

WHAT IS SALT DAMP?

Nitrate, chloride, sulphate and ammonium salts are found in building structures.

Nitrate and chloride salts most commonly originate in the ground. Their presence in plasterwork is usually an indication of rising damp, lateral penetrating damp or flood damage. Nitrate and chloride salts are hygroscopic, causing them to retain moisture and absorb additional moisture at times of high humidity. Coastal properties may suffer from chloride salt contamination due to the salt water carried in the air.

Sulphate salt contamination of cement based plasters results in the cement content expanding up to 3 times its original mass and the plaster breaking down. Sulphate salts however are not typically hygroscopic.

Ammonium salts are a by-product of the burning of fossil fuels and are commonly found in chimney flues and chimney breasts. Nitrate and chloride salts are also found where ammonium salts are present. Ammonium salts are generally hygroscopic.

It is important when re-plastering a wall affected by salts that careful consideration is given to the type of plaster used. The water content of new plaster encourages salts to migrate from the underlying wall structure to the new plaster resulting in further problems.



PAM Salt Neutraliser is available to neutralise problem salts before re-plastering work is undertaken.

It is important to add either PAM Rend or PAM SBR to your render mix in order to stop new render/plaster becoming salt contaminated



Salt damp is closely associated with rising damp. When a new damp proof course is installed, the lower wall areas are re-plaster with salt resistant plaster.

Where plaster after a damp proof course has not been taken high enough, a salt band may occur as illustrated below.

