

Flash-Vent™



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much water will the Flash-Vent product exhaust from the wall?

Flash-Vent will exhaust one liter of water per hour per lineal foot. The water will exhaust from the complete wall, which is an advantage over using just open head joints or weep vents alone.

Will the non-woven wicking material mildew?

No! This fiber is not subject to mold and mildew growth.

Will the wick still operate when compressed under 30 feet of brick?

Yes! Thirty feet of brick wall only represents 26 psi of loading on the wicking surface and this is not enough to generate any measurable differences in wick rates. The product has been tested at 200 psi and there was no restriction of wicking action.

What is the life expectancy of the non-woven surface? These extruded fibers are totally inert and have indefinite life expectancies, especially in enclosed environments like cavity walls. They are built of the same fibers as the mortar deflection devices that they are replacing.

Will this system allow the wall to breathe as well as to vent? Yes! The non-woven acts as a wick to carry the moisture out and as a filter to allow air in. A conventional flashing system will have four square inches of open head joint for every ten feet of wall. The Flash-Vent system will have two square inches of open area per ten feet in addition to the four square inches from the open head joints totaling 6" of open area for air flow. This compares to one half square inch for a system using cotton cordage.

How high up the backer wall should I carry the flashing? All flashing membranes should be carried high enough up the backer wall to remain above the anticipated level of the highest mortar droppings. For systems using a mortar deflection device (MDD) it is recommended to run the flashing a minimum of 6" above the 10" high MDD. In the case of Flash-Vent, since there is no MDD the mortar droppings begin at the base of the cavity rather than at the top of the MDD. Thus, the flashing should follow BIA's recommendation or rising up the backer wall 8" versus the 16" required with a MDD.

Flash-Vent™



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the Flash-Vent system evacuate the wall as fast as open head joints? ASTM E 514-mod has been widely used to determine these results for most of the existing systems. This test method has been deemed suspect by ASTM due to the significant number of uncontrolled variables inherent from one wall to the next. None-the-less, using this test method, Flash-Vent would appear to be 80% as effective as open head joints with mortar deflection and twice as effective as cotton cordage with pea gravel. This would seem to follow logically since open head joints have twice the open area of Flash-Vent and Flash-Vent has eight times the open area of cotton cordage per ten feet of wall. The Flash-Vent system will not leave standing water in the cavity, since it drains along the entire length of the wall and not just at the open head joints.

Is the Flash-Vent compatible with all other building envelope materials? Flash-Vent is York's Multi-Flash 500 with a wicking material applied to its top surface. Being sure to always show the copper side of the product to all material transitions will afford the same universal product compatibility that Multi-Flash enjoys. That would apply to spray and membrane applied rubberized asphalts as well as EPDM and most caulks, sealants and adhesives.

Will the Flash-Vent freeze in the winter and create icing problems at the brick ledge such as breaking the mortar bond, cracking the mortar joint or creating an ice shelf? If the worst case were to present itself and the wicking surface were totally saturated with water and then froze very suddenly it would expand by 8%. This would cause a deflection of the wall of a maximum of 0.0025" since the wick is 0.03125" thick. This represents 0.7% of the thickness of a 0.375" thick mortar joint. Given that the flashing is under the mortar joint and not in the mortar joint means that this deflection will occur as lift and not fracture. When the non-woven thaws, the wall will return to its original position, .0025" away.