



# EARTH USA 2011

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**Title:**

Moisture Management in Compressed Earth Block Walls

**Abstract:**

Compressed earth block (CEB) walls present unique opportunities and challenges in terms of moisture management. This paper will review the three forms of moisture sometimes found in building materials: vapor, liquid moisture, and ice. Proper management of these, by design, so they do not cause damage to either the CEBs or to other materials that may be incorporated in earthen walls is possible. Building code requirements and best practices for design and construction of CEB walls will be discussed. Vapor retarders, drainage planes, air barriers, flashing and weeps will be shown in figures and illustrations for correct use by designers and building contractors. Proper moisture management leads to better energy performance and more durable construction, both of which benefit homeowners.