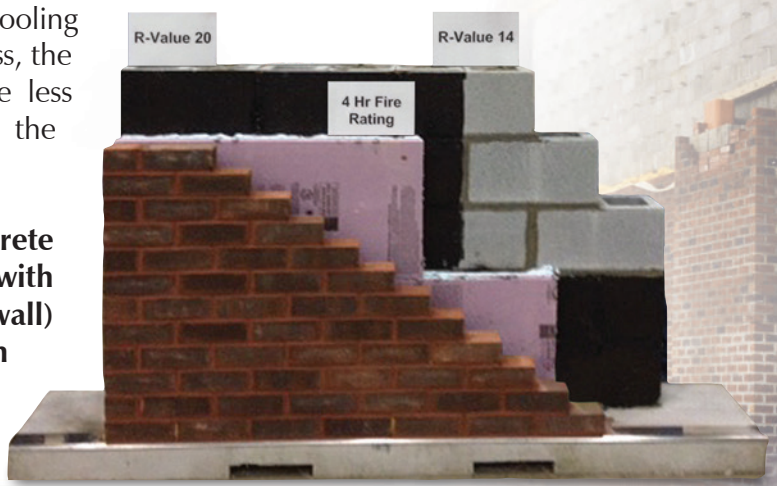
PCMA MASONRY tip

CONCRETE MASONRY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

IMPORTANCE OF THERMAL MASS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Concrete masonry walls provide very effective thermal storage - remaining warm or cool long after the heat or air-conditioning has shut off. This reduction in heating and cooling loads moderates indoor temperature swings and shifts heating and cooling loads to off-peak hours. Due to the thermal mass, the IECC permits concrete masonry walls to have less insulation than frame wall systems to meet the energy requirements.



In addition to the thermal mass benefits, concrete masonry can provide continuous insulation with an R-Value of 14 or 20 (in this typical cavity wall) depending on the type of rigid insulation used. This wall system exceeds current energy code in all 8 areas.

PCMA
pennsylvania concrete masonry association

PO Box 4
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-279-6346
jboyer@pacma.com

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Thermal Performance of masonry depends on its thermal resistance (R-Value) as well as its thermal mass. R-Value of masonry walls are determined by the following characteristics: size, type and density of CMU; type and location of insulation; finish materials; and grouted areas.

Technical information regarding concrete masonry is available through the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA). You can access this information any time on line from the home page of the Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association (PCMA) website www.pacma.com or through the NCMA website www.ncma.org.

The PCMA website **www.pacma.com** features a listing of producer members and their contact information along with the products each produces. You'll also find information on education opportunities, local publications and more.

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