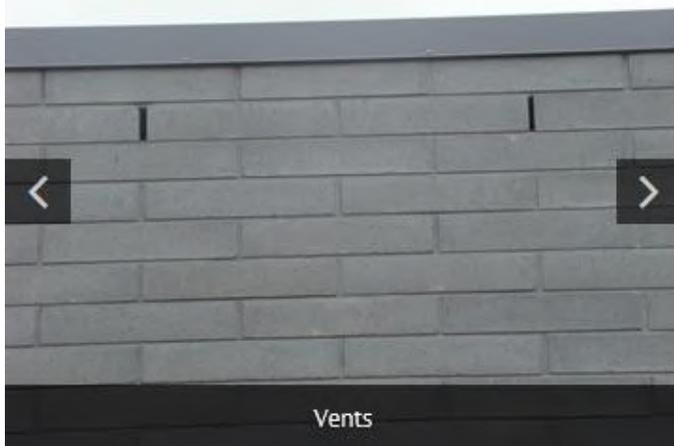




Air flow and drainage are essential design features that ensure dry homes.



Weepholes and Cavity Ventilation

Weepholes and vents are components of brick design intended to assist with drainage and airflow within the brick cavity.

WEEPHOLES

It is important to remember that while brick veneers are an excellent rain shield, they are not waterproof. A considerable amount of water would be required before moisture is likely to flow down the back of the veneer.

In the event that this saturation does occur a series of gaps, or 'weepholes', are required to be placed along the bottom course.

A weephole of 75mm x 10mm is required to be placed every 800mm along the base, or alternatively 1000mm²/linear metre of wall.

Any weephole wider than 13mm requires vermin proofing.

Weephole requirements also need to be met across the heads of doors, windows and openings.

VENTS (VENTILATION)

Ventilation is the process of replacing air in any space with the intention of improving air quality. For the brick cavity this means replacing moist air within the cavity with drier air from the outside.

E2/AS1 provides two acceptable methods for venting brick veneer:

- Vertical vents installed as per the earlier weepholes in the top course or 2nd course down, or
- Leaving a 5mm gap around the top of the veneer

You can view these E2/AS1 requirements in Section 9.2.6(d) and Figure 73E here: [E2/AS1\(part4\)](#)

Note: Vent holes are not generally required under window sills as air can move freely around the frame.

PLASTERED OR PAINTED BRICK VENEER

Where a brick veneer is to be plastered or painted, the brick veneer exterior cladding is effectively a waterproof system. This means the need to have air circulation to dry the cavity and the weepholes to drain the veneer become less important.

The acceptable approach to weepholes in this scenario is 50mm x 10mm weep holes at 1m centres or 500mm²/linear metre of wall.

Vent holes are still required at the bottom of the plastered or painted veneer, however designers should check with their local council as requirements vary.

Master Brick & Blocklayers ask that when selecting vents that you support our members:

Victor Vents: <http://www.victorvents.co.nz/>