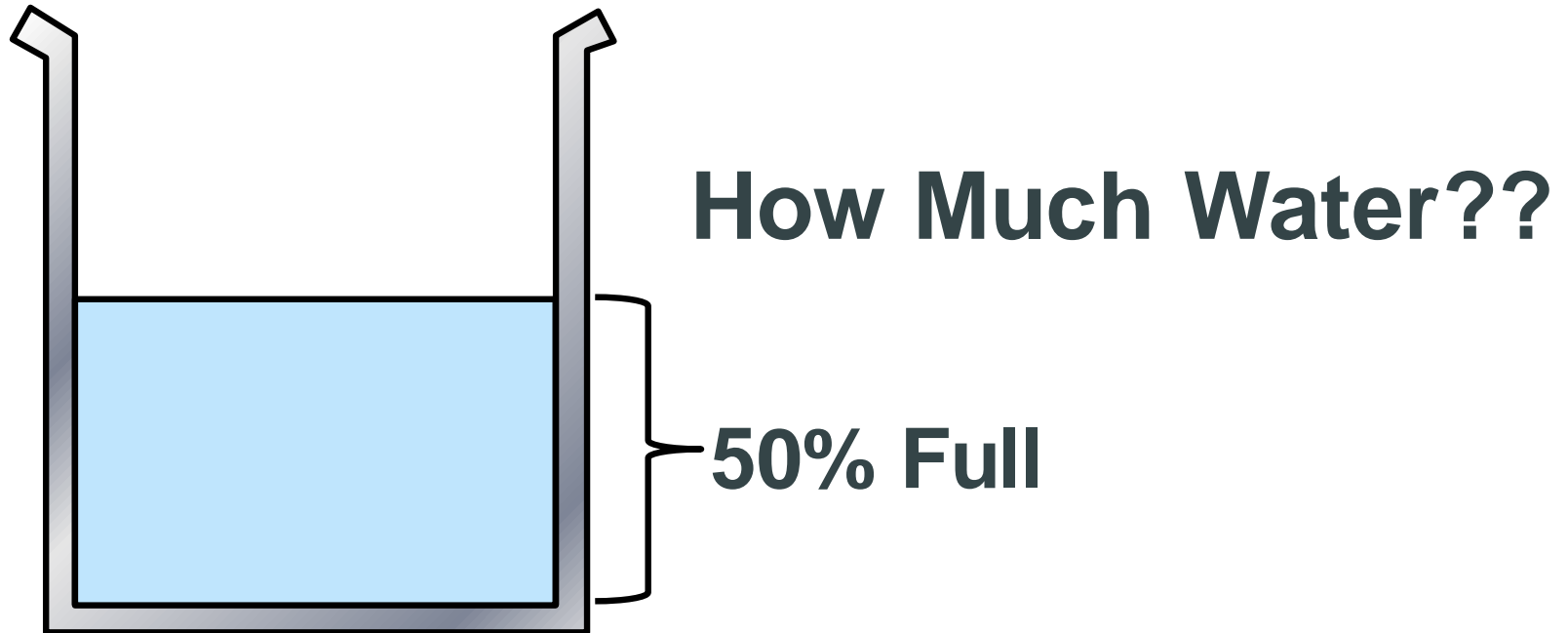
## Relative Humidity





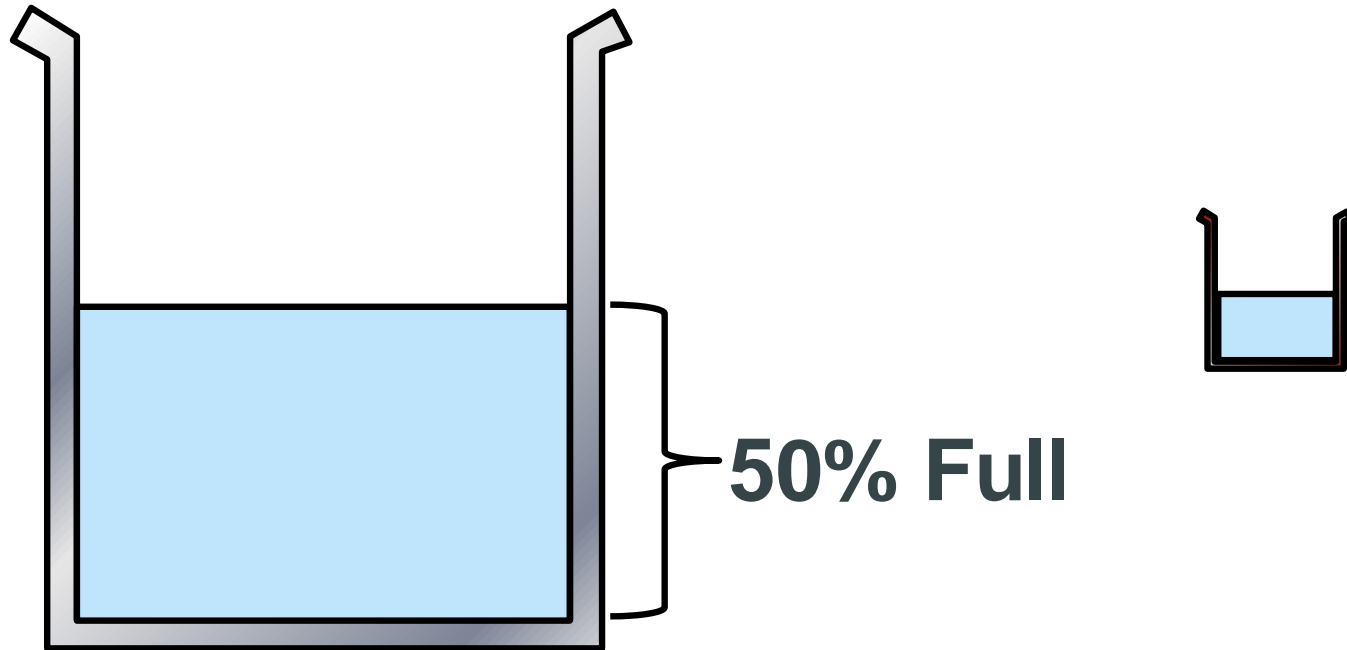
# ■ Condensation: Terms

## Relative Humidity



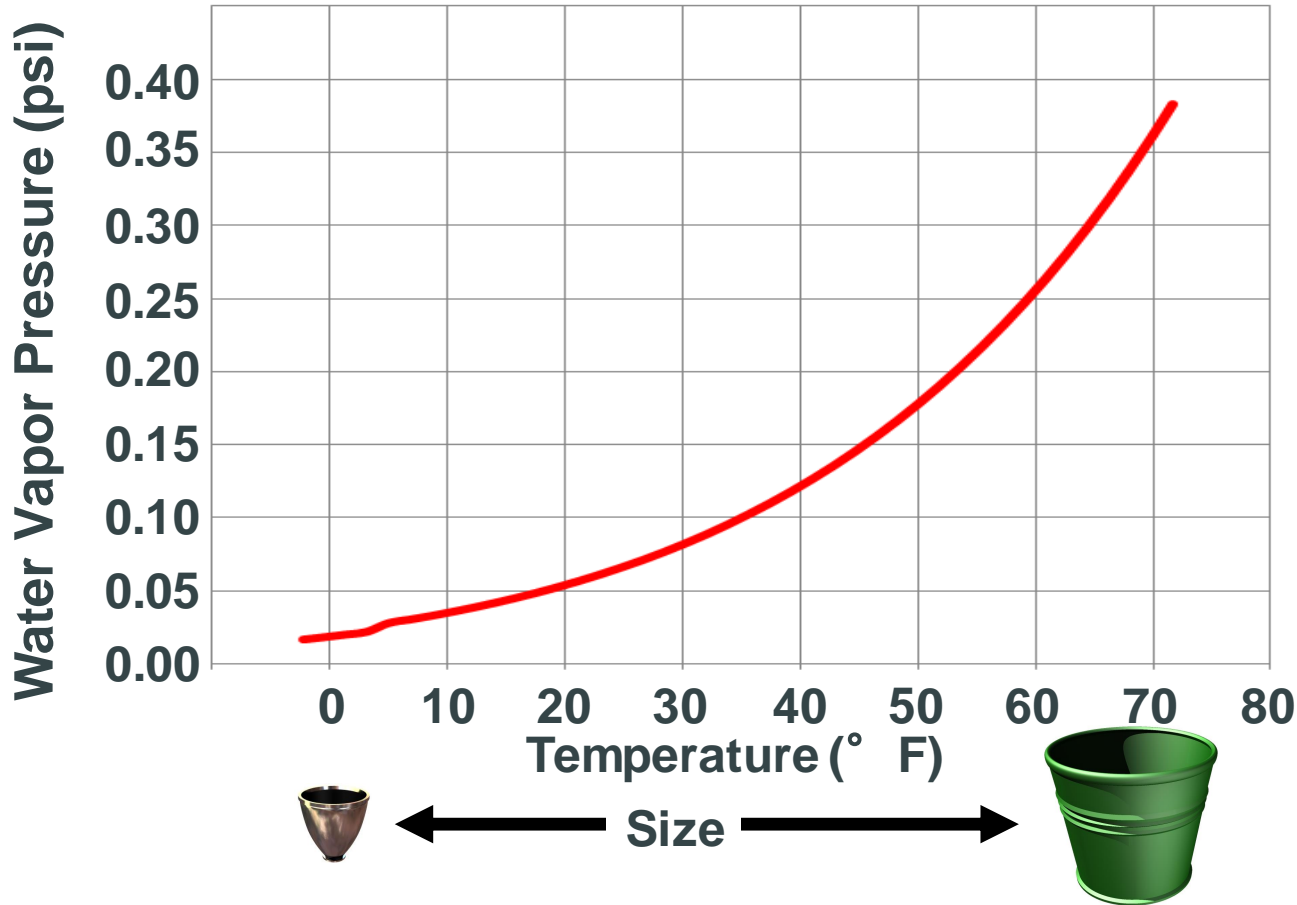
# Condensation: Terms

## Relative Humidity



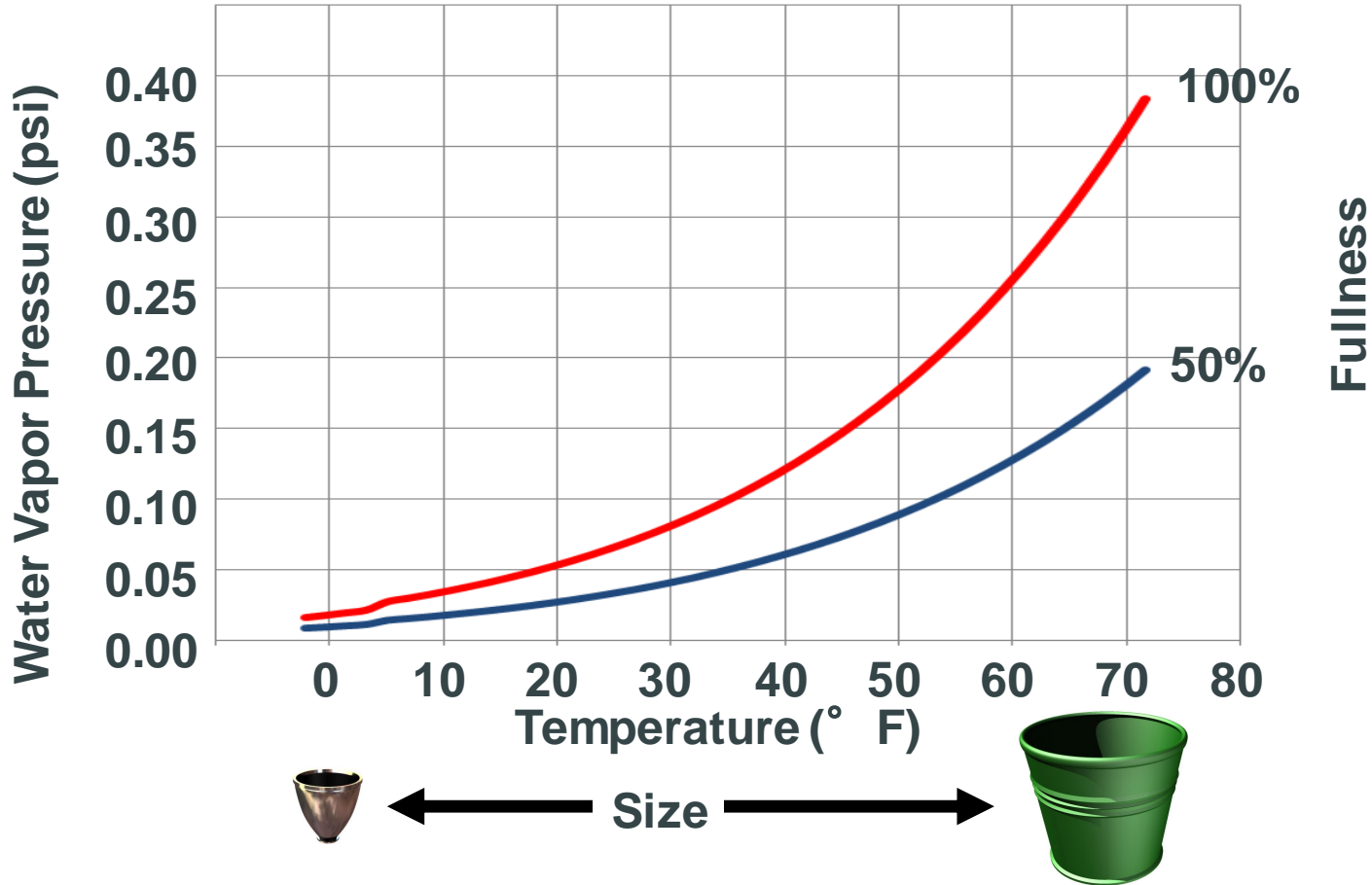
# Condensation: Terms

Relative Humidity



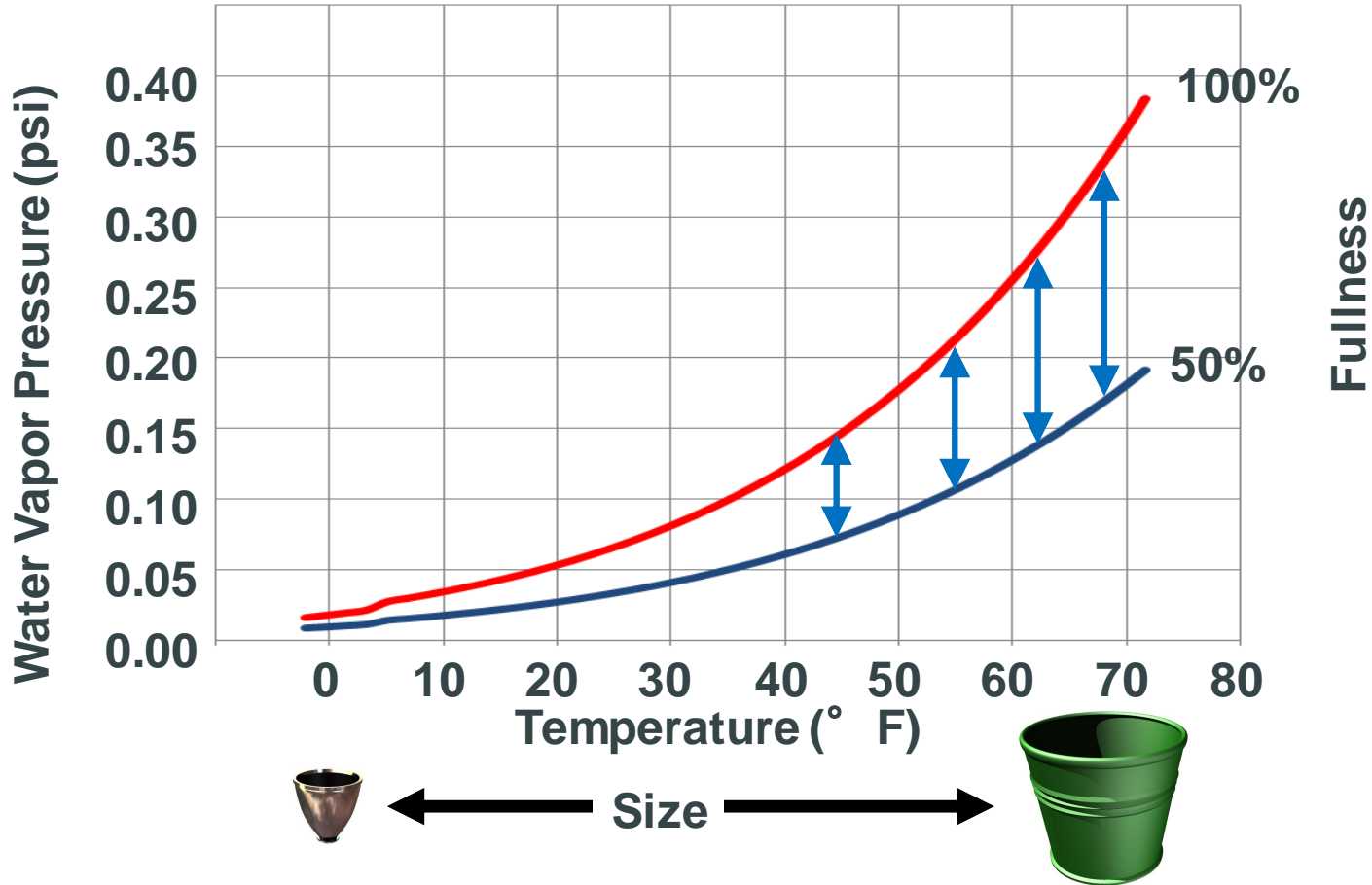
# Condensation: Terms

Relative Humidity



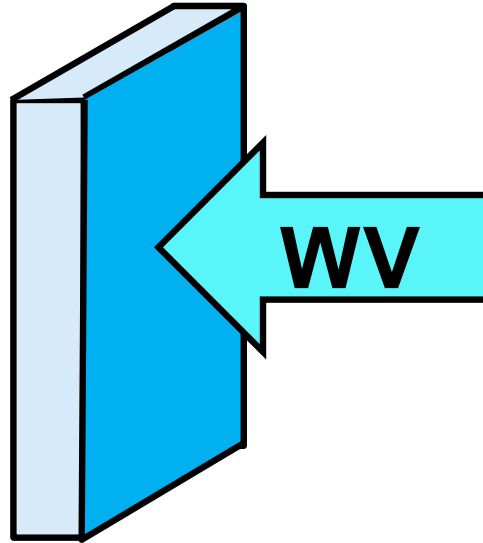
# Condensation: Terms

Relative Humidity



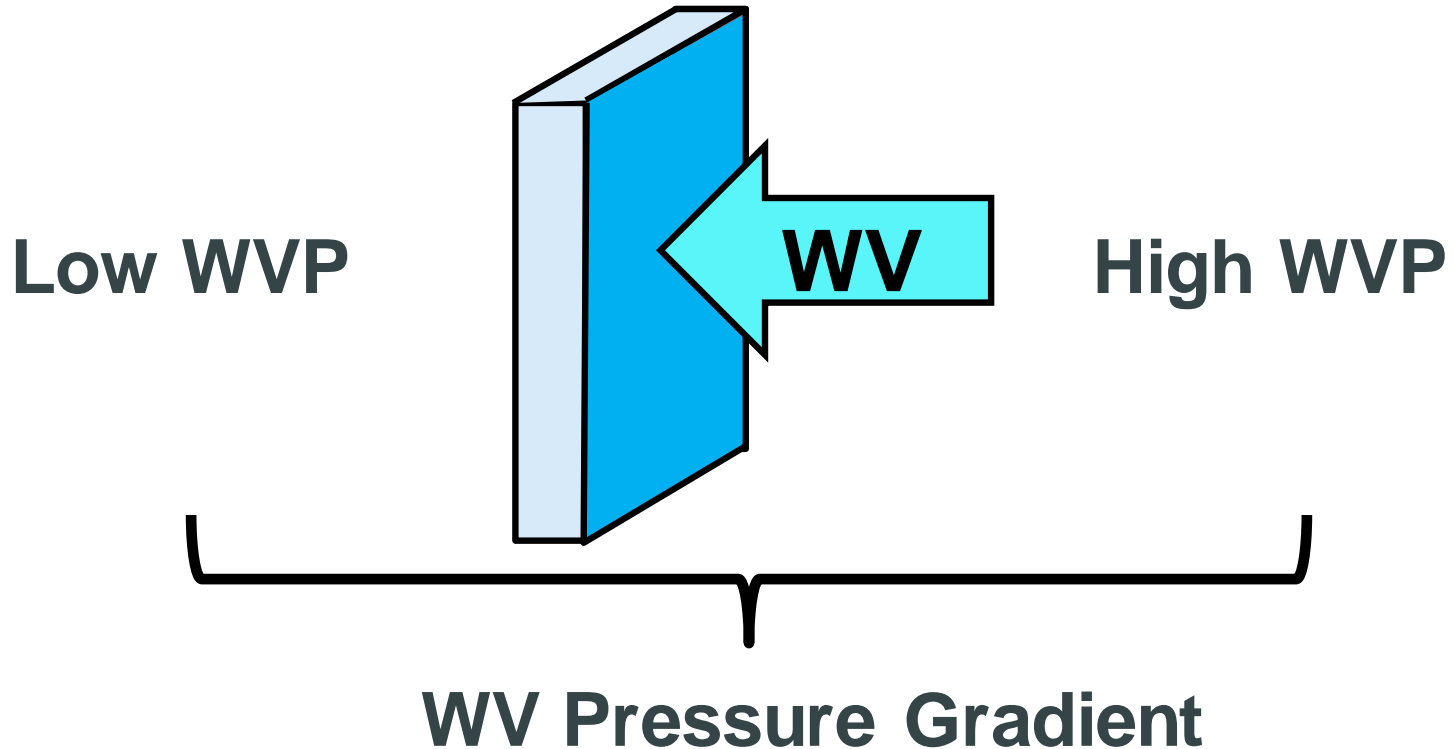
# Condensation: Terms

Permeability: Diffusion



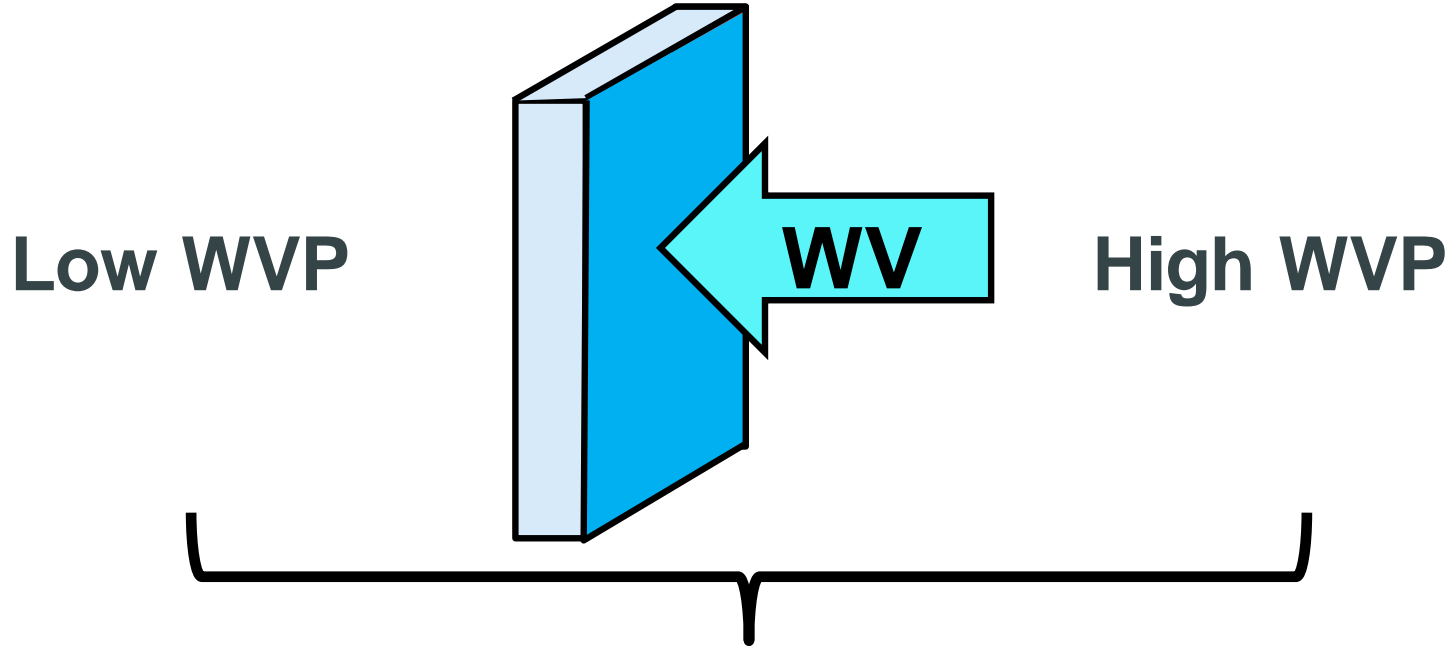
# Condensation: Terms

Permeability: Diffusion



# Condensation: Terms

Permeability: Diffusion



WV Pressure Gradient

**Not Temperature**



# Condensation: Terms

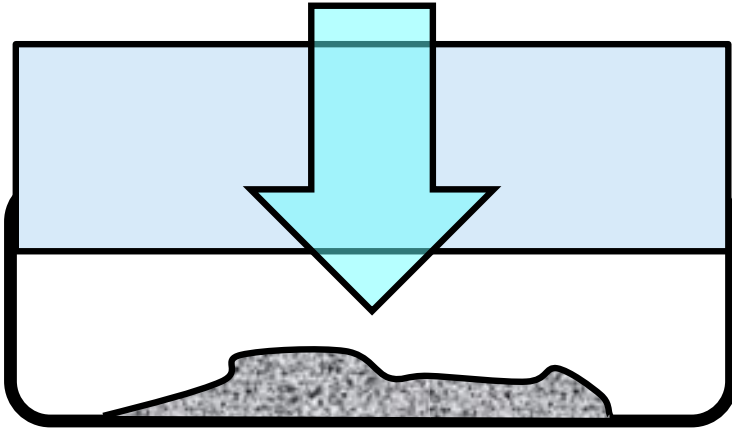
Permeability: Diffusion

50% RH

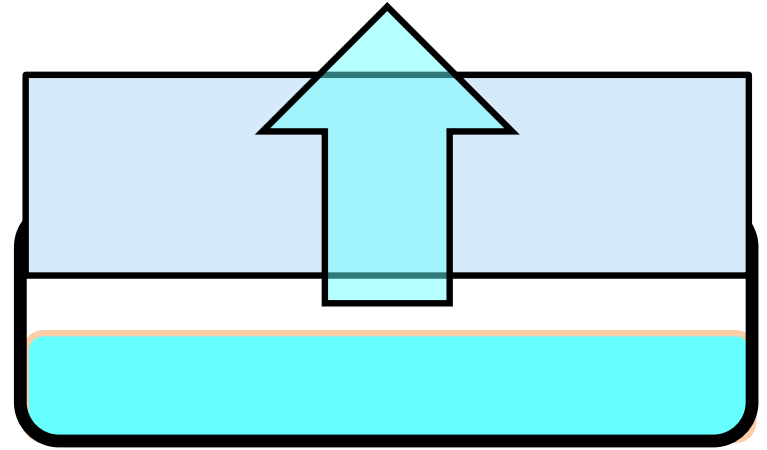
ASTM E96



# Condensation: Terms



**Dry Cup**



**Wet Cup**

**Temperature Effects?**

# ■ Condensation: Terms

Permeability: Diffusion

**“Breathability”**

# ■ Condensation: Terms

Permeability: Diffusion

**Confusion:**

**“Breathability” = Permeability?**

**or**

**“Breathability” = Air infiltration?**

# ■ Condensation: Terms

Permeability: Diffusion

**Confusion:**

**More is Better**



**“Breathability” = Permeability?**

**or**

**“Breathability” = Air infiltration?**



**Less is Better**

# Condensation: Terms

Permeability: Diffusion

**Confusion:**

**“Breathability” = Permeability?**

or

**Breathability = Air infiltration?**

# ■ **Condensation: Terms**

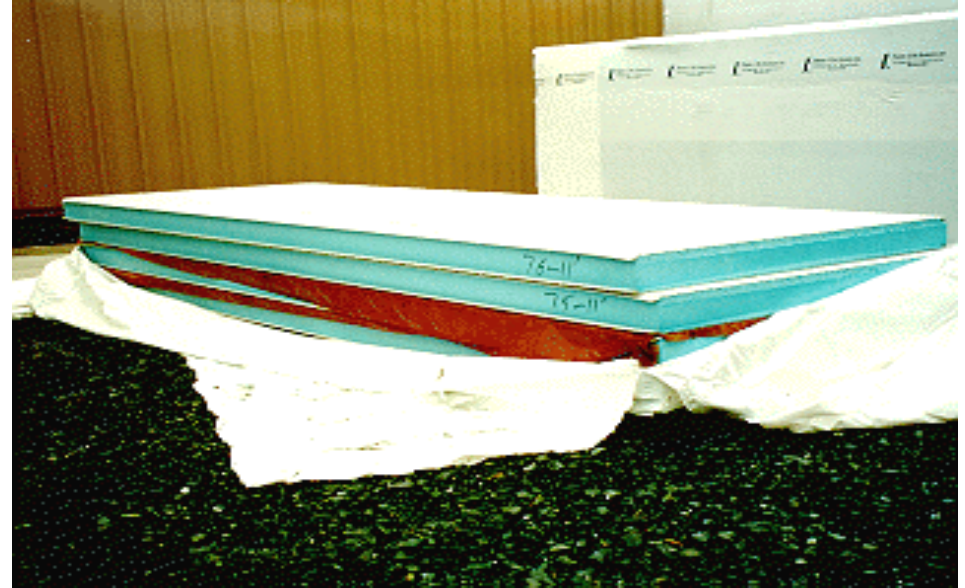
Permeability: Diffusion

**Confusion:**

**“Breathability” = Necessary?**

# Condensation: Wetting and Drying

## Myth of Breathability





# ■ Condensation: Terms

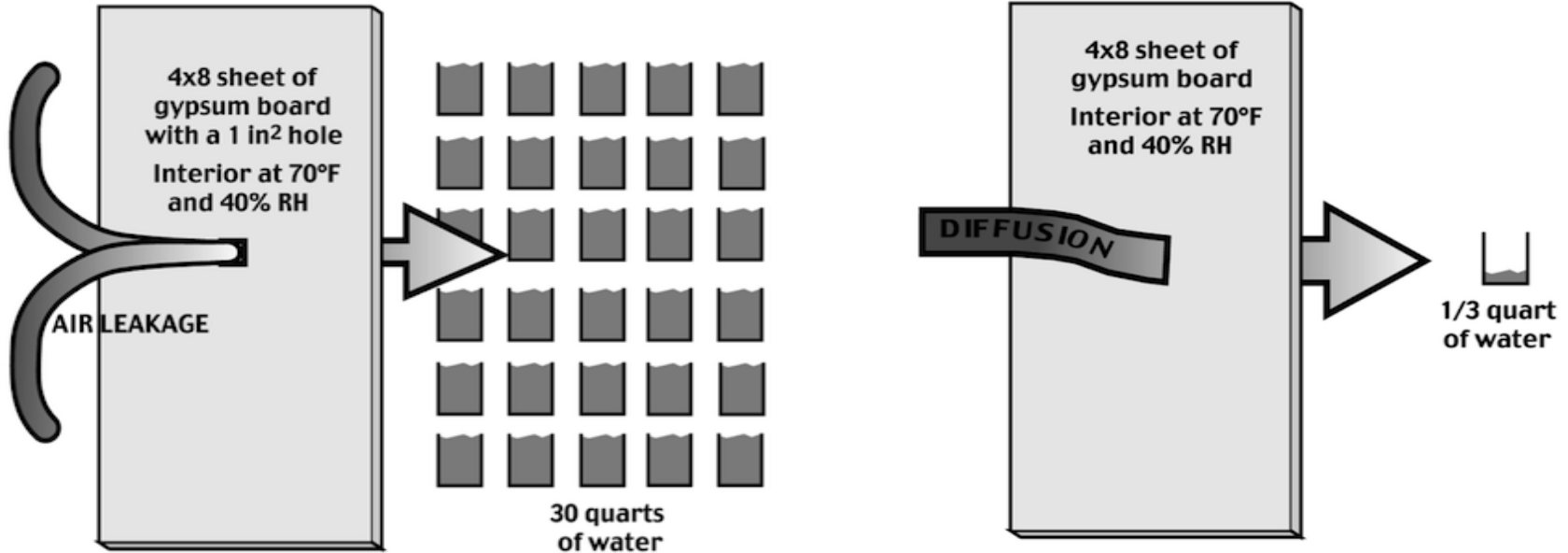
Permeability: Diffusion

## Permeability $\neq$ Necessary



# Condensation: Terms

## Diffusion vs. Infiltration



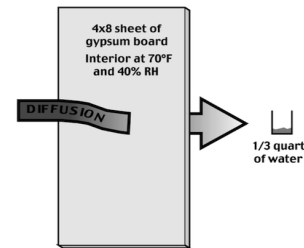
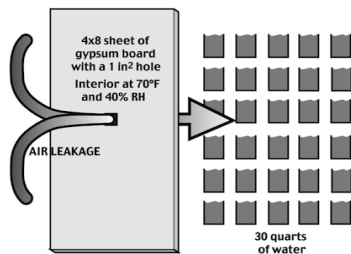
Building Science Corporation

# Condensation: Terms

## Diffusion vs. Infiltration

**C402.4.1.2.2 Assemblies Assemblies of materials and components with an average air leakage not to exceed 0.04 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> (0.2 L/s • m<sup>2</sup>) under a pressure differential of 0.3 inches of water gauge (w.g.)(75 Pa) when tested in accordance with ASTM E 2357, ASTM E 1677 or ASTM E 283 shall comply with this section.**

**Still more than diffusion**



International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2012

# ■ Condensation: The Real Story

- Properties of Water
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- Wall Design

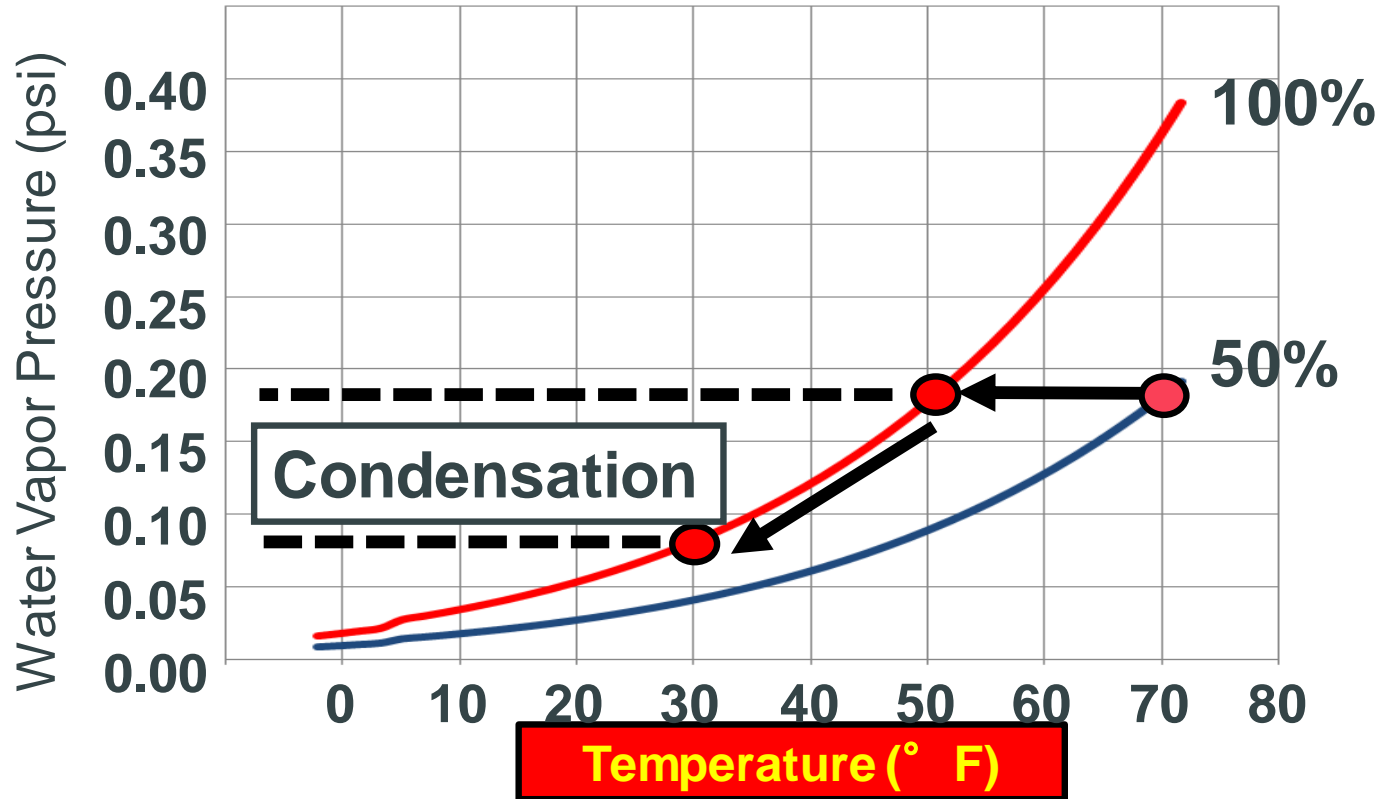
# Condensation: **Wetting** and Drying

Condensation: Dewpoint



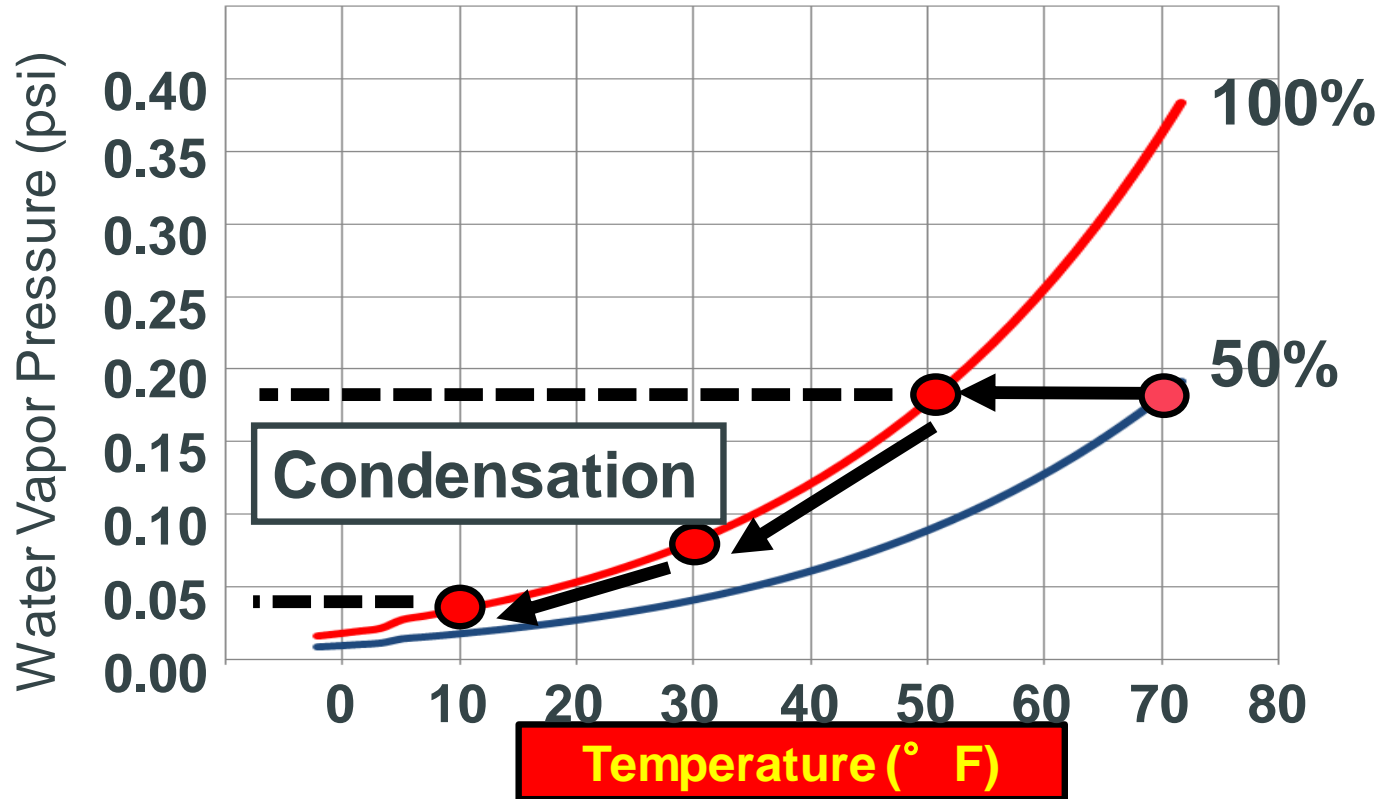
# Condensation: **Wetting** and Drying

Condensation: Dewpoint



# Condensation: **Wetting** and Drying

Condensation: Dewpoint



# ■ Condensation: Wetting and **Drying**

Drying: Evaporation



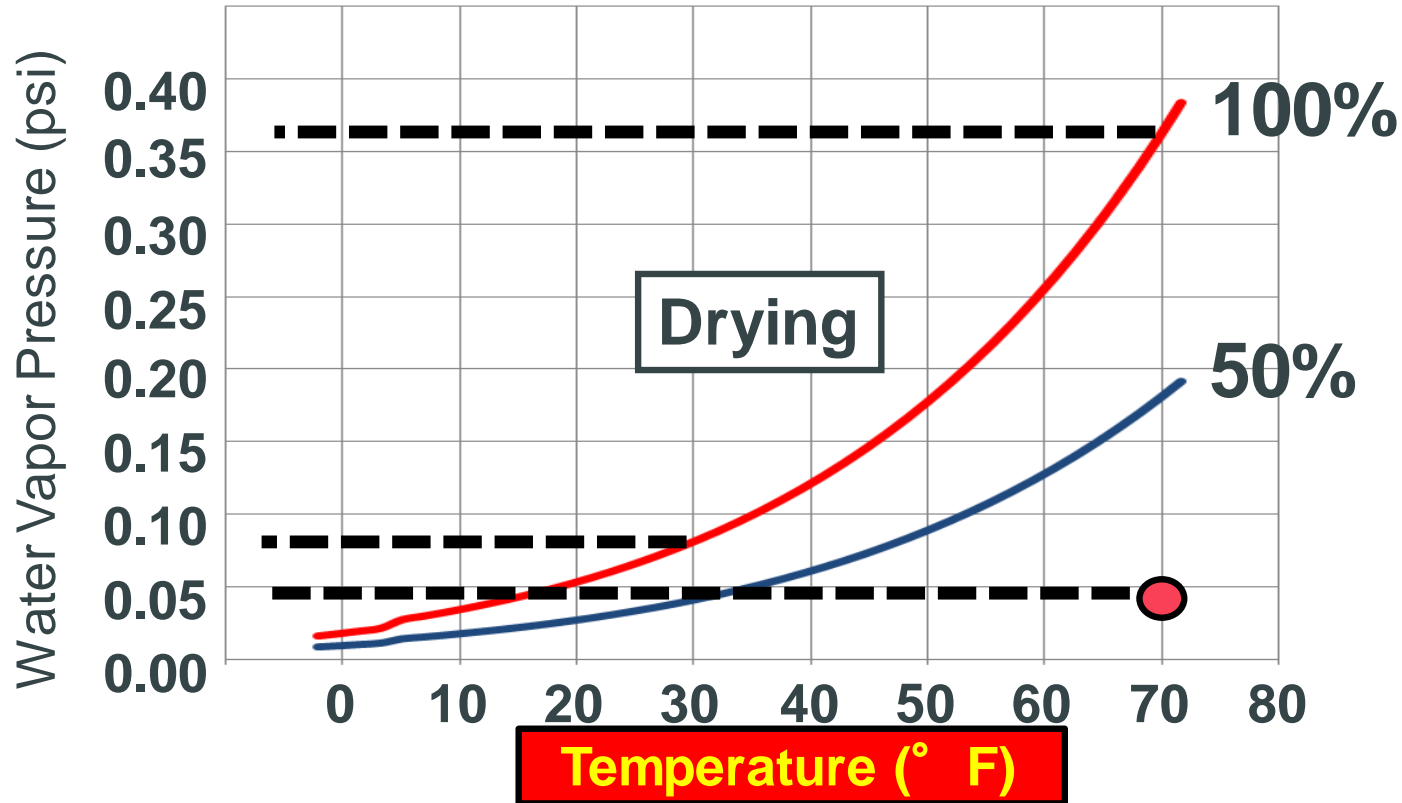
# Condensation: Wetting and Drying

Two Sides of the Same Coin: Temperature



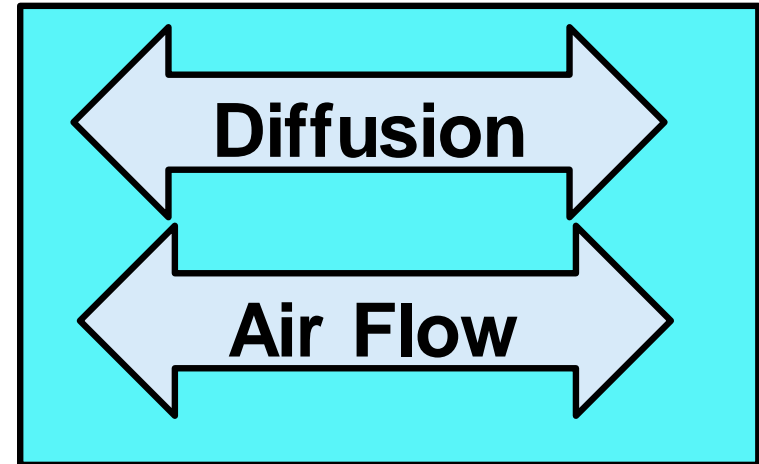
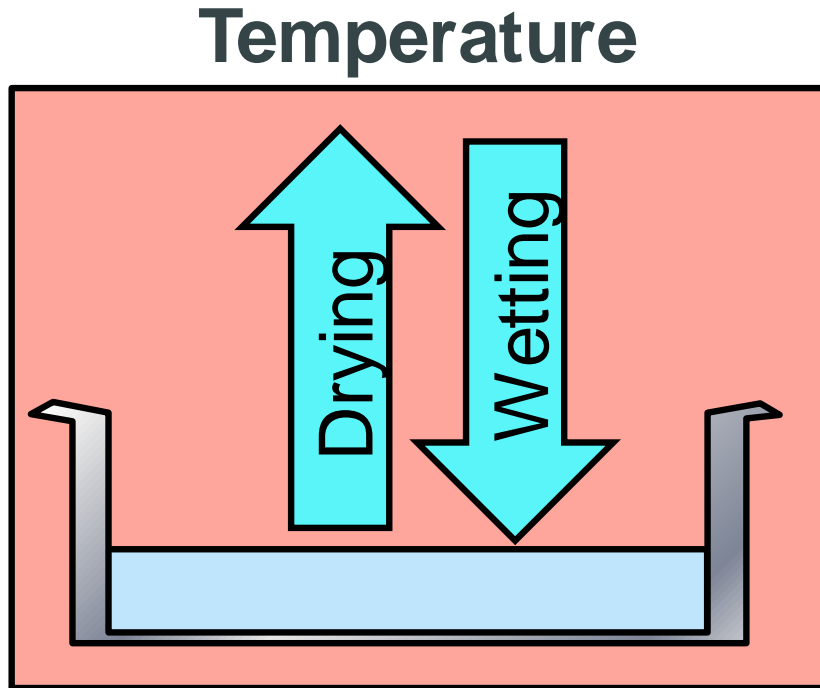
# Condensation: Wetting and **Drying**

Drying: Evaporation



# Condensation: Wetting and Drying

Two Phenomena coupled together



- Permeability
- Infiltration

# Condensation: Wetting and Drying

## References

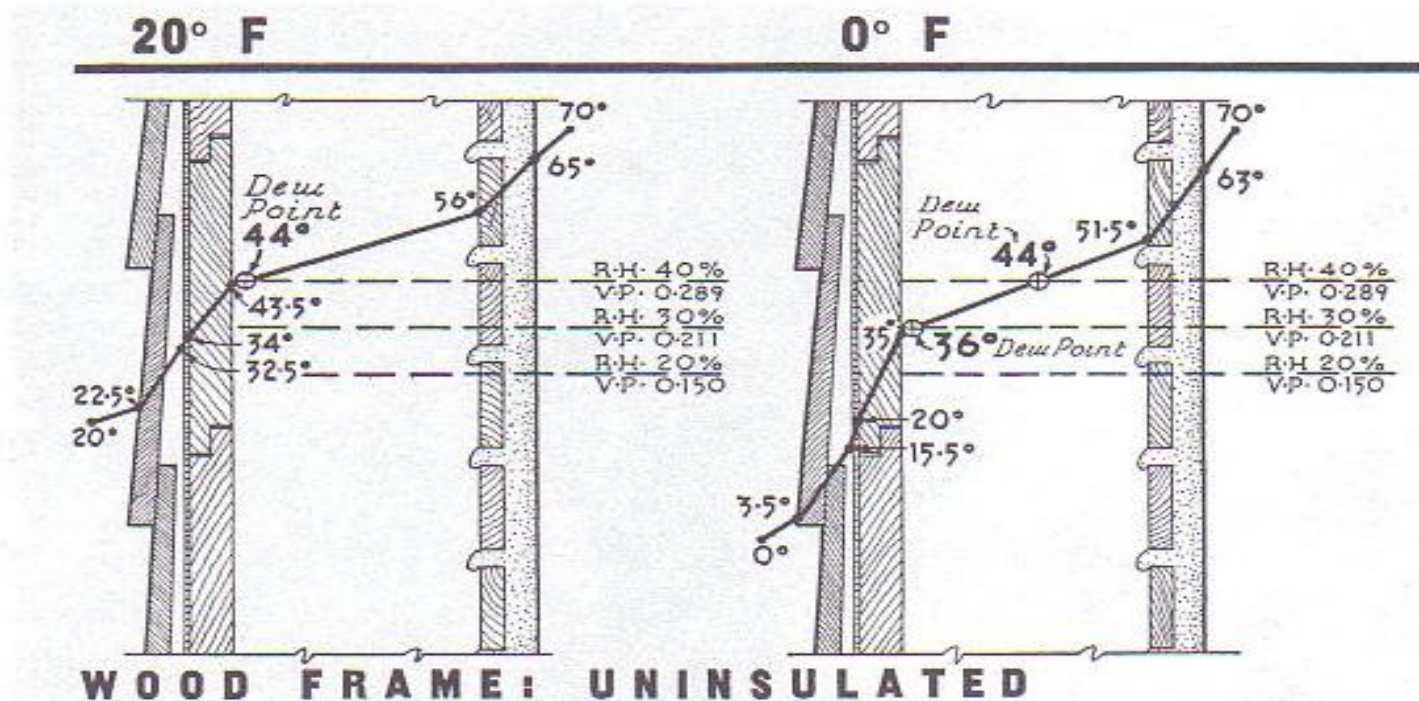
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- ABCB, 2009, The Condensation Handbook, Australian institute of Architects
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- Joseph Lstiburek, 2006, Understanding Vapor Barriers, BSC
- Joseph Lstiburek, 2010, Mind the Gap, BSC/Insight
- Maria Spinu, 2012, Design Without Compromise, Construction Specifier
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- Smegal, Lstiburek, Straube, Grin, 2012, Vancouver Field Exposure Facility: Phase III Exterior Insulation Analysis, BSC
- Straube, 2002, The Influence of Low Permeance Vapor Barriers on Roof and Wall Performance, Buildings VIII
- DOE, 2004, 5.C.2.1 Vapor Barrier Journal Paper, DOE

# ■ Condensation: The Real Story

- Properties of Water
- Terms Relating to Condensation
- Wetting and Drying
- **Analyzing Assemblies**
- Wall Design

# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

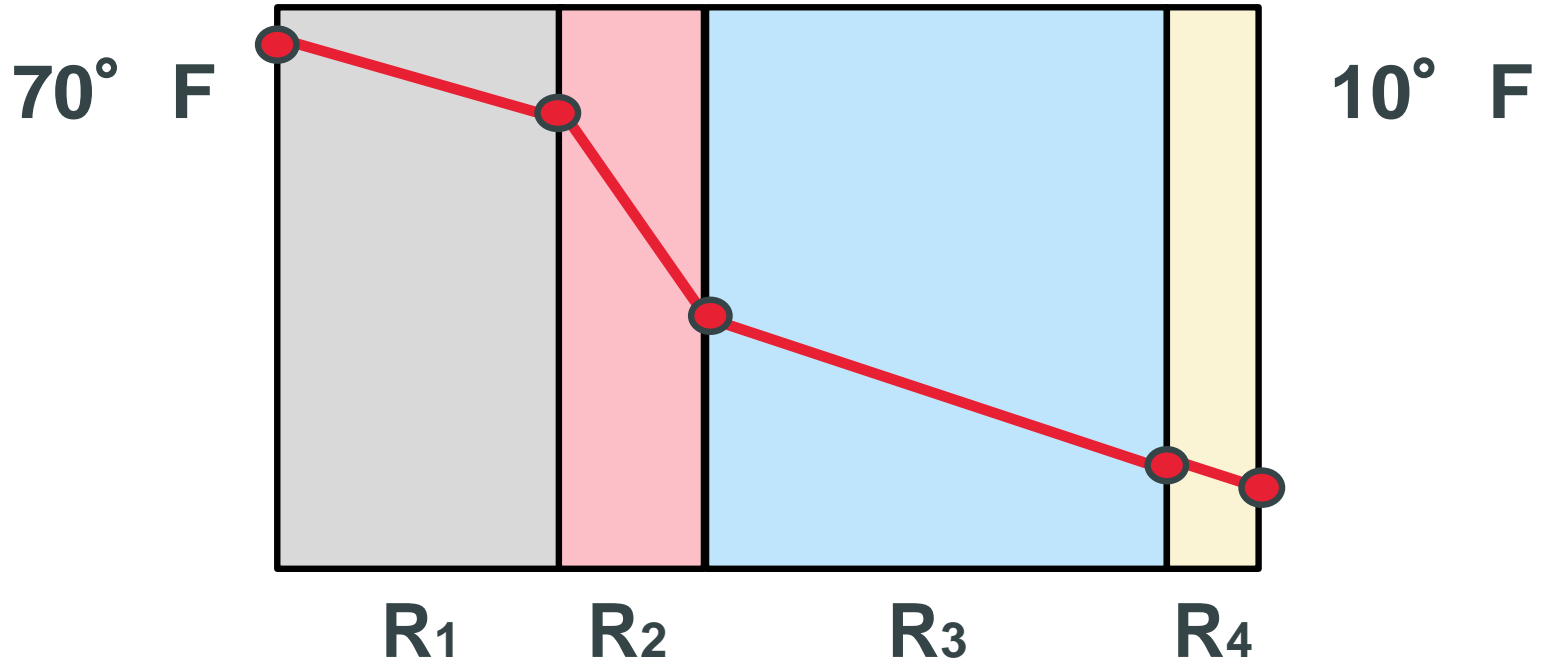
## Profile Method



Teesdale, 1938 (Water in Buildings, Rose)

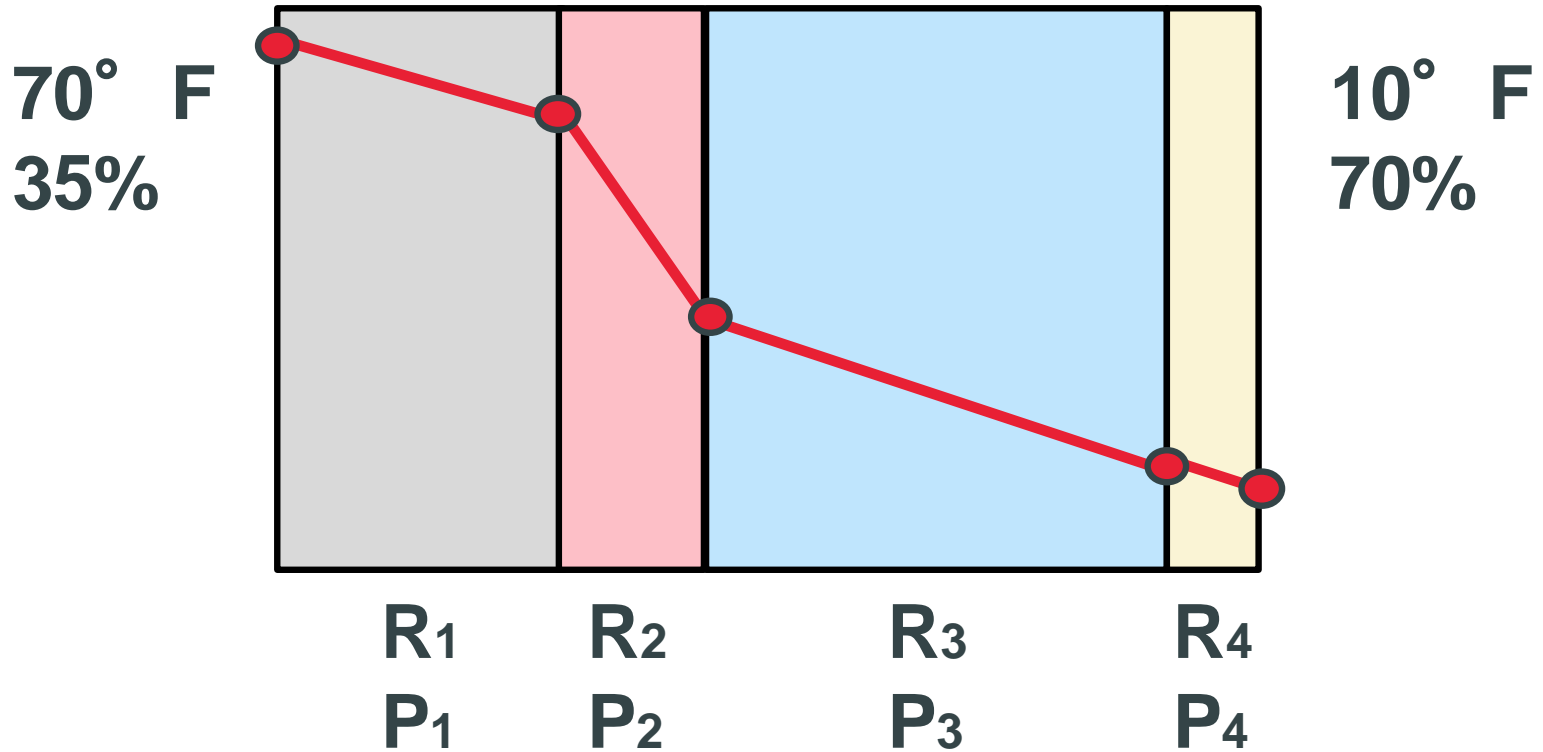
# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile Method: Temperature



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

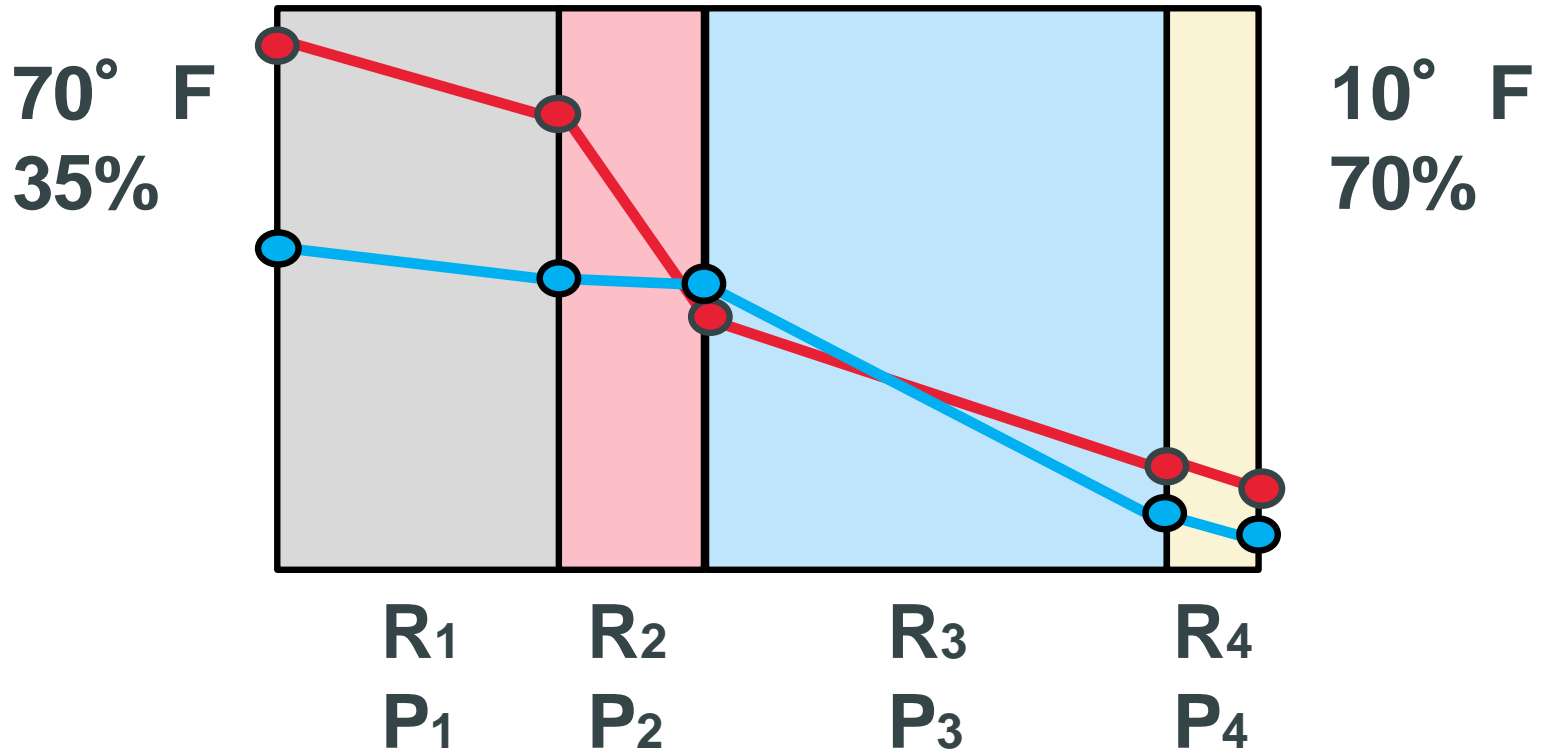
Profile Method: Temperature





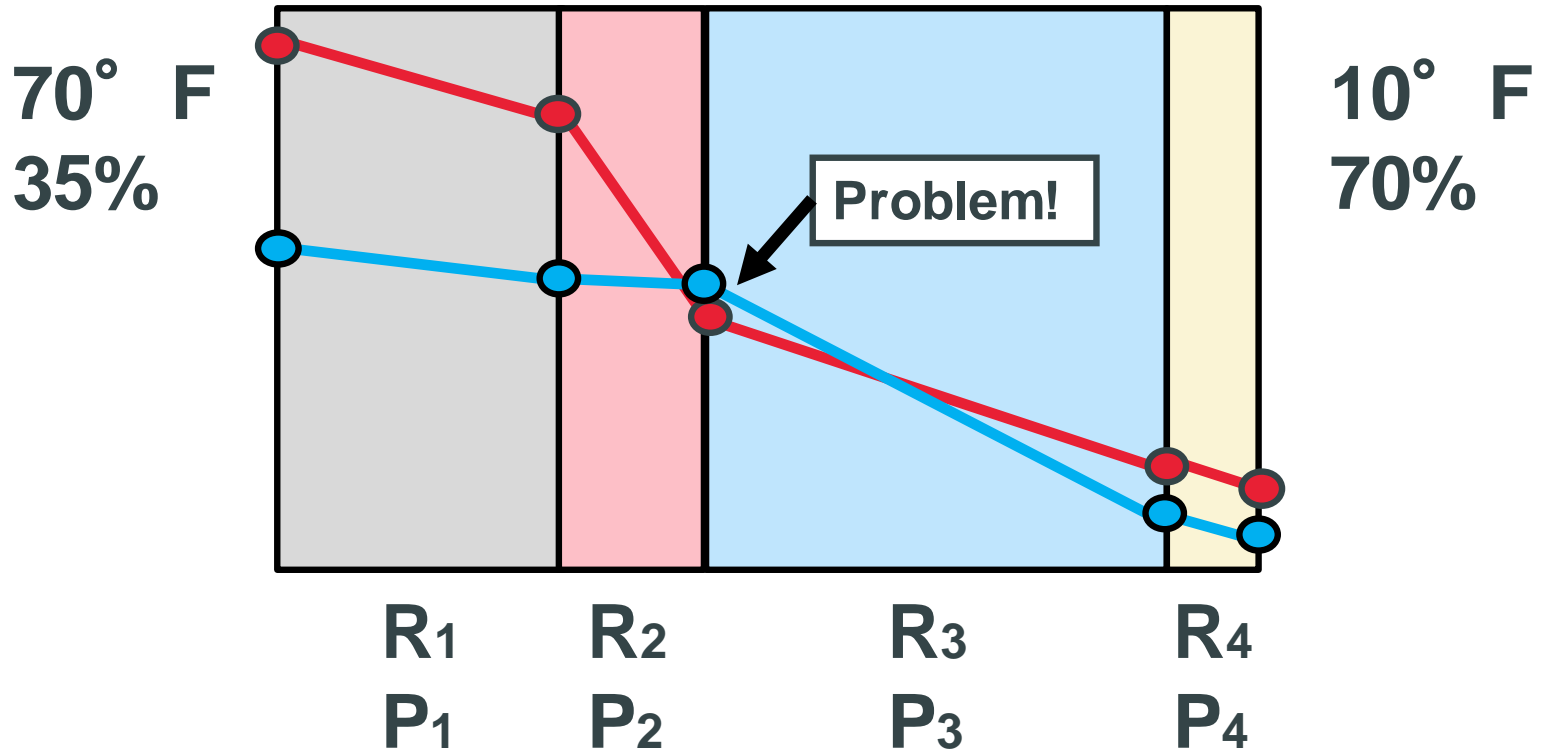
# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile Method: Temperature



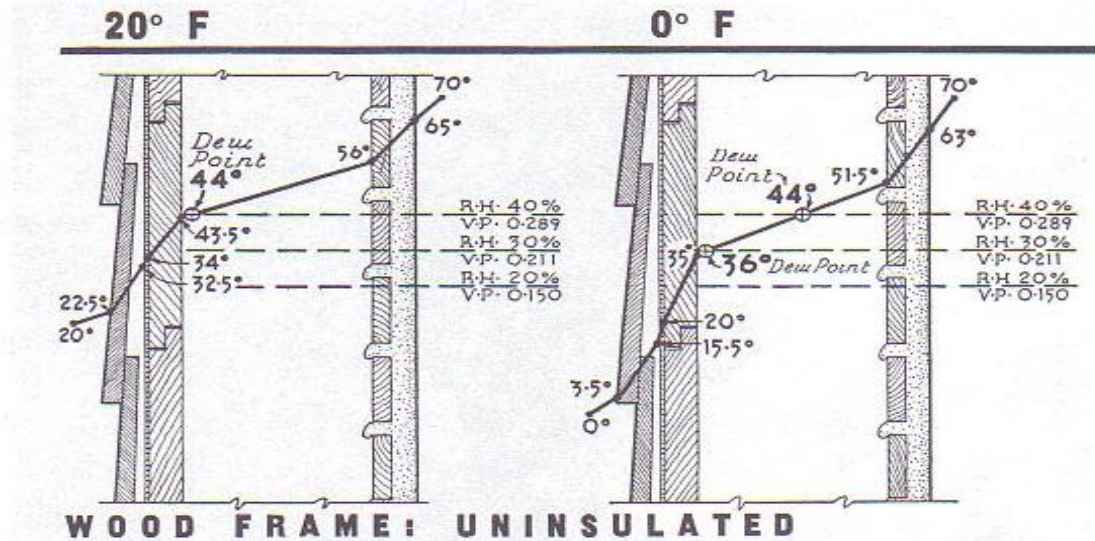
# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile Method: Temperature



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

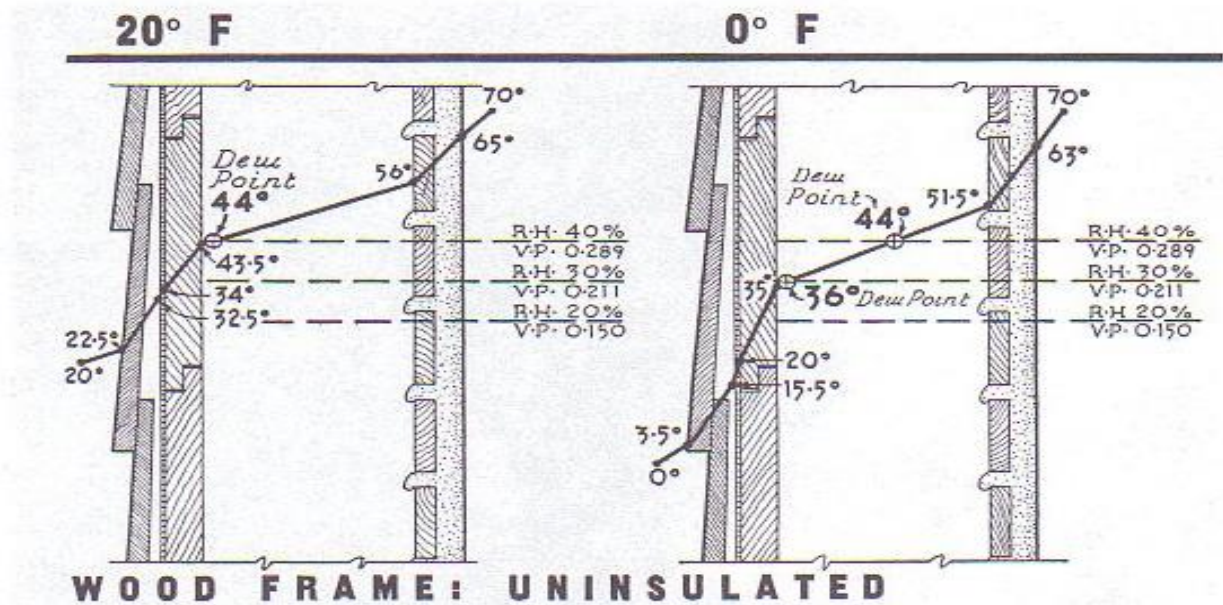
## Profile Method: Limitations



- No infiltration
- Not dynamic
- No Water movement
- RH or Temperature Dependencies
- Adsorption

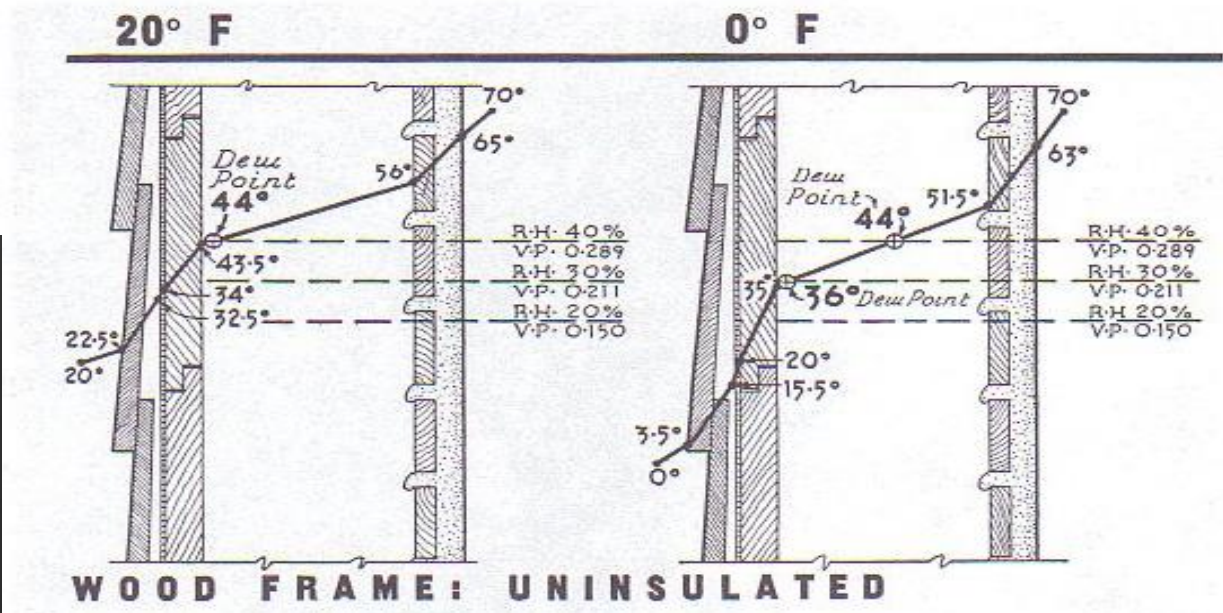
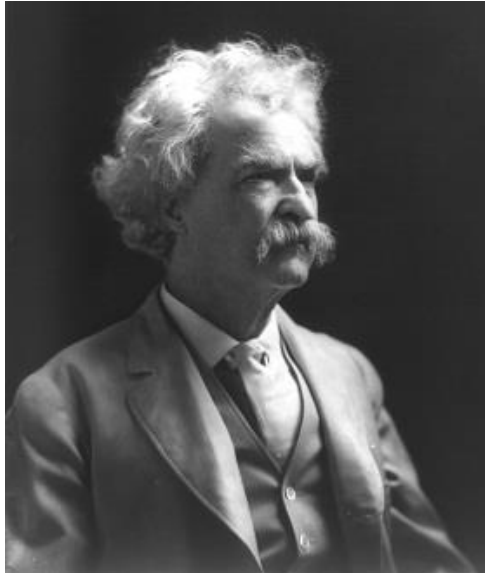
# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## Profile Method



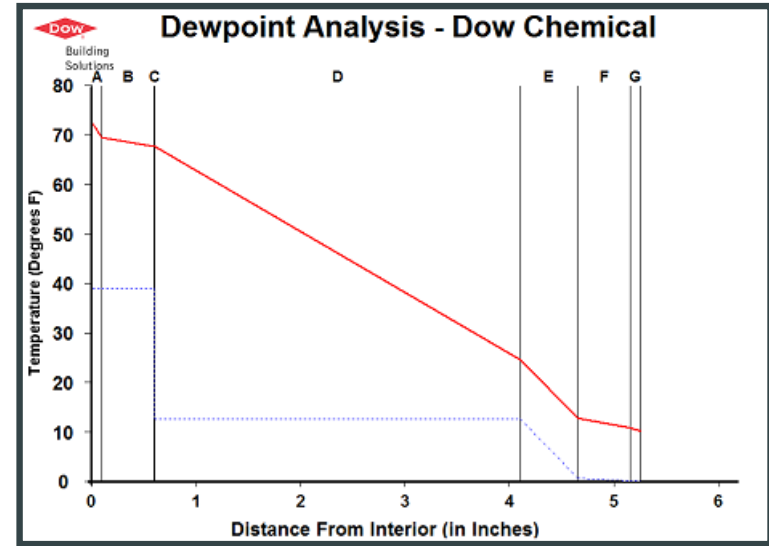
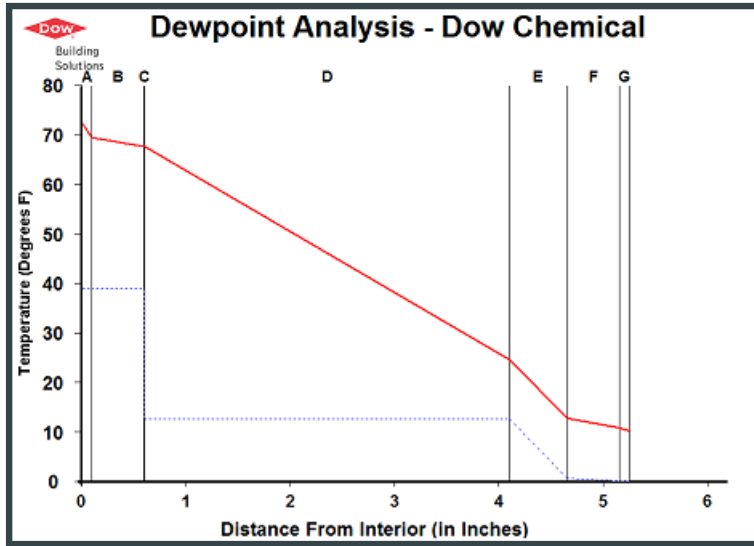
# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## Profile Method



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## Profile Method

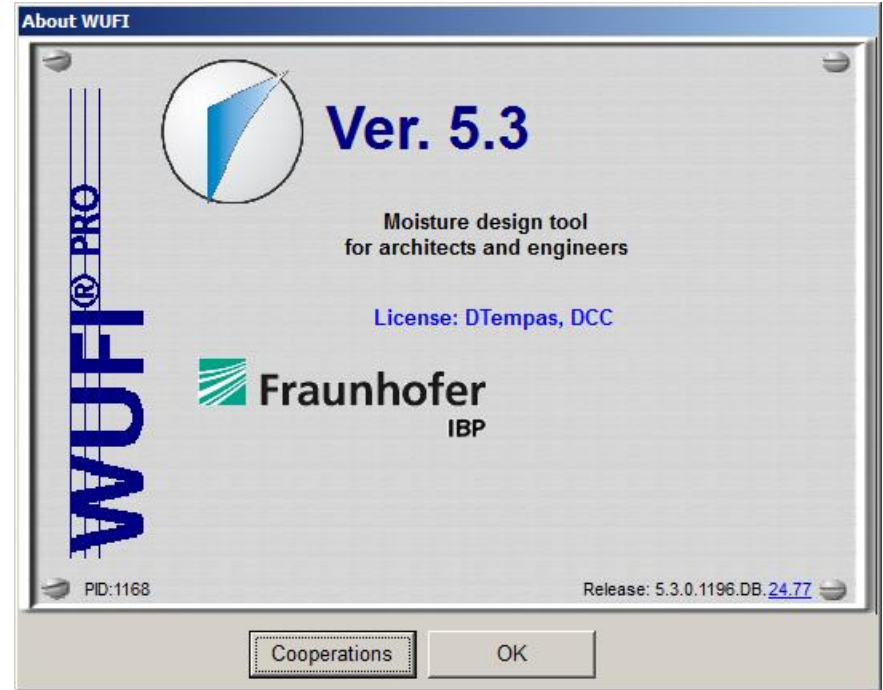


## Compare Assemblies



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

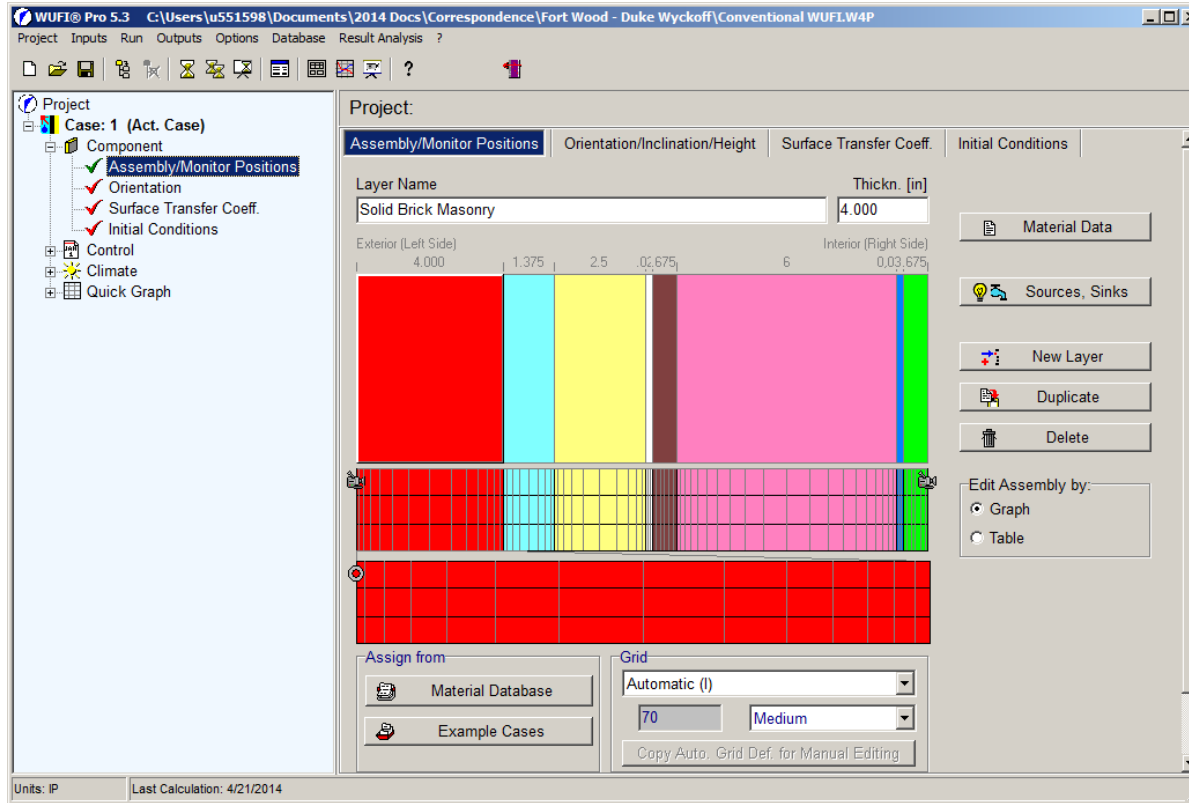
## WUFI Method



Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)/Fraunhofer IBP

# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

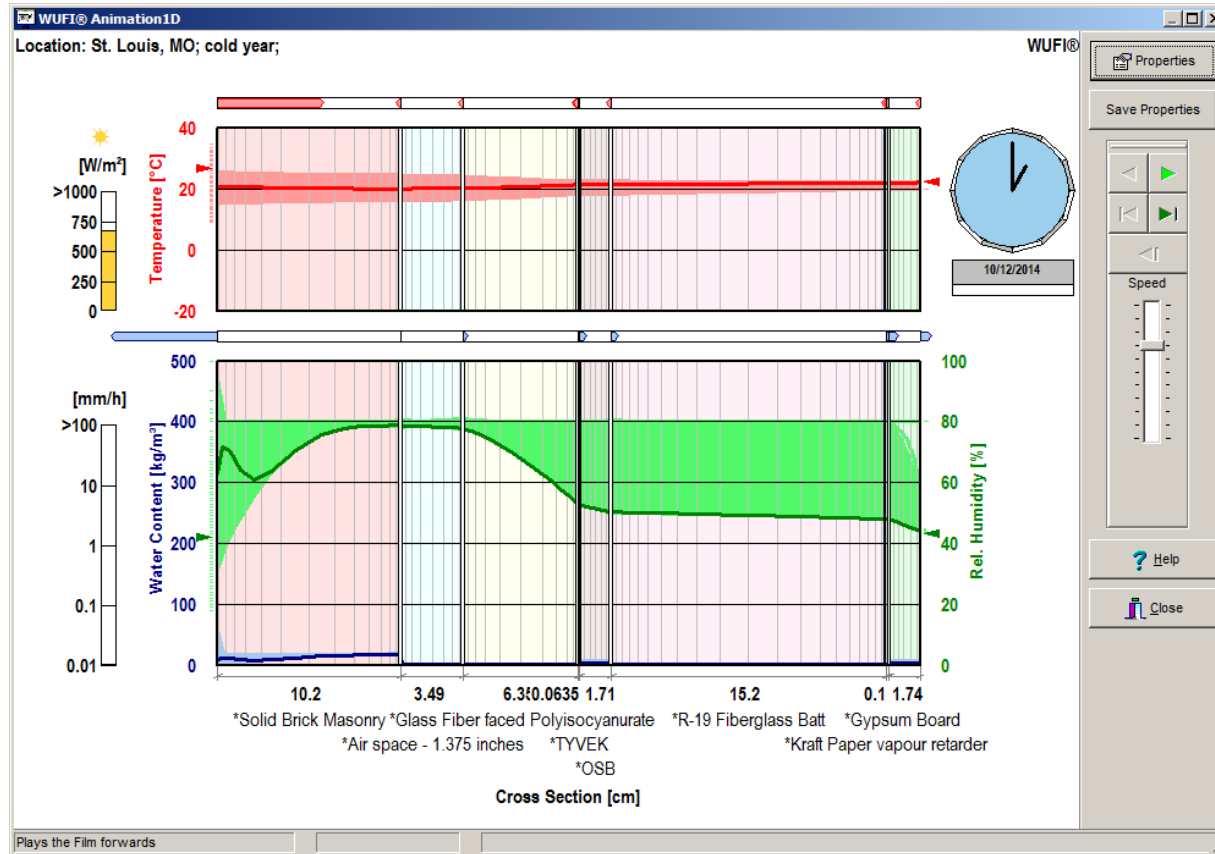
## WUFI Method





# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## WUFI Method



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## WUFI: Limitations

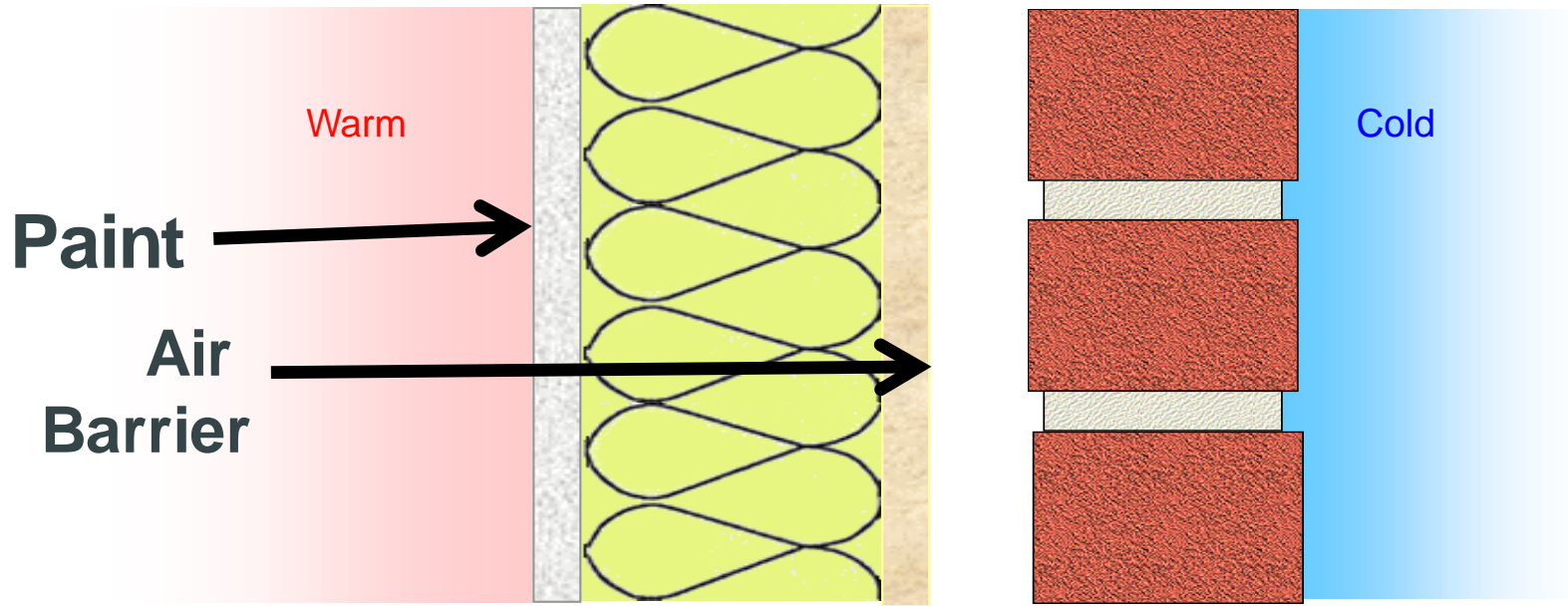
- No infiltration
- Subtle data may not exist
- Temperature Dependencies
- Hard to learn
- Time consuming



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. WUFI: Predictions

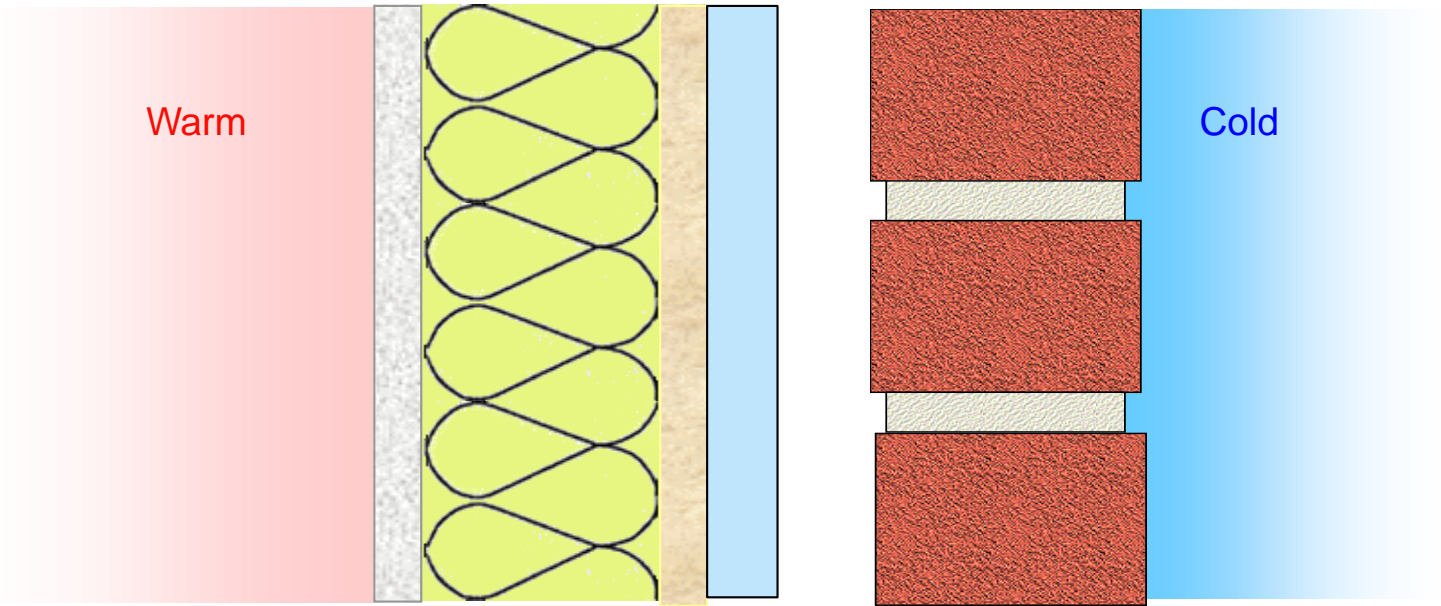
## Old Wall



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. WUFI: Predictions

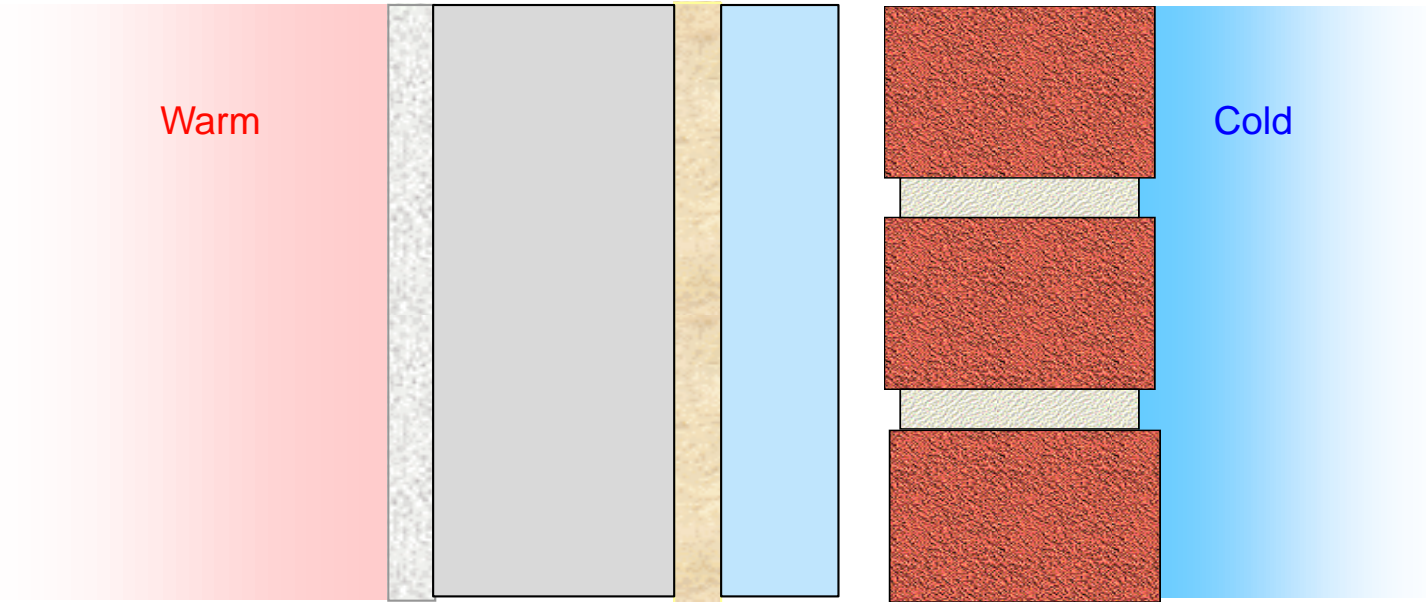
## Medium Wall



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## Profile vs. WUFI: Predictions

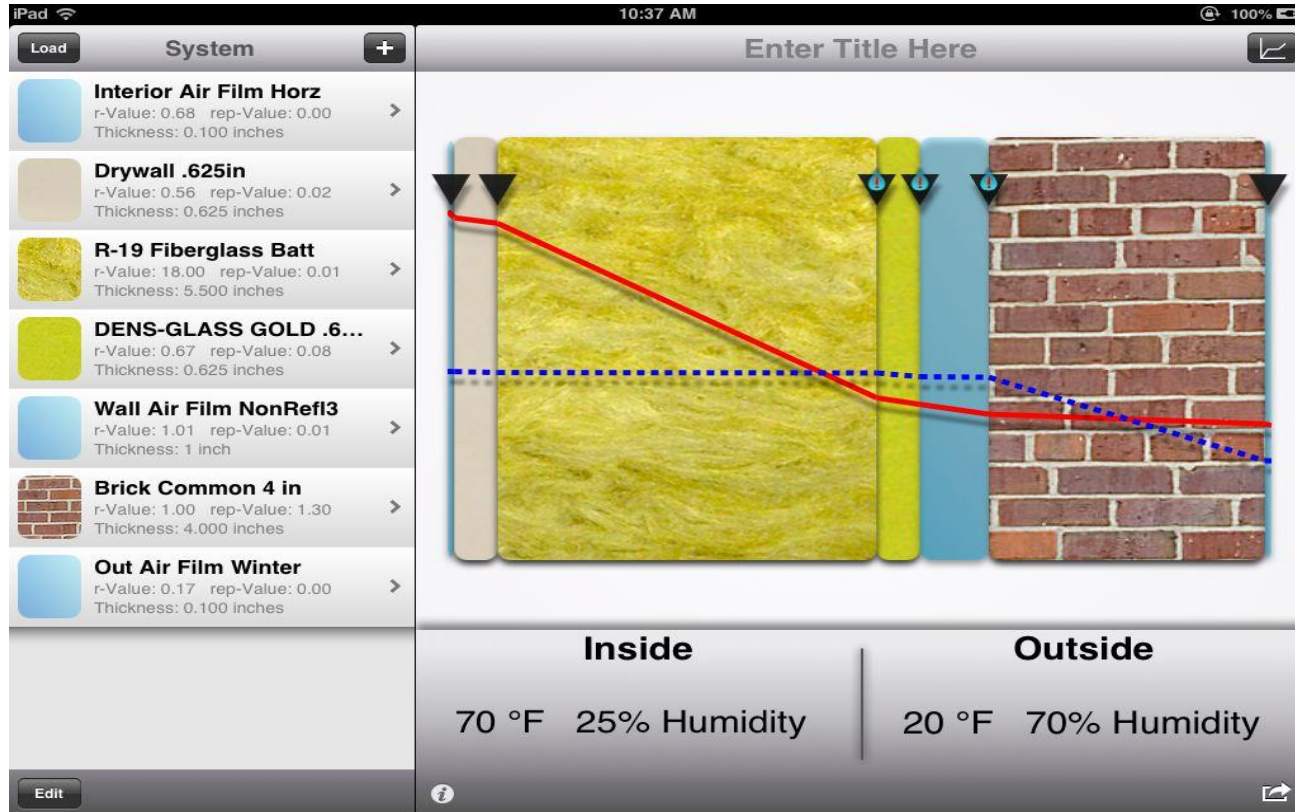
### Perfect Wall



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# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

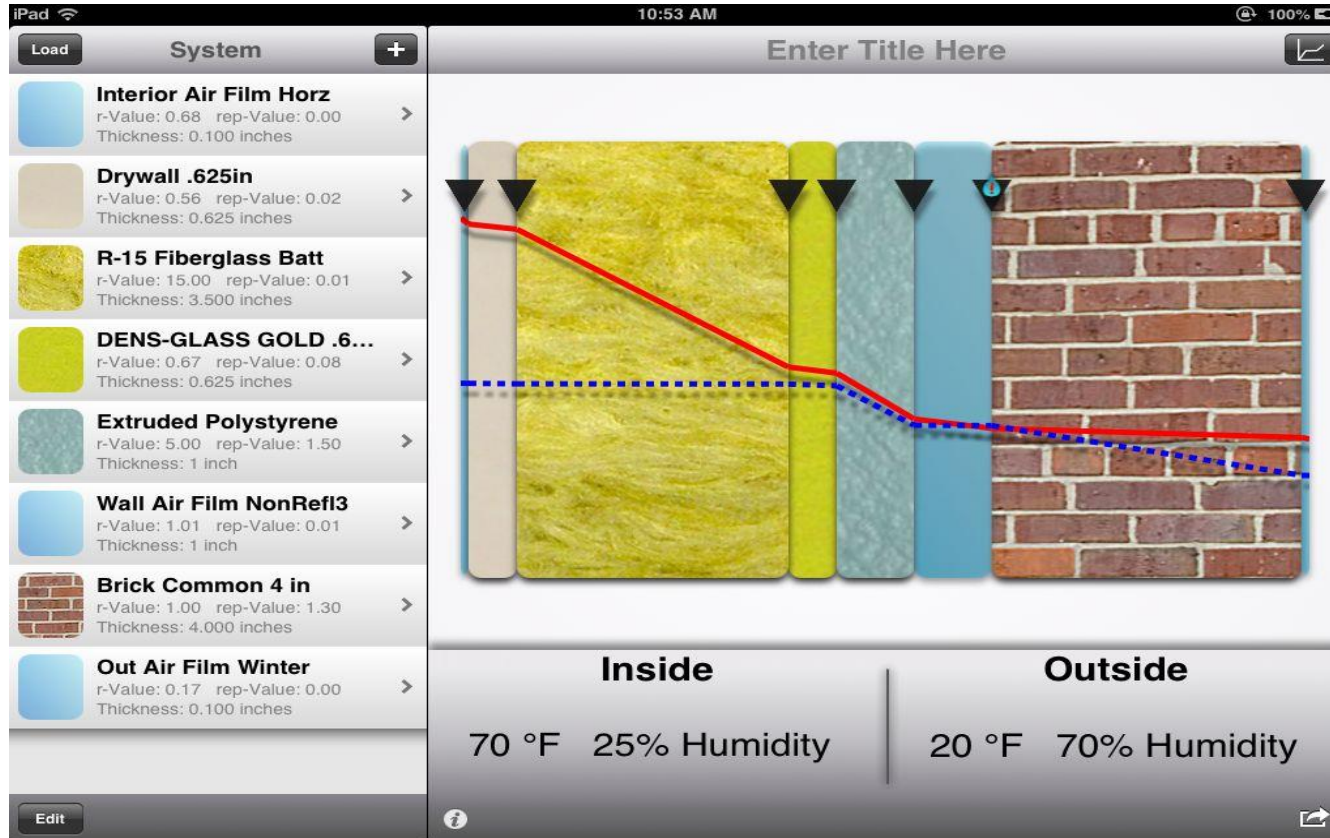
## Profile vs. WUFI: Predictions



DewPro iPad App

# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## Profile vs. WUFI: Predictions

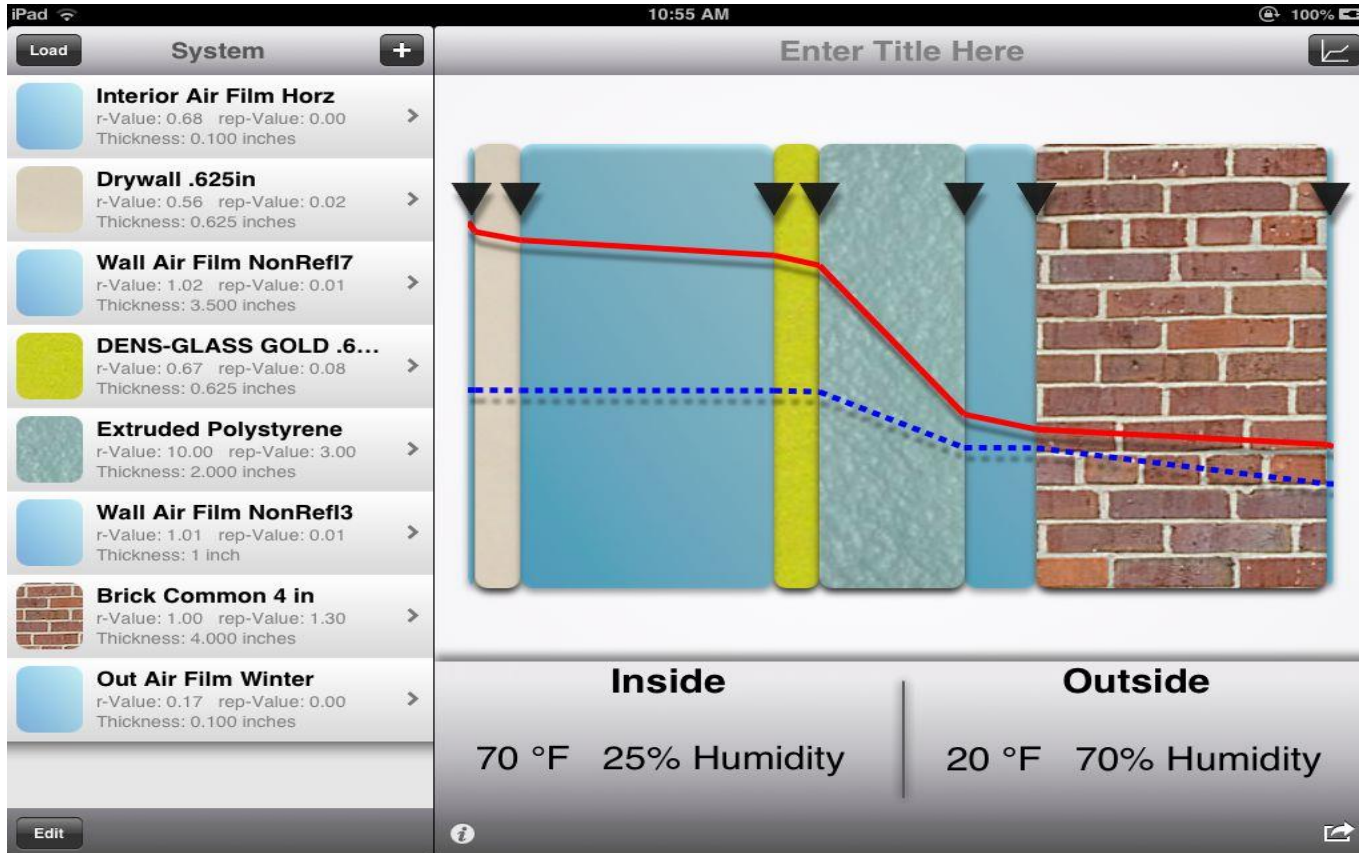


DewPro iPad App



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

## Profile vs. WUFI: Predictions



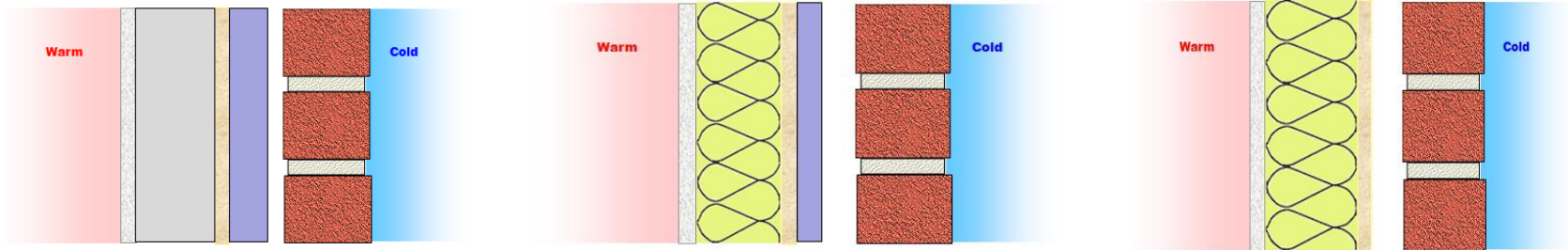
DewPro iPad App



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

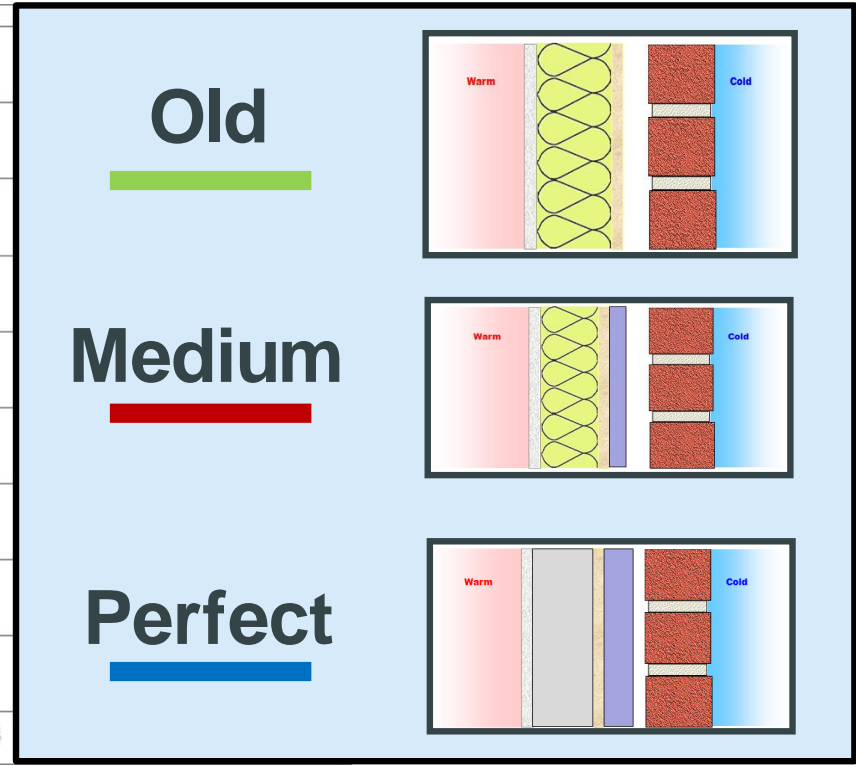
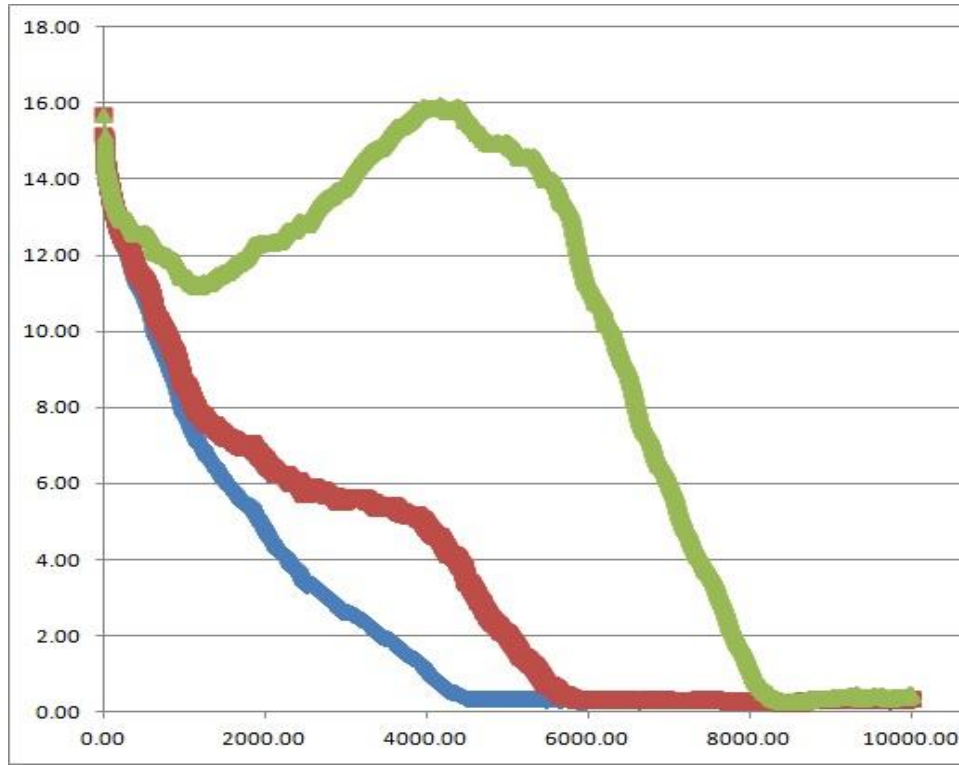
**Profile** vs. WUFI: Predictions

Perfect Wall > Medium Wall > Old Wall



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

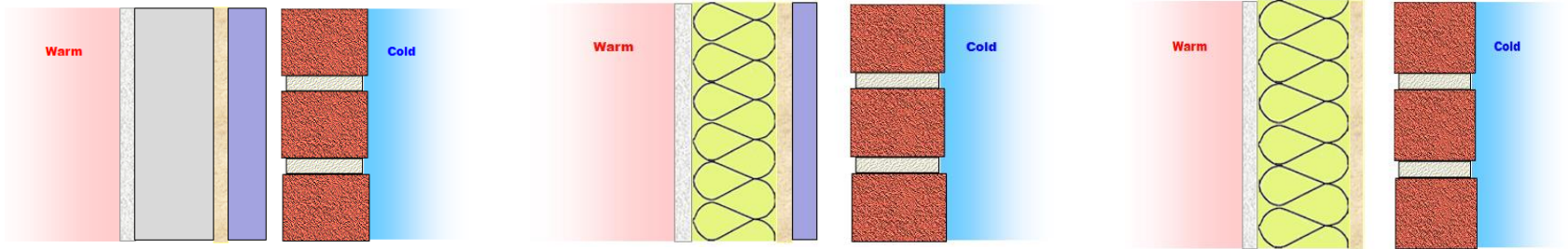
Profile vs. **WUFI**: Predictions



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. **WUF**: Predictions

Perfect Wall > Medium Wall > Old Wall



# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. WUFI: Reality



**Vancouver Field Exposure Facility: Phase III Exterior  
Insulation Analysis**

**Research Report – 1207, 17 February 2012, Coquitlam, BC**

**Jonathan Smegal, Joseph Lstiburek, John Straube, Aaron Grin**

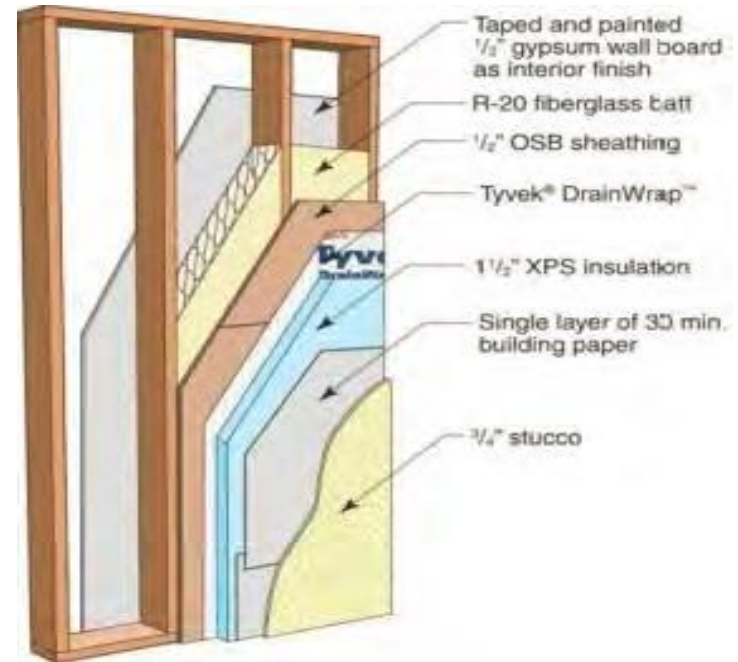
# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. WUFI: Reality



Wall 2

Vancouver Field Exposure Facility: Phase III Exterior Insulation Analysis



Wall 7

# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. WUFI: **Reality**

## Medium Wall > Old Wall

	Wall 2 (direct applied stucco)	Wall 7 (XPS ext. ins.)
North	>106 days	68 days
East	>106 days	53 days
South	68 days	29 days
West	95 days	47 days

Vancouver Field Exposure Facility: Phase III Exterior  
Insulation Analysis

# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. WUFI: **Reality**

## Medium Wall > Old Wall

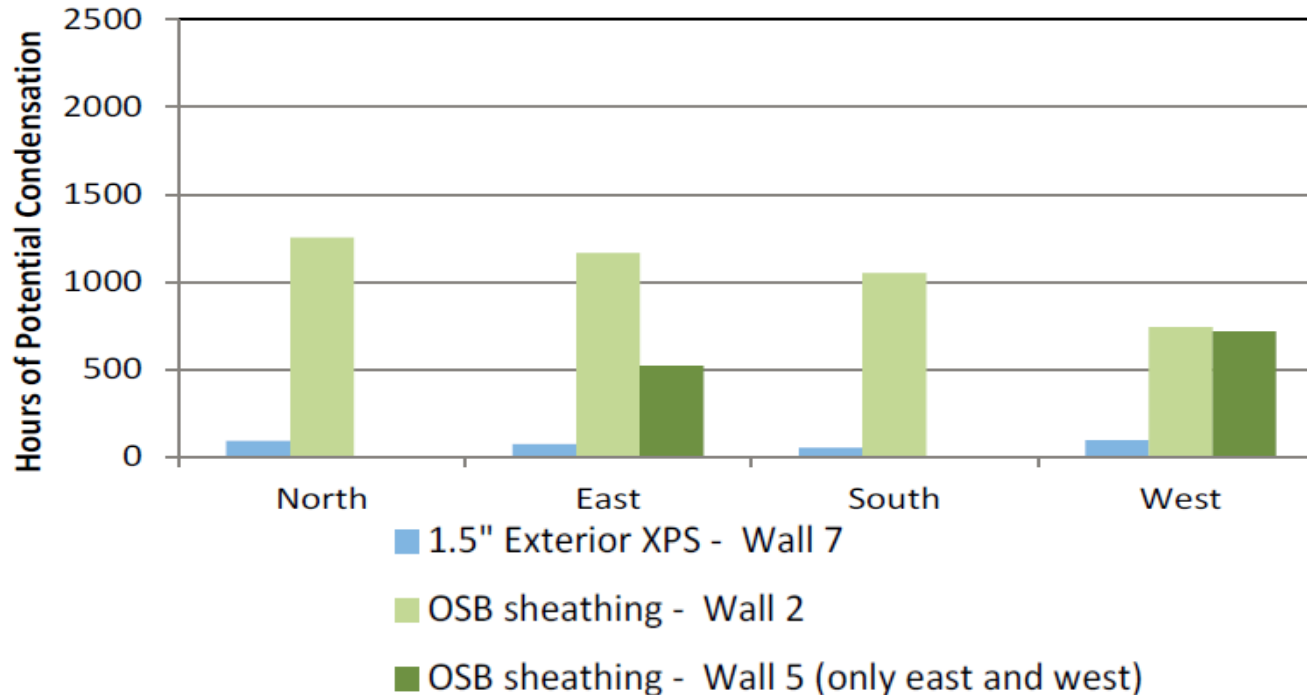
In 1964, Neil Hutcheon demonstrated how the temperature gradients across a masonry wall changed when the insulation was moved from the interior of the structure to the exterior of the structure. He showed that condensation issues at 35% interior relative humidity were solved by moving the insulation to the exterior.

Vancouver Field Exposure Facility: Phase III Exterior  
Insulation Analysis

# Condensation: Analyzing Assemblies

Profile vs. WUFI: Reality

## Medium Wall > Old Wall



Comparison of the hours of potential condensation between Wall 2 and Wall 7

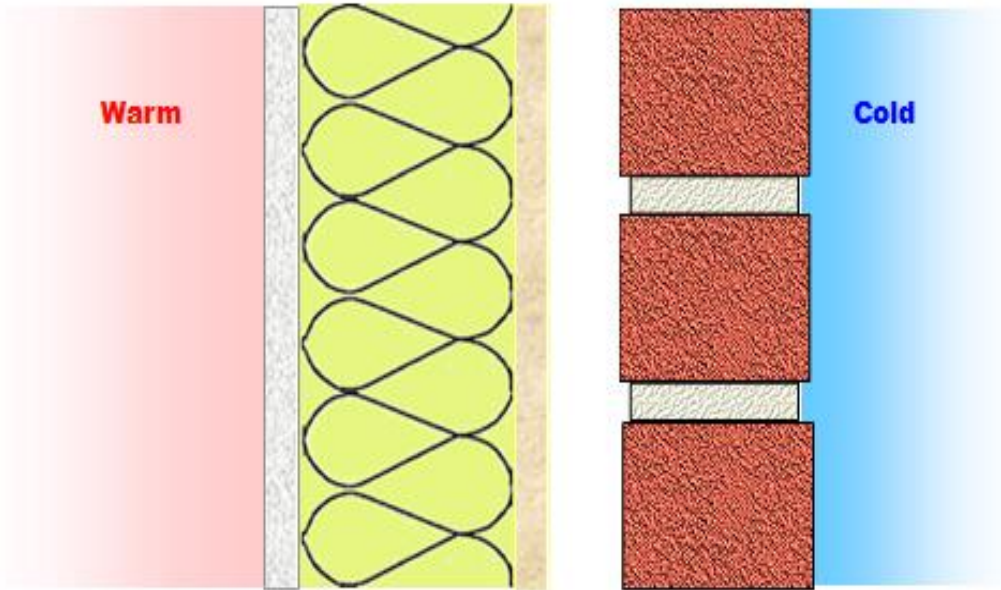


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- **Wall Design**

# Condensation: Wall Design

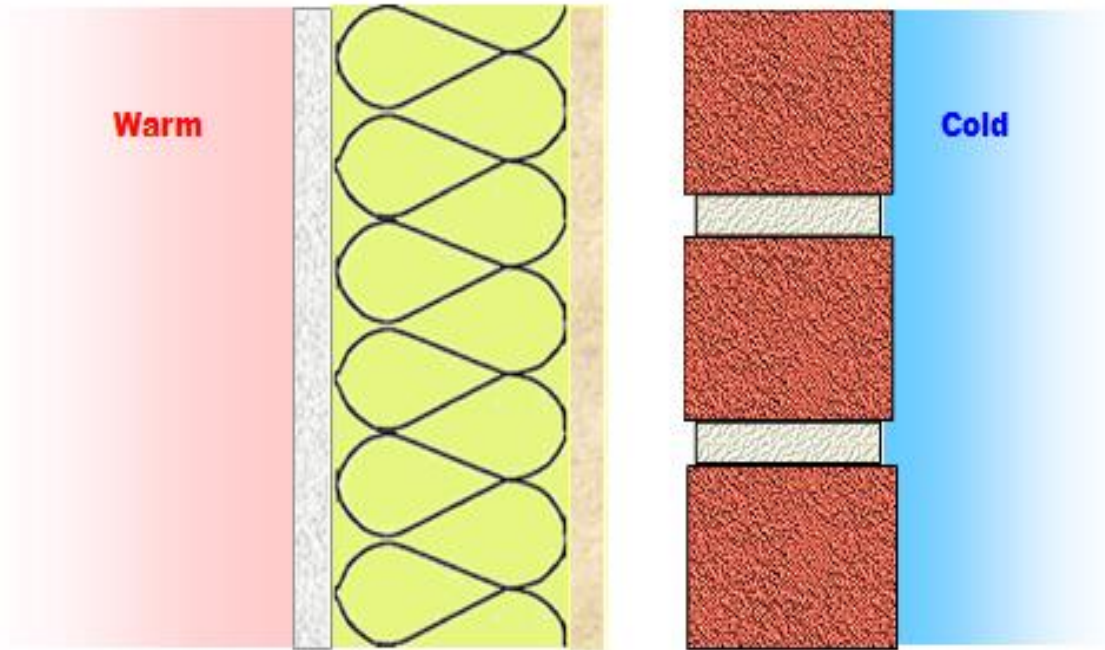
Cold Climates: Permeability



What happens when we try to design a wall by altering the permeability of the materials?

# Condensation: Wall Design

## Cold Climates: Permeability



Cavity insulation forces interior vapor retarders.

# Condensation: Wall Design

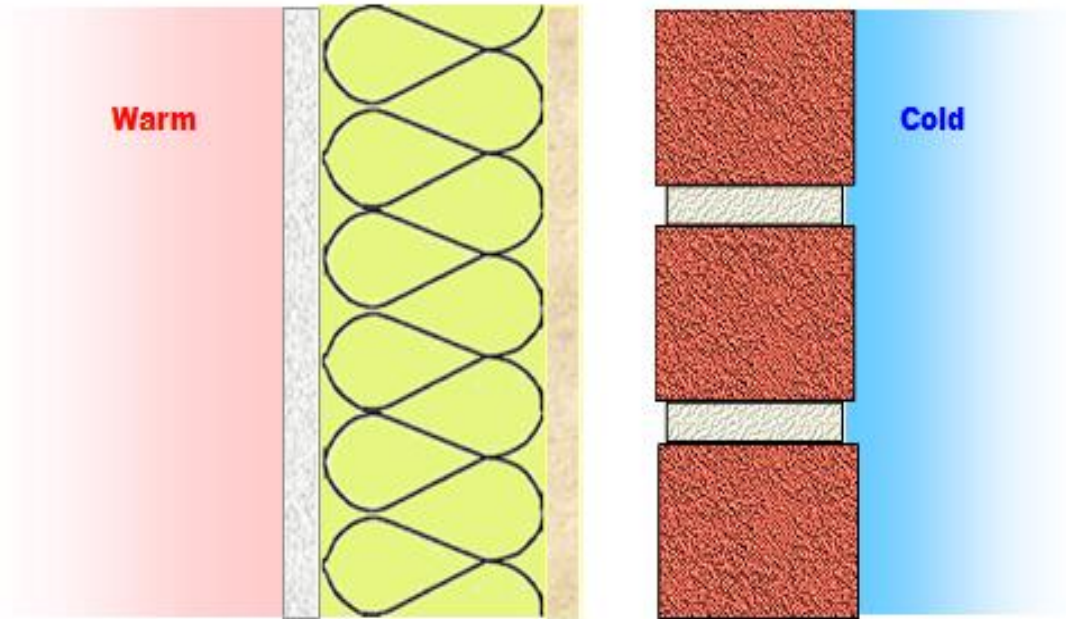
Cold Climates: Permeability

Very hard to deal with the various kinds of penetrations



# Condensation: Wall Design

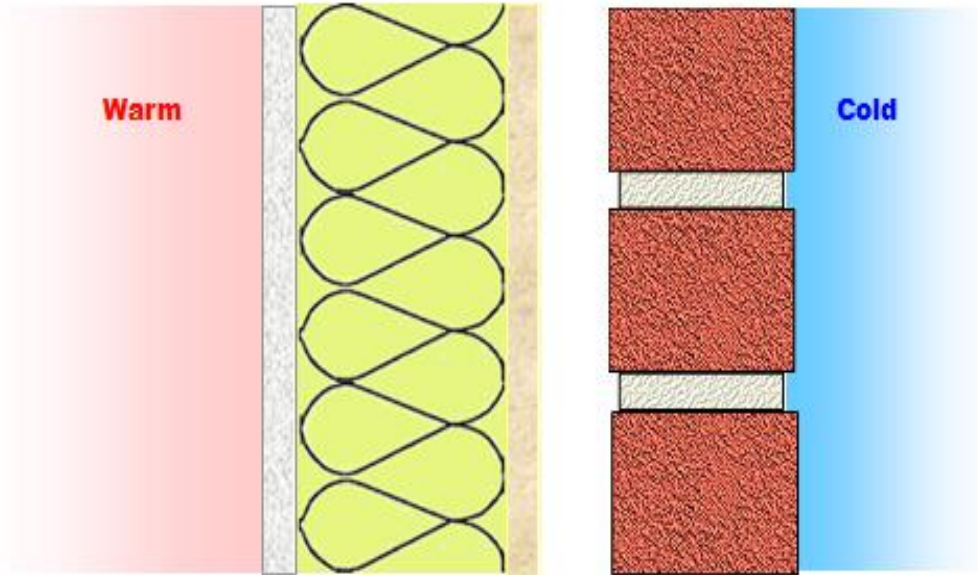
Cold Climates: Permeability



Poor effective drying because it is too often cold.

# Condensation: Wall Design

Cold Climates: Permeability



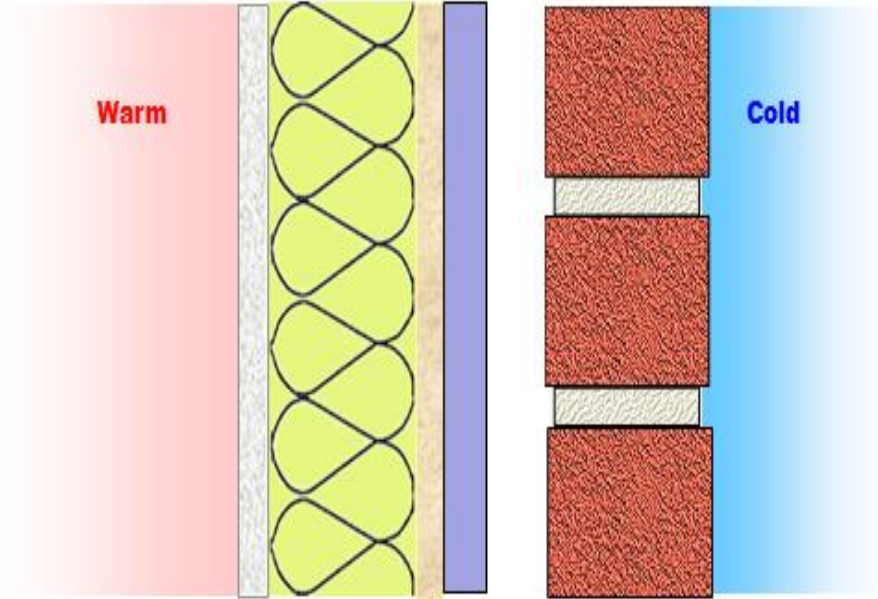
**Delicate system.**

**What about changes by the owner? Maintenance?**

# Condensation: Wall Design

Cold Climates: Temperature

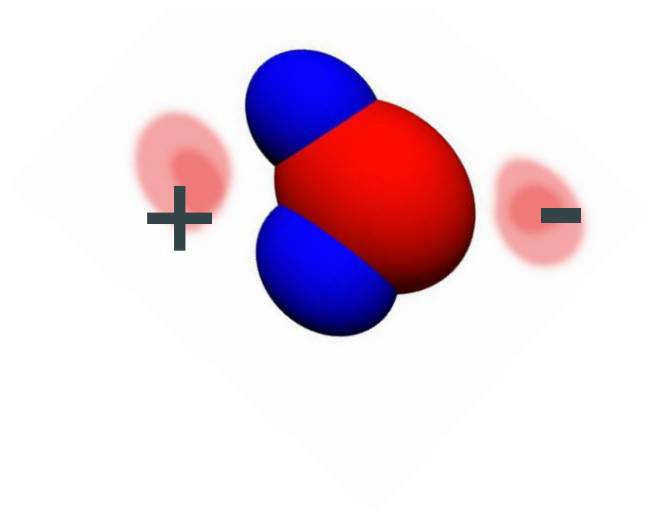
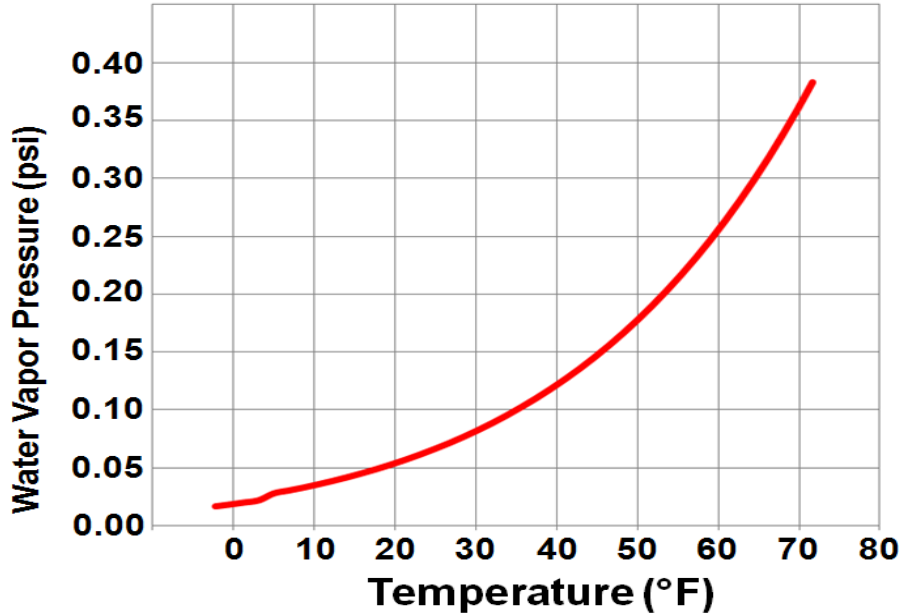
Easier to make right.  
Reduced cavity  
insulation.  
Sheathing insulation.  
Broader applicability.  
Effective drying.  
**ROBUST!**



# Condensation: Summary

- Properties of Water

Psychrometric Chart



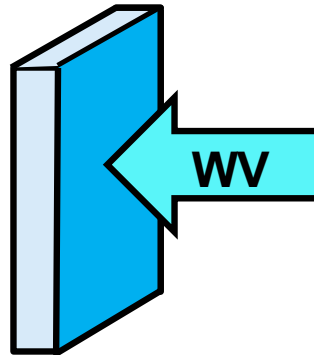
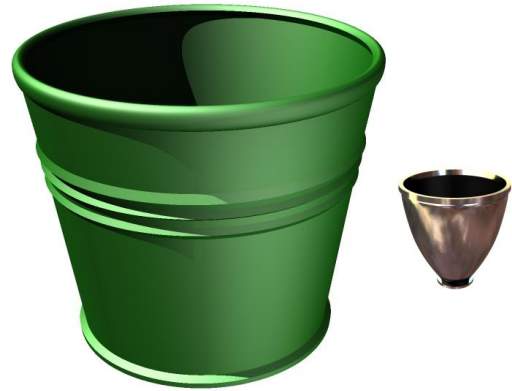


# Condensation: Summary

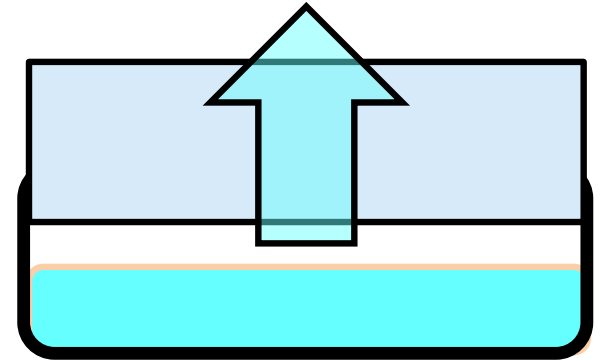
- Properties of Water
- Terms Relating to Condensation

## Relative Humidity

- Permeance
- Perms



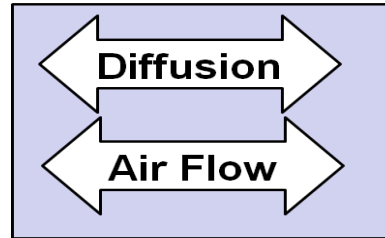
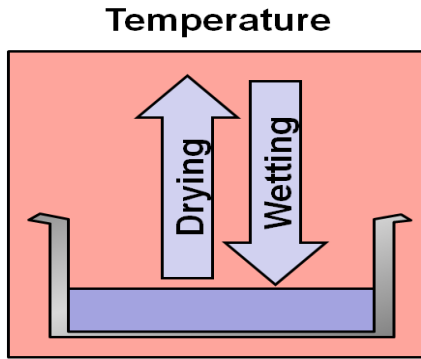
gr/hr ft<sup>2</sup> in Hg



Wet Cup

# Condensation: Summary

- Properties of Water
- Terms Relating to Condensation
- Wetting and Drying

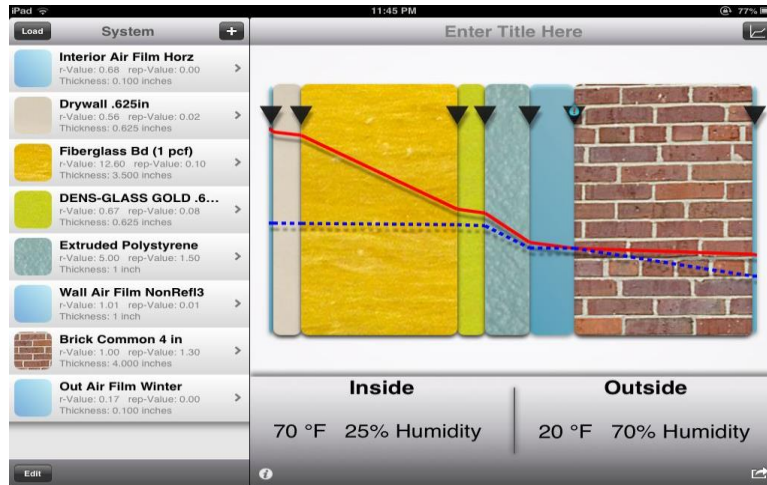


Permeability  
Infiltration



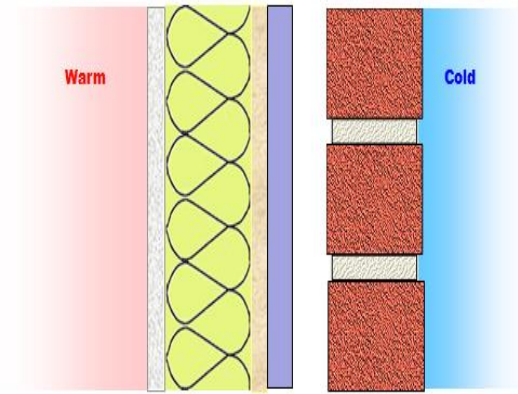
# Condensation: Summary

- Properties of Water
- Terms Relating to Condensation
- Wetting and Drying
- Analyzing Assemblies



# Condensation: Summary

- Properties of Water
- Terms Relating to Condensation
- Wetting and Drying
- Analyzing Assemblies
- Wall Design



**Easier to make right.  
Reduced cavity insulation  
Sheathing Insulation  
Broader applicability  
Effective Drying  
ROBUST!**

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**Thank  
You**



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