

Dry & Wet Rot Control

▶ Problem

The most frequent and serious cause of damage to structural and decorative timber is fungal decay, commonly known as wet & dry rot. Dampness combined with a lack of ventilation provides ideal conditions for a fungal attack on any timber, historic or modern.

▶ Solution

The nature and biology of fungal decay makes it vital to locate and eliminate the underlying source of moisture behind the outbreak. Roofing failures and leaking gutters are particularly damaging, allowing water to spread over large areas before being discovered.

Dry rot surveying may require exposure work before the complete extent of the outbreak can be determined.

▶ Process

Repairs and Fungicidal Treatments

Peter Cox technicians will replace defective timbers and undertake repairs where necessary to retained sections, including structural and decorative timber. All retained timber is treated using the latest fungicidal formulations to prevent further infection. Where necessary adjacent masonry is irrigated and surface sprayed with a biocide.

▶ Features & Benefits

Modern, water-based microemulsion fungicides and biocides are used.

Low odour, low hazard and HSE approved - treated rooms can be re-occupied after just one hour.

Generally surfaces are sprayed but can also be applied by brush, injection and in gel or paste formulations.



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Dry Rot - (*Serpula lacrymans*)

The true dry rot fungus is more serious than wet rot, requiring fast specialist action to avoid extensive damage. It is malignant and will even spread through thick walls and masonry in search of timber to attack. Affected timber is brown, dry and brittle with cuboidal fractures and can be crumbled by hand.

It requires over 20% moisture level for spore germination. Fine greyish hyphae strands develop from the spore spreading to form mycelial growth which varies from grey to pure white in wet conditions. Sporophores or fruiting bodies give off millions of spores in the form of red dust.



Wet Rot

Wet rots are a common cause of structural defects and there are a number of species that attack timbers in buildings. They generally thrive on a higher timber moisture content than dry rot but do not spread through masonry and growth ceases when the moisture is removed. Attacked timber is either darkened or bleached depending on species and is left in cuboidal or longitudinal cracks.

The species most commonly found is *Coniophora puteana* (cellar fungus). Other species include *Fibroporia vaillantii* (mine fungus) and *Phellinus* spp.

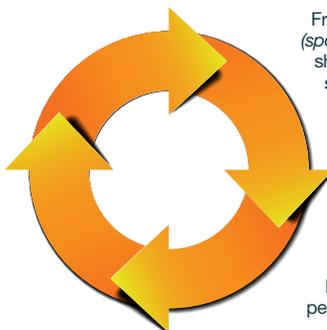


Typical Lifecycle - Rotting Fungi

Spores settle on damp wood and germinate



Fungus spreads into wood and decays it



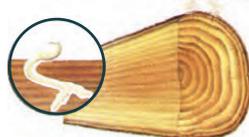
Fruit body (sporophore) shedding spores



Spore germinating



Hypha penetrating wood



Overview

Dry rot and wet rot are wood destroying fungi (*Basidiomycetes*) which attack timber in order to extract food (*cellulose or lignin*) to maintain growth and the generation of spores.

Additional Treatment

Epoxy resin techniques may be used for the repair of decayed beam ends, joint stabilisation and crack repairs.

(see separate information sheet)

Why Peter Cox?

Peter Cox, established in 1951 has over 70 years experience in providing a range of property services. We are the market leader in the preservation of all types of property, from private housing to historic buildings. You can be reassured that you'll not only get the work completed to an extremely high standard, but you'll also benefit from our long term guarantees for timber treatments. We are rated 'Excellent' on Trustpilot and were the first national preservation company to receive Which? Trusted Trader accreditation.

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