

AGGREGATE

The crushed stone or alternative substance contained in concrete.

AIR BRICK

Ventilation built into brickwork to provide ventilation through the wall.

ANT CAPPING

Termite barrier (shield), usually of galvanised iron, placed over piers and dwarf walls to control the entry of termites.

APEX

The highest point of a gable.

ARCHITRAVE

A moulded section covering the joint between window and door frames and the wall lining.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

Approved standard for material, equipment, technique or procedure as set down by the Standards Association of Australia (SAA).

BACKFILL

To fill the earth, any remaining space after placing concrete, brickwork, timber, pipes etc in an excavation.

BAGGING

A masonry process in which thin mortar is applied to the face of the work with some coarse material.

BALUSTRADE

A series of balusters supporting stair handrail, landing, platform or bridge. They are also used as the collective name for the entire framed enclosure guarding the side of a stair, landing or platform.

BALUSTER

A small post, often turned or decorated, used to support a handrail or fill the space below a handrail.

BARGE BOARD

The board covering the roof timbers on the gable or skillion end of a roof, fixed parallel to the roof slope.

BATTER

The slope of a wall of buttress built at an inclination to the vertical plane.

BAY WINDOW

A window of varying shapes, projecting outward from the wall of a building, forming a recess in a room.

BEAD

A moulding, generally of small size in cross section.

BEAM

A horizontal load-bearing structural member.

BEARER

A member of floor framing, spanning piers and supporting joists.

BEVEL

An angle formed between two straight lines meeting at an angle other than 90°.

BIRDSMOUTH

A notch cut out of roof rafters to secure a firm bearing on top plates.

BIT

An interchangeable cutting tool inserted into chuck of drilling machine.

BOND

Pattern for laying bricks so that none of the perpend are in line in adjacent courses.

BORERS

Several species of insects and larvae that tunnel into timber.

BOX GUTTER

A gutter often with both sides built along the roof slope. Used in valleys or behind parapets.

BRICKS

Common

Blocks of material moulded from clay or cement used for building or paving purposes. Usually bricks burnt in continuous kilns; used in general work.

Face

Best quality bricks used for face or external work, or for other special work.

BRICK CONSTRUCTION

A construction where the external and internal walls are built of brick.

BOWING

Deformation of timber at right angles to its face.

BUILDING BY-LAWS

Regulations by which local authorities control building construction. No new building work or alteration of existing structures may be carried out unless these regulations are observed

BUILDING LINE

A line established by the local council which is the minimum distance that must be maintained from the building to the street boundary.

BUILDING TRADES

All trades which have a part in the construction of a building (eg carpentry, masonry, painting, plumbing, electricity, heating).

CAMBER

A convexity (curve) upon an upper surface (eg beam, bridge, lintel).

CANTILEVER

A projecting beam supported at one end, or a large bracket for supporting a balcony or cornice. Two bracket like arms projecting toward each other from opposite piers or banks to form the span of a bridge making what is known as a cantilever bridge.

CAPPING

The uppermost part on top of a piece of work.

CARPENTRY

Trade of preparing, cutting and fixing timber in building construction.

CAST IN-SITU

Concrete cast or poured in its permanent position in prepared forms (eg concrete steps, hearth slabs, floors, beams, lintels).

CAVITY WALL

A hollow wall, usually consisting of two brick walls erected 40 to 50mm apart and joined together with ties of metal.

CEILING

Height

The overhead internal lining of a room. The height of a room measured from floor surface to ceiling, or, where there is no ceiling, to the underside of the rafters.

Joist

A structural member which binds the wall and roof framing together and carries the mass of the ceiling sheeting.

CHALK LINE

Length of string thoroughly coated with chalk dust, used to strike a straight guide line on a material. Line which is made with a chalking line.

CHAMFER

To take off the edge of any material to a small depth at an angle of about 45°.

CHASE

A rough groove or recess cut into a masonry wall for water pipes, conduit i.e. electrics.

CLADDING

Any material used to face a building or structure.

COLUMN

Free standing vertical load bearing member

CONSTRUCTION

The process of assembling materials and erecting a structure. The medium in which a building is built (eg wood, steel or masonry).

CORNICE

Externally - overhanging moulding at the top of a wall to deflect dripping. Internally - plastered moulding covering the joint between the wall and ceiling

COURSE

A single row or layer of bricks.

CRAZING

Fine cracks that may occur on plastered or rendered surface.

CROSS BRACE

Any crosspiece which diverts, transmits, or resists the pressure of a load.

CROSS CUTTING

Cutting timber across the grain.

CURING

Treatment of concrete or cement rendering to facilitate hardening

DADO

Finishing of the lower part of an interior wall from skirting to waist height, usually in a darker colour than the rest of the wall

DAMP PROOF COURSE (DPC)

A barrier, usually physical, built into masonry to prevent moisture migrating up from the ground or down from above, eg chimneys, parapets.

DATUM

A predetermined level on a site from which all other levels are established.

DORMER

Vertical window through a sloping roof, usually provided with its own pitched roof

DOOR(s)

Flush

A smooth-faced door.

Hollow core

A door with infill of expanded cardboard.

Solid core

A door with blockboard fill

DOOR FRAME

A frame into which a door is fitted.

DOOR HEAD

The upper part of the frame of a door.

DOOR JAMBS

The two vertical members of a door frame.

DOOR LEAVES

In wide openings, a door may be made up into two or more individual sections or "leaves", which are hinged together.

DOWEL

A wood or metal pin used to strengthen a joint by its insertion partly into each of the joined pieces.

DRESSED

Timber that has passed through a planing machine to produce smooth surfaces.

DUMPY LEVEL

An optical levelling instrument.

EAVE

The lower part of a roof that overhangs the walls.

EFFLORESCENCE

A white or coloured powder sometimes formed on the surface of masonry by deposit of soluble salts

ELEVATION

A geometrical drawing of a facade of a building

END MATCHING

Milled tongue and groove on the ends of flooring boards

ENGINEER

A professionally qualified person, who when associated with building and planning, designs, supervises and manages Civil, Structural and Services components of projects.

EXPANSION JOINT

A joint in a building to permit thermal movement or creep

EXPANSION STRIP

A soft, resilient material used to fill the void provided for the expansion and contraction of any two adjacent substances

FANLIGHT

Glazed opening over the door but within the doorframe

FASCIA

A board fixed horizontally to the lower ends of the rafters, to which guttering may be fixed. Also forms the outside board of a boxed eave

FLASHING

A strip of impervious material used to prevent the ingress of water between two surfaces

FOOTING

The construction whereby the weight of the structure is transferred from the base structure to the foundation

FOUNDATION

The ground upon which the footings of a building are constructed

FRETWORK

Wood cut into decorative patterns (with a fret or jigsaw)

GABLE

The triangular end of a house formed at the end of a pitched roof, from eaves level to apex

GRAIN

Description of direction of growth of wood

GROUND LINE

The ground level or natural grade line

HEADER

A brick laid with its short end to the face of the wall

JOINERY

Doors, windows, cupboards, manufactured in a joiner's shop

KEYING

Carpentry: timber or metal wedges used across or between two or more members to act as a tightening agent.

Plastering: the roughening of a surface to form a bond for subsequent work

LINING

Internal covering to walls of framed construction

MASONRY

Brick, concrete, stone, artificial stone or terra cotta laid in mortar.

MILLED

Timber that has passed through a moulding machine and is of a specific profile.

MITRE

Half the angle of a joint.

MOISTURE BARRIER

Material which is used to retard the flow of vapour or moisture into floor or walls.

MORTAR

A composition of lime and/or cement and sand mixed with water in various proportions.

MULLION

Vertical dividing member of a frame between door or window lights.

NEWELS

Posts placed at top and bottom of flights of stairs to secure handrails, strings.

NON-LOAD-BEARING PARTITION OR NON-LOAD-BEARING WALL

One which supports no vertical load except that of its own weight and merely defines spaces.

OVERFLASHING

The flashing which is built into the wall surface and sits over the upturned apron flashing.

PANE

Single piece of glass in a window or door.

PARAPET

Low wall at the edge of a roof, balcony, bridge or terrace.

PARTICLEBOARD (MDF)

A manufactured material formed by bonding together flakes of wood and pressing them into a dense sheet.

PARTY WALL

The wall between two adjoining buildings but common to and used to advantage of both buildings.

PERPENDS

The vertical joints in a masonry wall.

PIER

A vertical member of base structure.

PITCH

The angle of inclination to the horizontal of a roof or stair.

PLASTERBOARD

A rigid insulating board made of plastering material covered on both sides with heavy paper.

PLY OR PLYWOOD

Two or more thin sheets of wood glued together, with the grain of adjacent layers usually at right angles to each other to form a sheet.

POINTING

Raking out mortar joints and pressing into them a surface mortar to finish a masonry wall.

PRE-CAST CONCRETE

Concrete manufactured away from its ultimate location.

PVC (POLYVINYL CHLORIDE)

A widely used plastic - the main uses include water pipes, waste pipes and floor covering.

QUAD

Moulding having a profile of a quarter of a circle.

QUOINS

Dressed stones at the corners of buildings, usually laid so that their faces are alternately large and small. Originates from the French word 'coin' (corner).

RAFTER

One of the sloping pieces of timber forming the roof framework and supporting the roof covering.

REBATE

A step-shaped reduction cut along an edge or face or projecting angle of wood.

RETAINING WALL

Any wall subjected to lateral pressure other than wind pressure and built to retain material.

REVEAL

The thickness of wall from the wall face to the door or window frame. The remainder of the thickness of wall is known as the 'jamb'.

ROOF

GABLE ROOF

A roof shape consisting of two sloping surfaces.

HIPPED ROOF

A roof with an end roughly pyramidal in shape, with surfaces sloping upwards from all three eaves.

SKILLION

A roof shape consisting of a single sloping surface.

RAFTER (COMMON)

In roof construction, a timber framing member providing the principal support for the roofing material

RIDGE

The horizontal member at the highest point of a roof where the common rafters meet.

ROOF PITCH

The angle formed between a sloping roof surface and a horizontal line.

ROOF TRUSS

A frame designed to carry the loads of a roof and its covering over the full span without intermediate support.

SARKING

A covering of water-proof building paper beneath the external roof covering.

VALLEY

The internal angle formed by two inclined slopes of a roof of an internal corner.

ROUGH SAWN

Timber direct from the saw.

S- TRAP

A trap in which the outlet leg is vertical and parallel with the inlet leg.

SARKING

Pliable, water-resistant membrane located beneath the roof covering or external wall cladding to collect and discharge water that may penetrate. often combined with reflective foil to provide thermal insulation benefits.

SILL

The horizontal member at the bottom of a window frame.

SKIRTING

Moulding to cover the joint between floor and wall flooring.

SOLID PLASTER

Solid plasterers apply material of a mortar like consistency (usually made of cement mixed with sand and water) covering rough walls of a building to produce a smooth finish.

SPAN

Face to face distance between points of support for loadbearing structural members.

SPLICE JOINT

Joint used to extend timber in length.

STIRRUPS

In reinforced concrete beams, vertical or inclined rods to resist shear stress.

STUD

Vertical member in wall framing.

SUSPENDED CEILINGS

A ceiling which is suspended from and is not in direct contact with the floor or roof construction above and generally used to conceal services.

TEMPLATE

A guide for forming work to be done.

THRESHOLD

Step or sill of timber or other material at the foot of an external door.

TRENCH

In joinery, a groove. In drainage and plumbing, the excavation in which pipes are laid. In foundations, the excavation in which footings are placed.

UNDERPINNING

The construction of new footings and walling under the footings of an existing structure which have failed or may fail.

WALL PLATE

Timber laid longitudinally on top of the wall where ends of rafters are placed.

WALL TIE

A steel wire tying brickwork to timber frame.

WATERPROOF

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

WEDGES , Folding (Fox Wedges)

Timber wedges used in pairs for lifting and tightening. In Australia commonly called 'fox-wedges'.

WEEP HOLES

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

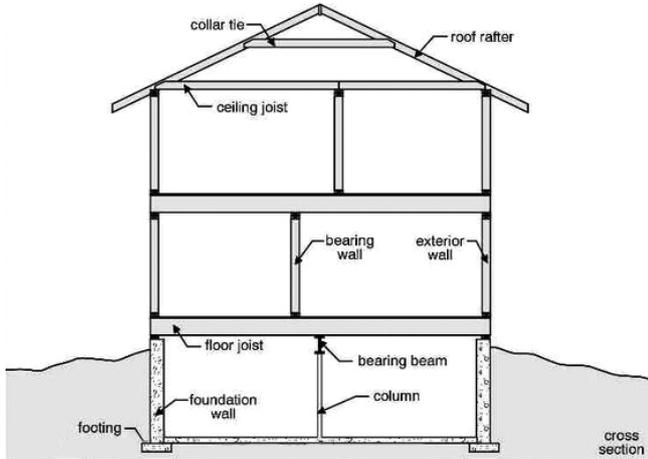
WIND BRACE

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

WIND LOAD

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

Overview of house structure



Sloped roof shapes

