



Kontract Mesh

PLASTER MEMBRANE



- Stud height 8 mm, drainage volume 5.5 litres/m²
- Sheet thickness 600 μm, density 0.7 kg/m²
- Excellent low and high temperature stability
- 150 kN/m² load bearing capacity
- High durability and water resistance

Kontract Mesh is a high density polyethylene membrane incorporating 8 mm studs which allows the isolation of wet walls above and below ground.

Incorporates a tough HDPE mesh lathing welded to the front face to allow the direct application of various plaster finishes or adhesive 'dabs' and plasterboard.

Also suitable for use on floors above ground to be screeded or in conjunction with **Kontract 8** below ground.

Note: in basements where the walls are particularly wet (running water) we recommend the use of **Kontract 8** on walls and floors (see separate data sheet).

SPECIFICATION

Kontract Mesh is suitable for use in accordance with BS 8102:1990 to provide Type 'C' drained protection to structures below ground giving a Grade 3 or 4 dry environment suitable for domestic or commercial use. In basements it is essential that **Kontract Mesh** is used in conjunction with a suitable sump and pump facility (unless passive drainage is available on one side of the building) and that this is maintained throughout the lifetime of the installation. To control the risk of condensation it is recommended that all basements should be provided with mechanical ventilation to ensure adequate air circulation in accordance with the guidelines in Approved Document F (Building Regulations 2005).

GAS BARRIER PROTECTION

Wykamol membranes provide a gas barrier system by the creation of an air gap when the studs of the membrane form a cavity within the building which allows the gas to flow freely beneath them to an extraction point. When dealing with gas situations it is imperative for all joints to be sealed with care. It is recommended that Wykamol Tape be used for primary sealing, with Wykamol Overseal Tape as a secondary layer of sealing protection.

The installation of a specially calibrated positive pressure pump is needed to exhaust any gas that is contained behind the membrane.

Where a gas tight membrane is required which also forms part of the waterproofing system an additional sump system complete with an AMA Drainer 301 pump is required to remove water ingress collected by the system.

It is advised expert consultation and advice is sought when dealing with gas contamination issues.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1.0 Preparation

Where **Kontract Mesh** is used above ground as a permanent barrier to moisture and/or salts it is recommended that sources of moisture such as rising and penetrating damp are isolated before commencing. Ensure all wall surfaces are free from sharp protrusions and reasonably level. If 'dubbing out' to provide a flat surface allow the background to develop full strength before proceeding.

Note: on very uneven walls **Kontract 8** can be used with a freestanding timber or metal frame fixed to the floor as a base for plasterboard erection. In new basements ensure enough time has been allowed for the structure to develop sufficient strength before installation. In existing basements remove any unsound plaster, laitance, salts etc. and make good. If mould or masonry fungi are present the substrate should be treated with an appropriate fungicidal wall solution (e.g. Wykabor 10, Wykabor DB).

We recommend that any new concrete floor slab is sealed with Wykamol Microsealer to consolidate any free limes prior to applying floor membrane.

Water entering basements must be able to drain freely to a point of removal. This requires that there should be a free fall towards the outlet point or a drainage channel made around the perimeter of the floor. In all cases the design of the drainage provision should be checked before laying the floor membrane by a FLOOD TEST after which no ponding of water should be evident to a depth of more than 5 mm at any point.

Further advice concerning drainage design and sump/pump installations is available from the Wykamol Technical Department.

2.0 Membrane installation

Kontract Mesh is fixed to the wall by drilling through the membrane studs to a depth of 50 or 70 mm using a 8 mm drill bit and gently hammering home the Plaster Plugs with seals to form a water proof seal between the fixing and the membrane surface. Alternatively Plaster Plugs with Wykamol Rope around the shaft can be used. Intervals between Plug fixings should be no greater than 250mm to ensure a tight fix to the wall. Near lap joints and where the surface is uneven the centres should be less than 250mm. When fixing the membrane it is essential to keep the sheet tight to the wall surface (no 'bulges') at all times. Once the first length of membrane is fixed the mesh-free area running along its length (c. 90 mm) is overlapped by the meshed edge of the next piece and (below ground only) the overlap sealed with Wykamol Tape (ensure the membrane surface is dry and, in cold conditions, warm the membrane surface to ensure good adhesion).

When dealing with internal and external corners cut and fold the membrane as necessary and re-seal cut edges and any inserted pieces using Tape, Overtape and/or Wykamol Corner Detail. In the case of door/window openings where the thickness of the membrane may cause problems in regard to standard frame dimensions etc. **Kontract Mesh** can be bonded to standard dpc material placed within the reveal, itself fixed to the wall using Plaster or Brick Plugs (as above). The dpc membrane should be run under **Kontract Mesh** to create an overlap of ca. 100 mm before sealing the joint using Wykamol Rope.

Services or pipework penetrating through walls lined with **Kontract Mesh** can be joined to the membrane by using

Wykamol Rope to seal the gap (5 – 10 mm) and overlaying a patch of Mesh membrane sealed to the service with Rope and Overseal Tape.

For above ground 'ventilated' installations use Wykamol Profile Strips to form a permanent ventilation gap at skirting board level and ensure skirtings are off-set or fitted with grilles to allow water vapour to dissipate.

FILOORS AND WALL/FLOOR JUNCTIONS

Kontract Mesh is rolled out domes down over the floor (no fixings) and sealed at overlaps using Wykamol Tape. Butt joints are sealed using Overtape. At wall/floor junctions the membrane can be cut flush and the gap sealed using Corner Detail. Alternatively, where a wall membrane is not being installed, the floor membrane can be returned up the wall by c. 100 mm and cut flush with the top of the finished floor. Regular maintenance of all gullies, sumps and pumps must be conducted to ensure that a build-up of water does not occur behind the membrane.

Above dpc level **Kontract Mesh** can be left as an 'open' or ventilated system with water vapour vented to the room (this is facilitated by leaving a 10 mm gap at the top, and a 20 mm gap at the bottom of the wall then finishing with off-set or ventilated covings/skirtings).

3.0 FINISHING

Ventilation

Kontract Mesh cavity drainage membrane can provide a dry, warm and habitable living space in basements and other areas suffering chronic damp conditions.

However, it is equally important to ensure that areas which lack natural ventilation are provided with adequate means of condensation control, especially in wet areas such as kitchens, bathrooms etc. This is normally best dealt with through the provision of an effective mechanical ventilation system (please consult the Wykamol Technical department for further advice).

Walls

Kontract Mesh can be finished in accordance with normal plastering techniques (BS 5492:1990) using proprietary lightweight plasters e.g. Tilcon 'Whitewall', Thistle 'Carlite Bonding', or a 1:1:6 cement:lime:sand render. The first coat should be applied to just fill the studs and cover the mesh. This should be scratch finished and allowed to set before applying a second coat to a final overall thickness of 15 mm and 3 mm skim to finish. For dry lining use a conventional bonding plaster in dabs to a minimum thickness of 8 mm and covering at least 50% of the membrane surface area. After the plastered, dry-lined or rendered surface has dried, the surface can be painted or wallpapered using traditional methods and materials without delay.

Wall-mounted fittings which necessitate holes being made in the membrane should only be considered in above ground applications and the gap between the fixing and the membrane sealed using a water resistant flexible sealant such as a good quality mastic.

Floors

If required, expanded polystyrene insulation boards are laid over the membrane prior to laying T&G floorboards or screeding in accordance with BS 8204-1:2003 (minimum 50 mm). Proprietary anhydrite screeds may also be suitable and allow screed thicknesses less than 50 mm.

4.0 PRODUCT DATA

Kontract Mesh is available in rolls as follows:

2.0 x 20 m = 40 m² (translucent/white)

2.0 x 10 m = 20 m² (translucent/white)

For each roll of membrane a range of ancillary products will normally be required namely Tape, Rope, Mastic, Plaster Plugs, Corner Detail. The quantities can be advised at the time of ordering based on the project details and ratio of floor to walls etc.

In basements special measures may be required to create suitable drainage to assist the removal of water to the sump location. Our technical department will be pleased to give advice in this area (Aqua Channel, Aqua Drain, Sump kit etc.).

STORAGE

Rolls of **Kontract Mesh** and all ancillaries should be stored on site in dry conditions away from sharp objects, direct sunlight and high temperatures. Keep **Kontract Mesh** away from areas where naked flames may be used.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

No specific hazards are likely to arise in the use of Wykamol Kontract membranes or ancillaries (neither the membrane nor tapes mentioned in this Data Sheet are classified as hazardous in respect to CHIP II Regulations 1999). However, general precaution should be exercised in the use of drills etc. taking 3 particular note of the special risks associated with confined spaces (basements) with restricted means of access/egress.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

The Wykamol Group are committed to excellence in product design and manufacture and the information provided in this data sheet is intended to guide professional contractors and specifiers in the appropriate use of **Kontract Mesh** to ensure a successful basement tanking or damp proofing project. If any further advice is required please consult our Technical Department who will be pleased to answer your questions and/or recommend a contractor able to provide a full design and installation service.



Unit 3, Boran Court, Network 65 Business Park, Hapton, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 5TH
t: +44 (0)845 400 66 66 f: +44 (0)0845 400 33 33 e: salesdepartment@wykamol.com

www.wykamol.com

