Handling of typical constructions

WUFI® Tutorial
Version: July 2024

Auf Wissen bauen
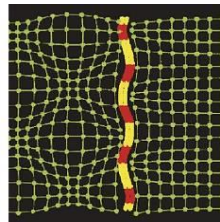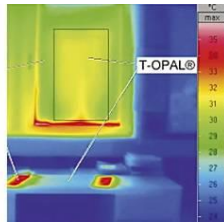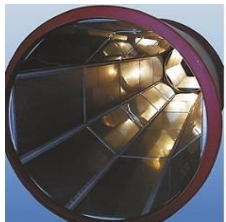
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Content

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Flat roof

Construction drawing

Construction in WUFI
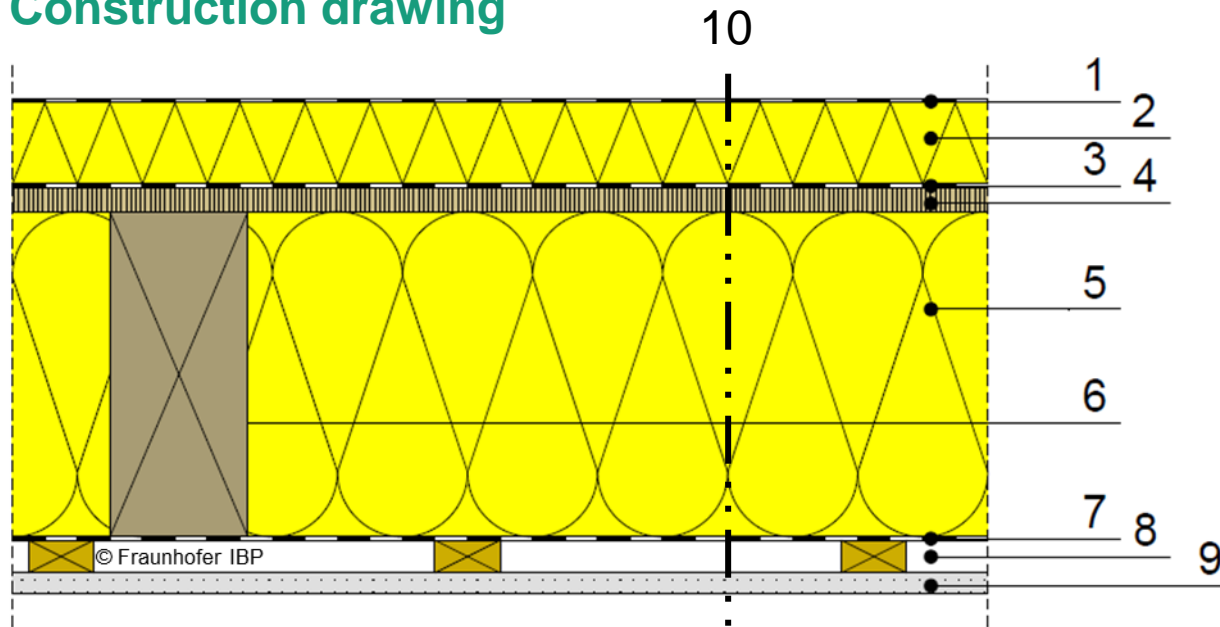
1 Roofing membrane
2 Exterior insulation
3 Vapor retarder
4 Wooden sheathing
5 Insulation
6 Rafter
7 Vapor retarder
8 Installation layer
9 Gypsum board
10 Simulated cross-section

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Exterior side

Interior side

Flat roof

Please note

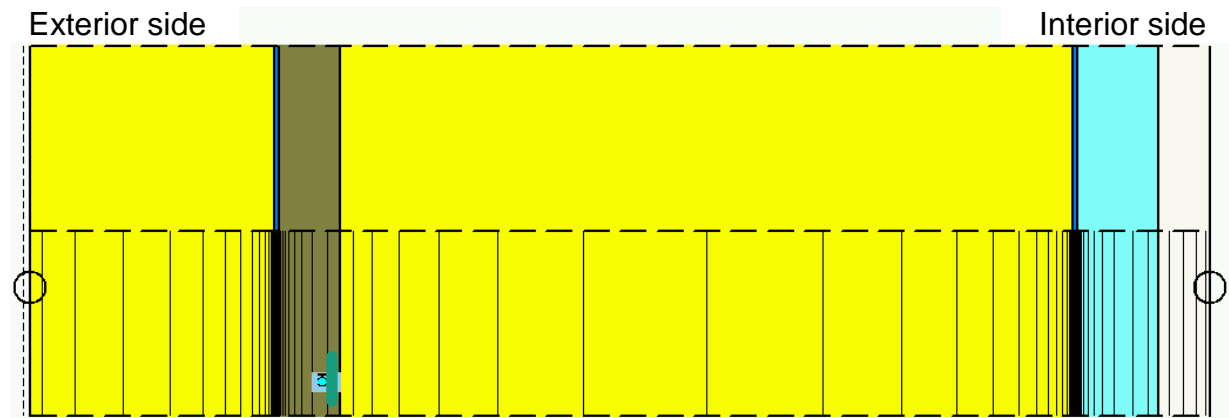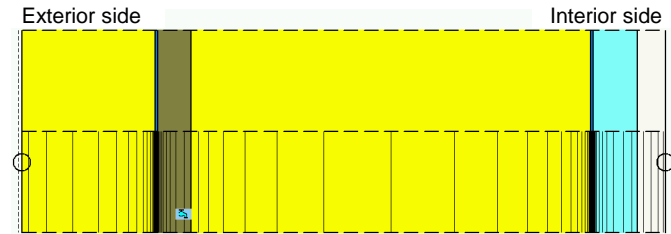- Insert an air infiltration source at the cold side of the construction (at the position where condensation would occur) → source strength depending on the air tightness and height of the connected air column

- Orientation/ Inclination according to planning

- Heat transfer resistance „roof"

- Roofing membrane can be taken in account by using an s_d-value on the outer surface (numerical more favorable)
  → if doing so, use no roofing membrane in the construction setup
  → rain water absorption then has to be set to zero ("adhering fraction of rain")

- Short wave radiation absorptivity depending on color of roof surface

- Long wave emissivity depending on the material of the surface

- Switch explicit radiation balance on

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Flat roof

Moisture source setup

1. Select layer*
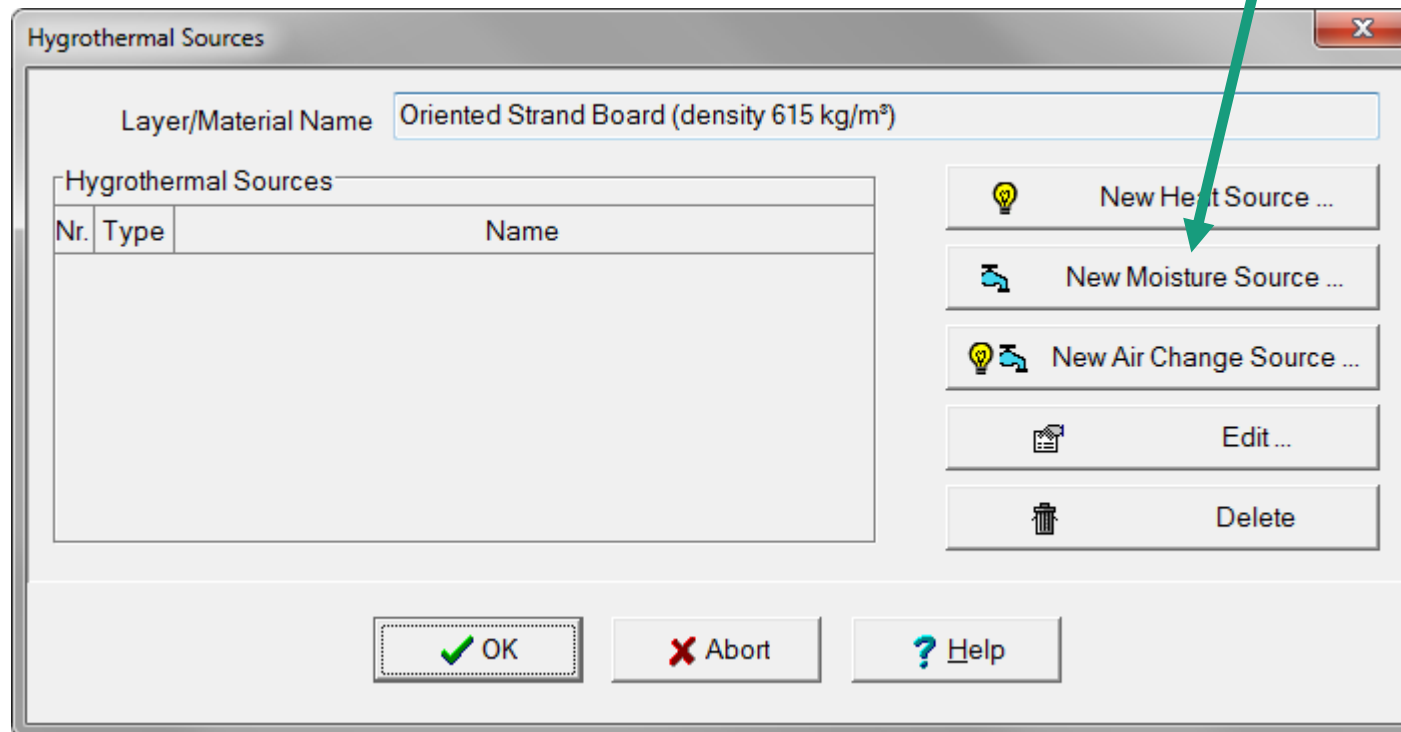
2. Select „Sources, Sinks"
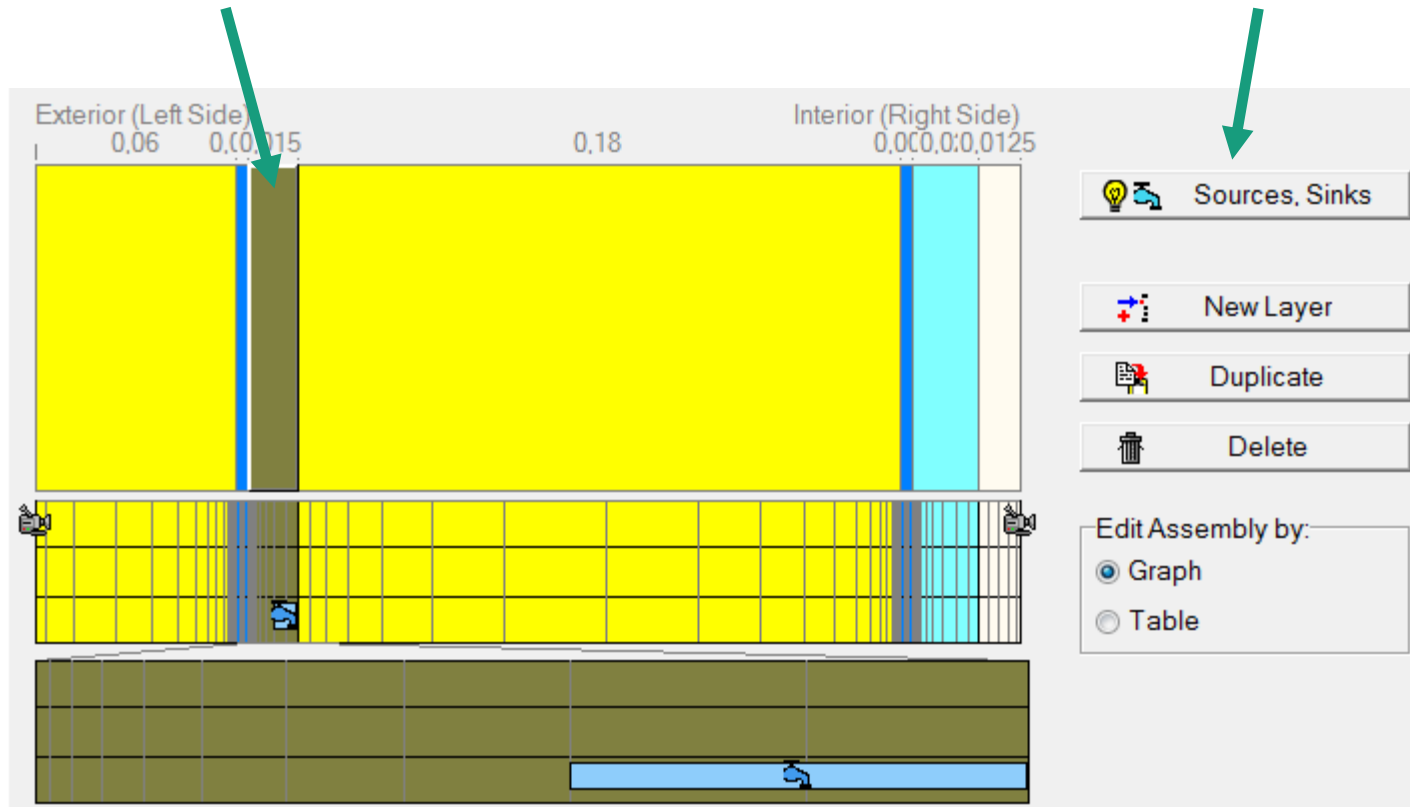
*) Material in which the condensate is expected due to convection which can not be simulated in a 1D program. The infiltration source is either in the inner 5 mm of the wooden sheathing or – if there is no sheathing – in the outer 5 mm of the insulation between the rafters.

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Flat roof

Moisture source setup

3. Select „New Moisture Source"

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Flat roof

Moisture source setup

■ Air Infiltration Model

Moisture Source

Name: Air Infiltration

Spread Area
- ○ One Element
- ● Several Elements
- ○ Whole Layer

Start Depth in Layer [m]: 0,01

End Depth in Layer [m]: 0,015

Source Type
- ○ Transient from File
- ○ Fraction of Driving Rain
- ● Air Infiltration model IBP
- ○ Constant Monthly Moisture Load

Source Term Cut-Off [kg/m³]
- ○ No Cut-Off
- ○ Cut-Off at Max. Water Content
- ● Cut-Off at Free Water Saturation
- ○ User Defined

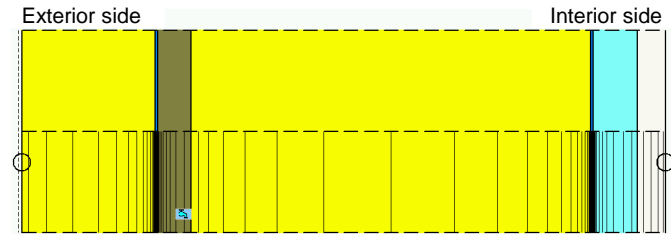Envelope Infiltration q50 [m³/m²h]

3   Air Tightness Class B

Stack Height [m]: 5

Mechanical Ventilation Overpressure [Pa]: 0

✔ OK   ✗ Cancel   ? Help

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Flat roof

Result analysis*

■ Check the numerical quality of the result using convergence failures and balances! (→ Guideline for the Result Evaluation)

■ Check total water content (accumulation of moisture in whole construction)

■ Check water content in wooden sheathing

■ In a construction without wood-based or moisture sensitive materials: Examination of amount of dew water (further information can be found in the Guideline for the Condensation Assessment)

Further check influence of moisture content on the thermal conductivity in the material data table „thermal conductivity, moisture-dependent"

■ You may check moisture accumulation in the exterior insulation

*) Note: List not necessarily complete. Depending on boundary conditions additional critical positions may occur → Check in film display

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Flat roof

Additional information

Exterior side   Interior side
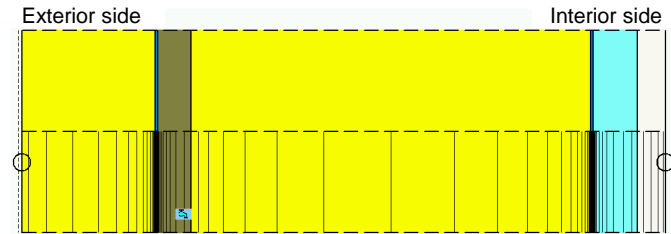
- Be careful with bright roofing membranes,
  the drying potential of the construction is greatly reduced

- Shading / green roof can be treated by using more elaborate models (more information in the paper Verschattung von Holzflachdächern (only German) and in Guideline for the calculation of extensive green roofs)

- In case of modeling the roofing membrane as s_d-value on the exterior surface, this only models the vapor-retarding property of the membrane, not its rain-tightness → don't forget to switch off rain!

- Considering an insulated roof with rafters, usually the cross section through the insulation is relevant

- Metal roof: Metal layer is taken into account as sd-value at the exterior surface, absorptivity and emissivity according to material
  - unsealed seams: effective sd-value around 25 m – 75 m
  - sealed seams: effective sd-value > 300 m
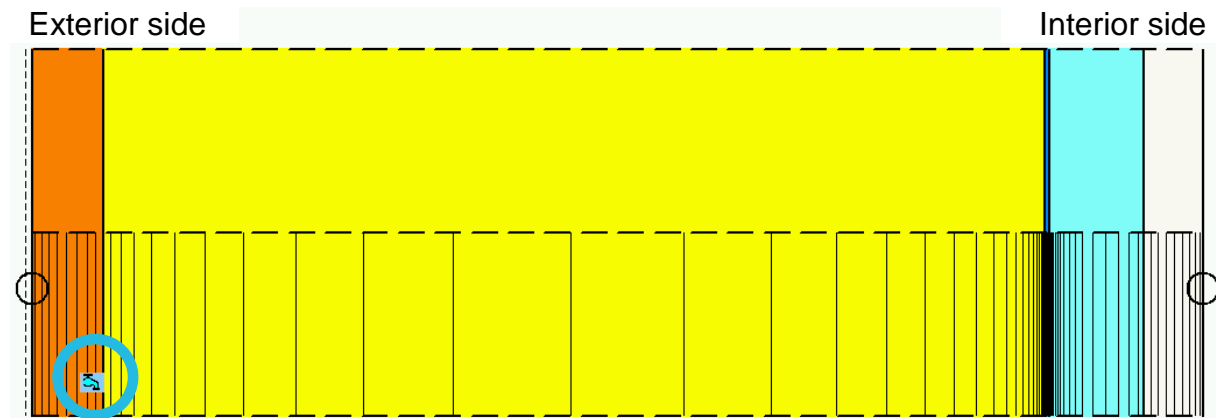
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Content

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Pitched roof

Construction drawing
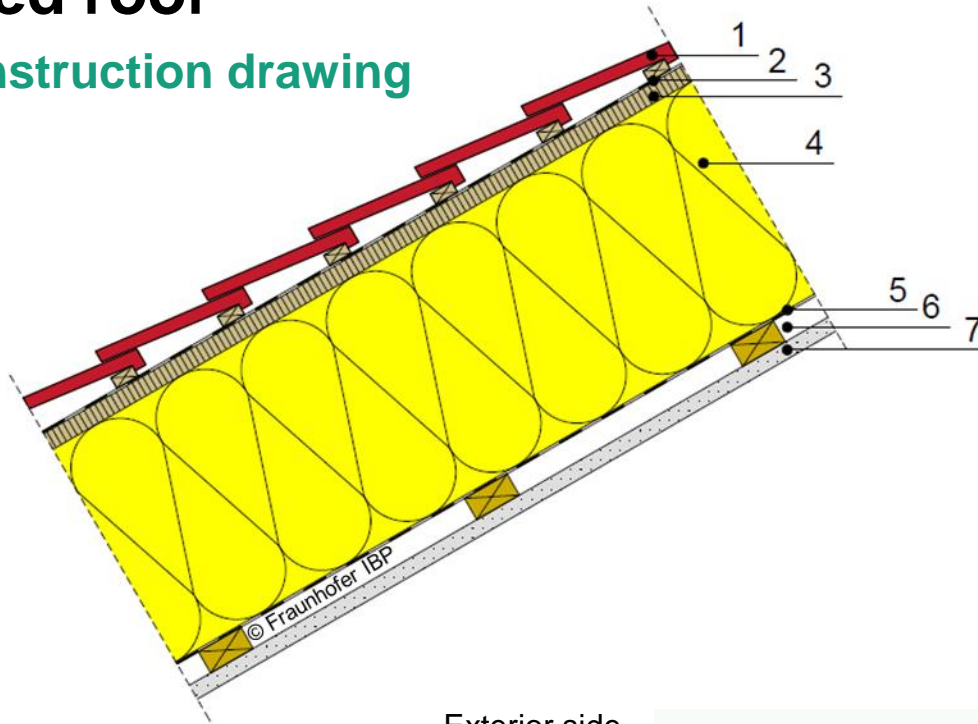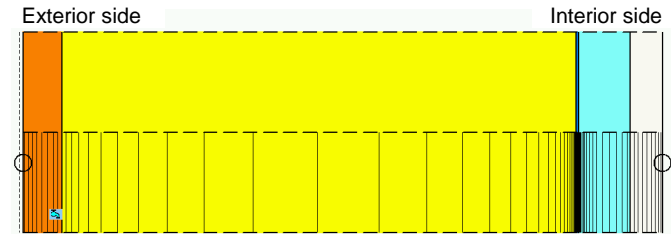

1 Roofing tiles and battens
2 Weather-protecting membrane
3 Wooden sheathing
4 Insulation
5 Vapor retarder
6 Installation layer
7 Gypsum board

**Construction
in WUFI**

Exterior side   Interior side

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Pitched roof

## Please note

- Insert an air infiltration source at the cold side of the construction (at the position where condensation would occur) $\rightarrow$ source strength depending on the air tightness and height of the connected air column

- Relevant orientation: usually north

- Ventilated roofing is omitted for the calculation
  $\rightarrow$ rain water absorption has to be set to zero ("adhering fraction of rain")

- Weather-protection layer can be taken into account by using an s_d-value on the outer surface (selectable in the surface transfer coefficient dialog, numerical more favorable)
  $\rightarrow$ if doing so use no roofing membrane in the construction setup

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Pitched roof

Please note

Exterior side   Interior side
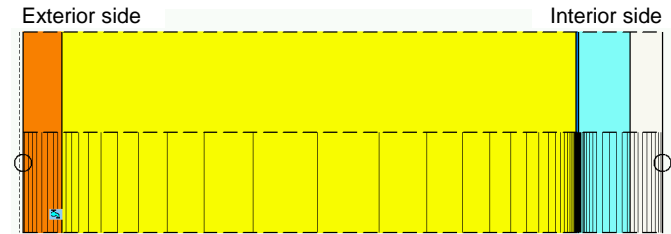
- Heat transfer coefficients according to table on slide 14 from "Hygrothermal Simulation of ventilated pitched roofs", value for the long-wave radiation parts is 0 W/m²K.

- Short-wave radiation absorptivity depending on color of roofing tiles, if applicable reduction according to table on slide 14

- Long-wave radiation emissivity depending on the material of roofing tiles

- Switch on explicit radiation balance

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Pitched roof

Please note

Exterior side   Interior side
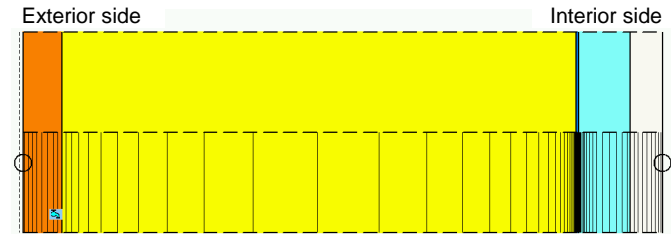
	Eaves Position (coldest)	Middle Position	Ridge Position (warmest)
Strong ventilation	$a_{k,e} = 30$ [W/m²K]		
	$a_e = a \cdot 0.7$	$a_e = a \cdot 0.9$	$a_e = a$
Normal ventilation	$a_{k,e} = 19$ [W/m²K]		
	$a_e = a \cdot 0.7$	$a_e = a \cdot 0.9$	$a_e = a$
Low ventilation	$a_{k,e} = 13.5$ [W/m²K]		
	$a_e = a \cdot 0.75$	$a_e = a \cdot 0.9$	$a_e = a$

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with $a_{k,e}$: convective heat transfer coefficient   and a_e: effective short-wave coefficient of absorption

Strongly ventilated	Eaves open without any grid etc.	Ridge open with a low flow resistance	
Normal ventilated	Eaves openings with insect protection grid or eave comb	Ridge closed with ridge / arris role	
Low ventilated	Small openings at the eaves	Small openings at the ridge	No counter battens

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Pitched roof

Moisture source setup

- Air Infiltration Model

For procedure see „flat roof"

Pitched roof

Surface Transfer setup

Assembly/Monitor Positions	Orientation/Inclination/Height	Surface Transfer Coeff.	Initial Conditions

Exterior Surface (Left Side)

Heat Transfer Coefficient [W/m²K]	19	User Defined
includes long-wave radiation parts [W/m²K]	0	
wind-dependent	☐ ...	

Sd-Value [m]	0,2	Benutzerdefiniert
		Note: This setting does not affect rain absorption

Short-Wave Radiation Absorptivity [-]	0,47	User Defined
Long-Wave Radiation Emissivity [-]	0,9	

Explicit Radiation Balance	☑ ...	Note: This option takes radiative cooling due to long-wave emission into account. Sensitive cases may require sufficiently accurate counterradiation data in the weather file.

Ground Short-Wave Reflectivity [-]	0.20	Standard value
Adhering Fraction of Rain [-]	----	No absorption

Interior Surface (Right Side)

Heat Transfer Coefficient [W/m²K]	8	(User Defined)
Sd-Value [m]	----	No coating

Heat transfer coefficient „User Defined"
here: 19 W/m²K for normal ventilation
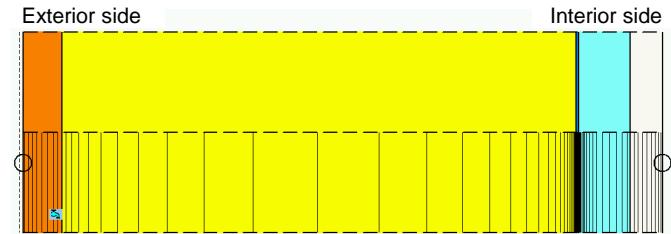
Long-wave radiation parts: 0 W/m²K

s_d-value of the weather-protection layer
here: s_d = 20 cm

Color of roofing tiles
here: red tiles (a = 0,67)
Eaves position (a_e = a · 0.7 = 0.47)

Switch on explicit radiation balance

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Pitched roof

Result analysis*

- Check the numerical quality of the result using convergence failures and balances! (→ Guideline for the Result Evaluation)

- Check total water content (accumulation of moisture in whole construction); must not keep increasing

- Check water content in wooden sheathing

- In a construction without wood-based or moisture sensitive materials: Examination of amount of dew water (further information can be found in the Guideline for the Condensation Assessment)

  Further check influence of moisture content on the thermal conductivity in the material data table „thermal conductivity, moisture-dependent"

*) Note: List not necessarily complete. Depending on boundary conditions additional critical positions may occur → Check in film display

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Pitched roof

Additional information
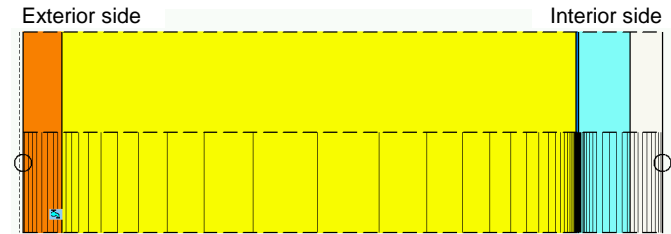
■ Heat transfer coefficient according to the latest research results by Kölsch (Hygrothermal Simulation of ventilated pitched roofs)

■ In case of modeling the roofing membrane as s_d-value on the exterior surface, this only models the vapor-retarding property of the membrane, not its rain-tightness → don't forget to switch off rain!

■ Metal roof: Metal layer is taken into account as s_d-value at the exterior surface, absorptivity and emissivity according to material
  - unsealed seams: effective s_d-value around 25 m – 75 m
  - sealed seams: effective s_d-value > 300 m

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Content

Flat roof (slide 3 ff.)

Pitched roof (slide 11 ff.)

Exterior wall with ETICS (slide 20 ff.)

Exterior wall with interior insulation (slide 28 ff.)

Ventilated timber frame construction (slide 42 ff.)

Basement wall without ground water (slide 54 ff.)

Interior component (slide 64 ff.)

Exterior wall with ETICS

Construction drawing
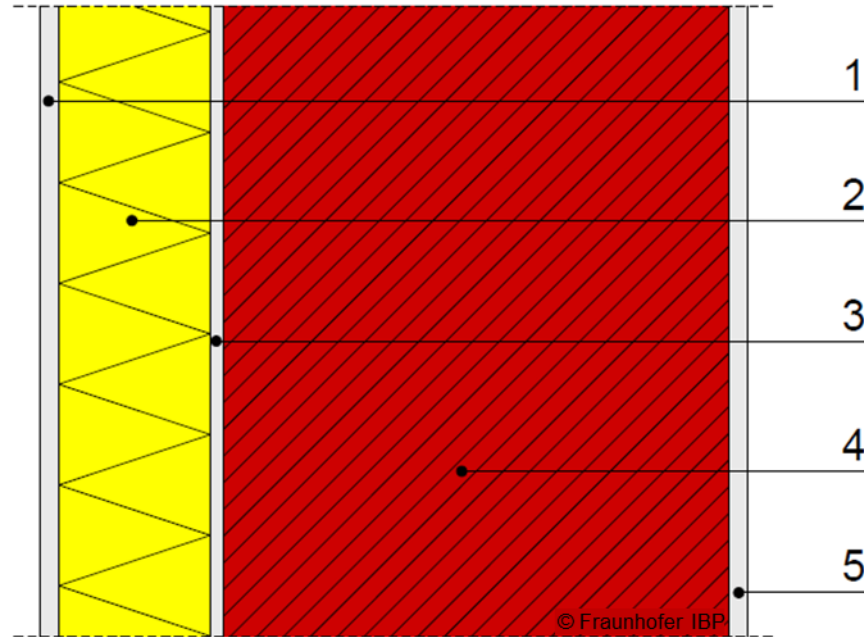
1 Exterior plaster
2 Insulation
3 Plaster
4 Masonry / concrete
5 Interior plaster

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Construction in WUFI

Exterior side   Interior side

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Exterior wall with ETICS

Please note

Exterior side   Interior side

- Moisture source behind ETICS: 1 % of driving rain

- Relevant orientations: Prevailing direction of driving rain and north

- Short wave radiation absorptivity depending on color of exterior plaster

- Long wave radiation emissivity for plaster (if not known: 0.9)

- If the short-term hygrothermal behavior of the outer surface is to be evaluated (e.g. dew position), turn on explicit radiation balance

- "Adhering Fraction of Rain" according to inclination and construction type (vertical wall: 0.7)

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Exterior wall with ETICS

Moisture source setup

1. Select layer*

2. Select „Sources, Sinks"

*) Driving Rain source is inserted in the outer 5 mm of the layer behind the insulation.

Exterior wall with ETICS

Moisture source setup

3. Select „New Moisture Source"

Exterior wall with ETICS

Moisture source setup

- Fraction of driving rain

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Exterior wall with ETICS

Result analysis*

- Check the numerical quality of the result using convergence failures and balances! (→ Guideline for the Result Evaluation)

- Check total water content (accumulation of moisture in whole construction); must not keep increasing

- Check water content in the insulation
  → Possible reduction of insulating capability

- Relative humidity at the interface between exterior plaster and insulation during winter time → risk of frost damage

- At warm and humid sites check relative humidity between insulation and wall (dew water and failure of adhesive may occur)

*) Note: List not necessarily complete. Depending on boundary condtions more critical positions may occur => Check in film display

Exterior wall with ETICS

Additional information

Exterior side   Interior side

- The prevailing direction of driving rain can be found by using the Climate Analysis dialog (usually west in Middle Europe)

- The moisture source of 1% of the driving rain behind the ETICS is regulated in the ASHRAE Standard 160 as well as in the EN 15026:2023 and represents critical positions e.g. in the area of window frames

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Content

Flat roof (slide 3 ff.)

Pitched roof (slide 11 ff.)

Exterior wall with ETICS (slide 20 ff.)

Exterior wall with interior insulation (slide 28 ff.)

Ventilated timber frame construction (slide 42 ff.)

Basement wall without ground water (slide 54 ff.)

Interior component (slide 64 ff.)

Exterior wall with interior insulation

Construction drawing

1 Facing brickwork
2 Interior plaster or adhesive
3 Interior insulation
4 Vapor retarder
5 Gypsum board

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Construction in WUFI

Exterior side   Interior side

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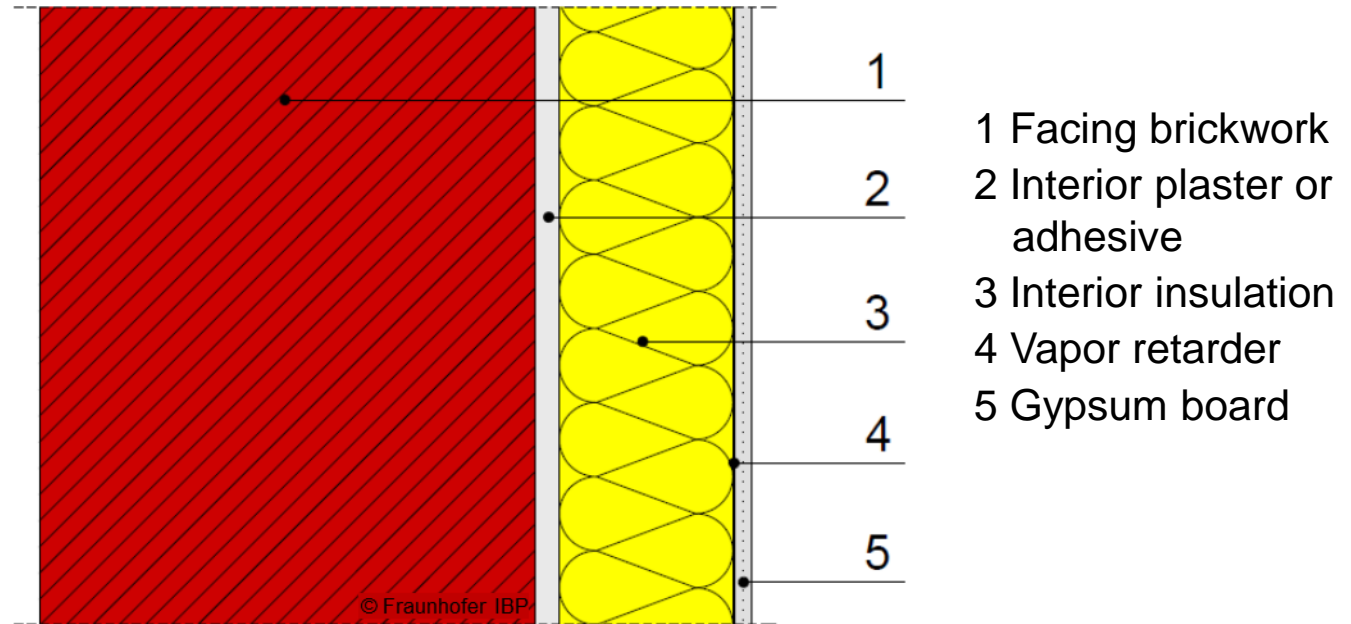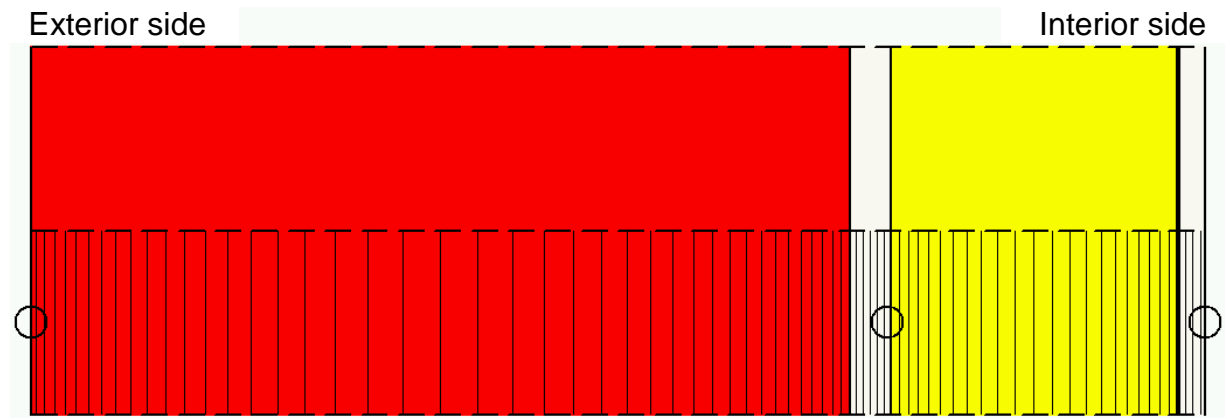
Exterior wall with interior insulation

Please note
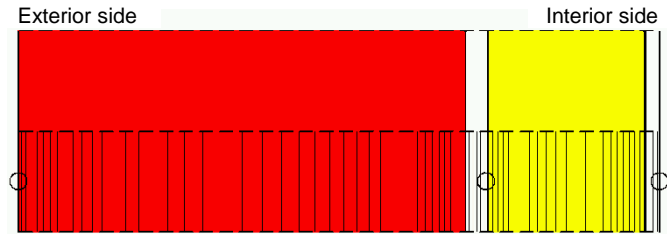
Exterior side   Interior side

- Relevant orientations: Prevailing direction of driving rain and north

- Short-wave radiation absorptivity depending on color of exterior surface

- Long-wave radiation emissivity for exterior surface (if not known: 0.9)

- Explicit radiation balance usually not necessary

- "Adhering fraction of rain" according to inclination and construction type (vertical wall: 0.7)

- If needed: Water-repellent treatment of the exterior surface to reduce rain water absorption

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Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

Modification of the A-value without influencing other material properties (e.g. s_d-value)

Step by step:

1) Split the exterior layer into a surface layer (0.5 – 1.0 cm depending on penetration depth of treatment) and the remaining layer. To do this, duplicate the original layer and then adjust the two thicknesses as needed.

2) Edit the material properties of the new exterior layer:

   ■ Unlock the material

   ■ For materials with a default moisture storage function:
   switch "Moisture Storage Function" to "Approximate"

   ■ Switch "Liquid Transport Coefficients" for suction and redistribution to "generate"

   ■ Adjust "Water absorption coefficient"
   Be careful with the units: [kg/m²√s] is the A-value in [kg/m²√h] divided by 60 !!!

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Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

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Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

4. Reduce thickness e.g. 0.01 m

3. Select exterior layer

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Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

6. Change thickness e.g. original thickness minus 1 cm

5. Select layer

Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

7. Double click on layer
(or click „Material data")

Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

8. Unlock material

9. Select „Liquid Transport Coefficient, Suction"

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Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

10. Check „Generate"

Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

11. Select „Liquid Transport Coefficient, Redistribution"

12. Check „Generate"

Exterior wall with interior insulation

Water-repellent treatment of façades

13. Enter A-value
In this case:
0.5 kg/m²√h / 60
= 0.00833 kg/m²√s

Exterior wall with interior insulation

Result analysis*
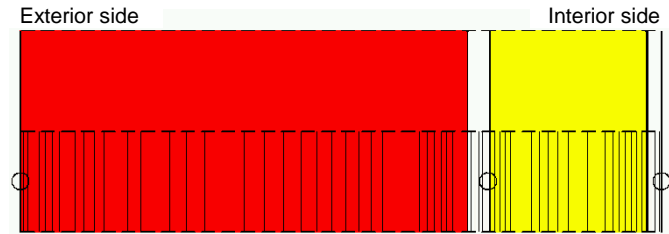
Exterior side   Interior side

- Check the numerical quality of the result using convergence failures and balances! (→ Guideline for the Result Evaluation)

- Check total water content (accumulation of moisture in whole construction); must not keep increasing

- Relative humidity at the interface between interior plaster and interior insulation < 95 % r.F.
  → risk of frost damage
  → or: frost-resistance of materials necessary
        (Insulation system plaster, wall materials)

*) Note: List not necessarily complete. Depending on boundary conditions adittional critical positions may occur → Check in film display

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Exterior wall with interior insulation

Additional information

Exterior side   Interior side
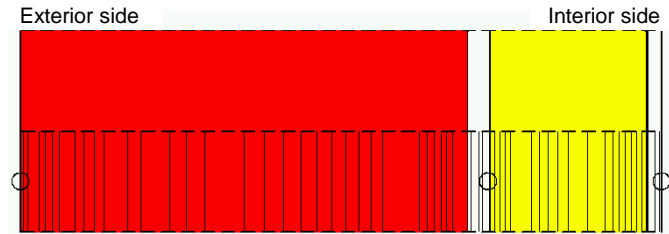
- An interior insulation reduces the drying potential of a construction due to a lower over-all temperature and a higher diffusion-resistance to the interior side

- The moisture content at the interface interior plaster / interior insulation usually can be reduced by an enhancement of the protection against driving rain (e.g. by water-repellent treatment, new exterior plaster, paint coat)

- Water-repellent treatment according to WTA:
  - A-value < 0.1 kg/m²$\sqrt{h}$
  - 50 % increase of the s_d-value

- Investigations of an exposed masonry need the knowledge of effective material properties, combining the properties of bricks and mortar

- A gypsum plaster at the interior surface usually has to be removed before applying an interior insulation

- Smart vapor retarders are favorable since the drying potential to the inside mainly remains unaffected.

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Ventilated timber frame construction

Construction drawing

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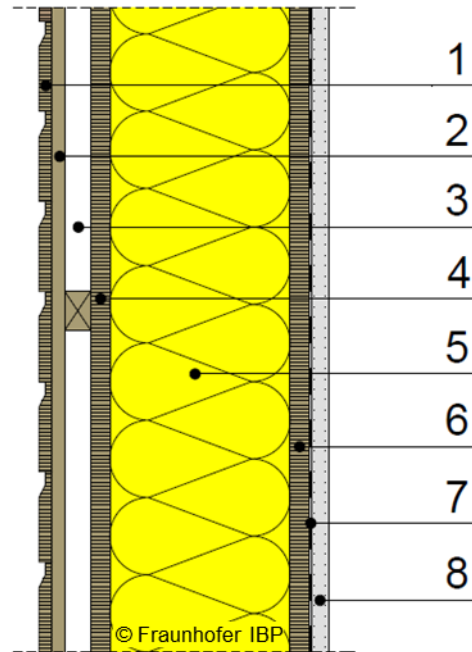
1 Planking
2 Battens
3 Counter battens
4 External cladding
5 Insulation
6 Internal Cladding
7 Vapour retarder
8 Gypsum board

Construction in WUFI

Exterior

Interior
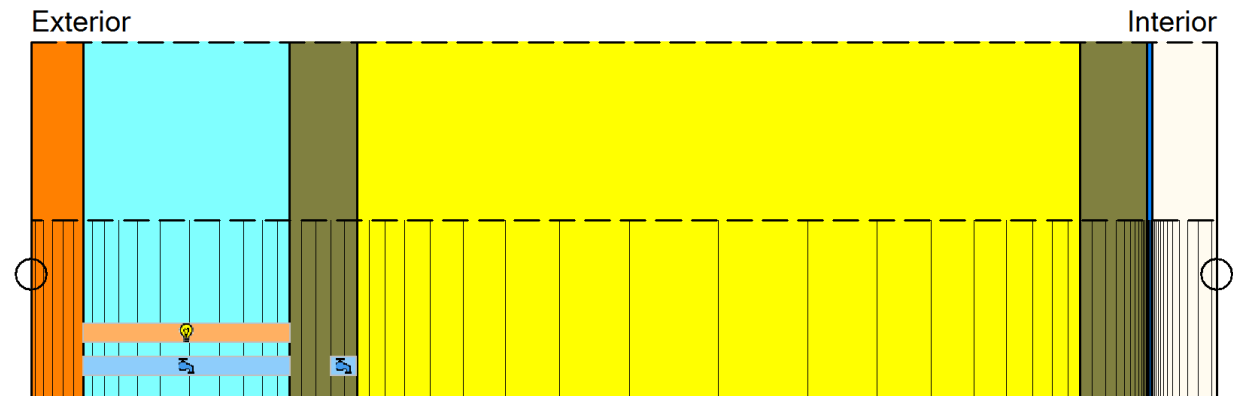
Ventilated timber frame construction

Please note

Exterior   Interior
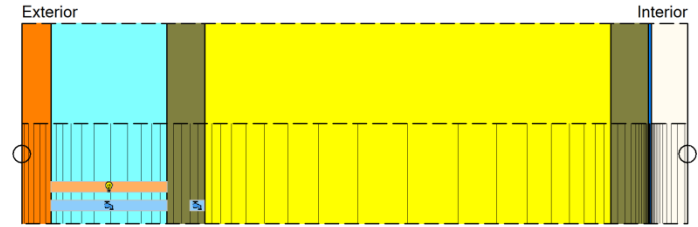
- Insert Air Change Source in air layer
  → The exchange rate is dependent on construction, surface color and ventilation openings

- Insert an air infiltration source at the cold side of the construction (at the position where condensation would occur) → source strength depending on the air tightness and height of the wall head

- Relevant orientation: usually north

- Short wave radiation absorptivity depending on color of surface

- Long wave radiation emissivity depending on material of surface

- If the short-term hygrothermal behavior of the outer surface is to be evaluated (e.g. dew position), turn on explicit radiation balance

- "Adhering fraction of rain" according to inclination and construction type (vertical wall: 0.7)

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Ventilated timber frame construction

Air change source setup

1. Select air layer

2. Select „Sources, Sinks"
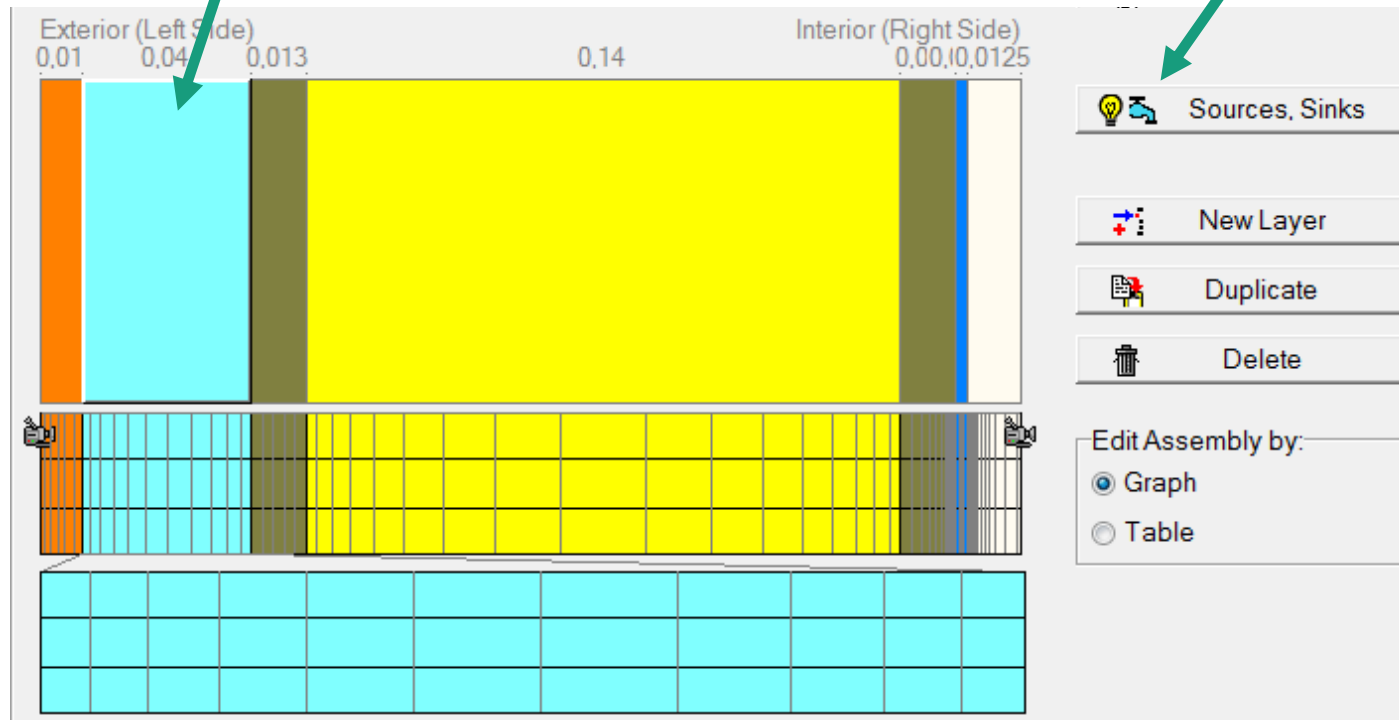
Ventilated timber frame construction

Air change source setup

3. Select „New Air Change Source"

Ventilated timber frame construction

Air change source setup

Ventilated timber frame construction

Moisture source setup

1. Select External cladding

2. Select „Sources, Sinks"

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Ventilated timber frame construction

Moisture source setup

3. Select „New Moisture Source"

Ventilated timber frame construction

Moisture source setup

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Ventilated timber frame construction

Result analysis*

- Check the numerical quality of the result using convergence failures and balances! (→ Guideline for the Result Evaluation)

- Check total water content (accumulation of moisture in whole construction); must not keep increasing

- Check water content in the external cladding

- If necessary, check moisture content of the insulation

*) Note: List not necessarily complete. Depending on boundary conditions additional critical positions may occur → Check in film display

Ventilated timber frame construction

Additional information
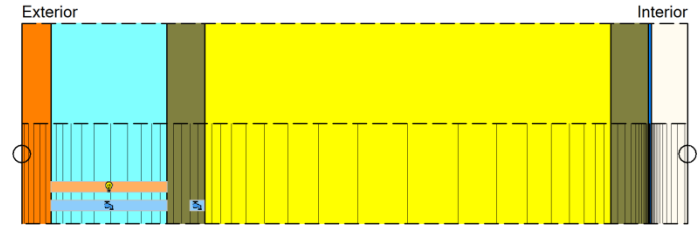
- As the occurring air exchange rates are often not known, it may be useful to vary the air exchange rate to see its influence on the hygrothermal behavior of the construction.
(Air exchange rates are usually between 10 and 200 1/h)

Ventilated timber frame construction

Additional information

■ Examples for air change rates for ventilated facades
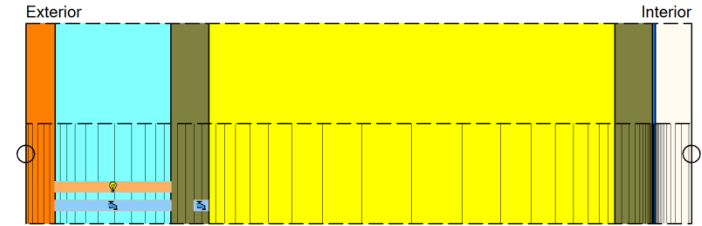
Guide values for air changes	Flow rate [(m³/h)/m²]	Gap [mm]	ACH [1/h]
Wood Siding	≈ 1,83	≈ 5	20
Vinyl Siding	≈ 9,14	≈ 5	200
Facing brick	≈ 2,74	≈ 25	10
Stucco (vented)	≈ 1,83	≈ 10	10
Sheathing flanking flow*	≈ 0,91	≈ 5	10 © Building Science Press

*The flank flow refers to the leaks in the area on the outer panel.

Content

Basement wall (without ground water)

Construction drawing

1 Soil
2 Perimeter insulation
3 Concrete wall
4 Interior plaster

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Construction in WUFI

Exterior side   Interior side

XPS Core
XPS Surface Skin

Basement wall (without ground water)

Exterior side Interior side
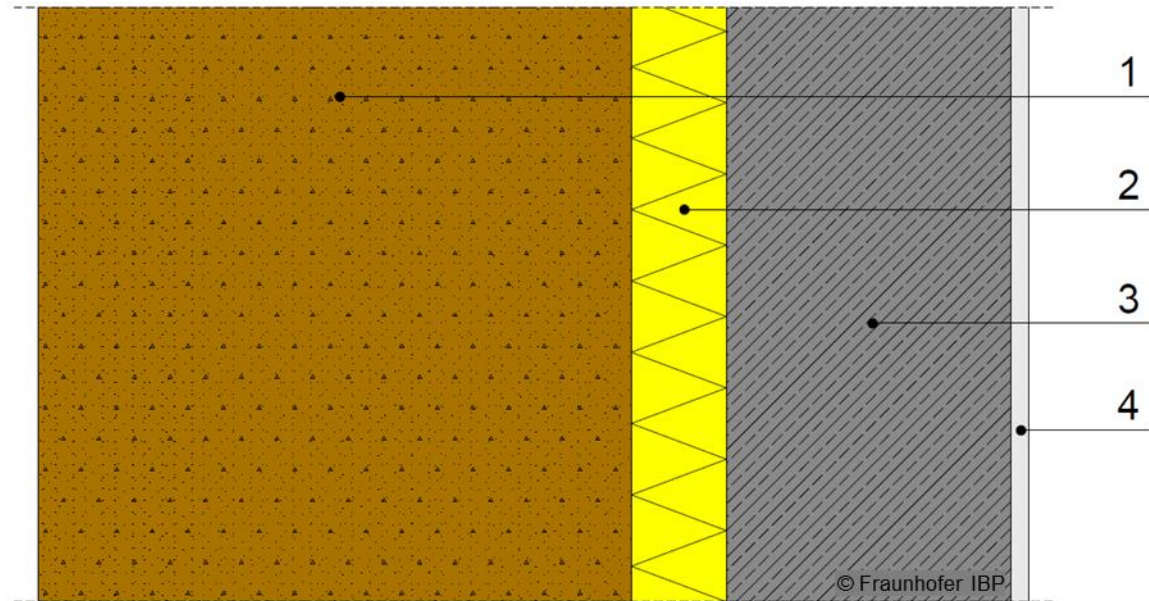
Please note
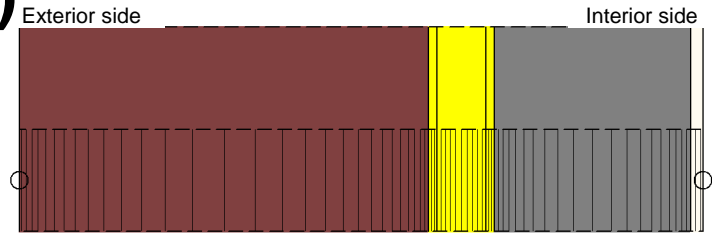
- Material data „Soil (Christian) DIN" (see Generic Materials)
  Thickness about 0.5 m

- The XPS perimeter insulation is build up three layers: core and outer surface skins (thickness 1 cm).

- Heat transfer resistance „Basement"

- No radiation absorptivity / emissivity

- No rain water absorption

- Outdoor climate:
    - Soil temperature from the climate „Holzkirchen-IBP Year 1991"
    - Sinus curve according to the diagram on slide 58
  with constant relative humidity of 99 % or 100 % RH

- Set interior climate depending on utilization

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Basement wall (without ground water)

Soil temperature setup (from climate Holzkirchen)
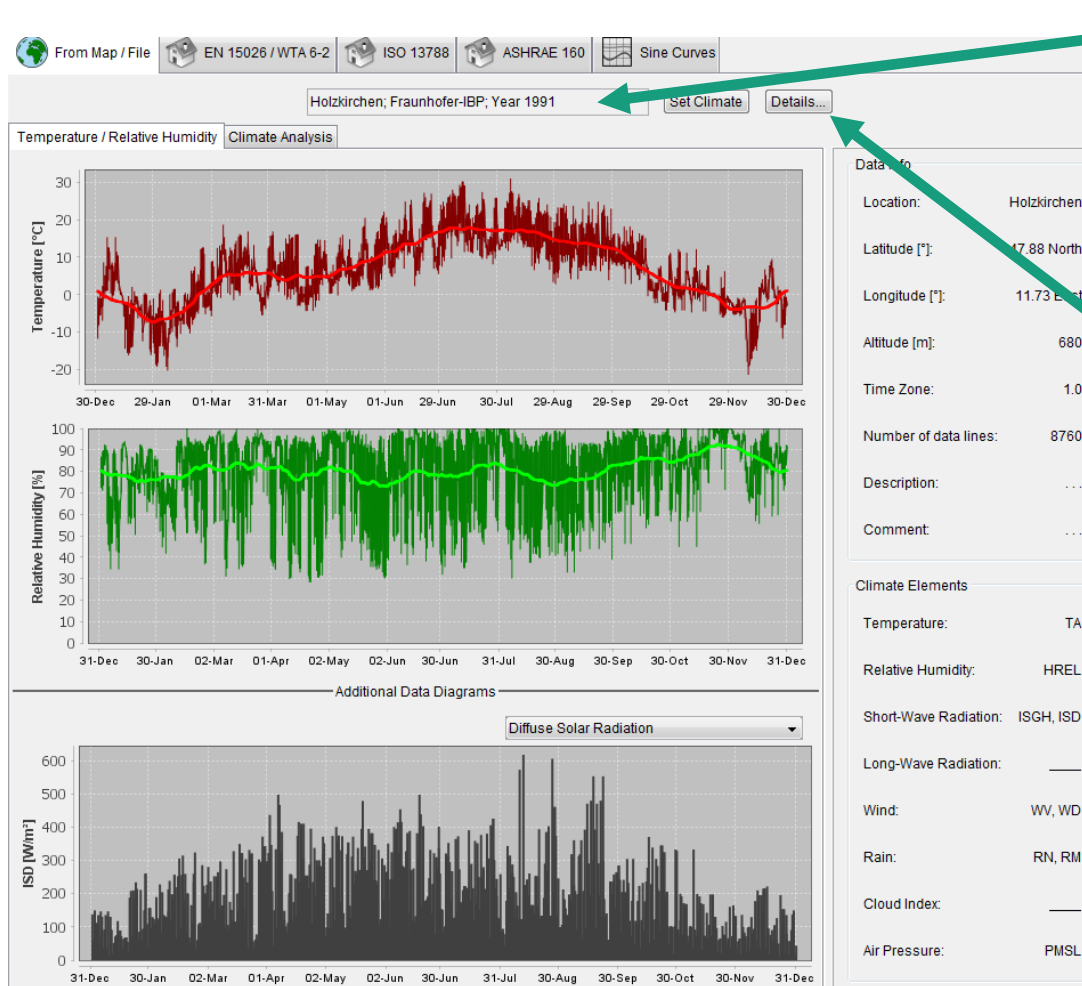
1. Select climate file „Holzkirchen; Fraunhofer-IBP; Year 1991"

2. Select „Details…"

Basement wall (without ground water)

Soil temperature setup (from climate Holzkirchen)

3. Select ground temperature at 50 cm or 1 m depth

4. Enter Constant Relative Humidity of 99 % or 100 %

Detailed Options

EN15026
Temperature Shift [K]: 0.0

Nighttime radiation cooling
☑ switch off simplified radiation cooling (recommended)

[WET-File]

Temperature
○ Air Temperature
○ Black surface
○ White surface
○ Ground surface
◉ 50 cm below ground surface
○ 1 m below ground surface

Relative Humidity
Constant Relative Humidity [%] 99

Radiation
No Radiation

Rain
No Rain

[OK] [Cancel] [Help]

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Basement wall (without ground water)

Soil temperature setup (from diagram)

Average soil temperature for each month depending on the depth of the soil
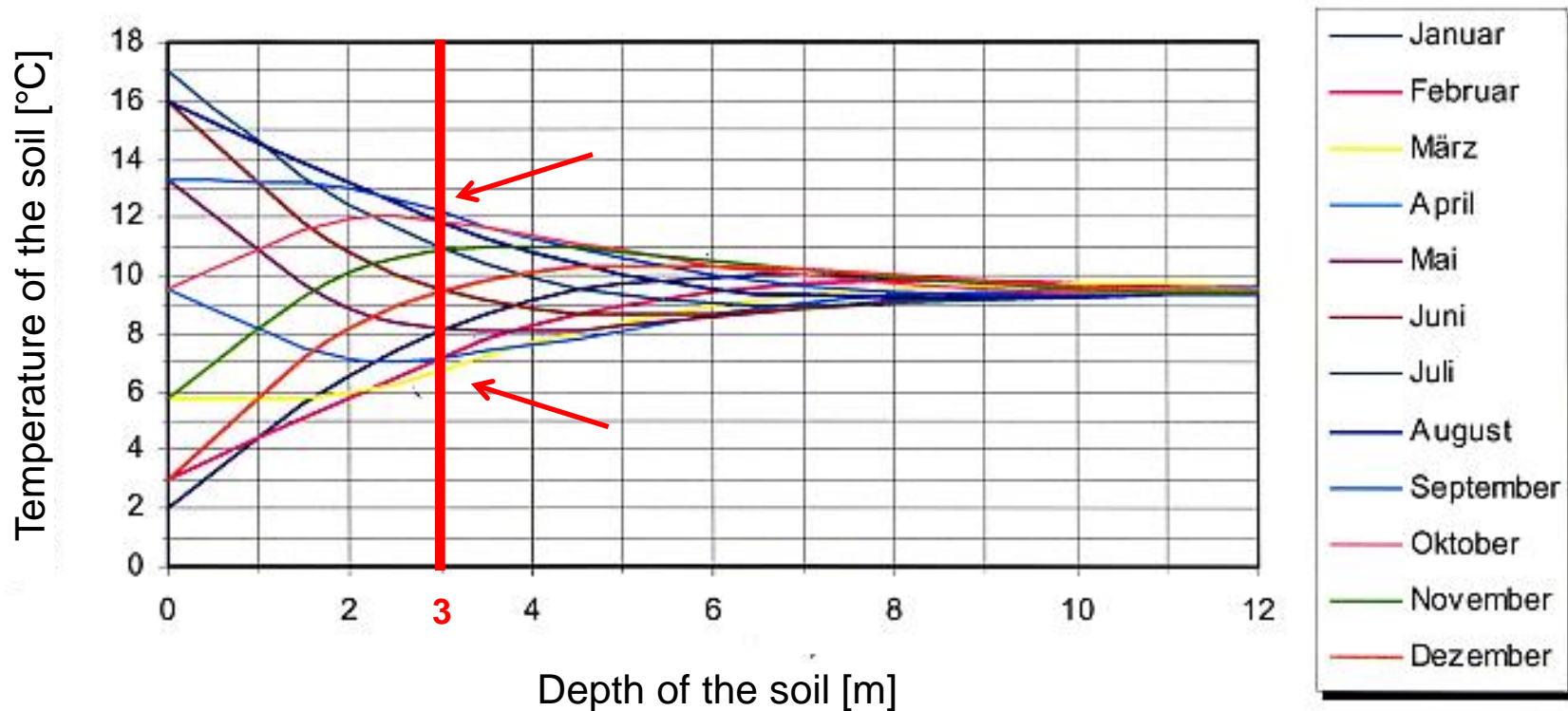
Example for a depth of 3 m:
Minimum of about 7 °C in March and
Maximum of about 12 °C in September

Basement wall (without ground water)

Soil temperature setup (from diagram)
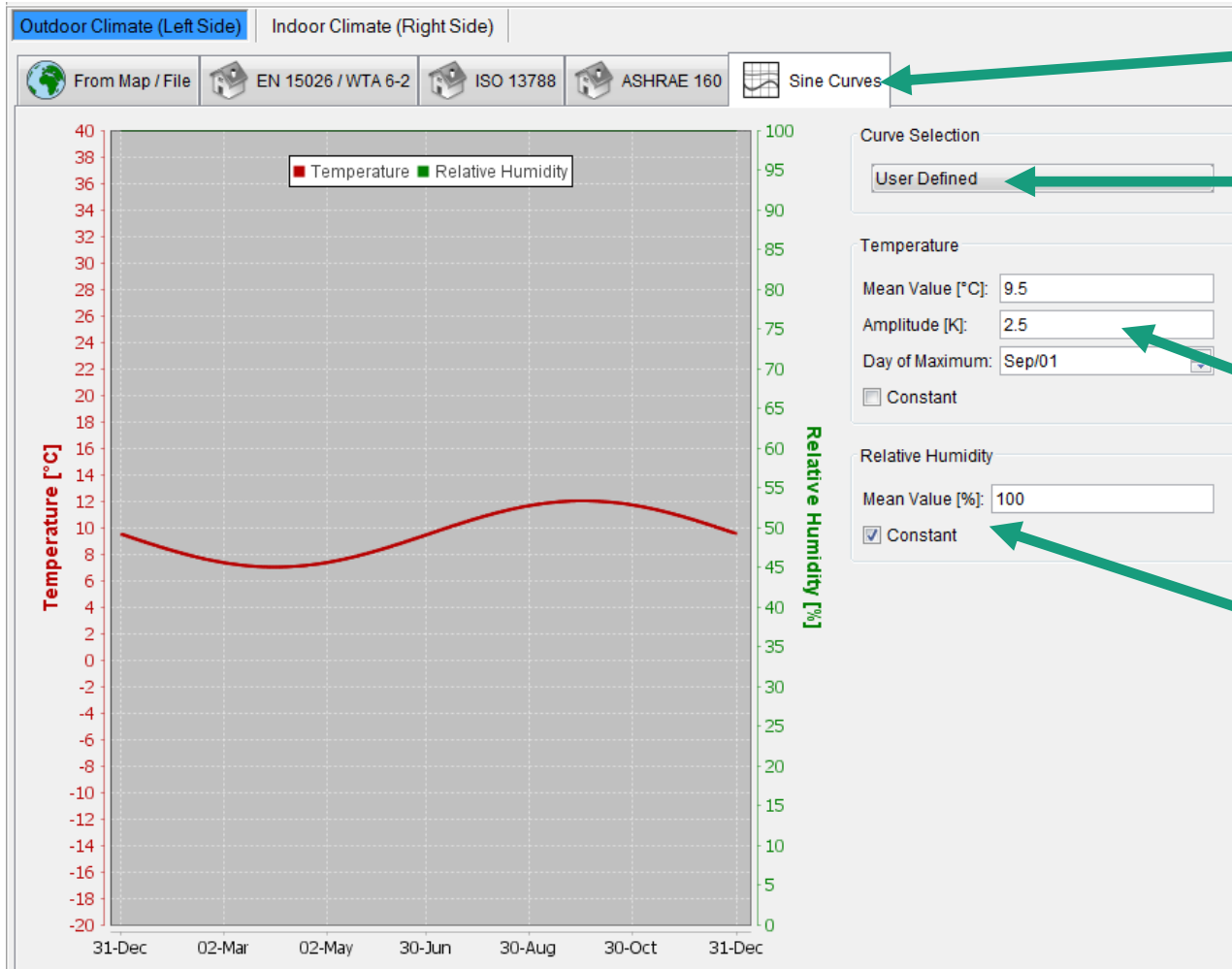
1. Sine Curves

2. Select „User Defined"

3. Enter Mean Value, Amplitude and Day of Maximum

4. Relative Humidity constant 99 % or 100 %
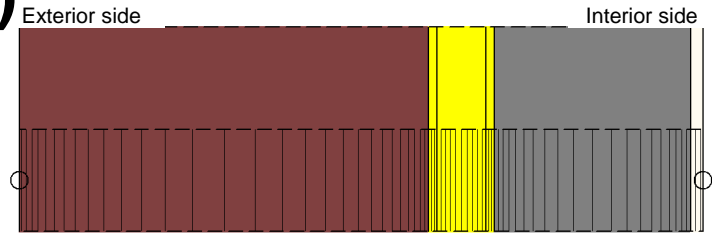
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Basement wall (without ground water)

Exterior side   Interior side

Result analysis*

- Check the numerical quality of the result using convergence failures and balances! (→ Guideline for the Result Evaluation)

- Check total water content (accumulation of moisture in whole construction); must not keep increasing

- Check water content of insulation

- Check water content in masonry / concrete

*) Note: List not necessarily complete. Depending on boundary conditions additional critical positions may occur → Check in film display

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Basement wall (without ground water)

Additional information
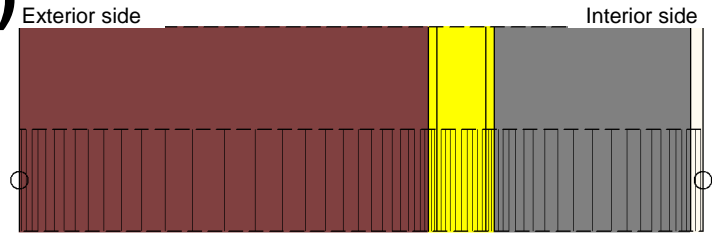
■ The climate file from Holzkirchen 1991 contains measured temperatures in the ground at 50 cm and 100 cm depth.

   Furthermore one can use temperature values from the literature and implement them as sinusoidal curve (slide 56).

■ By inserting a soil layer, the interaction between construction and soil can be taken into account in the simulation

■ Set the initial water content in the soil to 99 % relative humidity in order to reach a steady state in the soil more quickly and thus reduce the computing time.

■ If a capillary-breaking layer such as a dimpled membrane is used in front of the perimeter insulation, this can be modelled in the simulation using a foil. The thickness of the foil must not be changed; the s_d-value must be selected according to the used product.

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Basement wall (without ground water)

Additional information
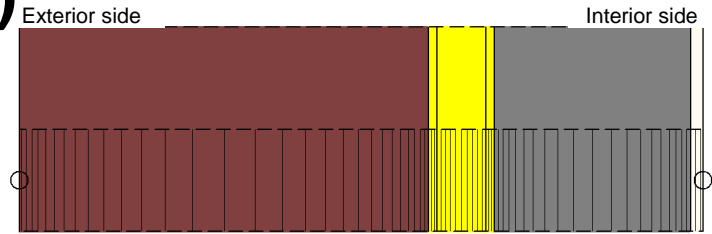
Consideration of water in the soil:

- Material data containing moisture storage function and moisture transport coefficients „Soil (Christian) FSP" must be used. Further soil materials can be found in the "North American Database in the "Soil" section.

- The soil has to be saturated during the calculation period (check water content after calculation).

- Create a climate file, which contains rain for each time step (with CreateClimateFile.xls).

- Adhering Fraction of Rain (in „Surface Transfer Coefficient") must be set to 1.

- Pressurized water can not be taken into account!

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Content

Interior component (partition wall)

Construction drawing
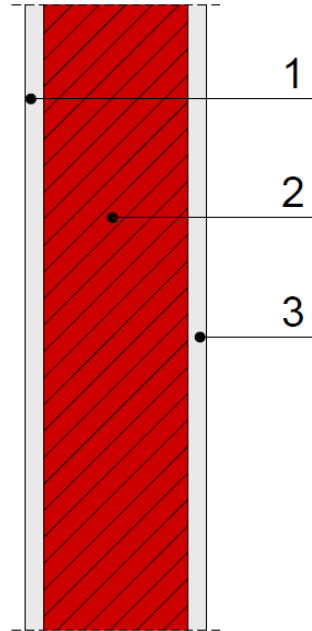
1 Interior plaster
2 Masonry
3 Interior plaster

Construction in WUFI

Exterior side

Interior side

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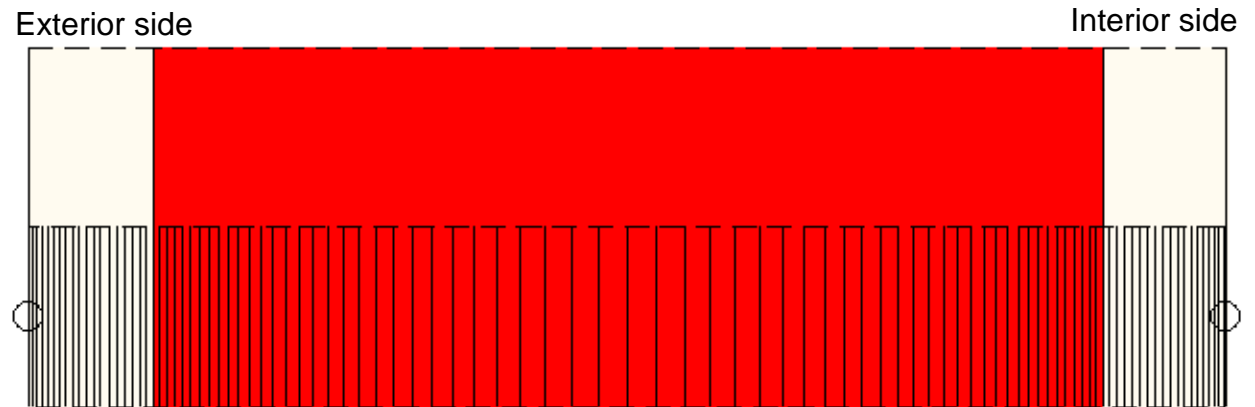
Interior component (partition wall)

Please note

Exterior side   Interior side
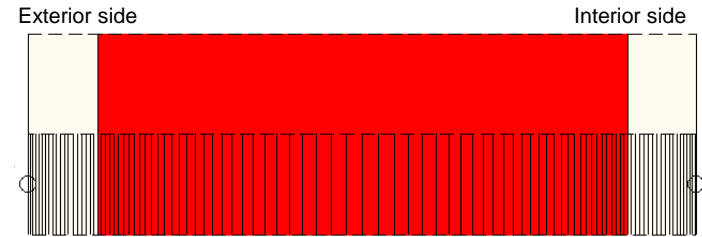
- Heat transfer coefficient „exterior": 8 W/m²K (Partition wall)

- Heat transfer coefficient „interior": 8 W/m²K (Partition wall)

- Indoor climate on both the outside and inside

  - Indoor climate according to DIN 4108 / EN 15026 / WTA 6-2 derived from the outdoor climate (outdoor climate must be selected)

  - Sine curves user-defined (e.g. for cellar rooms)

  - Constant indoor climate (e.g. for air conditioning)

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Interior component (partition wall)

Enter heat transfer coefficient

Exterior Surface (Left Side)

Heat Transfer Coefficient [W/(m² K)]	8	Partition wall (inner)
includes long-wave radiation parts [W/(m² K)]	4.5	
wind-dependent	☐ ...	

sd-Value [m]	----	No coating
		Note: This setting does not affect rain absorption

Short-Wave Radiation Absorptivity [-]	----	No absorption/emission
Long-Wave Radiation Emissivity [-]	----	

Reduction factors caused by shading:

for absorptivity [-]	----	No shading
for emissivity [-]	----	
Explicit Radiation Balance	☐ ...	Note: This option takes radiative cooling due to long-wave emission into account. Sensitive cases may require sufficiently accurate counterradiation data in the weather file.

Ground Short-Wave Reflectivity [-]	0.2	Standard value
Adhering Fraction of Rain [-]	----	Depending on inclination of component

Interior Surface (Right Side)

Heat Transfer Coefficient [W/(m² K)]	8	(Partition wall (inner))
sd-Value [m]	----	No coating

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Interior component (partition wall)

Enter outdoor climate (left side) – according to EN 15026 / DIN 4108 / WTA 6-2

1. Outdoor climate (left side)

2. EN 15026 / DIN 4108 / WTA 6-2

3. Select climate (select outdoor climate, from which the indoor climate is to be derived)

4. Select moisture load for the interior
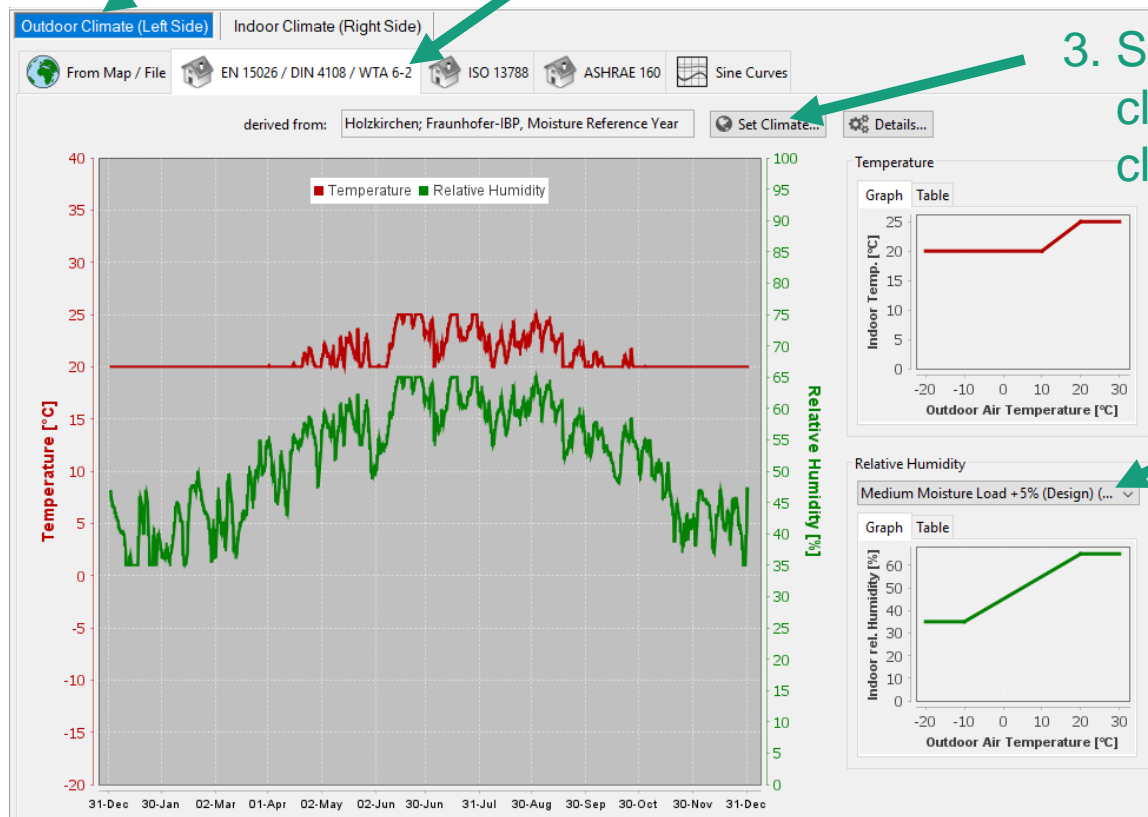
Interior component (partition wall)

Enter indoor climate (left side) – according to EN 15026 / DIN 4108 / WTA 6-2

1. Indoor climate (right side)

2. EN 15026 / DIN 4108 / WTA 6-2
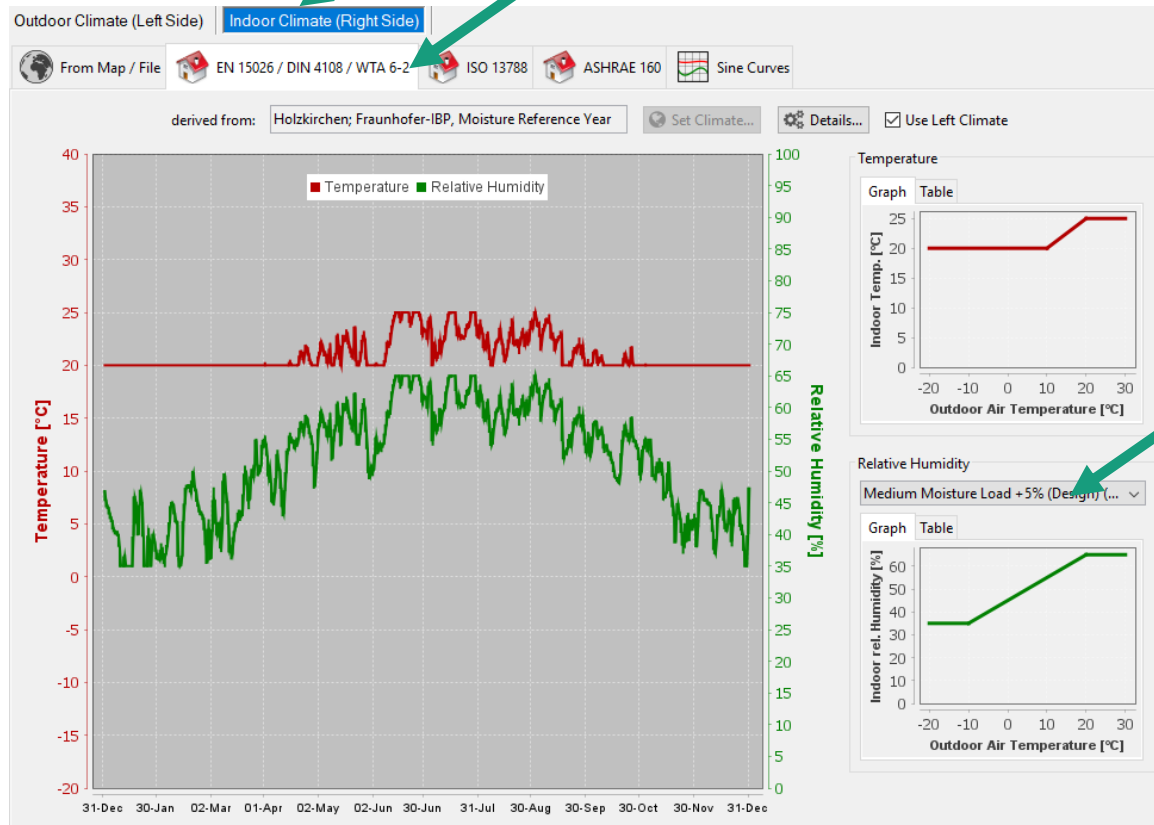
3. Select moisture load for the interior

Interior component (partition wall)

Enter outdoor climate (left side) – user-defined sine curves / constant indoor climate

1. Outdoor climate (left side)

2. Sine curves

3. Select user-defined

4. Define sine curves for temp. and rel. humidity

or specify constant conditions

Interior component (partition wall)

Enter indoor climate (right side) – user-defined sine curves / constant indoor climate
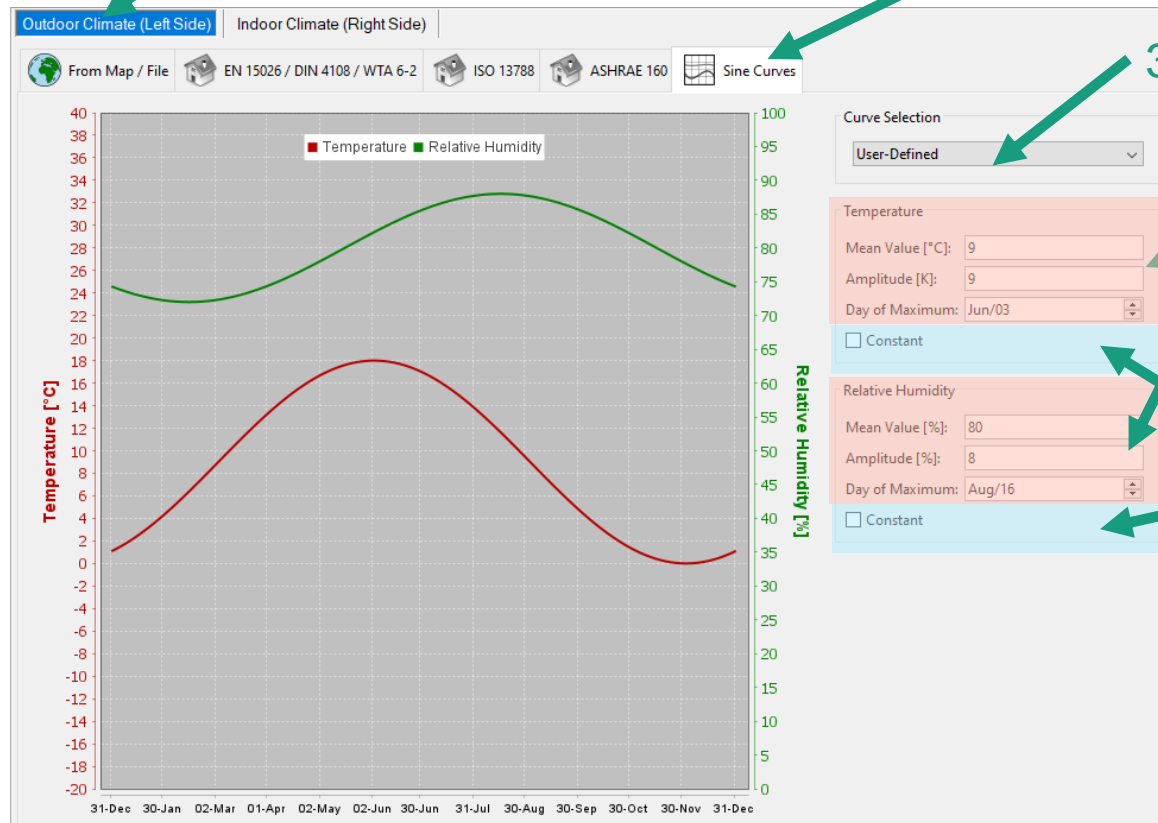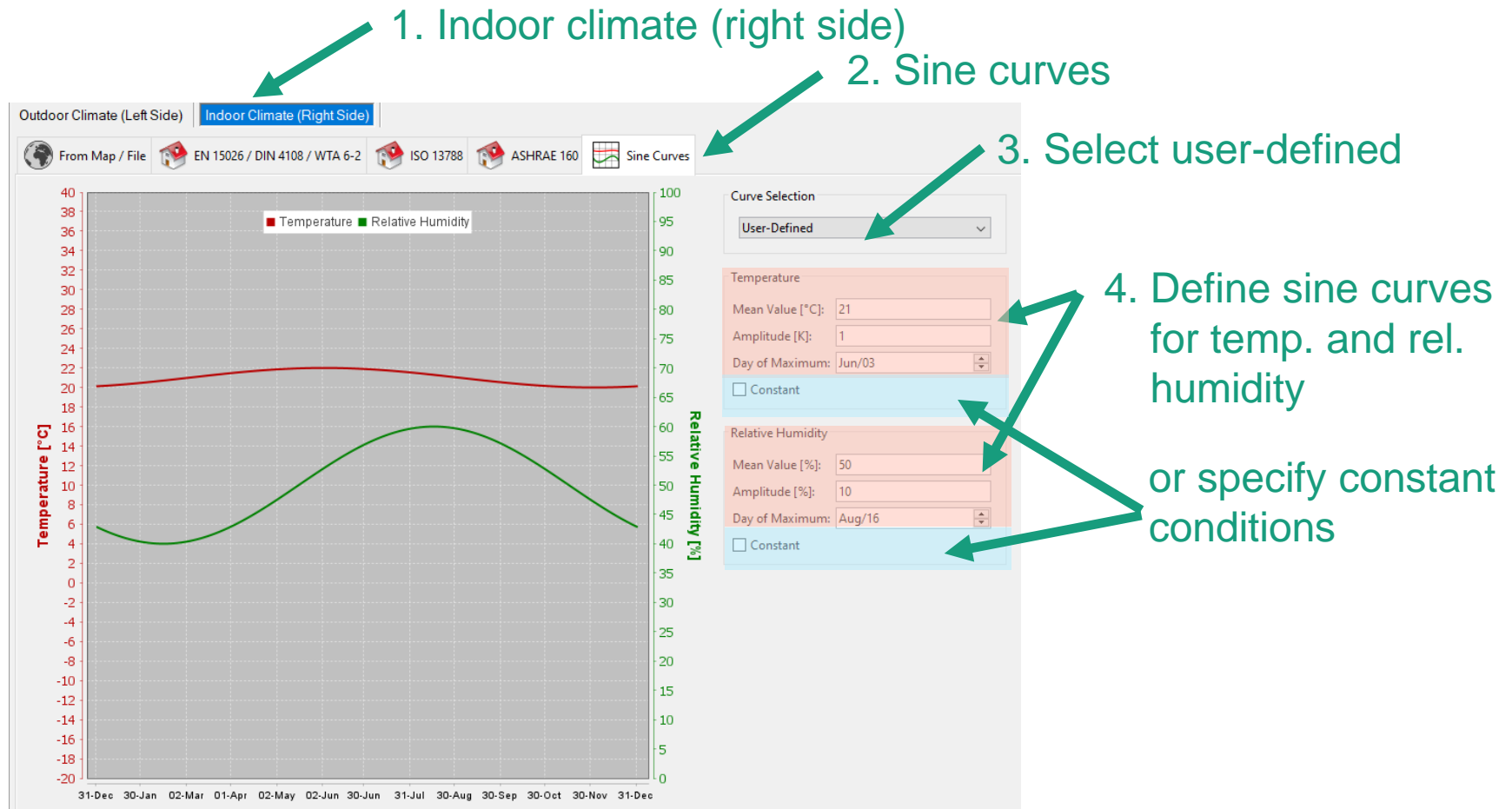

1. Indoor climate (right side)

2. Sine curves

3. Select user-defined

4. Define sine curves for temp. and rel. humidity
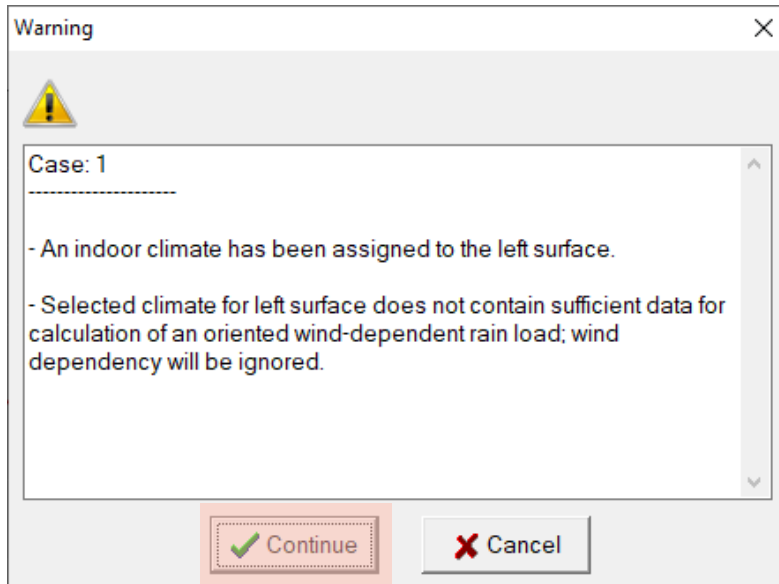
or specify constant conditions

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Interior component (partition wall)

Warning at calculation start

Warning dialog box:

Warning

Case: 1

- An indoor climate has been assigned to the left surface.

- Selected climate for left surface does not contain sufficient data for calculation of an oriented wind-dependent rain load; wind dependency will be ignored.

[✔ Continue]   [✘ Cancel]
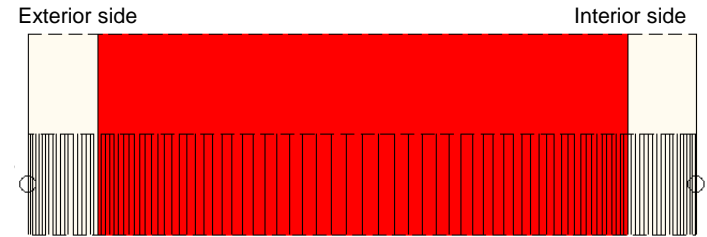
■ This warning appears at the start of the calculation and can be ignored for the calculation of an interior component

Interior component (partition wall)

Result analysis*

Exterior side   Interior side

Evaluation depends on the type of construction / situation

- Check the numerical quality of the result using convergence failures and balances! (→ Guideline for the Result Evaluation)

- Check total water content (accumulation of moisture in whole construction)

- Check the water content in individual materials, especially if they are sensitive to moisture

*) Note: List not necessarily complete. Depending on boundary conditions adittional critical positions may occur → Check in film display

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Interior component (partition wall)

Additional information

Exterior side   Interior side
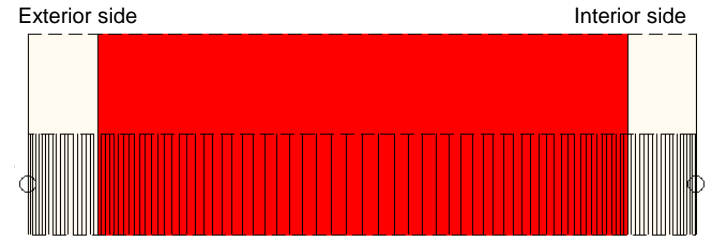
- ■ Critical positions can occur in particular if the neighbouring rooms have significantly different temperatures

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Handling of typical constructions

Auf Wissen bauen