

BUILDING TERMS W

WALKING LINE

In stairs, especially using winders, an imaginary line used, in setting out the widths of the treads usually taken about 450 mm from the inside of the handrail.

WALL

An upright structure of definite dimensions for enclosing space constructed of stone, brick, or other suitable building material.

Ashlar: A wall made from carefully hewn squared uniform blocks of stone laid in regular courses.

Bearing: A wall that supports a vertical load additional to its own weight.

Cavity: A wall built in 2 sections (leaves) with a space between, generally tied together. (See also 'TIES, wall'.)

Non-Bearing: See NONBEARING WALL

Party: See PARTY WALL

Retaining: See RETAINING WALL

Rubble: Unhewn stones of varying sizes laid so as to fit between and against each other as well as possible. When the stones are laid without any attempt to arrange them in courses, they are known as 'random rubble'. When courses are made at regular intervals, the wall is said to be constructed of 'coursed rubble'.

WALL ANCHOR

A type of anchor used to tie the walls to the floors and hold them firmly in position.

WALL BEARER

In stairs, a timber spiked flat against the wall parallel with the pitch of the stairway to give support to the stairs. The steps are then wedged in such a way that the stairway will be straight and well supported.

WALLBOARDS

Boards manufactured from various materials for surfacing walls and ceilings (see also 'WALLSHEETING').

WALL BRACKET

Any bracket attached to a wall to support a structural member.

WALL CHASE

See CHASE

WALLCOVERING

See WALLSHEETING

WALL FACE

The finished surface of the wall.

WALL/FLOOR AREA RATIO

The Wall Floor Area Ratio of a building is the sum of the face areas of the external walls, excluding gablewalls, parapet walls and walls below lowest finished floor level, plus the area of external windows and doors divided by the 'Fully Enclosed Covered Area' (F.E.C.A.) of the building expressed as a decimal. (See 'AREA'.)

WALL HANGER

See WALL BRACKET

WALL PAPER

Decorative paper applied as a covering to the plastered wall surfaces of a room.

WALL PLATES

See PLATE, wall

WALL SHEETING

Materials used for external and internal linings, e.g. strawboard, asbestos cement, fibrous plaster, plaster wall board, compressed wood fibre board.

WANNEY EDGES

Timbers that have their edges broken or not square.

WARPED

Twisted out of shape (e.g. timber).

WARREN TRUSS

A girder or truss which consists of upper and lower members connected by other members which are inclined alternately in opposite directions.

WASH BASIN

A basin or bowl for holding water in which to wash one's hands and face.

WASTE

A fitting connecting an internal plumbing fitting to the external drains.

WATER CLOSET

A room equipped with toilet fixtures and facilities.

WATER HEATER

Equipment designed to heat water.

WATER OF CAPILLARITY

The moisture drawn up from the soil into the walls of a building by capillary action.

WATERPROOF

Materials and a construction which will prevent water from passing through walls and joints.

WATERPROOF CEMENT

A cement which, when set, is water tight.

WATERPROOFING WALLS

The making of walls impervious to water of dampness by mixing a compound with the concrete, or by applying a compound to the surface of the wall.

WATERSEAL

See TRAP

WATER SERVICE

Pipe reticulation for the purpose of supplying water from the water main to various fittings, e.g. bath, basin, sink.

WATER TABLE

The level at which underground water naturally occurs.

WATERTIGHT

Construction which is waterproof.

WATT

A unit of electric power.

WEATHER BAR

See BAR, Water

WEATHERBOARDING

External wall sheeting formed with horizontal overlapping or rebated boards.

WEATHERING

The sloping surface, e.g. of a sill or coping, designed to permit rapid shedding of water.

WEATHER STRIP

Material used to cover joints around doors and windows to prevent drafts and to keep out rain and snow.

WEATHERTIGHT

A joint which does not permit the passing through of wind, water, heat or cold.

WEATHER VANE

See VANE

WEB

Refers to the area between the flanges of a rolled steel joist or the vertical member of a truss.

WEDGES, Folding (Fox Wedge)

Timber wedges used in pairs for lifting and tightening. In Australia commonly called 'fox wedges'. (See also 'TOMS'.)

WEEP HOLES

Openings sometimes left in the perpend of a brickwork course over flashings, and at the bottom of wall cavities for drainage purposes.

WELDING

Joining of two pieces of metal together when raised to a great heat.

WET ROT

See ROT, wet

WET SPRINKLER

See SPRINKLE SYSTEM

WHITEWASH

A composition for covering walls where frequent applications are necessary, prepared by slaking lump lime with about one third of its weight of water, and then adding sufficient water to make a milk.

WHITING

A crushed white clay product in powder form.

WIDTH

One of two Horizontal dimensions, normally the lesser.

WIND BRACE

A structural member, either a tie or a strut, used to resist lateral wind loads.

WINDERS

Treads of steps used in a winding, curved or angled staircase, which are cut wider at one end than at the other so they can be arranged in a circular form.

WINDING STAIR

A circular staircase which changes directions by means of winders or a landing and winders.

WIND LOAD

The estimated pressure of force exerted upon a structure by the wind, which must be provided for in the design of the structure.

WINDMOULDING

See STORMMOULDING

WINDOW

An opening in an outside wall (other than a door), to provide natural light and or ventilation and covered by transparent material inserted in a frame either openable or fixed.

***Awning:* See AWNINGSASH**

WINDOW Casement

See CASEMENT WINDOW.

***Double Hung: Box Frame* A window with two sashes sliding vertically in a frame that has hollow side casings for the movement of counterbalancing weights.**

***Double Hung, Solid Frame:* A window with two sashes sliding vertically, in a solid frame, and equipped with sash balances.**

***Horizontal Sliding:* A window with a sash sliding horizontally in a frame.**

WINDOW APRON

A plain or moulded finish put on to cover the rough edges of plastering below the window board or internal sill.

WINDOW BAR

Bar in a window, as a division between the panes of glass, sometimes called muntin; also, a bar for fastening a window

or shutter; a bar, usually of metal, across a window to prevent persons going out or coming in through the window.

WINDOW BOARD

The lining often used at the sill when the frame of a window is set back from the inner face of a wall. It is generally wider than the outer linings, being arranged to project out from the wall and extended on each side to terminate the architraves (if they are used).

WINDOW CASING

A finish or trim for a window opening.

WINDOW CATCH

See SASH FAST'.

WINDOW FRAME

The lining for a window opening, including the two side stiles, the head, jamb or yoke, and the sill.

WINDOW HEAD

The upper portion of a window frame.

WINDOW STILE

See STILE

WINDOW STOP

A narrow wooden strip which holds the sash in position in the frame.

WIND PRESSURE

See WIND LOAD

WINDPROOF

Construction which prevents the passage of wind through joints or materials.

WIRE CUT BRICK

See 'BRICK, wirecut

WIRE GLASS

Window glass in which wire with a coarse mesh is embedded to prevent shattering of glass in case it is broken and to protect a building against intruders.

WIRING

In electrical work, placing and connecting the various

conductors of lighting and power circuits.

WITHE

The partition between adjacent flues in a chimney.

WOOD BLOCKS

Prepared wooden bases to which may be attached various fittings, e.g. switches, ceiling roses.

WOOD FINISHING

Preparing a wood surface to receive a finish and applying paint, stain, or varnish.

WOODFLOORING

Standard dressed and matched flooring.

WOOD FRAME CONSTRUCTION

Construction in which the structural members are of wood or dependent upon a wood frame for support.

WOOD MOULDINGS

Timber trim members consisting of mouldings.

WOOD TURNING

The process of shaping pieces of wood into various forms by a lathe.

WOODWOOL SLABS

Slabs of varying thickness composed of specially prepared long-fibre wood shavings compressed and cemented together.

WOODWORK

Work done in, or parts made of wood.

WORK FACE

In squaring up a material the first surface to be finished is called the work face.

WORKING DRAWINGS

Drawings which are produced by the Architect and his Consultants for the purpose of constructing a building.

WORKING EDGE

One edge of a material which is trued square with the work face as an aid in truing the other surfaces square.

WRINKLING

Finished surface caused by applying heavy coats of paint, by abnormal heating or humidity, or by the application of an elastic film over a surface.

WROT (Wrought)

Dressed or worked, either by hand or machine.

WROUGHT IRON

A commercial form of iron which is malleable, tough, and relatively soft.