

Installation of lead flashings

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Question

Where lead flashings are to be installed under dpcs and cavity trays in masonry walls, should the mortar joints be raked out as the masonry work proceeds or can the joint be cut out later?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 6.1.17 states it is easier to rake out joints as work proceeds.
- The Lead Sheet Association provides guidance on installation of lead flashings which confirms this.
- Cutting out the joint once the mortar had hardened is likely to cause damage to dpcs and cavity trays, leading to water penetration.

Answer

To avoid damage to dpcs and cavity trays the joint for lead flashings should be raked out to a depth of at least 25 mm as work proceeds, as shown in the diagram below.

As an alternative, lead flashings can be built in as the work proceeds. They should be built in to a depth of 50 mm and a welted edge should be provided to form a key with the mortar as shown in the diagram below.

