Damp walls and heat loss

Moisture changes performance; there is no fixed percentage for every wall.

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1 What changes

Moisture can increase the thermal conductivity of porous materials and affect the thermal resistance of the wall.

2 Assess the whole wall

Heat loss depends on materials, thickness, moisture content, area, temperature difference and the whole building.

3 Locate the source

Investigate rain, plumbing, ground moisture, condensation and construction moisture.

4 Choose the repair

Repair the identified defect and consider how the construction dries. Do not cover over unresolved damp.

5 Review insulation

Check compatibility and moisture risk before adding insulation to an existing wall.

6 Measure where needed

Use suitable investigation or thermal assessment. A damp meter reading alone does not provide a whole-wall U-value.

Next step: identify the moisture source, repair it and reassess the wall performance.

REFERENCE GUIDANCE

GOV.UK: solid wall heat loss research
GOV.UK: resistance to moisture research

Use current product instructions and the approved project design. For regulations, confirm the UK nation, applicable edition and transitional arrangements.

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