

# Rising Damp - Help and Information Pack

## Rising Damp - What is it?

Rising Damp is the rise of water originating from ground water up through walls, basically the wall acts like a wick.

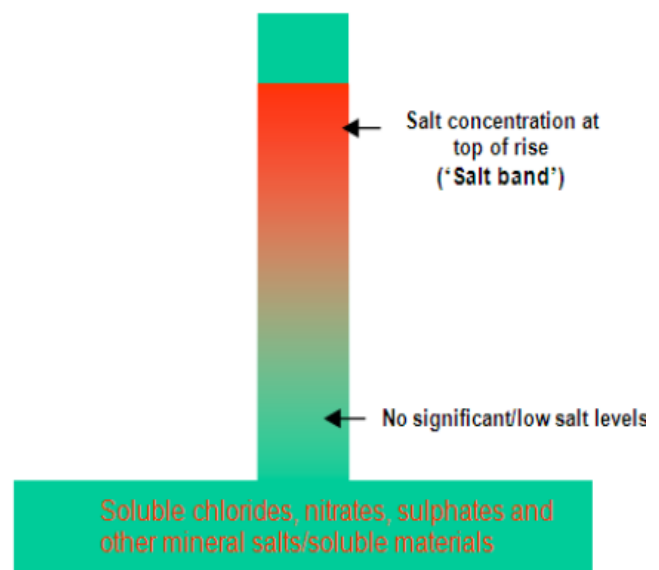
Simply think of 'suction' - if the suction of the wall is greater than the suction of the ground then water will rise to a greater or lesser extent. If the suction of the ground, however, is greater than the wall then water will not rise, whether a damp proof course is present or not. Once rising damp occurs, depending on the 'suction', it can rise to around 2 metres. However, one more commonly expects around 1200 mm and less.

## Rising Damp - The problem

Rising damp causes problems of decorative spoiling and can tend to rot in skirting, floor joists, floorboards and wall plates where present. Significantly, ground water salts will be deposited within the masonry and the surfaces especially plasters and decorative finishes. Most ground water only contains very small quantities of salts at levels which are generally at an acceptable level. However, as the water rises within the wall these salts are carried up into the wall and left behind as the water evaporates. Over periods in excess of 50 years the continual water rise and evaporation cause these salts to build up to significant quantities. And here is where a further problem with long term rising damp occurs. A proportion of the salts are hygroscopic.



**Rising Damp Issue On Interior Wall**



**The Rise Of Salts Within Interior Walls**



**Hygroscopic Salts**

## Rising Damp - What are Hygroscopic Salts?

This means that they can absorb water from the air. In some cases these salts are concentrated to such levels that sufficient water is absorbed from the air to cause contaminated finishes to appear damp. This will cause future problems in that if the rising damp is stopped, materials may still remain damp solely due to the hygroscopic nature of the contaminated material. Any decorative finish applied to such contaminated substrates would almost certainly spoil with time.

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## Rising Damp - Diagnosing The Problem

Prior to introducing any damp control methods it is vital to correctly diagnose the actual source of dampness. Is it rising damp, condensation, penetrating damp, or simple floor/wall junction bridging? Get the diagnosis wrong and the remediation is likely to be wrongly specified. Dampness will then persist, and costs incurred in treating the 'wrong' form of dampness will be totally wasted. It is therefore essential that the specialist surveyor has the knowledge, experience and appropriate instrumentation to clearly identify the different causes of dampness. We at Timberwise have that expertise and decades of experience. Our surveyors are trained in the nationally recognised qualifications, the Certificated Surveyor in Remedial Treatment (CSRT) qualification. Whatever the cause of dampness, our surveyors will recommend the most cost effective action. We give our clients, large or small, full confidence in both the diagnosis and solution of the damp proofing problem.



**Surveyor Diagnosing For Rising Damp**

## Other Types of Damp

### Penetrating Damp

Penetrating Damp is triggered mostly as a result of deficient property maintenance for instance faulty and blocked drains, faulty plumbing creating overflows in addition to climatic issues, for example wind driven rain. These kinds of damp may penetrate the structure of the property resulting it to be the source of internal adjoin timbers becoming damp and subsequently degrading through dry rot and wet rot infestations.



**Penetrating Damp**

### Condensation Damp

Condensation is caused where there is an absence of ventilation in a property. Walls may become damp resulting in damage to the plaster and black mould as well as a presence of musty odours.



**Condensation Mould On Interior Wall**

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## Rising Damp - The Solution

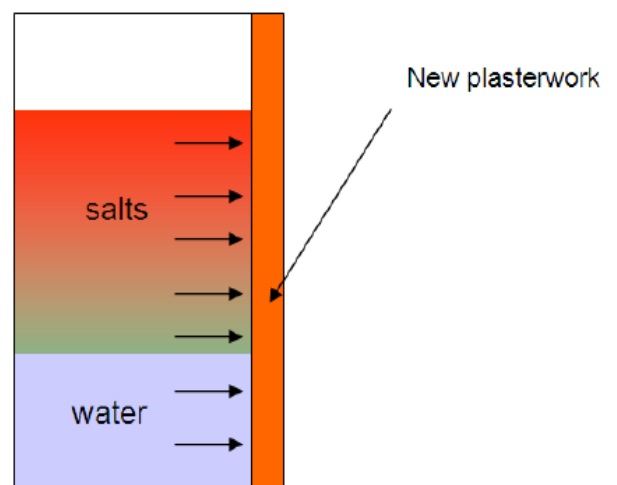
To effect a dry, non-spoiling decorative surface free from water and salt contamination the control of rising damp has to be a two-part process. There is no other way!



Part 1- The injection of a damp proof course to control the rising water. A number of systems are available for this purpose, most being chemical injection systems. Most control the rising water by forming a water repellent barrier at the base of the wall thereby controlling the rise of water: some provide a pore blocking action to control rise. Chemical injection systems, and their installation are covered in British standard 6576:2005 'Code of practice for diagnosis of rising damp in walls of buildings and installation of chemical damp-proof courses'.

### Chemical Injection Damp Proofing

Part 2 - the removal and replacement of potentially salt contaminated plasters and finishes. This is undertaken to form a long-term uncontaminated surface, and prevent any residual moisture/salts causing future spoiling. The importance of the removal of the old plaster and the reinstatement with new plaster cannot be understated.



**Replacement Plaster, Preventing Future Spoiling**

**For Further information on Rising Damp and the damp proofing solutions available**

**visit [www.damp-proofing-specialists.co.uk](http://www.damp-proofing-specialists.co.uk) or call 0800 0193 022**

**Damp Proofing Specialists are a division of Timberwise**

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