

Visqueen Radon Membrane



- Independently tested for radon resistance.
- BRE Certified.
- High resistance to puncture.
- Also acts as a damp proof membrane.
- Complies with CIRIA C665.

Description

Visqueen Radon Membrane is manufactured from an enhanced blend of polymer films that is suitable for use in the protection of buildings from the ingress of radon gas.

Visqueen Radon Membrane also acts as a damp proof membrane, but is not intended for use where there is the risk of hydrostatic pressure. It is approved for use in Ireland. Visqueen Radon Membrane must be installed in accordance with BRE Certificate No. 083/01. Visqueen Radon Membrane and ancillary components must be used in accordance with the recommendations in the most recent edition of Building Research Establishment Report BR 211. Visqueen Radon Membrane can be used in most common floor constructions. It is installed in a similar way to a damp proof membrane, but with much greater attention paid to workmanship and detailing in order to achieve effective sealing at all locations.

Assessing The Risk For Your Area

Because the level of risk differs across the country according to local geology, the risk depends on where your site is situated.

The main source of guidance on the risks and solutions is BRE Report BR 211. It includes maps for determining the need for radon protection, as well as detailed information on construction solutions. The maps are used as the basis for determining in general terms the required degree of radon protection ("basic" or "full") in your area. Essentially, "basic" protection means you need to lay a ground floor radon membrane and "full" protection means that, in addition, you need to make provision for underfloor depressurisation.

Your local authority Building Control Officer or a local Approved Inspector should also be able to help you determine the broad level of risk in your area but, like the maps, they can only give a broad indication. Ultimately, if you are in an area that is potentially at risk, there is no substitute for an assessment close to your actual site – you may be in a pocket where the geology is different from the region as a whole, allowing the required protection to be downgraded from "full" to "basic", or even making radon protection unnecessary.

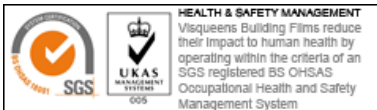
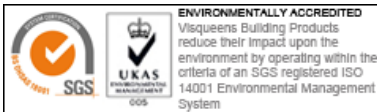
Determining The Risk For Your Site

If you are in an area where the maps indicate that no protection is required, there is no need to take further action. However, if the maps indicate the need for "full" protection, it is worth confirming this by requesting a detailed assessment from the British Geological Survey (BGS), which focuses more accurately on your location. This may show that only "basic" protection is necessary on your particular site.

Construction Solutions

Radon Protection

Once you have determined whether you need "basic" or "full" protection, you must check that your preferred ground floor construction gives you the right level of protection. The options are as follows:



Certificate No.083/01

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Basic Radon Protection

For “basic” protection, you need to provide an airtight barrier covering the entire ground floor of the building, linked to the damp proof course using cavity trays which prevent radon moving through the wall cavity and into the building. All junctions between the floor membrane and cavity trays should be sealed. You can achieve “basic” protection with both ground supported and suspended (ventilated) concrete ground floors by installing a radon-proof membrane system. With a suspended concrete slab, the space beneath the floor is available to ventilate radon safely away should “full” protection be required.

Full Radon Protection

For “full” protection, you not only need to provide a radon-proof floor membrane, but also an underfloor depressurisation system. Depressurisation can be achieved by natural or mechanical underfloor ventilation through the subfloor space, or from a radon sump if there is no underfloor space. If you prefer to use an in situ slab in contact with the ground, the slab should be supported on the inner leaf. The full system consists of;

- Visqueen Radon Jointing System, prevents radon ingress at joints,
- Visqueen Top Hat Units prevents radon ingress at pipe penetrations,
- Visqueen Radon Sumps, where subfloor depressurisation may be required.

SPECIFICATION SUPPORT

The following items are available to view online or to download from www.visqueenbuilding.co.uk

- . Technical Datasheets
- . Typical installation CAD details
- . Health and Safety data

Register online for access to NBS Clauses and for information about our CPD Seminars



TECHNICAL SUPPORT

For advice on detailing or installation call Visqueen Building Products Technical Help Line 0845 302 4758. Pricing & Availability may be obtained from our UK Network of merchant stockists. For details of these call our Sales Office on 0845 302 4758.

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Installation

Visqueen Radon Gas Membrane and ancillary components must be installed in accordance with the recommendations of Building Research Establishment BRE 414 "Protective measures for housing on gas contaminated land" and CIRIA C665 "Assessing risks posed by hazardous ground gases to buildings", NHB C guidelines and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Ground Gas Handbook. The product is not intended for use where there is the risk of hydrostatic pressure.

The membrane should be installed on a compacted sand blinding layer or smooth concrete float finish allowing adequate overlap for jointing between the sheets and avoiding bridging (i.e. areas of unsupported membrane). In areas where high levels of unsupported membrane occur it is recommended that Visqueen Pre Applied Membrane is used. To avoid slip or shear planes and high compressive loadings it is not recommended to take the membrane through the wall. In order to provide a continuous barrier across the cavity Visqueen Zedex CPT DPC should be taken through the blockwork and incorporated below the damp proof course cavity tray in the outer leaf. Laps can be joined together by either using the Visqueen Gas Barrier Jointing System or welded by our specialist onsite contractors.

Jointing The Radon Membrane

Visqueen Radon Membrane should be overlapped by at least 150mm and sealed using Visqueen DPM Double Sided Jointing Tape. The joint should be secured with Visqueen DPM Jointing Tape. The membrane should be clean and dry at the time of jointing.

In demanding site conditions high performance Gas Resistant (GR) lap tape is available as an alternative to girth tape.

Punctures

If the membrane is punctured or perforated then a patch of material with identical thickness should be lapped at least 150mm beyond the limits of the puncture and bonded with Visqueen Double Sided Jointing Tape and sealed with Visqueen Single Sided Girth Tape. Alternatively a patch can be formed using Visqueen Detailing Strip and lapped at least 150mm beyond the limits of the puncture. External and internal corners should be round and reinforced with Visqueen Detailing Strip. Where this is not possible and the three dimensional shapes are complex it is recommended a preformed unit is used.

Covering

Visqueen Radon Membrane should be covered by a protective layer as soon as possible after installation. Care should be taken to ensure that the membrane is not punctured, stretched or displaced when applying a screed or final floor covering. A minimum thickness of 50mm screed is recommended. When reinforced concrete is to be laid over the barrier the wire reinforcements and spacers must be prevented from contacting the barrier. It is recommended that the barrier is covered with Visqueen Protection Boards or screed before positioning the reinforcement. When underfloor heating is being installed, it is recommended that the barrier is positioned between the blinded hardcore and insulation. This will protect the insulation from moisture and avoid any risk of overheating the membrane.

Storage and Handling

Visqueen Radon Gas Barrier is classified as non-hazardous when used in accordance with the relevant Code of Practice (CP 102:1973). The product is chemically inert and is not affected by acids and alkalis that may be present in the sub-soils. The material is not recommended for uses where it will be exposed to long periods of outdoor weathering as exposure to ultraviolet light will embrittle the product. Weathering will not occur when the membrane is installed in accordance with CP 102:1973. Care should be taken to avoid accidental damage when handling the membrane on site. When the weather is cold all jointing tapes should be kept in a warm and dry place until needed. Installation is not recommended below 5°C.

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TYPICAL PROPERTIES

Dimensional details

Thickness	300µm
Width	4m
Length	25m
Colour	Red
Roll Weight	27.6kg

Technical Performance

Elongation at Break (BS 2782:3 method 320A)	871%
Tear Resistance (MOAT 27: 1983 5.4.1)	118N
Water Vapour Transmission Rate (BS 3177)	0.33 g/m ² /day
Radon Permeability (k)	8 x 10 ⁻¹² m ² /s
Radon Transmittance (P)	26 x 10 ⁻⁹ m/s

Visqueen Zedex CPT DPC

Radon Permeability (k)	17 x 10 ⁻¹² m ² /s
Radon Transmittance (P)	22 x 10 ⁻⁹ m/s

Visqueen DPM Double Sided Joining Tape

Roll Length	10m
Roll Width	50mm

Visqueen Girth Joining Tape

Roll Length	33m
Roll Width	100mm

The information given in this datasheet is based on data and knowledge correct at the time of printing. Statements made are of a general nature and are not intended to apply to any use or application outside any referred to in the datasheet. As conditions of usage and installation are beyond our control we do not warrant performance obtained but strongly recommend that our installation guidelines and the relevant British Standard Codes of Practice are adhered to. Please contact us if you are in any doubt as to the suitability of application.

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