

# The Cavity Wall

Architecture

Why the cavity exists, and what makes it work at every junction.

*The cavity is a drainage and capillary break, not just a gap.*

## Components

|                                          |                                              |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Outer leaf, expected to get wet          | Clear cavity, to drain and break capillarity |
| Wall ties, tying the two leaves together | Cavity tray over every opening               |
| Weep holes above every tray              | Damp proof course, clear above ground        |

## Where it fails

|                                        |                                    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mortar droppings bridging the cavity   | A tray with no weeps above it      |
| Insulation slumped, leaving a cold gap | Ties sloping the wrong way, inward |

Educational reference. Cavity widths, tie spacing and DPC positions are set by national codes and by the tie manufacturer.