

Technical Guidance

Rendering on timber framed walls



Question

Should timber battens, used to support external render lathing, be protected with a strip of dpc material placed between the batten and lathing?

Considerations

- Cement render may be porous and allow wetting of the supporting battens if dpc protection is not provided and this could cause decay.
- The TRADA timber frame construction handbook shows a strip of a dpc between the face of the timber batten and the cement render.

Answer

Timber battens used to support render lathing should be isolated from a cement render with a strip of dpc. The dpc material should be a minimum 500-micron polythene and extend beyond the outer edges of the batten. Where horizontal battens are provided e.g. around openings or as cavity barriers, the dpc should extend across the top face of the batten and be dressed up under the breather membrane (see figure on page 2).

Typical cement render on lathing cladding

