

Air Sealing for Architects: Multifamily Version

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ABSTRACT

The residential International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), ENERGY STAR, LEED, Green Communities and Passive House all use blower door testing to demonstrate tightness of building envelope and individual dwelling units. Air sealing has often left up to the trades, but increasingly stringent tightness targets require us to look at air sealing from the very beginning of the design process. This session aimed at air sealing in multifamily buildings will explain how air sealing can stop moisture drive, overcome stack effect, save energy, control sound/smell transfer, and improve occupant comfort. And more importantly, this session will show how architects lay the groundwork for superior air sealing through their design choices, selection of assemblies, detailing, and spec writing. Testing means and methods will be presented, along with tips and tricks to achieve the best possible air sealing results. The session will include at least 10 minutes of Q&A to field the audience's toughest air sealing questions.

BIOGRAPHY

Steve Klocke is a Senior Sustainability Consultant at Steven Winter Associates, Inc. He is a registered architect with experience in architectural design, construction and weatherization in residential buildings. He currently specializes in LEED® for Homes and ENERGY STAR certifications and residential energy analysis. Since joining SWA he has supported building science efforts including the US Department of Energy's Building America research program. Steve trains numerous groups of contractors, architects, developers, and mechanical system designers in best practices for high performance housing.