

The walls of your house play a protective role. When the building envelope is damaged, or has defects, water can easily infiltrate.

# **RISK FACTORS**

### **BE ALERT IF:**

- 1 Bricks are missing;
- 2 Mortar is missing;
- 3 Stepped cracks appear in brick walls;
- Window sills or lintels are missing or deteriorated;
- **5** Blocked or missing weep holes in the walls;
- Vinyl or metal siding is missing or damaged

### PREVENTION AND CORRECTION ADVICE

#### **CONSULT A BUILDING EXPERT QUICKLY IF THERE IS:**

- 6 A large amount of crumbling mortar;
- **7** Bulge in the wall (frost heave);
- 8 Efflorescence below windows, doors or balconies;
- 9 Presence of green moss;
- A missing threshold (door sill);
- Crumbling of bricks (spalling);
- General deterioration of surfaces.

# **QUICK SAFETY TIPS**

- A Prevent water, snow and ice from accumulating on walkways and steps.
- **b** Check the soundness of balcony attachments and railings.
- 🛕 Repair broken window panes.
- Check that no cladding (brick, aluminum, etc.) is detaching.

#### IMPORTANT

North-facing walls deteriorate less quickly because of they are less exposed to the sun.