

Keeping Water Out

Architecture

The four forces that move water into a building, and the defence against each.

Water needs an opening, a force and a reason. Remove any one.

Force	Defence
Gravity	Lap, fall, and overhang
Capillary action	A cavity or an air gap
Surface tension	A drip groove or throat
Wind pressure	Pressure equalised cavity
Momentum, driving rain	Baffle or labyrinth joint

A sealant bead is a maintenance item with a service life, not a permanent barrier. Never rely on it as the only line.