

## Information Data Sheet

### Rising Damp

The presence of rising damp is not always obvious as much of it happens below floor level, but as it gets worse it will start to creep up walls. Look out for patches above skirting boards and use your nose - you can often smell damp even if you can't actually see it. If left unchecked, rising damp can cause damage to brick, concrete and wood structures, and cause wet rot and the dreaded dry rot.

Moisture from the ground beneath is normally repelled by a damp-proof course in the foundations or an impermeable layer such as plastic sheeting which is laid underneath concrete floors and new floor coverings. With old solid floors, the concrete substrate or grouting may have started to break down, letting moisture through.

Recommended treatment: If no damp-proof course exists, many people go for a chemical damp-proof course which is injected into the walls to prevent moisture rising above a certain level. This treatment involves the structure of a property, and so is subject to regulations. Installation should only be carried out by a reputable and reliable company which will provide the necessary guarantee that will have to be produced when selling your home or making an insurance claim.