

## **GET THE WATER OUT.....NOW!**

Getting the water out of the wall as fast as possible is not as important as getting the water out as soon as possible. What I mean by that is, do not allow the water to travel any further than necessary enroute to the exit. If you capture the water in the window head flashing, make sure that your exhaust weeps are also at the window head. Avoid details that allow for this water to drain off the sides of the head flashing into the cavity to exhaust at the sill or floor intersections. This practice gives the water additional opportunities to find passage to the interior. Always end dam thru-wall flashing terminations at your openings and force the water out on the level where it was collected.

Demonstrations of thru-wall flashing systems invariably use gallons of water and measure the flow rate out through the weeps. The reality is that the vast majority of the time these systems will be dealing with incidental amounts of moisture rather than gallons of water. The typical thru-wall flashing system most widely used today relies on gravity to force this moisture to wet a path from its point of entry to the weeps. Gallons of water have no problem making that journey, however, incidental moisture is often depleted before it ever reaches the weeps and simply evaporates into the cavity to try again another day.

York's new Flash-Vent™ system with a continuous wicking membrane utilizes both gravity and capillary action to draw the moisture to the exterior. The wick continues to move the moisture to the outside until the wick's moisture content reaches equilibrium with the outside air. While conventional gravity systems may eliminate gallons of water more quickly than these new wicking systems, they are not as effective at removing incidental amounts of moisture nor do they follow as direct a path to the exterior as do wicks. The exhaust rate on the Flash-Vent system has been calculated at 2.5 gallon per hour per 10 foot of wall section. The question is not "How fast is fast enough?" but, "How direct is direct enough?".

Another concern with a typical thru-wall flashing system is water puddling between the weeps due to irregular flashing surfaces or improperly sloped brick ledges. This water is forced to wick out through the mortar joint and makes the mortar joint just above the flashing the wettest mortar joint in the wall. The Flash-Vent™ system can lift water as much as 1" and will draw this moisture out of the irregularities; not giving up until this mortar joint is as dry as the outside air. Now the mortar joint directly above the flashing is likely to become the driest in the wall and the chances of the joint spalling are reduced.

For specs & downloadable details go to [www.yorkmfg.com](http://www.yorkmfg.com)