

Cladding Systems

Architecture

How the main cladding families differ in how they keep water out.

Three water strategies underlie almost every system.

Strategy	How it works
Face sealed	One line of sealant, no backup
Drained and back-ventilated	Water gets in, then drains out
Pressure equalised	Cavity vented so wind cannot push
Mass absorbent	Thick masonry absorbs, then dries

Educational reference. Facade material and fire performance are heavily regulated, especially on tall buildings.