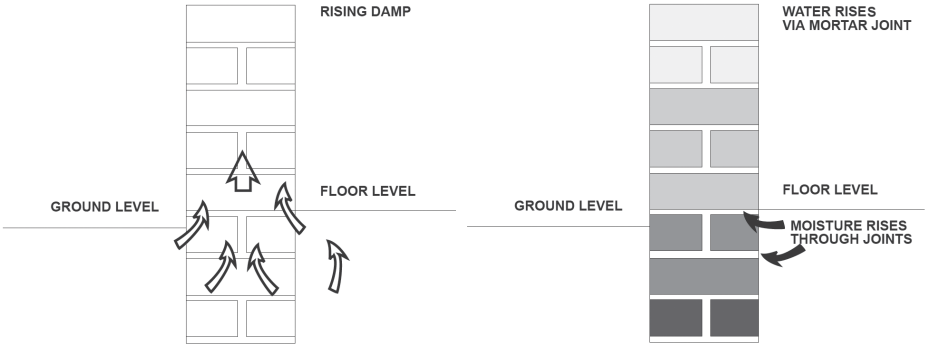
Rentokil
The Experts in Property Care

Technical Information: Rising Damp Number 127

Water can enter a building in many ways, invariably causing damage to the building's structure and decorations.

One of the common routes of entry is rising damp, whereby water from the ground is drawn up into the pores of bricks, mortar and other materials used to construct walls and floors.

The speed at which this process occurs depends on many factors, including the nature of the ground, type of wall or floor construction and environmental conditions both inside and outside the building. In most cases rising damp is fairly slow to develop and may be present for several years before the problem is highlighted by the appearance of damp patches, blistered paint, stained and peeling wallpaper or floor timbers rotted by fungal decay.



Traditional Treatments

The objectives with any rising damp treatment are to:

- prevent water from rising in walls above the level at which the new damp-proof course is installed
- deal with ancillary problems such as fungal decay, blocked wall cavities and plaster contaminated with hygroscopic (moisture-absorbing) salts carried up in the ground water
- provide a dry internal wall surface, suitable for redecoration.

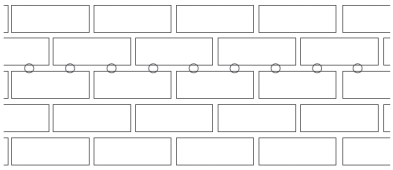
Treatments designed to meet these objectives have been many and varied, and include:

- undercutting walls at an appropriate mortar joint line and inserting slate, bitumen or plastic membrane.
- installing an electro-osmotic system
- drilling and injecting the walls with an organic solvent based damp-proofing fluid.

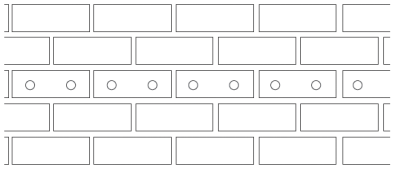
These methods may be effective but may suffer from access or odour problems.

Attempts at camouflaging the visible signs of rising damp include coating the internal wall surface with a layer of metal foil, bitumen or sealer. In reality, this only serves to hide the dampness and its effects rather than curing the underlying cause.

Rentokil
The Experts in Property Care



JOINT INJECTION



BRICK INJECTION

New Treatments

Rentokil first developed a cost-effective chemical injection system in 1974, although the requirement for rigorous field testing prevented its complete introduction until 1980. The system was very effective, but Rentokil's Research and Development Division continued to refine and improve the damp-proofing fluid and its method of application. The result is a new system which:

- uses the latest and best materials
- uses water as the solvent, with the associated benefits of low odour and low flammability
- takes into account health, safety and environmental regulations
- meets all of the stated objectives for an effective damp-proofing treatment

Before treatment is carried out, a careful survey is necessary to determine the following requirements:

- joint or brick injection
- height at which the damp-proof course will be injected
- location of the injection points
- depth of the injection points
- angle of the injection points, which should normally be horizontal
- the quantity of fluid to be used

These factors are important to ensure that the damp-proof course is installed in the correct position in relation to floor and ground levels, and that the fluid permeates sufficiently into the injected area to create a continuous horizontal damp-proof course.

It is also important to rectify other faults which may be allowing the walls to become damp. These may include faulty rendering, leaking rainwater disposal systems, high ground levels and poor drainage. Plaster which has become contaminated with salts (some of which may be hygroscopic) must be removed. Below the level of the damp-proof course it may be necessary to apply a specialised coating system to the walls and floors to prevent lateral movement of ground water into the area. This process is known as 'tanking' and, together with details of replastering techniques, is the subject of a separate Technical Release.

Visit **rentokil.co.uk/propertycare**

Call **0800 731 2343**

Rentokil Property Care is a division of Rentokil Initial UK Limited, a Rentokil Initial Company.
Registered in England No 301044. Registered Office: 2 City Place. Gatwick Airport, RH6 0HA, UK