



# Technical Guidance

Roofing underlay at eaves level

## Question

Can plastic dpc material be used at eaves level in place of a type 5U felt?

## Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 7.2 – M5(d) says ‘where the underlay is exposed, such as at the eaves, a type 5U felt should be used.’
- Plastic dpc materials are generally not designed for use in permanently exposed locations. The lack of suitable ultra-violet stabilisers could lead to an early breakdown of these materials in such locations.

## Answer

Dpc materials should not be used for the exposed sections of roof underlay at the eaves. A type 5U felt should be used for the exposed sections unless the underlay used for the remainder of the roof has a third party assessment confirming its suitability for use at exposed eaves. Alternatively a proprietary eaves guard which extends under the unexposed section of roofing underlay and provides adequate projection into the guttering may be used.