

Trapped Moisture Causes Decay

While a cavity in your tooth is the result of decay, the cavity of a masonry rainscreen wall actually prevents decay. Without the cavity of a masonry rainscreen wall, moisture can become trapped inside the exterior walls of your home. That trapped moisture causes costly wood rot and metal corrosion that threatens your home's structural safety, and promotes the growth of dangerous mildew and mould that threatens your family's health 🦠

Fighting moisture using cavities

Driving rain and runoff can enter any wall through gaps created by vents, pipes, windows and balconies. Without an effective moisture management system your walls will decay. This damage is usually concealed, but the rot is progressive and will accelerate. To minimize, or completely prevent this affliction, exterior wall systems should limit the moisture that enters. Any moisture that does enter must be removed or dried out quickly. Not all wall systems can do this. There are no substitutes for a masonry rainscreen wall 🦠

When Systems Fail

The recent "Leaky Condo" disaster in British Columbia has painfully shown designers, builders and homeowners how extensive damage can be when moisture is trapped in a poorly designed wall system. The failures occurred in wood frame structures that were less than ten years old, most with stucco exteriors. The resulting massive wood rot required vast structural reconstruction. Estimates of the damage to residential wood frame walls were in excess of \$2 billion 🦠



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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In association with:

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| Canadian Masonry Research Institute | (780) 489-1768 |
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The One Time You Want Cavities. 🦠



Masonry Canada

THE MASONRY RAINSCREEN WALL

You can't see it, but the hidden cavity in your masonry rainscreen wall is protecting your home. The narrow airspace between the external brick or stone veneer, and your home's internal wood-frame wall is preventing corrosion, wood rot, and the growth of mould and mildew caused by trapped moisture. The cavity promotes rapid drying by allowing air movement. It also provides a vertical drainage path to intercept any moisture that may have penetrated the masonry veneer. The moisture runs down the cavity and out through small openings located at the base of the wall. These openings are called weepholes, and are created by leaving out the mortar filling between adjacent bricks or stones 🦱

The Growth of the Rainscreen Cavity

The masonry rainscreen wall is a highly developed water management system that has evolved over many decades. This system works under virtually all climates, conditions, and uses. Rainscreen technology has proven itself so reliable that the National Research Council of Canada strongly supports its use for exterior wall systems in Canada.

Steel Ties and Structural Strength

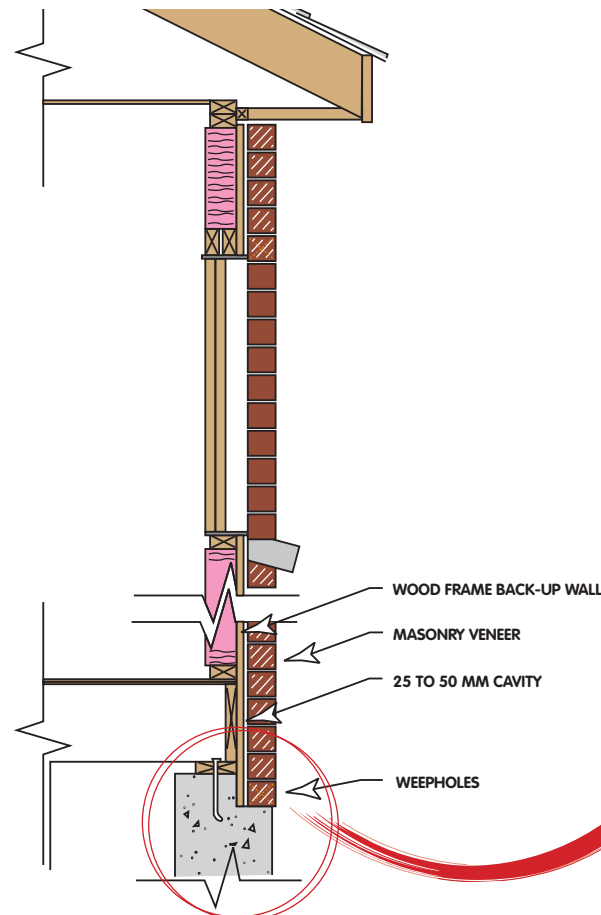
Unlike other wall systems the masonry rainscreen wall isn't adhered to the frame of your home, it has steel ties. One end of the steel tie is embedded in the mortar joint with the other attached to the wood frame. As well the rainscreen wall's weight is supported either directly by the foundation, or indirectly through structural steel. This construction method ensures that wind, earthquake and other loads are easily managed, and that the veneer and wood frame are permanently connected.

False Rainscreen Walls

From a distance some other wall systems may look remarkably like brick or stone masonry rainscreen walls. Don't be fooled. These impostors don't have a cavity. In some cases their materials, design or construction practices are not standardized by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or recognized and approved by the National Building Code of Canada. Often these impostors are not fully tested for the harsh and varied Canadian climate, or installed by skilled tradespeople.



TYPICAL MASONRY RAINSCREEN WALL SECTION



Cavities are a Reason to Smile

A masonry rainscreen wall protects your home, your family, and your investment by ensuring moisture isn't trapped in your wall. A healthy home needs the cavity of a masonry rainscreen wall 🦱



Building with Experience

Bricklaying is a traditional craft that demands highly skilled labour. Before bricklayers are certified to install masonry, they must undergo years of formal instruction and supervised site experience. Their exceptional understanding of the function and the correct installation of masonry components ensures outstanding workmanship and quality construction.

CSA Standard

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has fully standardized the design, construction and material requirements for masonry rainscreen walls. In fact, masonry walls are the only residential cladding systems in Canada to have such standards.

