

# GROUND MOISTURE BARRIER.



## Do you really need a ground moisture barrier?

Yes it's a good idea. With an average 250ml of water evaporating from each 1m<sup>2</sup> of ground in 24 hours, that's a remarkable 60 litres a day for a 150m<sup>2</sup> house. All the moisture that finds its way into your home causes rot, mould, mildew and can adversely affect health.

## Are they easy to install?

It's a reasonably straightforward exercise. Ground moisture barrier (also known as ground vapour barrier) is polythene sheeting that is at least 0.25 mm thick and is installed to cover the ground area under a house. Installing a vapour barrier on the ground under your house will keep the moisture in the ground and stop the air under the floor from getting damp.

For the vapour barrier to be effective, quality installation is key.

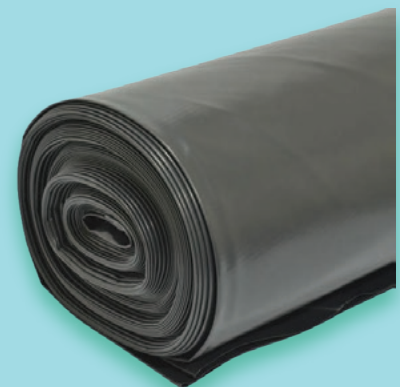
- Any leaks from water or waste pipes, wet areas, cladding and so on must be dealt with before the moisture barrier is laid.
- Check there is no surface water flowing under the building – rain should drain away from the house.

- The ground under the house should be shaped so no surface water accumulates on top of the vapour barrier.
- The vapour barrier should completely cover the soil and be butted up to surrounding foundation walls and piles.
- The sheets should be weighted down to avoid being moved by the ventilating air movement.

The fact is an onground moisture barrier is one of the best value ways to reduce moisture in your home. It is generally easy to install and a highly cost effective protector of home warmth.

## Want to know more or have it specified to your home?

**Contact us today for a free measure and quote, and we can install it for you at the same time as your underfloor insulation.**



---

## Frequently asked questions

---

### Do I need a ground moisture barrier?

If the ground underneath your home is regularly damp you should have a ground moisture barrier laid to avoid rising damp which can cause mould and unhealthy damp conditions in your home.

A ground moisture barrier is polythene sheeting which can be installed at the same time as your underfloor insulation.

---

### How do you install ground moisture barrier?

While ground moisture barrier sheets are not expensive, the key is to install it correctly or the benefits of a drier home will not be achieved.

#### **A well installed moisture barrier will:**

- Completely cover the underfloor area without gaps or rips.
- Extend at least 50mm up the foundation walls and piles.
- For sloping sites, have the lowest edge short of the foundation wall to allow run-off.
- Have the upturns of 50mm around the piles taped.
- Have adjoining sheets overlapping by at least 150mm.
- Have overlaps and edges either weighted down or pinned at 1 metre intervals or less.

---

### Are there subsidies for ground moisture barrier?

If your property is eligible for an EECA insulation subsidy then yes, it will also cover the cost of ground vapour barrier as well.

---

### Is ground moisture barrier required for the Healthy Homes Standards?

Yes. If your rental property has a suspended floor and 50% or more of the sub-floor perimeter is obstructed, then a ground moisture barrier is required.

The obstruction could be by walls, dirt, rock, adjoining buildings or any other permanent or semi-permanent structure.

---

## Trained and experienced teams

We have a dedicated team of advisors and installers who are fully and regularly trained and experienced in working with homeowners, tenants & landlords.

One of our team can call on you at a time that suits to discuss your requirement and provide you with an obligation-free quote for supply and installation.