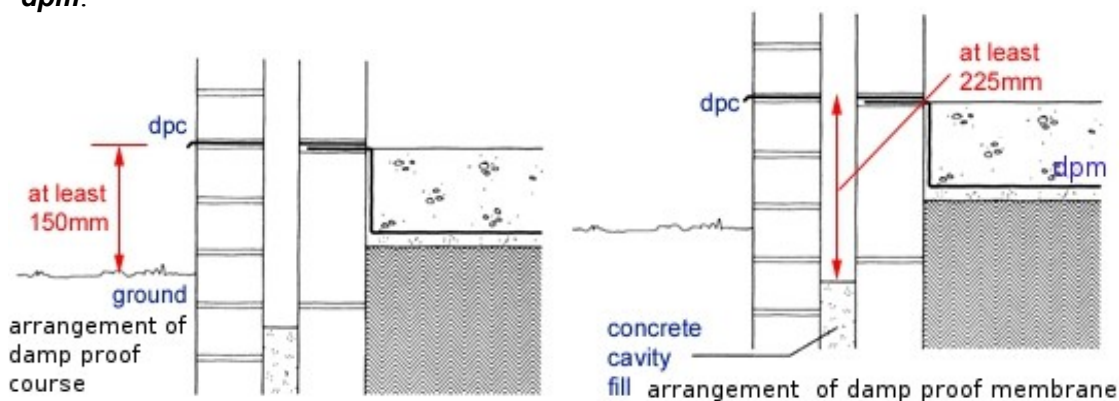


OCCURRENCE

- Moisture from the ground moves upwards within the internal or external walls, which saturates the internal plaster, leading to growth of mould and softening of plaster.
- In a modern house, the external walls contain an impermeable plastic layer, the *damp proof course (dpc)*, just above ground level, and the concrete floor slab is laid on a plastic membrane, the *damp proof membrane (dpm)*.
- Rising damp is relatively rare in modern houses, unless the dpc or dpm is defective in some way.
- Older buildings, ie over about 100 years, with solid walls do not always have a dpc or dpm.



IDENTIFICATION

- Rising damp will be found along the lower part of internal or external walls, typically up to a metre above ground level.
- Where present around external walls, this suggests the *dpc* is missing.
- Patchy damp is indicative of a defective *dpc* or bridging across the *dpc* from steps or ramps or high ground outside

REMEDIES

- Cut out and replace defective *dpc*'s
- Missing *dpc*'s – injection of a chemical through holes drilled in the internal walls (best done by a specialist contractor if you want a guarantee, but could be done by experienced DIY).
- Missing *dpm* – seal concrete floor slab, either with sealant or polythene sheet.
- Listed buildings – follow guidance from [Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings](http://www.spab.org.uk) ¹

For further help why not contact us at the Energy Advice Centre, 51 High Street, (Opposite Nero's). We are open between 10-4pm Monday - Friday, 10-1pm Saturday. Telephone: 07811 462 659

¹ <http://www.spab.org.uk>