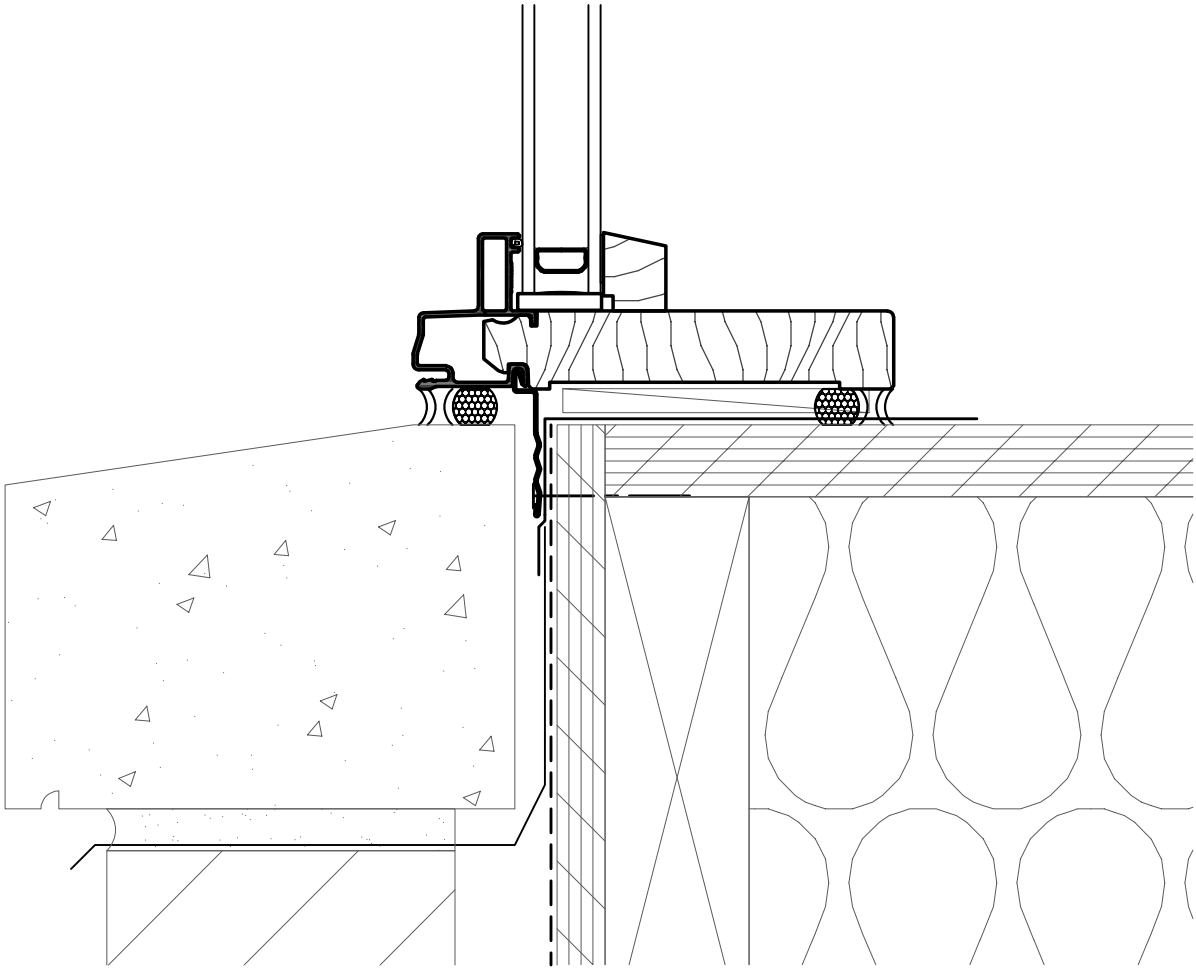
TECHNOTES

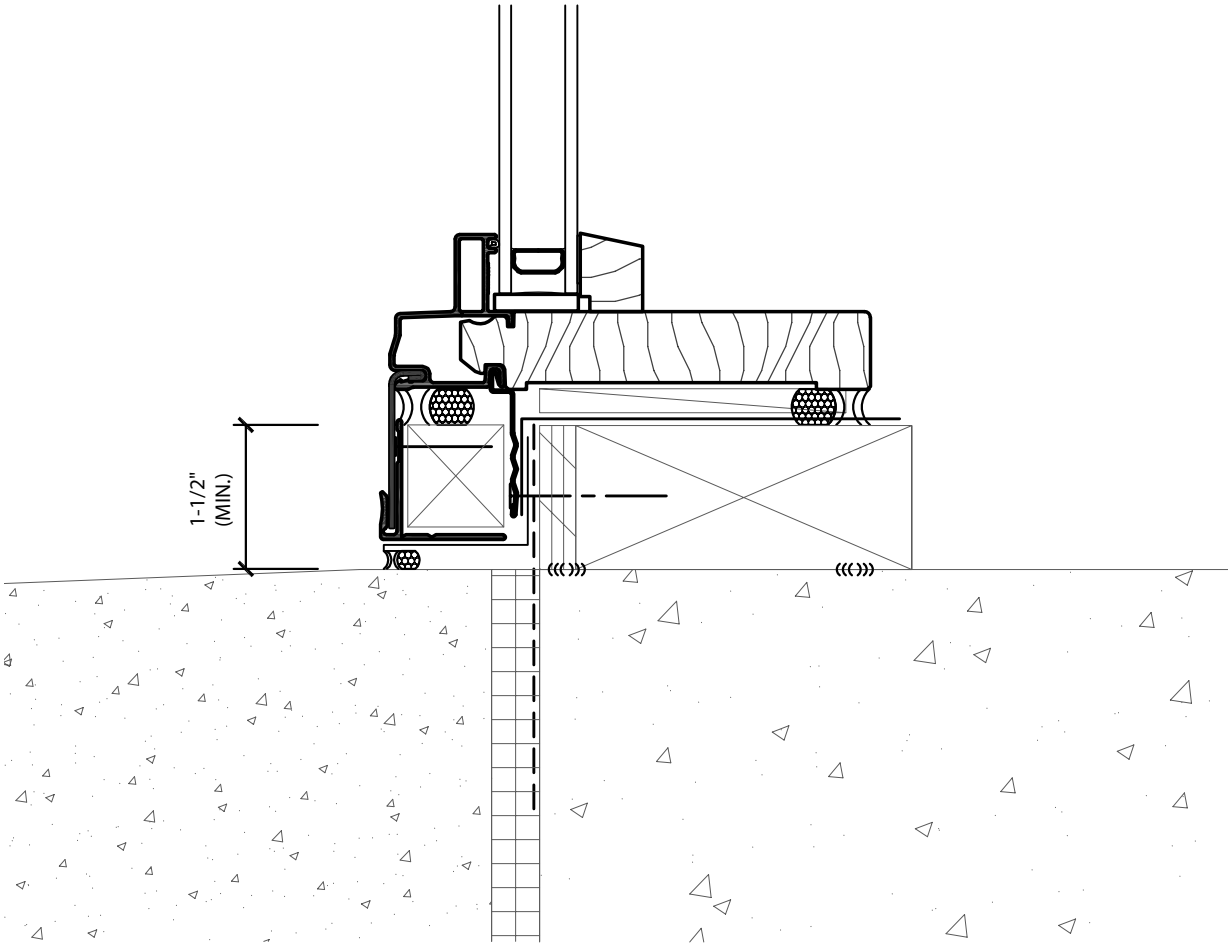
Minimum sill height dimensions for windows

Architects looking to maximize glazing site lines often times will detail window sills that are set at finished floor level. Analyzing if this is an appropriate product application requires that you first recognize that window sill heights at floor level are focused primarily on the conditions exterior of the wall framing and not the interior. The example below represents the minimum height a window sill can be set on the interior that is above grade on the exterior (see detail A).



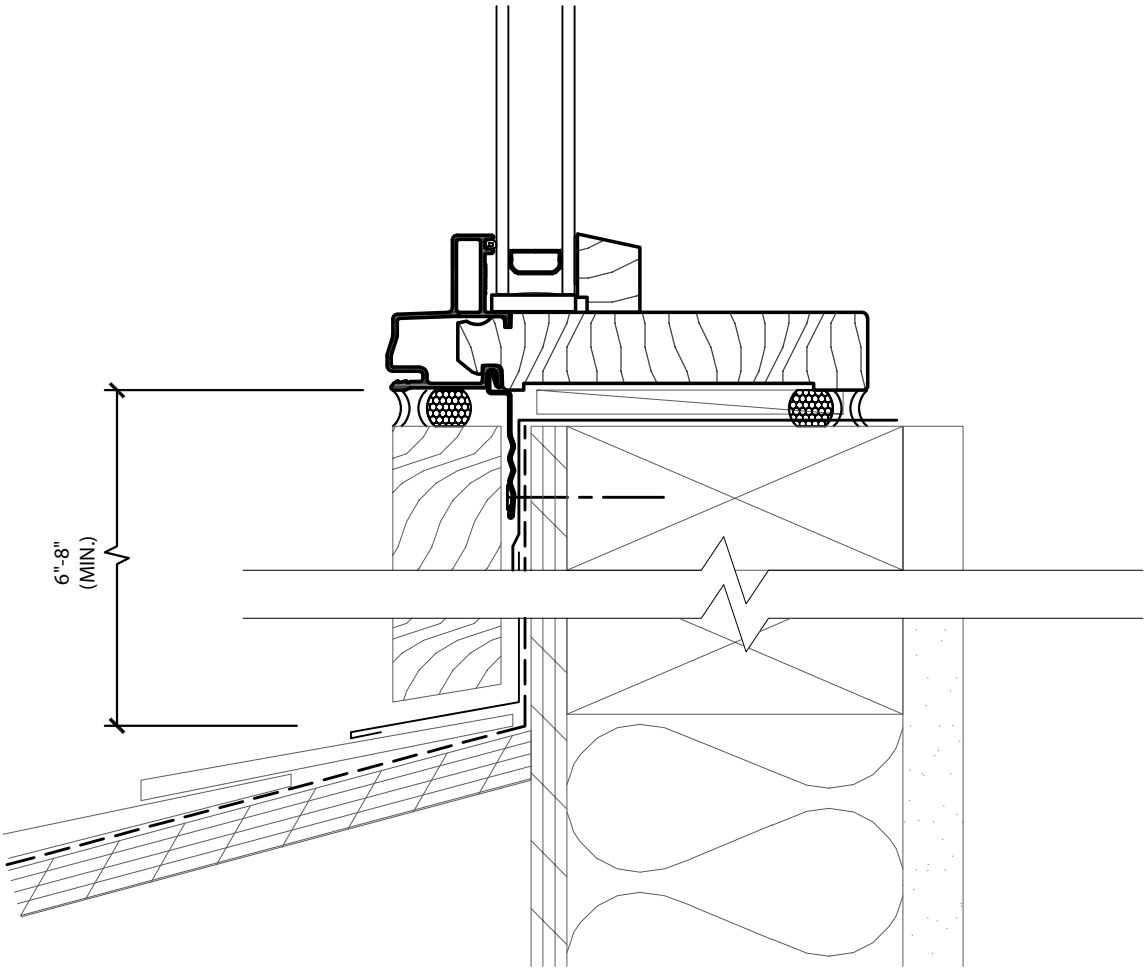
Detail A
Window sill on wood subfloor above grade

Conversely a window that is used as a door sidelight with a walking surface on the exterior may need to be elevated to address a variety of concerns. The example below shows an installation fin that requires clearance for placement into the opening (see detail B). Protection of the unit from incidents of weather such as the accumulation of snow, which can melt during the day followed by freezing temperatures at night resulting in ice damming could also be a consideration.



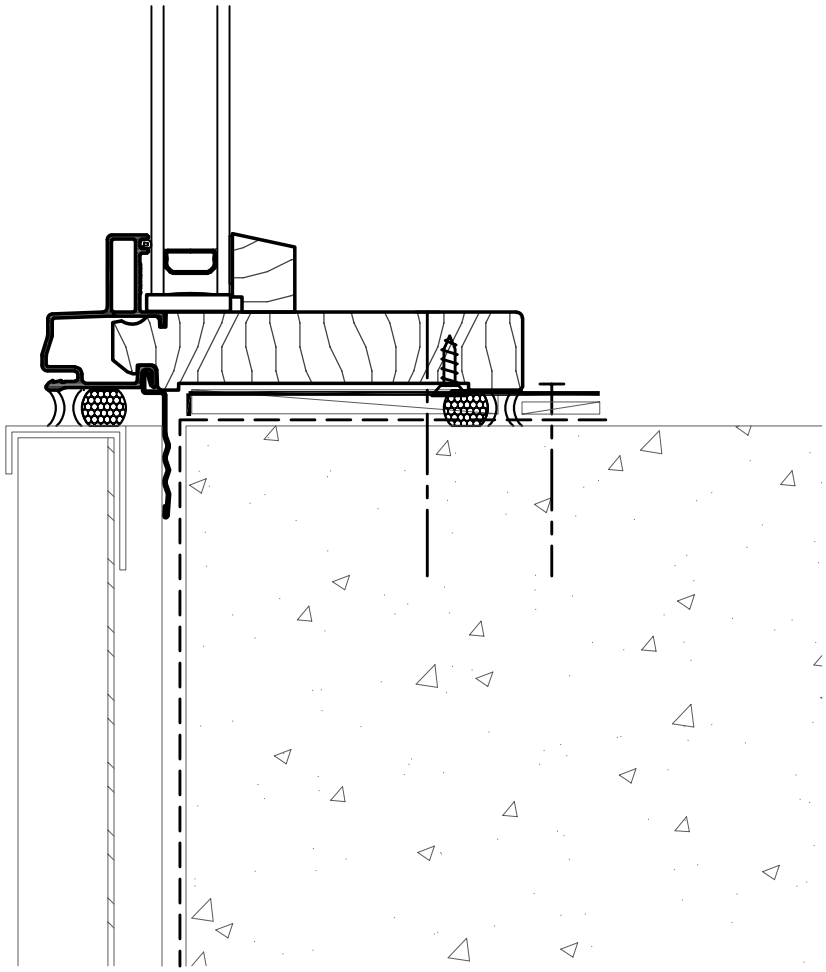
Detail B
Window raised on blocking at or near grade

In areas of a building where snow accumulations are generally not removed it is recommended that window sill heights be raised. Some industry standards recommend that window sills above roofs be raised a minimum of 6”- 8” (see detail C). Geographic location, levels of snow accumulation, and roof slope if any should all be considered when setting window sill heights to protect window installations.



Detail C
Window raised above roof deck

Installation of a window set at floor level in concrete with an installation fin would result in fin fasteners being too close to the edge of the concrete, which could result in concrete "blow-out" or the shearing of the edge of the concrete. To prevent this and still maintain the benefits of the installation fin, it is possible to fasten the unit on the interior with an installation clip or an anchor through frame method (see detail D).



Detail D
Window sill on concrete slab above grade

It is worth noting that setting window sill heights above finished floor levels on the interior can protect a window sill from cosmetic damage, much like a kick board or baseboard protects a cabinet or wall.