

National Concrete Masonry Association

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CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-RISE CONCRETE MASONRY BUILDINGS

TEK 3-13

Construction (2005)

Keywords: architectural details, bond beams, composite wall, construction details, construction techniques, flashing, joint reinforcement, construction techniques, lintels, water repellents, weep holes.

INTRODUCTION

The current trend of urban renewal and infill has sparked a high volume of new low-rise masonry residences. These structures come in many forms, but quite often they employ the use of load bearing concrete masonry walls supporting a wood floor system. These new buildings are largely derivative of the historic loadbearing masonry “brownstone” or “three flat” structures of old. This guide is intended to assist contractors and architects to give this building type a modern approach to detailing.

FLOOR SYSTEM CONNECTIONS

When designing low-rise loadbearing structures, the connection detail between the floor system and the wall system is critical for achieving a watertight structure. Much of this TEK will deal with which strategy should be utilized in connecting a wood floor system to a masonry load-bearing wall. Connection methods covered are joist hangers, beam pockets and ledger beam details. Other floor systems are used in low-rise construction that are not addressed here – see TEK 5-7A for further information (ref. 2).

BRICK AND BLOCK COMPOSITE WALL DETAILS

Quite often, the front facade of these structures is composed of brick to give the building a more residential, more human scale. One way to construct a brick and block wall is to separate the two wythes with an airspace, creating a cavity wall. Another is to use a composite wall design. The composite wall consists of an exterior wythe of brick directly mortared or grouted and tied to an inner wythe of CMU. The collar joint between the two wythes should be 100% solid as it is the only defense against water penetration. Minimum tie requirements are one tie per $2\frac{2}{3}$ ft² of wall area for W1.7 (MW11)(9 gauge) wire or one tie per $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft² of wall area using W2.8 (MW19)($\frac{3}{16}$ in.) wire (ref. 2). A W1.7 (MW11)(9 gauge) joint reinforcement @ 16 in. (406 mm) on center would meet this requirement and is often used. Details covered for this system are base flashing, window head and window sill details.

EXTERIOR CONCRETE MASONRY

The use of water repellent admixtures in concrete masonry and mortars can greatly reduce the amount of water entering the masonry. In addition, they inhibit any water that penetrates the face from wicking to the back of the wall.



Figure 1—Exterior Concrete Masonry in a Residence

Proper selection and application of integral water repellents and surface treatments can greatly enhance the water resistive properties of masonry, but they should not be considered as substitutes for good fundamental design including flashing details and crack control measures. See TEKs 19-1, 19-2A and 19-4A (refs. 6, 3, & 5) for more information on water resistant concrete masonry construction.

Because a 4 in. (102 mm) concrete masonry veneer will shrink over time, a 4 in. (102 mm) hot-dipped galvanized ladder type joint reinforcement should be placed in bed joints spaced 16 in. (406 mm) vertically.

Compared to type N or O, type S mortar tends to be less workable in the field and should only be specified when dictated by structural requirements. Sills, copings and chimney caps of solid masonry units, reinforced concrete, stone, or corrosion resistant metal should be used. Copings, sills and chimney caps should project beyond the face of the wall at least 1 in. (25 mm) and should have functional flashing and weep holes. In addition, all sills, copings and chimney caps should have a minimum slope of 1:4, be mechanically anchored to the wall, and should have properly sized, sealed, and located movement joints when necessary.

Flashing should be installed at locations shown on the plans and in strict accordance with the details and industry standard flashing procedures. Functional, unpunctured flashing and weep holes are to be used at the base of wall above grade, above openings, at shelf angles, lintels, wall-roofing intersections, chimneys, bay windows, and below sills and copings. The flashing should be extended past the face of the wall. The flashing should have end dams at discontinuous ends, and properly sealed splices at laps.

JOIST HANGER DETAILS

The use of a joist hanger system can greatly simplify the bearing detail. The floor system does not interrupt the continuity of the bearing wall. Installation is quicker and easier resulting in a more economical installation.

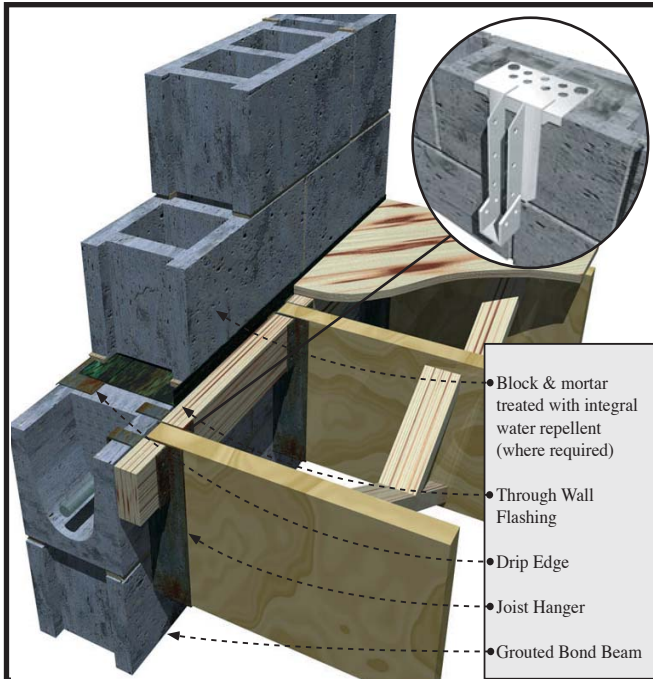


Figure 2—Joist Hanger Bearing Detail

BEAM POCKET DETAILS

The traditional beam pocket detail still can be effective. Stepped flashing above the bearing line is critical to the performance of this system. Without the flashing, any water present in the wall has an unobstructed path inside the building and has the potential to deteriorate the floor structure.

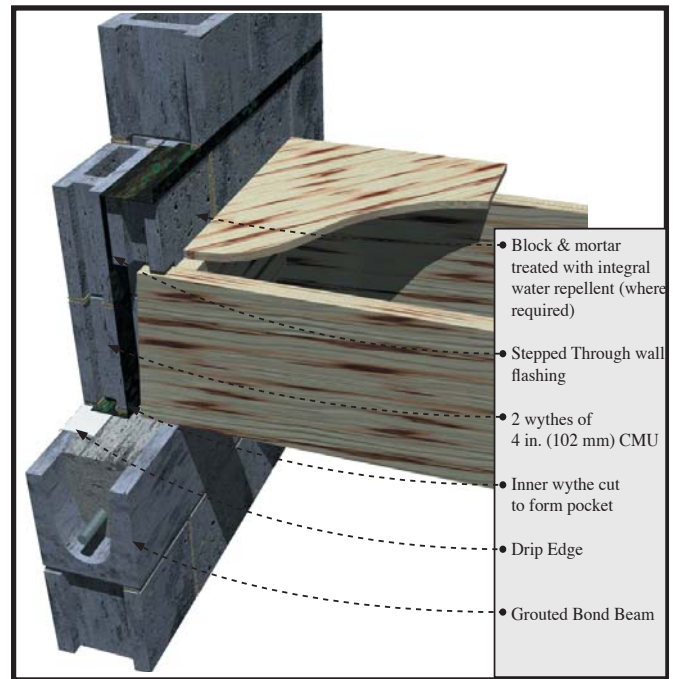


Figure 4—Beam Pocket Bearing Detail

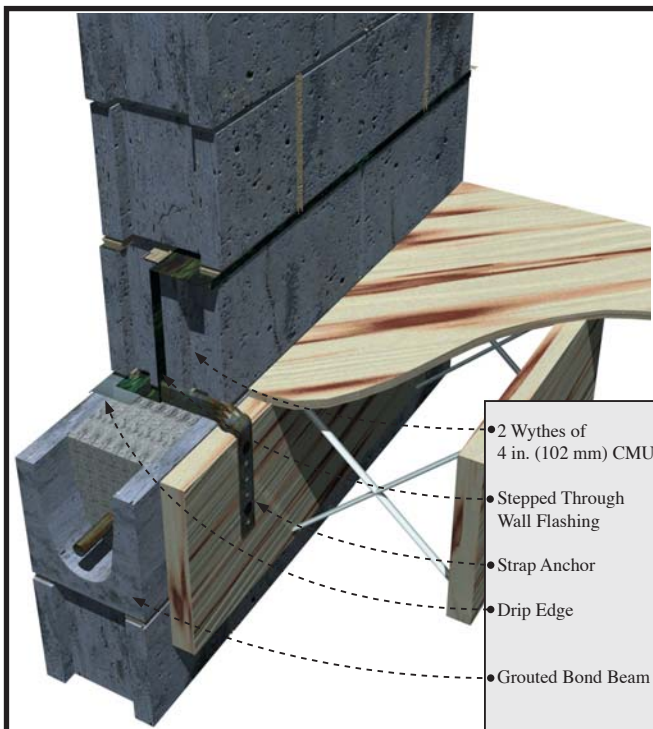


Figure 3—Joist Hanger Non-Bearing Detail

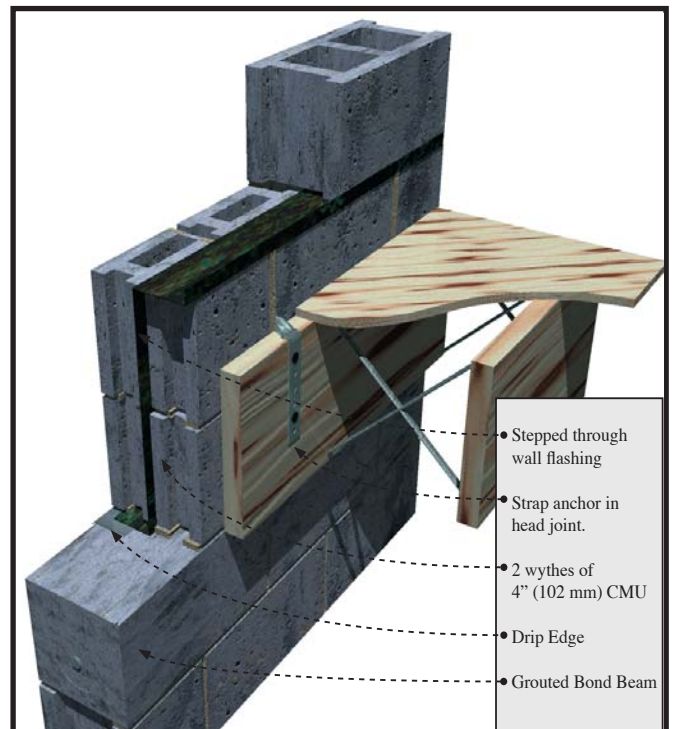


Figure 5—Beam Pocket Non-Bearing Detail

LEDGER BEAM DETAILS

The use of a ledger beam which is bolted to a bond beam is also a good option for this bearing condition. Through wall flashing is still required to maintain a watertight wall. Any water that penetrates the block with run down the inner cores of the block until it hits the flashing. The flashing and weep holes will allow the water to exit without damaging the structure.

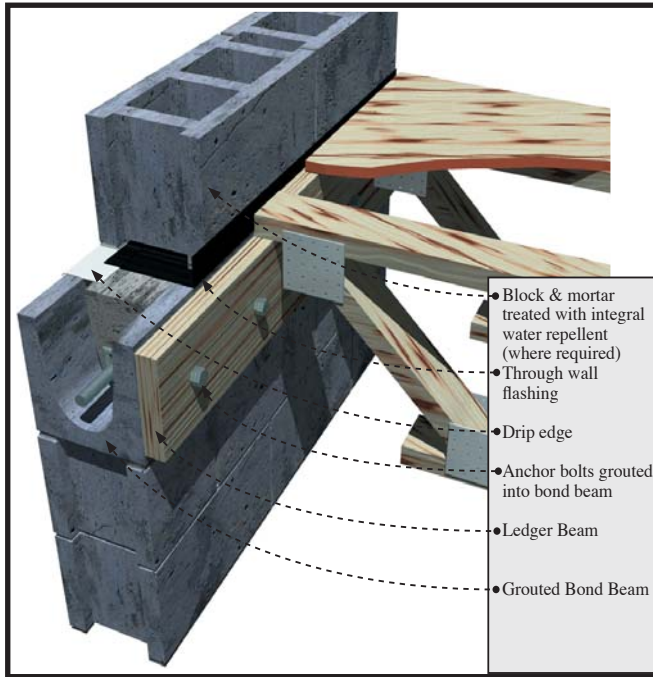


Figure 6—Ledger Beam Bearing Detail

PARAPETS AND WINDOW SILLS

Below are details for a parapet condition and a window sill condition. The parapet is reinforced with No. 4 bars at 48 in. (No.13M @1219 mm) on center or as required for wind resistance. If a metal cap is used, it should extend down the face of the wall at least 3 in. (76 mm) with continuous sealant at the joint on both sides of the wall. The sill detail shows the arrangement of flashing, end dam, weep holes and drip edge and how they all form a watertight

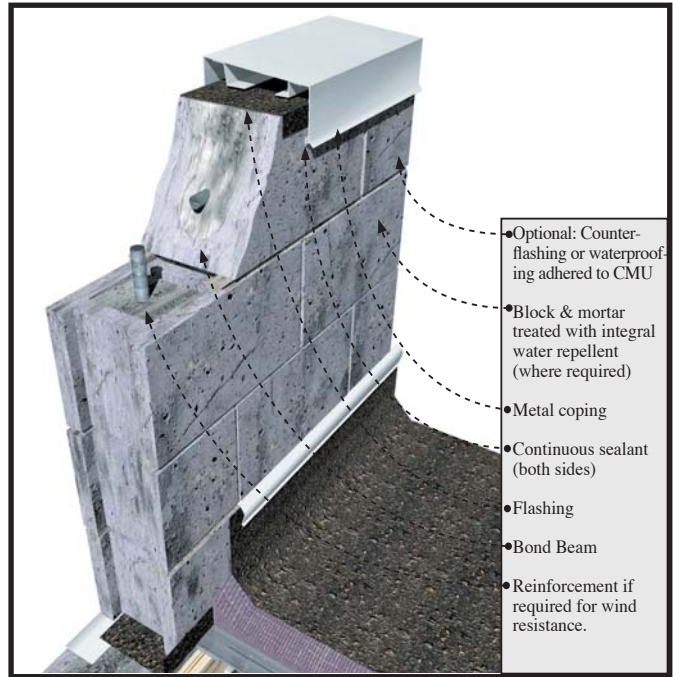


Figure 8—Parapet Detail

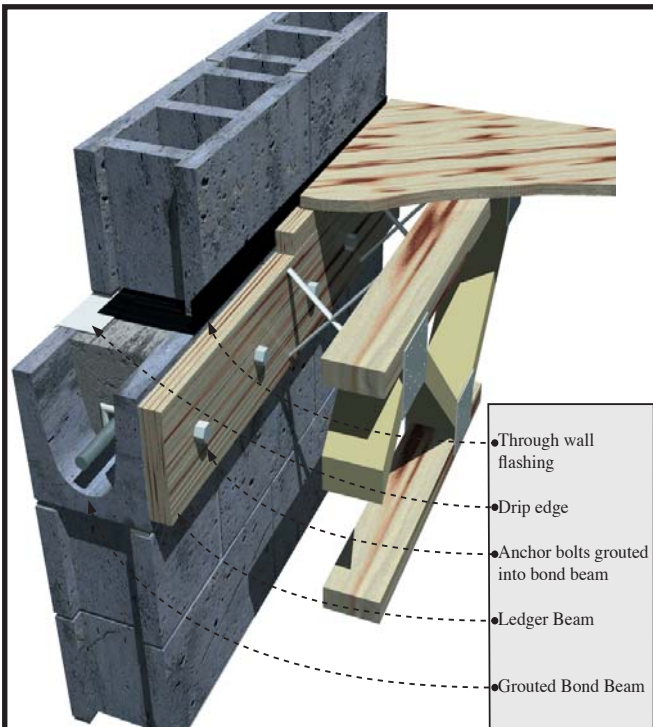


Figure 7—Ledger Beam Non-Bearing Detail

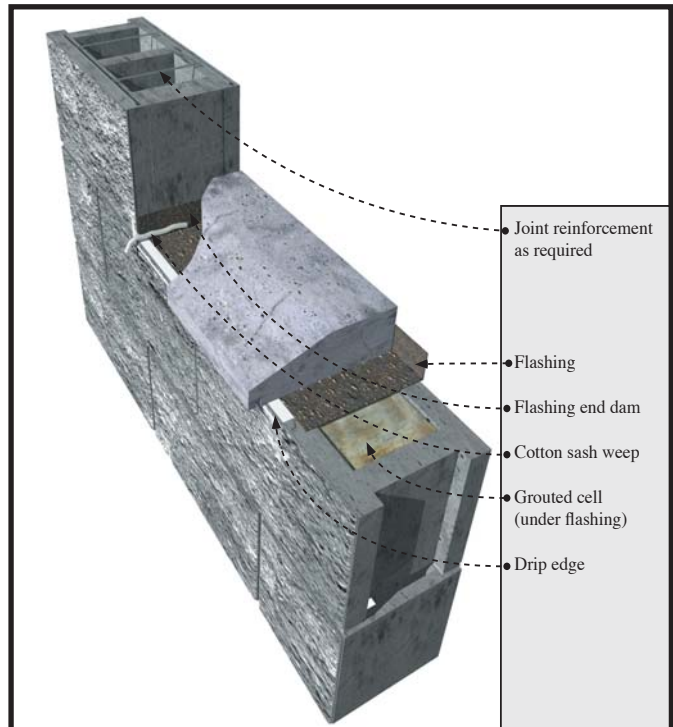


Figure 9—Window Sill Detail

WINDOW HEAD DETAILS

These two window head details show the relationship between the steel lintel, drip edge, flashing, end dams, and weep holes. The first option shows the use of a concrete masonry lintel which is grouted solid and reinforced. The second detail shows two steel lintels used for spanning the opening.

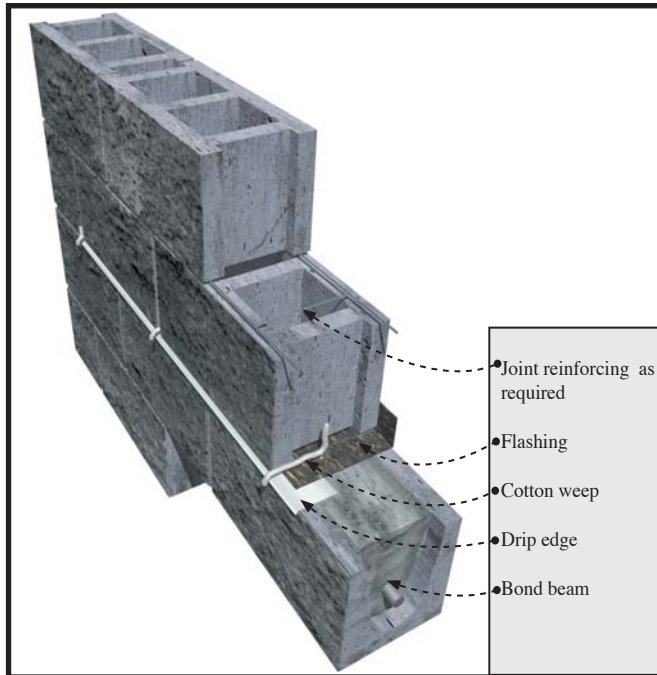


Figure 10—Masonry Lintel Detail

CONTROL JOINT DETAILS

Control joints simply are weakened planes placed at approximately 20 ft. (6 m) on center in concrete masonry walls and at changes in wall elevation/thickness. Notice that the joint reinforcement is discontinuous at the joint. Cores are shown grouted adjacent to the joints as well to ensure structural stability in taller walls and/or high load situations.

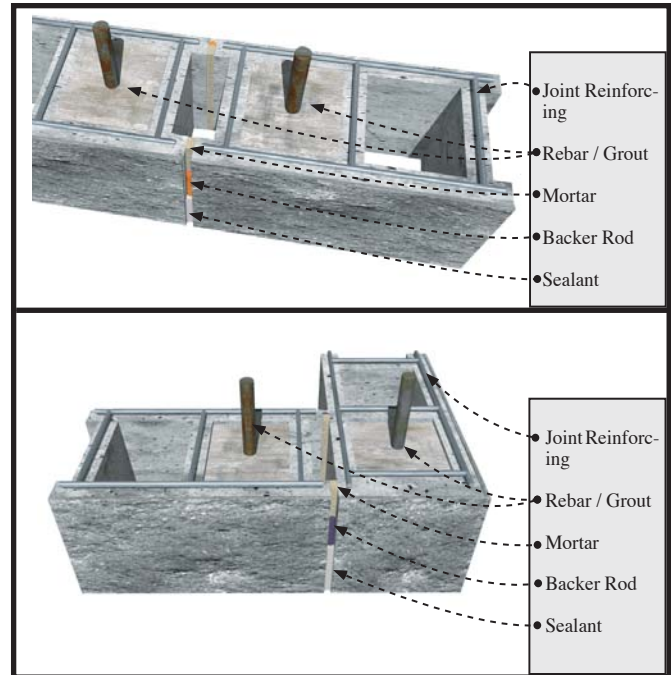


Figure 12—Control Joint Details

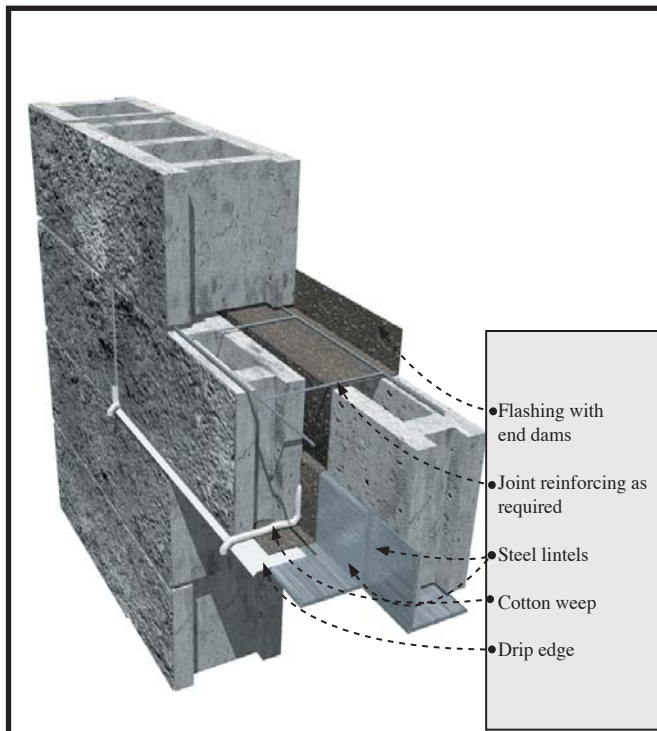


Figure 11—Double Angle Lintel Detail

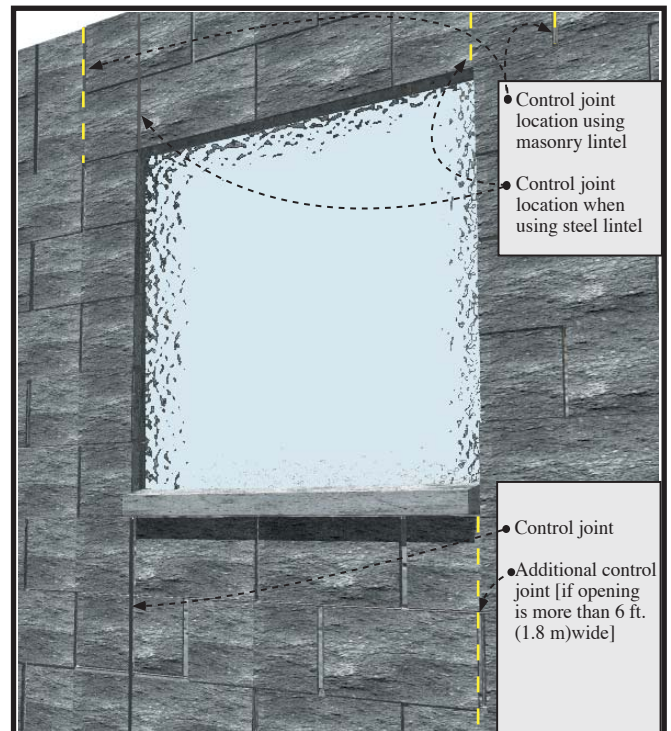


Figure 13—Control Joint at Opening

COMPOSITE WALL BASE FLASHING DETAILS

Figure 14 shows a stair-stepped flashing detail with the exposed drip edge and weep holes. Figure 15 shows a straight through wall flashing detail. The flashing must be set in mastic on top of the concrete foundation, or the flashing must be self adhesive. The flashing should be turned up on the inner side of the wall to direct water to the outside of the wall.

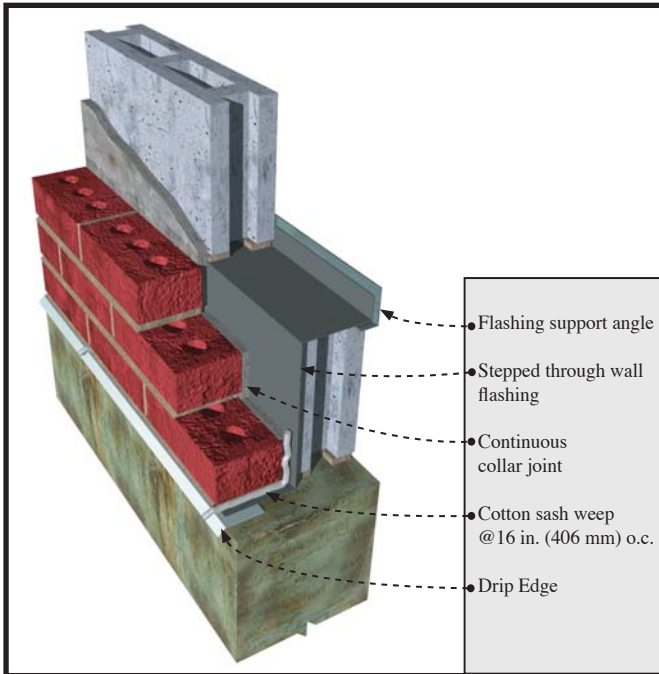


Figure 14—Stepped Flashing at Base

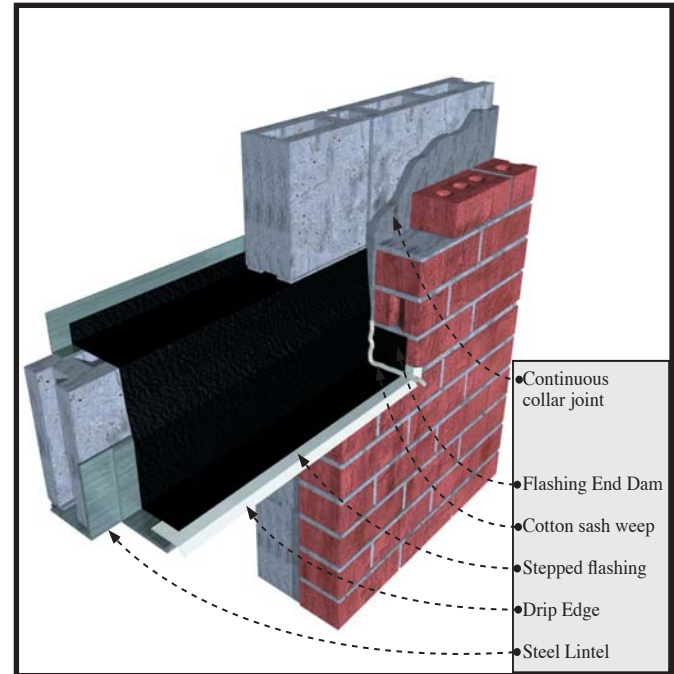


Figure 16—Window Head Detail

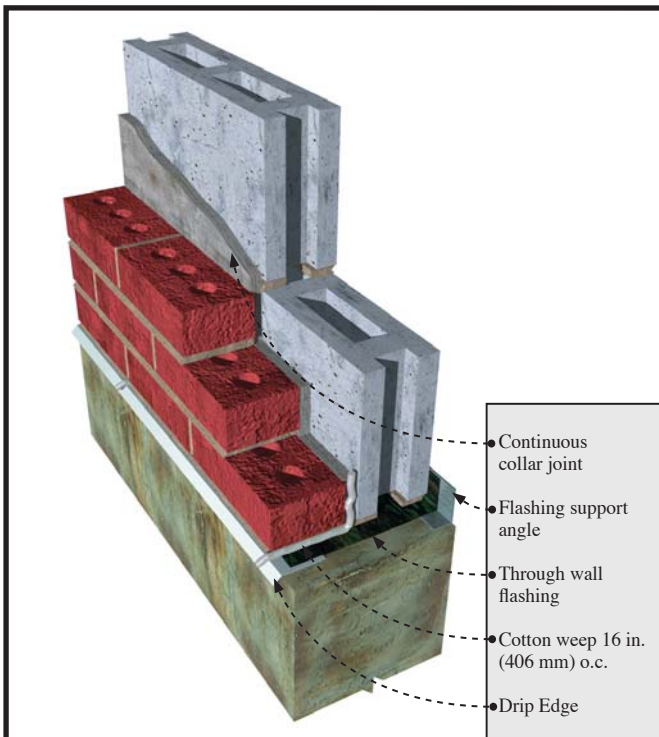


Figure 15—Level Flashing and Angle

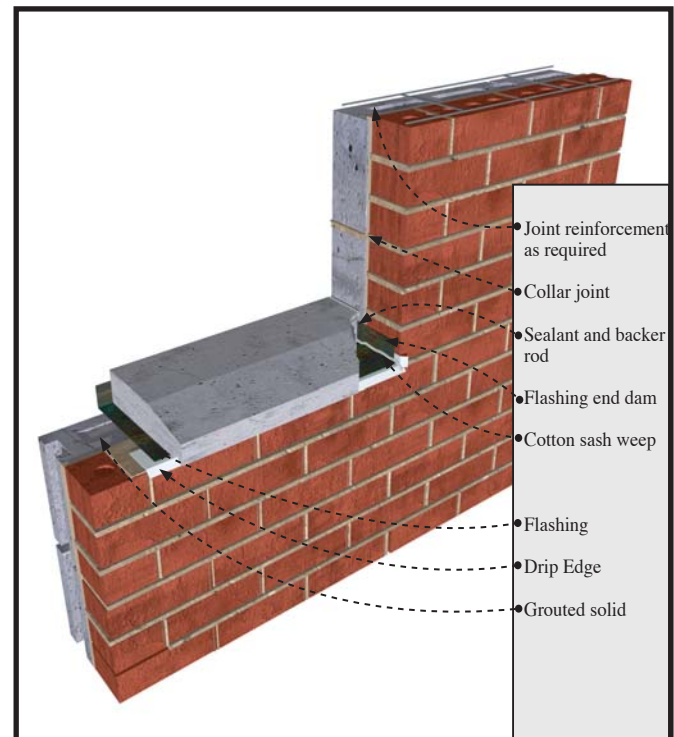


Figure 17—Window Sill Detail

CONCRETE MASONRY VENEER DETAILING

Figure 18 shows the detailing of a 4 in. (102 mm) concrete masonry veneer used in conjunction with a 8 in. (205 mm) CMU backup wall.

Three types of joint reinforcement are shown including tri-rod, tab and adjustable types. It is imperative that the veneer have a continuous wire embedded in every other course to control movement. With the tri-rod system, the joint reinforcement satisfies this requirement. With the other two systems, an additional ladder type joint reinforcement is used to provide this movement control for the veneer.

* All joint reinforcement should be hot-dipped galvanized (minimum)

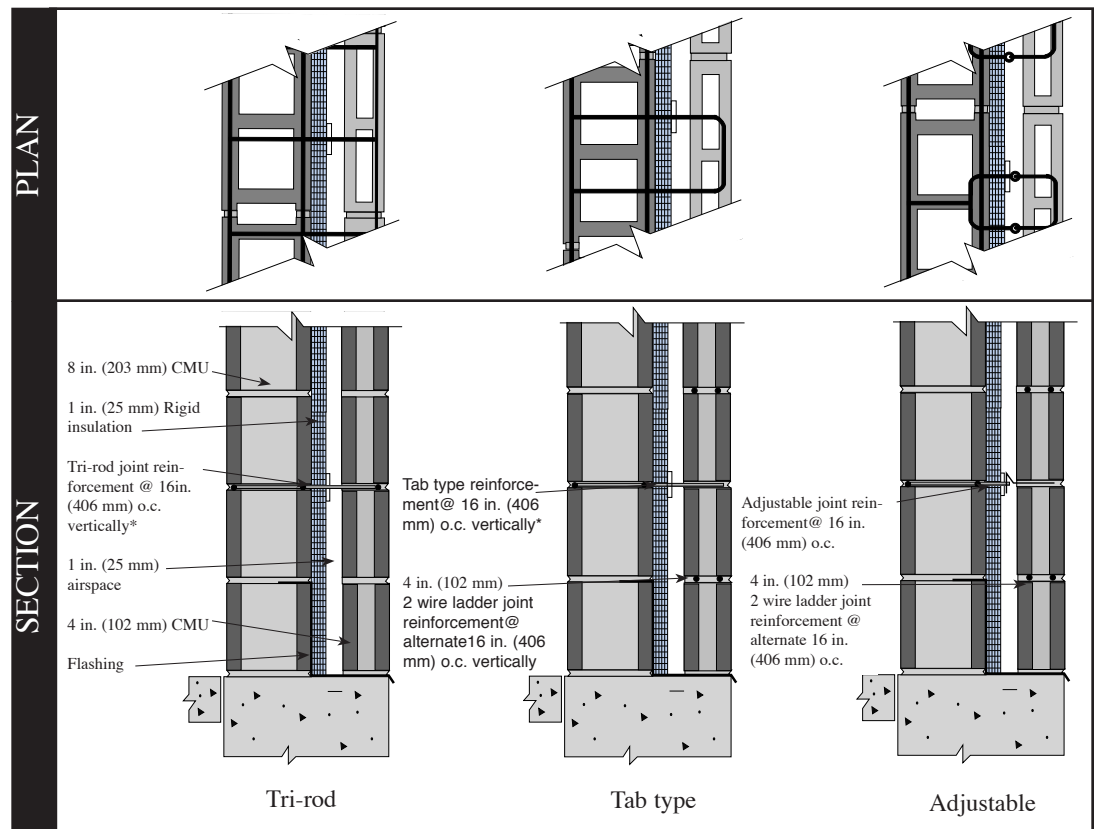


Figure 18—Concrete Masonry Veneer Detailing

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6. *Water Repellents for Concrete Masonry Walls*, NCMA TEK 19-1. National Concrete Masonry Association, 2002.

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