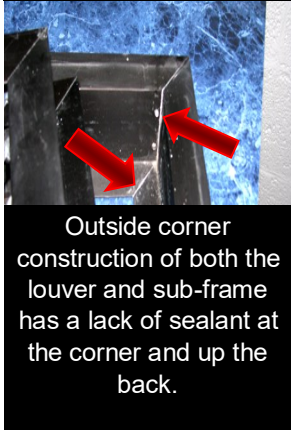
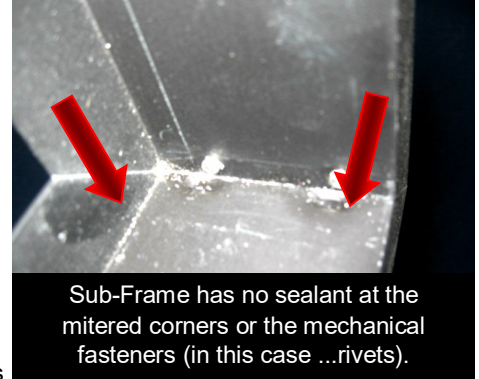


Louvers are a common element in today's buildings. We will encounter them in different shapes, sizes and locations. What makes louvers a special area of concern for us is that they are an open path of the exterior elements into our building and wall system. Special attention needs to be taken with regard to water intrusion and cold weather. Installing a subsill and blank-off panel is important to the water-tight installation. Also, we need to verify construction prior to installation at all times.

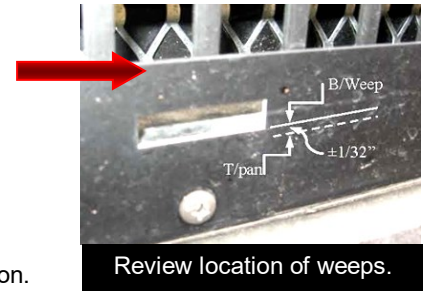
Corey Zussman, AIA, NCARB - Director of Quality Management



- ▶ Have a discussion with the architect on the flashing and the path of water. A subsill flashing is imperative to a water-tight design.
- ▶ Confirm flashing is designed or RFI detail.
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT...WE SHOULD HAVE FLASHING!
- ▶ Obtain the installation procedures from the manufacturer along with the shop drawings for the louver and unit ventilator.
- ▶ **Look for cold air infiltration and how it might affect other building elements, such as sprinkler lines and water pipes.**
- ▶ Review construction drawings for the water exit path and verify with the shop drawings—create a back-up for water.
- ▶ Check to make sure that the bottom pan is properly sloped towards the weeps and are in the correct location, **the bottom of the weep is at the top of the bottom pan, not above.**



- ▶ Review bottom pan and weep system on the shop drawings.
- ▶ Review the shop drawings and installation procedures and discuss any issues or differences that your project might have.
- ▶ Review the shop drawings for back draft dampers and blank offs.
- ▶ When reviewing shop drawings, look specifically for:
 - ▶ Sub frame.
 - ▶ Weep holes.
 - ▶ How each piece connects to one another.
 - ▶ Possible water penetration in the construction.



- ▶ Verify that the mitered corners are reinforced **and** properly sealed. Add sealant as needed.
- ▶ Check the sealant installation on the unit from the manufacturer prior to the installation.
 - ▶ Review fasteners within the louver and how are they sealed.
 - ▶ Review the back corner flange.
 - ▶ Review the fin connections.
 - ▶ Review the corner construction (mitered?)
 - ▶ Review the end dams.
- ▶ Sides of the louver should overlap the bottom on the inside.



- ▶ Perform a simple hose test on the louver to determine and verify the water path.
 - ▶ Water stream to the left side.
 - ▶ Water stream to the right side.
 - ▶ Water stream from the top side.
 - ▶ Water stream from the bottom up.

- ▶ Always connect ductwork to the sill pan.
- ▶ Always make sure sill pan has sealed end dams
- ▶ Always lift louver 1/8" above sill pan and **DO NOT SEAL Bottom**

