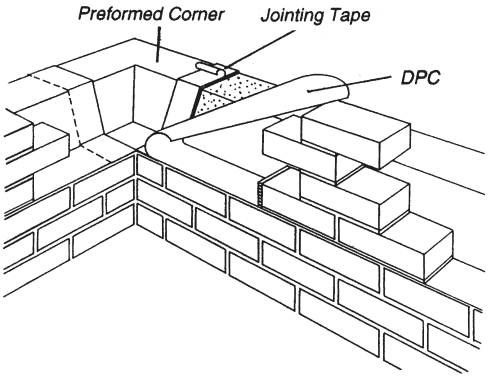
# Technical information & installation advice

## General Recommendations - Perimeter trays & damp proof course

- The DPC must always be bedded onto fresh mortar, never dry bedded. The brickwork which is then laid over the DPC must also be bedded onto fresh mortar with the result that the DPC is positioned approximately half way through the mortar joint.
- When joins are required in the DPC it should be lapped by a minimum of 100mm. In the case of flexible DPC cavity trays this lap should also be supported by a joint support and sealed with Timloc butyl mastic tape.
- When forming a perimeter cavity tray a range of one piece pre-formed accessories are available to ensure a complete and fully integrated cavity tray system. These include stopends, corner units, change of level units, joint supports and jointing tape.




- It is very important that lapped joints in cavity trays and accessories are thoroughly sealed using 100mm wide butyl mastic sealing tape. When applying this tape it is essential that the release paper is removed, the joint area is clean and dry and pressure is applied along the full length and width of the joint area once the two sections are brought together.
- It is important that the cavity area of perimeter DPC cavity trays is kept clean and free from mortar droppings and other debris. A build up of mortar could adversely affect the performance of the cavity tray system. Do not use sharp implements or metal rods to clean mortar out of the cavity as these could damage the DPC material.
- Wall weeps must always be provided in the face of the wall along the run of the DPC cavity tray. These are essential as without wall weeps the water collected by the cavity tray cannot be discharged from the wall. It is recommended that wall weeps are spaced every 900mm along the run of the cavity tray, unless fitting above window/door openings and then weep spacing should be at 450mm centres with a minimum of 2 (1 each end).

## General Recommendations - Gas barrier systems

- Guidance on the design of radon protection systems for new and existing buildings is given in the DOELG Document. 'Radon in Buildings', and in the BRE (UK) Document: 'Radon-Guidance on protective measures for new dwellings'.
- The gas barriers can be used in most common floor constructions. They are installed in a similar way to damp proof membranes, but with much greater attention to sealing, detailing and workmanship. The gas resisting membrane will also perform the same function as a damp proof membrane.
- To avoid creating slip planes in the masonry walls a damp proof course should not be laid on the same course of block work as the gas barrier layer (see the recommendations in IS 325: Part 2: 1995).
- Consideration must be given to the positioning of a gas resisting membrane in relation to thermal insulation. The recommendations contained in IS 325: Part 2: 1995 and the BRE Report. 'Thermal insulation - avoiding risks' should be followed.
- The integrity of a gas resisting membrane must be maintained during installation. The barrier is resistant to puncturing and tearing, but where damage occurs this must be repaired by covering with a second layer of membrane sealed to the original using sealant tape.
- Installation of the Active-guard gas barrier must be in accordance with recommendations of IS 325: Part 2: 1995, clause 11 of BS CP 102: 1973: 'Code of Practice for protection of buildings against water from the ground'. Additional guidance on the use of damp proof membrane materials is given in BS 8000: Part 4. 1989 'Code of Practice for waterproofing'.
- A surface of blinding soft sand (50mm min) should be used to prevent puncture of the membrane during installation. A further protection over the membrane is afforded by using high-density insulation (25kg/m$^3$).
- Sheets must be clean and free from dirt and grease before application, and in view of the difficulty of achieving gas tight seals under wet or dirty site conditions it is recommended that special care is taken with this aspect of the installation.
- Where service ducts or pipes penetrate the membrane, gas tight joints are effected using sealant tape and top hat units with retention clips.
- The membrane must be covered by a screed, high density insulation, or other protective layer as soon as possible after insulation. Care should be taken to ensure that the membrane is not stretched or displaced when placing concrete or other protective layer over it. Great care should be taken to avoid bridging (ie. creating areas of unsupported membrane) during screeding operations, for example at internal angles.