

## Damp Proof Courses for Masonry

Electronic Blueprint and ENVIROSPEC provide building specifications, details and training on safe and sustainable buildings to architects, engineers and builders. Damp-proof courses (DPCs) are installed in masonry (clay brick or concrete block) to prevent the upward migration by capillary action of surface and ground water. Damp-proof courses must be water resistant and sufficiently robust to remain intact during construction. They must not disrupt the structural function of the masonry.

A suitable specification for damp-proof courses is as follows. In South Australia, additional requirements apply.



### Damp Proof Course

Damp-proof courses (DPCs) shall comply with the Drawings, Building Regulations and relevant Standard (AS 3700, AS/NZS 2904). Unless stated otherwise damp-proof courses (DPCs) shall consist of one of the following options.

- A material complying with the Standard AS/NZS 2904;
- Embossed black polyethylene film of high impact resistance and low slip, with a nominal thickness of 0.5 mm prior to embossing, and meeting the requirements of the relevant Standard (Clause 7.6 of AS/NZS 2904);
- Polyethylene coated metal damp proof courses with an aluminium core not less than 0.1 mm thick, shall be coated both sides with bitumen adhesive enclosed in polyethylene film not less than 0.1 mm thick on each face, and has a nominal total thickness of not less than 0.5 mm prior to embossing;
- Bitumen impregnated materials of not less than 2.5 mm thickness, that meet the requirements of the relevant Standard (Clause 7.5 of AS/NZS 2904), when used in walls that are not higher than 7.8 m above the level of the DPC;
- Termite shields (with no penetrations) continuous throughout the wall or pier .

#### Notes:

Metal and metal-cored damp-proof courses and termite shields shall not be used in locations with saline ground water or subject to rising salt damp.

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