



# How to spot Rising Damp

The difficult thing when you find that your property has a damp problem is to know which type of damp is it.

There are many forms of damp that can affect a property and different forms of treatment to resolve and help the problem. Damp proofing is a term used to stop the damp, though this comes in different types of treatment.

If you do find that you have issues with damp then the longer you leave the damp problem, the more expensive it can become.

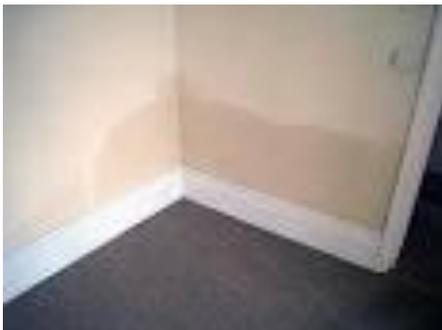
### Signs to help identify rising damp

If you do not have any surveying equipment then firstly use the best equipment that you have... your eyes and touch.

Typically signs of rising damp include:

- Wall paper becoming loose or peeling from the wall
- Damp patches and staining roughly 1 metre from the base of the wall
- Tide marks (like if your property had experienced a flood) on the walls up to 1 metre
- Plasterwork showing signs of white crystals on the surface
- Decayed skirting boards

### Other practical ways of to help identify rising damp include:



- Rising damp only affects the ground floor of the property, therefore if you have found damp to the first or second floor it could be related to other damp problems such as: penetrating damp, condensation
- Look at other walls in your property as usually rising damp does not just effect one wall
- Go outside and look at the stone and brickwork for signs of white salts and signs of the decay to the stone and brickwork
- If you have wallpaper on the walls run your hands down the damp area, you may hear a 'crunching' sound of the salts that have been drawn from the ground



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### Look for potential causes that could lead to the damp becoming a problem are:

- Do you have faulty or leaking plumbing, check radiators.
- Check your guttering for any faulty or leaking guttering that could lead to your damp issue? Is there vegetation growing from the gutters?
- Is it a possible condensation problem? Do you have any black mould on the walls?
- Do you have damp staining on stonework particularly adjacent to downpipes?
- Is there any cracks in the render, stonework or brick work?
- Do you have defecting pointing?



### Misdiagnosis of rising damp

Sadly we do hear and go to properties where a chemical damp proof course has been installed only for the problem to persist.

Unfortunately the reason why the damp problem continues is sometimes due to misdiagnosis - a chemical damp proof course was not needed in the first place.

Therefore it is essential to get a proper survey of the property where a survey calls to the property to carry out a full indepth survey. Beware of any surveys where they simply put a moisture meter on the wall and only provide a verbal or a single sheet document. The reason for a survey is to find out the cause, provide a solution and not just a price!

Generally most surveys are non-destructive, this is where moisture meters are placed on the wall surface. We use meters where we can test the surface, but also test the structure below to provide us with more data that will help us identify the problem. In some cases we will need to carry out destructive surveys, in any event we will tell you prior.



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### Further information about rising damp

If you require anymore information about rising damp you can:



Ask a surveyor

post us a question on our website [www.cannoncontractors.co.uk](http://www.cannoncontractors.co.uk)

contact us on **0800 859 5181**

send an email [enquiries@cannoncontractors.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cannoncontractors.co.uk)



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