

Saddle flashings

Parapet and enclosed balustrade junctions with walls have been prone to leakage historically and care must be taken to detail and build them correctly.

Fundamental saddle flashing design and construction techniques on site are still not occurring with some of the most common short comings being:

- saddles being installed over the cavity battens but behind the cladding as opposed to over the top
- saddles taken through to the back of the cavity, behind the battens as opposed to at the front of the cavity battens
- in-plane saddle wall junctions lack detailing for preventing water entering behind the cladding and cavity
- flexible flashing tape is not being applied over the top of the sloped packer and 50mm down the face of the battens.
- issues with material compatibility / dissimilar materials not being considered.



Although the flashing above appears adequate - a purpose made welded stainless steel saddle which continues out over the cladding line it is lacking some fundamental principles to ensure weathertight performance is achieved. A lack of a stop end allows water to freely enter the cavity space on the dry side and with the saddle up stand having been taken to the back face of the cavity as opposed to sitting over the front face of the cavity battens, this also bridges the cavity. Bridging the cavity should be avoided where possible as any moisture if entering the cavity should be managed on the wet side of the cavity – back side of the cladding and not allowed to drain down the building wrap

Saddles that are in-plane with adjacent wall surfaces were removed from the scope of Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 as it they are a problem junction and one size unfortunately does not fit all. In-plane wall junctions **must be specifically designed**.

Design and construction aspects to consider include:

- saddle flashings need to be sized to over flash the wall cladding
- stop end to prevent water entering the cavity
- managing drainage on the continuous plane by inclusion of a backflashing.
- link to 3D example www.youtube.com/watch?v=lluVXP1hjhU (screen shots below)

