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POLYETHYLENE BRANDED CONCRETE UNDERLAYS.

Vapour barrier or damp-proofing membranes- The vapour barrier is a barrier against vapour rising through the air in the soil and otherwise condensing in the slab or being trapped under impermeable floor coverings. It is an important part of construction but the need for it should not be exaggerated. Direct water transmission is best dealt with by effective site drainage, adequate freeboards and good quality concrete, well compacted as it is placed. As the barrier is against vapour, not water, minor punctures are not important. Similarly joint need only to be lapped, not taped. However, intermittent taping is recommended to help keep the vapour barrier in place.

Vapour barriers should consist of polyethylene sheet of 0.2mm minimum thickness. An acceptable level of impact resistance has also been specified for practical construction purposes. Barriers with less impact resistance are likely to be excessively damaged during placement of the reinforcement and concrete.

The answer to most concerns about dampness is proper site drainage and appropriately selected slab levels.

In areas such as South Australia which are subject to extreme wetting and drying cycles and where high levels of salts are present (in the soil & building materials) moisture can also migrate by capillary action into the concrete slab and deposit salts at the surface during evaporation.

Continual salt deposits may cause 'salt damp' damage such as powdering and fretting of the concrete or masonry, together with deterioration of the floor coverings due to damp and mould. The installation of a damp-proof membrane rather than a moisture vapour barrier under concrete slabs will provide a more effective barrier to moisture in the situations. Where a damp-proof membrane is required it must form a continuous barrier under and around the whole slab and any damage occurring to the membrane during installation must be repaired by taping.

Lapping at joints shall not be less than 200mm for continuity.

- . Conforms to AS 2870 1996
- . Body of film is continually branded: "Concrete Underlay AS2870"
- . Medium Impact 200um made in Black or Orange
- . High Impact 200um made in Black or Orange.