

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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 10 feet of brick?

Yes! Ten feet of brick wall only represents 15psi of loading on the wicking surface and this is not enough to generate any measurable differences in wick rates.

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 and weep vents 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, while a Flash-Vent system will have two square inches of open area per ten feet. This compares to one half square inch for a system using cotton cordage.

Will the non-woven carry water right through the lap joints?

Yes it will, if one laps non-woven to non-woven or non-woven to copper. This is a prohibited practice and special details must be followed to insure that all laps are copper to copper. Multi-Flash 500 of the same weight as the Flash-Vent is supplied with each shipment for use under butt-laps and outside corners. See York Manufacturing specification bulletin #226 for more details.

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. In the case of Flash-Vent, since there is no mortar deflection device the mortar droppings begin at the base of the cavity rather than at the top of the mortar deflection device. This reduces the required height of the Flash-Vent membrane by whatever the height of the mortar deflection device would have been.

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.

Is the Flash-Vent compatible with all other building envelope materials?

Flash-Vent is basically 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.