

# Glossary of Key Terms

## Construction Waterproofing 101: Avoiding Common Mistakes

### Glossary of Key Terms

- **NCC (National Construction Code):** Australia's primary technical code for the design and construction of buildings, which includes requirements for waterproofing.
- **Waterproofing:** A system or process designed to prevent water ingress into buildings, protecting structural and non-structural elements from moisture damage.
- **Water Ingress:** The act or process of water entering a structure.
- **Structural Damage:** Deterioration or compromise of a building's load-bearing components, often caused by moisture-induced corrosion or decay.
- **Mould:** A type of fungus that grows in damp, poorly ventilated areas and can pose health risks to occupants.
- **Rectification:** The process of repairing or fixing building defects, often costly in the case of waterproofing failure.
- **Wet Areas:** Internal spaces in a building where water use is expected, such as bathrooms, laundries, and kitchens.
- **Basements:** Areas of a building located fully or partially below ground level, often susceptible to hydrostatic pressure.
- **Retaining Walls:** Walls designed to hold back soil or rock, requiring robust waterproofing against ground moisture.
- **Expansion Joints:** Designed breaks in a structure to accommodate movement due to thermal expansion, shrinkage, or settling.

- **Penetrations:** Points where elements like pipes, conduits, or ductwork pass through a waterproofed surface.
- **Deemed-to-Satisfy (DTS) Provisions:** Prescriptive requirements within the NCC that, if followed exactly, are deemed to satisfy the performance requirements.
- **Performance Solutions (PS):** Alternative methods or designs that demonstrate compliance with the NCC by proving they meet the required performance criteria, often requiring testing or expert assessment.
- **Evidence of Suitability:** Documentation required by the NCC to prove that a product or system is fit for purpose and meets the Code's requirements (e.g., certificates, test reports).
- **Product Technical Statement (PTS):** A document from a manufacturer providing technical data and confirmation of a product's suitability for certain applications and compliance with standards.
- **Liquid Applied Membranes:** Waterproofing systems applied in liquid form, which cure to form a seamless, flexible barrier.
- **Sheet Membranes:** Pre-fabricated rolls of waterproofing material applied to a surface, typically with overlapping and sealed joins.
- **Cementitious Waterproofing:** A rigid, cement-based waterproofing system applied as a coating to concrete or masonry substrates.
- **Surface Preparation:** The process of cleaning, drying, smoothing, and priming a substrate before applying a waterproofing membrane to ensure proper adhesion.
- **Detailing:** The treatment of specific areas like corners, joints, and penetrations with reinforcement or specific application techniques to ensure waterproofing continuity.
- **Curing Times:** The period required for a waterproofing membrane to fully dry and harden before subsequent layers or finishes are applied.
- **Hydrostatic Pressure:** The pressure exerted by a body of water at rest, a significant consideration for below-ground waterproofing.
- **Certifier:** A qualified professional who assesses building work for compliance with the National Construction Code and relevant standards.