



JOHN NEWTON
& COMPANY LIMITED (EST. 1848)

***The Guide To Diagnosing And
Treating Damp, Permanently***



John Newton & Company is a leading supplier of damp proofing membranes, the permanent solution for treating damp problems. We have a wide range of damp proofing products and a full technical team available to advise you on the best solution. We are also market leaders in basement waterproofing, pumping and drainage solutions. For further information ring 020 7237 1217 or visit www.newtondampproofing.com or www.newton-membranes.co.uk

The Guide To Diagnosing And Treating Damp, Permanently

What are the Causes of Damp?

Damp causes many problems in properties. With the high level of rainfall in the UK, the average home has to deal with thousands of litres of rainwater, so it is no surprise that damp can become a big problem for many. Damp on walls can look very unsightly, often causes a bad smell in the house, and can cause permanent damage to plaster, paint and finishes. It can also be bad for our health, aggravating respiratory problems and encouraging the emergence of mites and mould. In many cases, damp can be made worse due to poor maintenance. Damp problems can be found all over the house - in or around the roof, walls, floors, windows, doors or pipework on any building. Often, if there is a damp patch visible inside the home, the cause can be identified from an issue on the exterior. A wet patch in the ceiling, for example, might be a sign of a leaky roof

Let's start by looking at the main types of damp:

Rising Damp

Rising damp is caused by water soaking up through porous materials into the floors and walls of the property, and usually occurs in houses which haven't got a damp proof course, or the course has failed to work properly. In these cases, the walls feel damp and cold to the touch, and there is sometimes an unsightly mark on the walls. Internal decorations often become stained and damaged, and plaster can become loose. Any wall in contact with the ground can suffer from rising damp, thus affecting walls both inside and out - however it rarely comes up further than one metre in height.

Penetrating Damp

Penetrating damp is caused by issues with the building or plumbing, where a problem has allowed water to enter the property. Properties near the sea or in exposed areas can suffer damp penetration from driving rain. Symptoms will usually only occur during wet weather, but it can affect roofs and ceilings, along with walls. A watermark might appear on the interior wall, and grow if the water continues to enter. When there are problems with the roof or gutter, rainwater is in regular contact with the wall and causes saturation. Penetrating damp is far more common in older properties, which have solid walls. A new build property with cavity walls offers more protection and is unlikely to suffer from this type of defect. Penetrating damp can be tricky to diagnose, and often may require expert help.



High levels of rainfall in the UK causes many damp problems



Clear water marks rising from the floor are evidence of rising damp



Penetrating damp is often caused by problems with the plumbing

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Condensation

Condensation damp is caused by excessive moisture that cannot escape from the property - as opposed to water coming in, in the cases of rising and penetrating damp. If there isn't sufficient ventilation, condensation will arise and moisture will be in the air, even if you cannot see it. There can be a number of causes, for example poor heating, not opening windows and using radiators to constantly dry clothes. Mould may appear on walls, ceilings and fixtures and fittings within the house. In addition, there is usually a strong musty smell present. Unlike rising and penetrating damp, which is caused by problems within the building condensation is largely caused by the inhabitants of the property.

How To Prevent and Treat Damp

There are several simple measures that might help damp, so it is worth looking over your property thoroughly as the problem may be something you can fix quickly. In addition, preventative measures, will also prove extremely beneficial in keeping your property warm and dry.

If the cause of your damp is hard to identify, a damp meter can help you pinpoint the source.

Treating Rising Damp

Classic rising damp is usually worse at the bottom of a wall than at the top. Common causes are blocked airbricks and 'bridging' - when earth from the garden butts up directly on to the house wall, trapping moisture. This is a common problem, but can be remedied by simply digging away all the soil to see if it makes a difference.

If digging the external soil away doesn't work, you may need to look at installing a dimpled damp proof membrane to the interior walls. This is installed to the existing building substrate with fixing plugs, then plaster is applied to the membrane. The membrane acts as an impermeable separation barrier between the old surface and the new finish. This significantly prolongs the longevity of the internal finishes whilst allowing the damp wall to dry. The dimples of the membrane form an air gap between the membrane and the wall, which ventilates the damp wall and allows it to dry out naturally. Newton membranes generally require minimal preparation, are quick to install, and are considered to be most sympathetic to the structure.



Mould is often present when damp is caused by condensation



Earth butting against a wall can cause rising damp



Newton Damp Proofing Membranes are a permanent damp proofing solution

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Treating Penetrating Damp

Penetrating damp forms when water gets in from the outside, so the first step is to check everything in and around the property. Look at gutters, downpipes, flashing, rendering and window frames in detail. Always make sure that downpipes are unobstructed, and if required think about replacing the guttering. The rendering may have cracked, letting in water, or it might be necessary to re-seal any gaps around window frames. Also check under the window sills to see if the drop groove is blocked with moss or dirt. If so, clear it thoroughly, the blockage might be causing water to seep in to the property. A badly fitting roofing felt on a flat roof will also cause damp, as will a cracked wall so these would need to be fixed.

Treating Condensation

Condensation forms when warm air trapped inside the house meets cold walls. Under these circumstances, mould quickly spreads. A portable humidifier, which will suck up moisture in the air, can help, as will maintaining regular heating, and adequate insulation - thus drying out the room. Humidity-controlled extractor fans can be a great help too. The mould and mildew can be removed by scrubbing well using bleach diluted with hot water. Leave it on the surface for ten minutes then clean thoroughly.

What Is A Damp Proof Course?

Modern homes, built over the last 100 years, normally have cavity walls - two layers of bricks with a space between - and this can help prevent damp. And at the base of the walls, a damp proof course (DPC) is usually installed, which comprises a waterproof covering, such as slate or felt to prevent damp rising through the porous wall from the foundations. Houses built before 1870 were not obliged to include this protection, and it may well be lacking.

Chemical damp proof courses are often costly, and if not properly installed and maintained, won't be much use. The installation of damp proofing membranes negates the need for a damp proof course, and is a simpler method of damp proofing. Part of the process of installing an injected damp proof course is usually hacking off the existing plaster - an extremely disruptive and messy process. Drilling and injecting a DPC is also an exact science. Newton Damp Proofing Membranes, in contrast, can be applied over most existing wall finishes without the need to remove them, providing an impervious barrier to protect the internal finishes without changing the status quo of the wall.



A blocked gutter can cause penetrating damp



Old houses often do not have damp proof courses



Newton Newlath 2000 has been used to treat damp in many Grade II Listed buildings

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Frequently Asked Questions

What Is Newton Newlath 2000?

Newlath 2000 is a BBA certified 5mm high density polypropylene studded membrane which has a heat welded mesh to the front face of the product. With the 5mm studs facing the damp substrate, an air gap is achieved so as to not trap moisture within the walls. The mesh on the front side is a direct key for applying a render, plaster or a plasterboard dot and dabbed. The material is opaque so the original substrate can be seen behind for ease of application. It is the original and best meshed damp proofing membrane, with millions of metres now installed in the UK and Ireland.

How Can I Find A Good Damp Proofing Specialist?

Just ring John Newton & Company on 020 7237 1217 and we will put you in touch with a damp proofing expert in your area, free of charge. Newton Registered Installers are trained and monitored by John Newton & Company so that we have not just the best damp proofing systems but the best contractors to diagnose your problem, design your system and then install Newton membranes to the very highest standards.

Can I Install Newton Damp Proofing Membranes?

Our Damp Proofing Membranes come with detailed fixing instructions and can be installed by a skilled builder. If in any doubt, John Newton & Company can recommend professional installers who are highly experienced at fitting the material quickly, and thus cost effectively.

Can I use Newton Damp Proofing Membranes in a below ground situation?

No. Our damp proofing membranes are suitable for dealing with all forms of damp conditions above the ground but the fixing plugs do not deal with the potential of running water. If you have basement waterproofing then our Newton System 500 would be ideal. Call us or visit www.newton-membranes.co.uk for further information.

Are Newton Damp Proofing Membranes Guaranteed?

Yes. John Newton & Company are the holders of BBA certificate 00/3716 for Newlath, and all Newton membranes are guaranteed against deterioration for 30 years, and have a life expectancy of at least 50 years.



Newlath 2000 is the original and best meshed damp proofing membrane



Newton Damp Proofing Membranes can be installed by a skilled builder or professional damp proofing company



Newton Membranes can be used to deal with all types of damp including rising and penetrating damp

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Page 5

The Guide To Diagnosing And Treating Damp, Permanently

About John Newton & Company

Independent, family run and with a proud heritage spanning over 160 years, John Newton & Company is a market leader in the manufacture of top quality, innovative and highly reliable waterproofing and damp proofing solutions. Whether a damp wall needs treating, or a full basement waterproofing system is needed, we can put you in touch with the best damp proofing or waterproofing company in your area

John Newton & Company Is:

Independent - we are not tied to any one supplier. This enables us to source the very best products available globally from a range of reputable suppliers.

Innovative - John Newton & Company was the first to introduce a ventilated damp proof membrane in 1937 with their unique product Newtonite, used extensively for renovation of buildings in the United Kingdom up until 1983. The Newlath product was introduced to the market in 1984 together with its polypropylene fixing plugs. John Newton & Company was also the first to develop and introduce a meshed membrane to accept renders or plasters, Newlath 2000. This remains the original meshed membrane, and its success is measured by the fact that over 2 million metres have been used nationally since its introduction.

Outstanding products - Our wide range of water control and drainage products have been developed through our unparalleled expertise and proven in the widest applications. From church vaults and flooded cellars to leaking tunnels, railway arches and wet basements, our BBA certified products continue to provide, effective, lasting and economic solutions to the problems of unwanted water.

Technical expertise and personal service - Our customers know they can count on us to provide outstanding levels of personal, friendly service, in-depth specialist knowledge and full technical support. Our technical team is always on hand to advise you about any project, big or small. We can also put you in touch with a reliable and trained damp proofing expert in your area free of charge.

The name you can trust - Still based at our original headquarters which opened for business in 1848, we have built an enviable reputation for quality, service and reliability. Whether it's a new-build construction, renovation or refurbishment project, you can rely on our products to ensure your commercial or domestic buildings remain dry, protected and safe at all times.



John Newton & Company was established in 1848 by the current chairman's great grandfather



Newlath 2000 was the first meshed membrane on the market



Newton Damp Proofing Membranes have revitalised many previously uninhabitable properties

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Page 6