

ROCKWOOL Construction Terminology A-Z



Construction Terminology A-Z

A	
Anhydrite Screed	Lightweight free-flowing and self levelling screed used to give a concrete floor a finish suitable to receive the floor covering
Apex	See Ridge
B	
Ballast	Material used for loading something against uplift from the wind or water pressure
Battens	A small section, normally of timber, to which sheet materials e.g. slates and roof tiles are fixed
Beam and Block	Flooring system consisting of inverted T beams infilled with concrete or insulation blocks
Bed Joint	A horizontal mortar joint in brickwork or blockwork, usually 10mm thick
Breather Membrane	A building membrane that is microporous to allow ventilation and the escape of water vapour. It also helps to prevent water passing inwards. Placed to the cold side of the construction
Brick Course	A row or line of bricks
Bucket or Trowel Handle Joint	A durable face joint in brickwork, hollowed out by pushing along a jointing tool to compact the mortar
Building Paper	Fibre reinforced bitumen between layers of kraft paper, laid under concrete to prevent loss of cement inot the earth and damage from chemicals in the soil. Also used for other purposes, to cover the boarding of a wall or roof
C	
Cap Sheet	A bitumen felt used as the last sheet in a build up roofing membrane. The top side is self-finished for solar protection, e.g. with aluminium foil or mineral surfacing and the underside is surfaced for bonding to an intermediate sheet
Cavity Tray	A damp proof course that crosses the cavity of a cavity wall, stepping up at least 150mm between the outer and inner leaves, to form a gutter which leads to a weephole in the outer leaf. The cavity tray keeps the wall below dry by draining rainwater back through the outer leaf
Cavity Wall	Lightweight free-flowing and self levelling screed used to give a concrete floor a finish suitable to receive the floor covering
Cheek	The side wall of a dormer construction
Cold Roof	A roof with its insulation near the ceiling and a ventilated space above it
Compacted Stone	Stone, which has been compressed together
Composite Panel	A panel made up of two outer skins and an insulation core sandwiched between the skins
CP Board	Cement bonded particle boards are also known as CBPB, building boards, CP boards, backer boards, carrier panels or sheathing boards. Cement bonded particle boards are suitable for both internal and external applications such as wall partitions, floors, ceilings, general lining and acoustics
Cripple	In framing, Cripples are short pieces of timber that run underneath the saddle (sill). Cripples are located at the points where a common stud would have been located had it not been interrupted by the opening

Crown	The top flange of the trapezoid on a metal deck. For fire stopping purposes would be known as the minor
Cut Roof	Roof which is cut and manufactured on site

D

Deck	A structural base for a floor, an access floor, flat roof or supported sheet metal roofing
Dormer	A structural element of a building that protrudes from the plane of a pitched roof surface
DPC (Damp Proof Course)	A strip of impervious material the same width as a brickwork or blockwork wall, to keep out moisture
DPM (Damp Proof Membrane)	A wide layer of impervious material used as an underlay beneath a ground slab and up the outside of buried external walls to keep out moisture

E

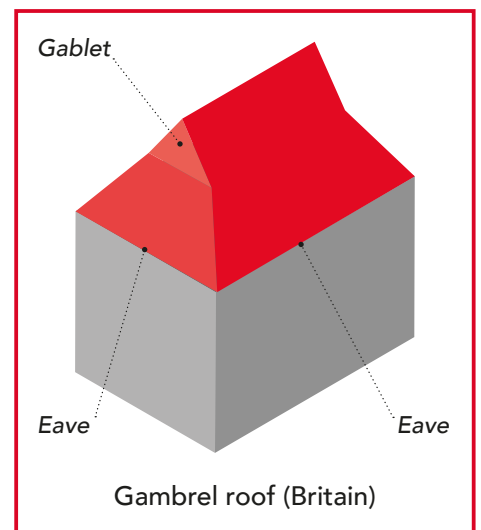
Eaves	The lowest part of a sloping roof, or the area beneath if it overhangs
Edge Beam	A beam that gives extra support to the side of a concrete suspended slab
Engineering Brick	A clay brick of high compressive strength and low absorption

F

Fall	A slope, e.g. of a flat roof, gutter or screed, that allows water to flow away without ponding
Fascia	A board set on edge along the eaves to cover the rafter ends and carry the gutter
FFL (Finished Floor Level)	The top surface of a floor, the surface from which all levels in a room are taken
FGL (Finished Ground Level)	The top surface, finished level of the external ground
Flashing	A strip of impervious sheet material that excludes rainwater from the junction between a roof covering and another surface
Flat Roof	A roof with a slope of less than 10° to the horizontal. Flat roofs should have a falls of at least 1:60 towards the rainwater outlet to prevent ponding
Flush Joint	A brickwork joint made by striking off the mortar during laying
Foundation	The supporting ground underneath a building which carries the substructure
Frog Brick	An indentation in one or both bed faces of a brick

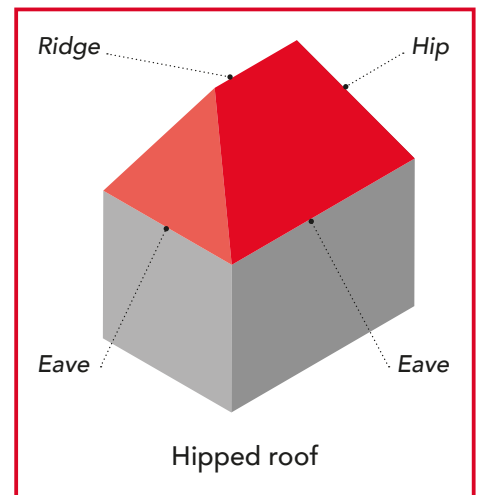
G

Gable	The triangular part of the end wall of a building
Gambrel	An end to a pitched roof which slopes up from the eaves, but stops part way at a vertical gablet
Gas Membrane	A membrane for protection of buildings against carbon dioxide. Used when building on contaminated land. Also acts as a DPM
Ground Beam	A structural member that resists loads which bend it
Gutter	A gently sloping channel to collect water and lead it to an outlet or drain



H

Hardcore	A make-up material to provide a level base on which to cast a ground floor slab, to raise levels, and to provide a dry, firm base on which work can proceed or to carry construction traffic. The material used needs to be granular and drain and consolidate readily; they should be chemically inert and not affected by water
Header	Large openings in the wall are made for windows and doors. When the opening is greater in width than the stud spacing -- and most windows are wider than 24 in. -- then a header must be inserted to carry the load of the interrupted stud(s). A header is a simple beam sized to support the load above the opening it spans
Header Face	A brick or block laid across a wall and bonded on its sides thus showing, the exposed end of a brick (102.5mm x 65mm)
Header Plate	The top horizontal structural member of a stud framed wall
Hip Roof	A pitched roof which has four slopes instead of the two slopes on an ordinary gable roof
Hollow Core Plank	Hollowcore floor planks are precast concrete elements with continuous longitudinal voids providing an efficient lightweight section
Hybrid Flat Roof	A roof construction with insulation both above and below the structural deck. Used for extension and refurbishment



I

Isolation Pad	Used to reduce the thermal transmittance through a structure, from the external cladding to the substrate through all attachment points
I-Beam	An I-beam, also known as H-beam, W-beam (for "wide flange"), Universal Beam (UB), Rolled Steel Joist (RSJ) is a beam with an I or H-shaped cross-section. The horizontal elements of the "I" are known as flanges, while the vertical element is termed the "web"

J

Jack Stud	A Jack Stud supports the Header at each end. Also known as trimmer, they transfer the load that the header carries down to the bottom plate and the framing beneath
Jamb	A vertical member of a door or window frame
Joist	A horizontal wooden or steel beam directly supporting flooring or a ceiling lining

K

Kraft Paper	Strong brown paper used as a building paper. Comes from the Swedish for strong
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L

Lean Mix	A concrete with a low cement content, or any mix with little binder
Lintel	A beam over a door or window head, usually carrying a wall load only. Cavity wall lintels are usually made of powder-coated pressed steel, stainless steel or precast concrete

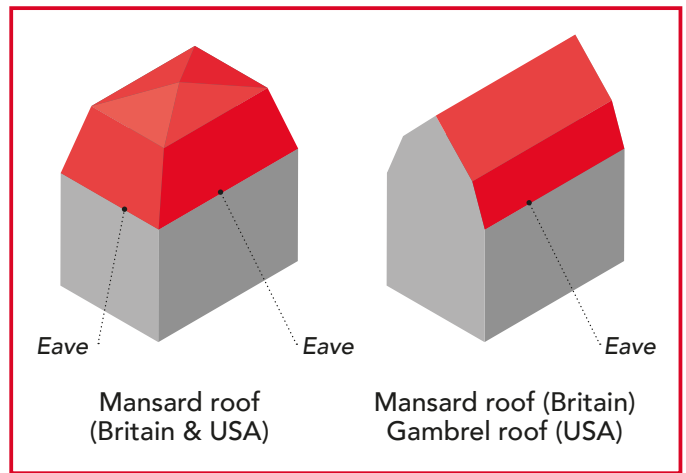
M

Mansard Roof

A pitched roof greater than 70°, which has a break in each slope with a shallow top part

Mullion

A mullion acts as a structural member, and it carries the dead load of the weight above the opening and the wind load acting on the window unit back to the building structure. The term is also properly applied to very large and deep structural members in many curtain wall systems



N

Noggin

Short horizontal timbers cut to fit between vertical studs of a framed system to stiffen the studs and make them act in common

O

OSB (Orientated Strand Board)

OSB is an engineered wood product formed by layering strands (flakes) of wood in specific orientations

P

Perforated Bricks

Wirecut clay bricks with longitudinal perforations passing right through between the two bed faces, and webs separating the perforations from one another

Perforated Metal Deck

A flat roof metal deck with perforations/holes. Used where improved acoustic performance is required

Perp Joint

The vertical mortar joint between bricks or blocks

Pile Foundation

Pile foundations are the part of a structure used to carry and transfer the load of the structure to the bearing ground located at some depth below ground surface. They are long and slender members made from wood, steel and concrete which are driven, drilled or jacked into the ground

Pitched Roof

A roof with two slopes at 10° - 70° pitch meeting at a central ridge

Polythene/Polyethylene Sheet

A thermoplastic sheeting used in construction as a vapour control layer

Purlin

A horizontal structural member in a roof. Purlins support the loads from the roof deck or sheathing and are supported by the principal rafters and/or the building walls

Q

Queen Closer

A half width brick used as a closer

R

Radon Membrane	A membrane, suitable for use in the protection of buildings from the ingress of Radon gas
Raft Foundation	A concrete slab which spreads the load from a structure over a large area
Rafter	A sloping roof beam, usually from eave to ridge
Recessed Joint	A mortar joint set back about 6mm from the face of the wall
Retaining Washer	A fastener that holds components in place
Reveal	The visible part of a jamb in the opening for a door, window, etc, not covered by the frame
Ridge	The horizontal line on top of a pitched roof, between the two slopes
Ridge Tile	A roof tile for covering a ridge, usually half round
RWP (Rainwater Pipe)	A vertical or steep pipe which brings rainwater from roof gutters to the ground and into a drain

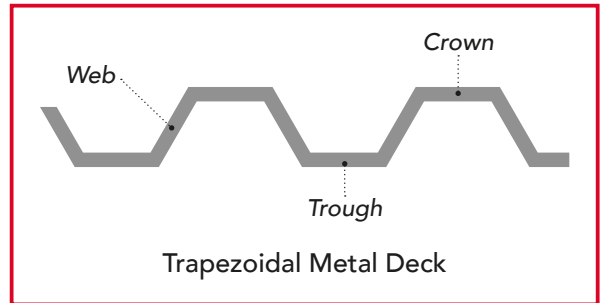
S

Saddle	In framing, a saddle (also called a sill) forms the bottom of a window opening
Sailor Brick	A brick laid vertically on its end with the largest, broad face exposed
Sand Blinding	A fine sand used to "blind" consolidated fill before laying the PVC damp proof membrane in order to prevent puncture of the membrane and provide a flat surface for a ground slab
Sandwich Panel	Two outer layers of structural sheathing material separated by an insulated core
Screed	A cement mortar laid to an accurate flat surface as a base for a separate floor finish
Sedum/Green Roof	A growing medium for plants positioned above the insulated roof build up
Separating Layer	An underlay used on a concrete floor slab before the screed. Normally a DPM or Building Paper is used
Sheathing	A structural covering, usually wood boards or plywood, used over studs or rafters of a structure to give added stability or as a base for external components
Sheeting Rail	A horizontal member running between columns on the outside wall of a building to support the Cladding
Sill	Horizontal member at the bottom of door or window frames to provide support and closure
Single Ply Membrane	Roofing membranes that are field applied using just one layer of membrane material rather than multiple layers
SIPS (Structural Insulated Panel)	High performance building panels. The panels are typically made by sandwiching a core of insulation between two structural skins of oriented strand board (OSB)
Soffit	The under surface of any spanning or overhanging part of a construction
Soldier Brick	An upright brick showing its face in brickwork
Sole Plate	The bottom horizontal structural member of a stud framed wall
Solid Masonry Wall	A solid wall which has no cavity
Standing Seam	Metal roof system that consists of an overlapping or interlocking seam that occurs at an upturned rib
Steel Reinforcement	Steel bars added to concrete to provide extra strength where it is needed, often in floors, walls and lintels
Stock Brick	A moulded brick made from plastic 'soft mud' clay found in the South of England which is moulded wet and dried before firing.

Stop End	A special brick to end a moulding
Stretcher Face	A masonry unit laid flat on its bed along the length of a wall with its face parallel to the face of the wall.
Strip Foundation	A shallow foundation, approx 600mm, minimum 150mm deep wide. Cast in the ground by filling a trench to near ground level with concrete.
Struck or Weathered Joint	A brick work bed joint that is jointed with the bricklayers trowel immediately after the bricks are laid, with an outward slope to throw rainwater off the wall.
Stud	An intermediate vertical timber (or folded steel sheet) in a framed partition.
Sub Floor	A smooth, level floor which is used as a base for fixing floor finishes.
Sump	A low space that collects any often-undesirable liquids such as water or chemicals
Support Netting	Lightweight mesh used to support insulation within a construction, e.g. netlon, chicken wire
Suspended Floor	A floor which is supported clear of the ground, usually on walls or columns
SW Timber	Softwood timber often contains resin which makes them waterproof. Softwoods generally have less moisture movement than hardwoods, are easier to work

T

Thermal Break Strip	Heat insulation strips used to minimise the effect of cold bridges. Used behind cladding rails
Tie Drips	A twist or bend near the middle of a wall tie to form a drip so that water cannot pass
Timber Joists	See Joists
Trapezoidal Metal Deck	A metal roof deck which is formed into ribs of a trapezoid shape
Trough	On a profiled/trapezoid deck, the indented area. See figure on Trapezoidal Metal Deck
Truss	A roof frame, made up of members joined together to form triangles
Twin Skin Panel	Constructed from an external sheet or profile, a liner panel and insulation, which is installed between the internal and external profiles



U

Underlay/Roofing Felt	A layer of sheet material under another material
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V

V Joint	A mortar joint resembling the letter 'V'
Valley	An intersection between two sloping surfaces of a pitched roof, towards which water flows.
VCL (Vapour Control Layer)	A layer of material with low permeability to the passage of vapour, measured by the time and pressure needed to force a gram of vapour through it, in meganewton seconds per gram (MNs/g)
Verge	The sloping edge of a pitched roof above a gable

W

Wall Plate	A horizontal timber along the top of a wall at eaves level. It carries the rafters or joists
Wall Tie	A fastener across a cavity wall to hold the two leaves together
Warm Flat Roof	A flat roof construction with external insulation on top of the supported deck
Warm Pitched Roof	Insulation positioned within the pitch of the roof (within the rafter zone). The roof space is not ventilated, and a vapour barrier is positioned to the warm side of the insulation, underside of the rafters
Web	This is the central part of an I-beam or C channel section
Weephole	A small drain hole for water

Z

Z-purlin	A steel purlin shaped like the letter Z, formed by folding galvanised sheet. It is used in factory and warehouse roofs
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