

When unwanted moisture finds its way into a building, wooden joists, floors and roof timbers are often affected. As moisture builds up in timber, it creates an ideal breeding ground for a variety of wood rotting fungi which depend on a damp, moisture laden environment to grow. Such fungi are often "at home" in dark, poorly ventilated cavities and under-floor spaces, where they simply need a single moisture source to start expanding and spreading decay to adjacent timbers. When such fungal attack is discovered specialist advice should be sought from Kingfisher. We run training courses for contractors wishing to specialise in this field.

1. Identify the fungus

Firstly you need to identify the type of rot that is present. Dry rot or *Serpula Lacrymans* is a common invasive fungus which travels through masonry and plaster to find the timber host that it needs to survive. It is easy to identify as it forms distinctive white cotton-like strands. Fully dry rotted timber crumbles readily between your forefingers. Wet Rot is a collective name for a variety of fungi which naturally break down wet timber e.g. where paint finish on a window frame has perished. If the timber feels spongy when pressed it is likely to be wet rot.



2. Locate the source

Fungal attack will often (but not always) be traceable back to a structural defect providing a moisture source. In the case of dry rot this could be rising or penetrating damp creating an ideal environment beneath a floor or in a cavity. Or it could simply be a leaky roof. Whatever the case you need to resolve any structural defects, otherwise the fungus may return post treatment.



3. Determine Extent of Infection

Dry rot can travel through cavities, voids and even through masonry to find a food source so it is important to determine the extent of the infection by following strands and exposing areas which may be contaminated. Early treatment is essential as Dry Rot can spread quickly and cause severe and expensive structural problems if left unchecked.



4. Treatment of Masonry

Masonry and plasters contaminated with dry rot should be liberally sprayed with Kingfisher Deepkill fungicidal wall solution (KF-18). This will kill the fungus in-situ and prevent dormant strands from re-growing in search of a new timber host.



5. Treatment of Timbers

Loft / structural timbers

Remove any obstructions to expose the timbers and spray liberally with Kingfisher:

"Deepkill Solvent Fungicide /Insecticide or
"Deepkill Aqueous Fungicide /Insecticide(KF8)

Floor timbers etc

Remove floor coverings and spray liberally with Kingfisher:

"Deepkill Solvent Fungicide /Insecticide or
"Deepkill Aqueous Fungicide /Insecticide(KF8)

Deep Section timbers & Joists

Kingfisher Deepkill Timber Paste should be applied liberally to affected areas, especially joist ends in recessed wall sockets.

