

## Visqueen Building Products

Heanor Gate  
Heanor  
Derbyshire DE75 7RG  
Tel: 0845 302 4758 Fax: 0845 017 8663  
e-mail: enquiries@visqueenbuilding.co.uk  
website: www.visqueenbuilding.co.uk



Agrément Certificate  
**94/3009**  
Product Sheet 1

## VISQUEEN DAMP-PROOF MEMBRANES

### VISQUEEN ECOMEMBRANE

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet<sup>(1)</sup> relates to Visqueen Ecomembrane, a recycled low-density polyethylene (LDPE) damp-proof membrane for use in solid concrete ground floors not subject to hydrostatic pressure, to protect buildings against moisture from the ground.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

#### CERTIFICATION INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with Building Regulations where applicable
- factors relating to additional non-regulatory information where applicable
- independently verified technical specification
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- design considerations
- installation guidance
- regular surveillance of production
- formal three-yearly review.



#### KEY FACTORS ASSESSED

**Resistance to water and water vapour** — the product, including joints, will resist the passage of moisture into the structure (see section 6).

**Resistance to puncture** — the product has a high resistance to puncture and on a smooth or blinded surface will not be damaged by foot or site traffic (see section 7).

**Durability** — under normal service conditions the product will provide an effective barrier to the transmission of moisture for the life of the structure in which it is incorporated (see section 10).

The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the product described herein. This product has been assessed by the BBA as being fit for its intended use provided it is installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Wroe'.

Date of First issue: 2 September 2013

Originally certificated on 29 March 1994

Certificate amended 9 September 2013 to incorporate additional product information

Simon Wroe  
Head of Approvals — Materials

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Claire Curtis-Thomas'.

Claire Curtis-Thomas  
Chief Executive

The BBA is a UKAS accredited certification body — Number 113. The schedule of the current scope of accreditation for product certification is available in pdf format via the UKAS link on the BBA website at [www.bbacerts.co.uk](http://www.bbacerts.co.uk)

Readers are advised to check the validity and latest issue number of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA direct.

British Board of Agrément  
Bucknalls Lane  
Watford  
Herts WD25 9BA

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tel: 01923 665300  
fax: 01923 665301  
e-mail: [mail@bba.star.co.uk](mailto:mail@bba.star.co.uk)  
website: [www.bbacerts.co.uk](http://www.bbacerts.co.uk)

# Regulations

In the opinion of the BBA, Visqueen Ecomembrane, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, will meet or contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations (the presence of a UK map indicates that the subject is related to the Building Regulations in the region or regions of the UK depicted):



## The Building Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) (as amended)

Requirement:	C2(a)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The product, including joints, will enable a floor to meet this Requirement. See section 6 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	7	Materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is acceptable. See section 10.1 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.



## The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation:	8(1)	Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The use of the product satisfies the requirements of this Regulation. See section 10.1 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	9	Building standards applicable to construction
Standard:	3.4	Moisture from the ground
Comment:		The product, including joints, will enable a floor to satisfy the requirements of this Standard, with reference to clauses 3.4.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 3.4.2 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and 3.4.4 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> to 3.4.6 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . See section 6 of this Certificate.
Standard:	7.1(a)	Statement of sustainability
Comment:		The product can contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, and therefore will contribute to a construction meeting a bronze level of sustainability as defined in this Standard.
Regulation:	12	Building standards applicable to conversions
Comment:		All comments given for the product under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause 0.12.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and Schedule 6 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . (1) Technical Handbook (Domestic). (2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).



## The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

Regulation:	23(a)(i)(iii)(b)(i)	Fitness of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is acceptable. See section 10.1 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	28(a)	Resistance to moisture and weather
Comment:		The product, including joints, will enable a floor to satisfy the requirements of this Regulation. See section 6 of this Certificate.

## Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

## Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, CDM co-ordinator, designer and contractors to address their obligations under these Regulations.

See section: 1 *Description* (1.2) of this Certificate.

# Additional Information

## NHBC Standards 2013

NHBC accepts the use of Visqueen Ecomembrane, provided it is installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, in relation to *NHBC Standards*, Chapter 5.1 *Substructure and ground bearing floors*, clause M8 *Damp-proof membrane* (for use below the slab in sandwich constructions).

## CE marking

The Certificate holder has taken the responsibility of CE marking the product, in accordance with harmonised European Standard BS EN 13967 : 2012. An asterisk (\*) appearing in this Certificate indicates that data shown is given in the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance.

# Technical Specification

## 1 Description

1.1 Visqueen Ecomembrane is a blown film of extruded low density polyethylene (LDPE) for use as a damp-proof membrane (dpm).

1.2 The membrane has the nominal characteristics given in Table 1.

Table 1 Nominal characteristics

Characteristic (unit)	Visqueen Ecomembrane		
Thickness* (mm)	0.25	0.3	0.5
Roll length* (m)	25	25	12.5
Roll width* (m)	4	4	4
Mass per unit area (g·m <sup>-2</sup> )	240	260	460
Tensile strength* (N·mm <sup>-2</sup> )			
MD	17.46	22.41	16.65
CD	20.88	21.33	17.91
Elongation* (%)			
MD	333	351	333
CD	387	387	342
Nail-tear resistance* (N)			
MD	165	205	310
CD	170	250	310
Watertightness*	Pass	Pass	Pass
Water vapour transmission* (MN·s·g <sup>-1</sup> )	586	682	1390
Colour	black/blue	black/blue	black/blue

1.3 Standard rolls are multi-folded along their length in a pleated fashion for easier handling. Rolls centre-folded along their length are also available.

1.4 Other products used with the membrane are:

- VisqueenPro — double-sided and single-sided jointing tape used for joining adjacent sheets of the product, for joining the product to a dpc or for jointing between dpc's
- Visqueen Detailing Strip — for repairing areas of minor damage to the membrane.

## 2 Manufacture

2.1 The product is manufactured from recycled polyethylene by an extrusion process.

2.2 As part of the assessment and ongoing surveillance of product quality, the BBA has:

- agreed with the manufacturer the quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken
- assessed and agreed the quality control operated over batches of incoming materials
- monitored the production process and verified that it is in accordance with the documented process
- evaluated the process for management of nonconformities
- checked that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated
- undertaken to carry out the above measures on a regular basis through a surveillance process, to verify that the specifications and quality control operated by the manufacturer are being maintained.

2.3 The management system of Visqueen Building Products has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001 : 2008 by Knights International Inspectorate (Certificate 05/63930).

## 3 Delivery and site handling

3.1 Rolls are supplied on pallets, in wrappers bearing the Certificate holder's and product names, and the BBA logo incorporating the number of this Certificate.

3.2 Rolls should be stored under cover and protected from sunlight.

# Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on Visqueen Ecomembrane.

### 4 Use

4.1 Visqueen Ecomembrane is suitable for use as a damp-proof membrane in concrete floors not subject to hydrostatic pressure, in accordance with the relevant clauses of CP 102 : 1973.

4.2 The product can be installed either as an oversite membrane, between a blinded hardcore bed and the base concrete slab, as a sandwich membrane in a base concrete slab or between the base concrete slab and the screed.

4.3 The product will remain flexible at temperatures likely to occur in practice.

### 5 Practicability of installation

Installation is designed to be carried out by a competent general builder, or a contractor, experienced with this type of product.

### 6 Resistance to water and water vapour



Results of tests indicate that the membrane and the methods of jointing provide an effective barrier to the passage of moisture from the ground and will enable a floor to comply with the requirements of the national Building Regulations, if installed in the manner described in the relevant documents (see section 12.1).

### 7 Resistance to puncture

The product has a high resistance to puncture. On smooth or blinded surfaces, it will not be damaged by normal foot or site traffic (eg wheelbarrows) but care must be taken to avoid damage during installation (see section 13.5), particularly when handling building materials and equipment over the surface and when placing concrete or screeds, since it can be punctured by sharp objects.

### 8 Underfloor heating

When used in accordance with this Certificate, there will be no adverse effect on the membrane from underfloor heating under normal operating conditions. However, the Certificate holder's advice should be sought.

### 9 Maintenance

As the product is confined and has suitable durability, maintenance is not required. Any damage occurring during installation must be repaired prior to overlaying with concrete (see section 14).

### 10 Durability



10.1 When subject to normal conditions of use, the membrane will provide an effective barrier to the transmission of moisture for the life of the concrete slab in which it is installed.

10.2 Long periods of exposure to ultraviolet light will reduce the effectiveness of the membrane and it should be protected from such exposure during storage and installation.

### 11 Reuse and recyclability

The product contains polyethylene, which can be recycled.

## Installation

### 12 General

12.1 Installation of the Visqueen Ecomembrane must be in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions, CP 102 : 1973, clause 11, the relevant clauses of BS 8000-4 : 1989 and section 13 of this Certificate.

12.2 The product must be kept clean and free from dirt and grease.

12.3 Unless the base is smooth, a surface blinding of soft sand (or similar material) must be used to prevent puncturing during installation or when the concrete or screed is being placed.

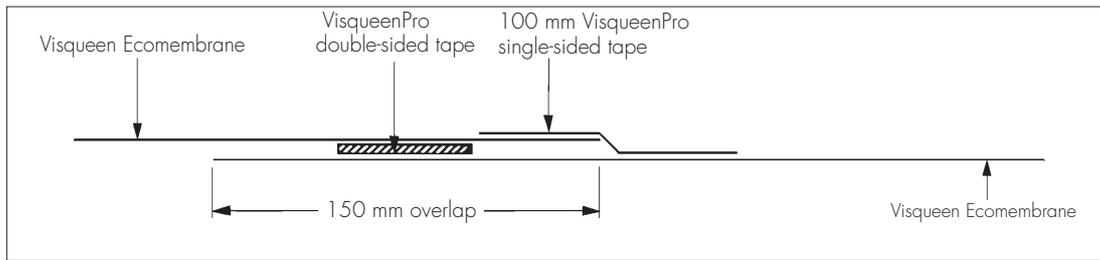
12.4 The product can be installed in all conditions normal to ground floor slab construction. Where there is a risk of ground becoming waterlogged, sub-soil drainage must be provided in accordance with CP 102 : 1973.

12.5 The type of floor finish to be used may limit the suitability of polyethylene damp-proof membranes; the guidance given in CP 102 : 1973 should be followed.

### 13 Procedure

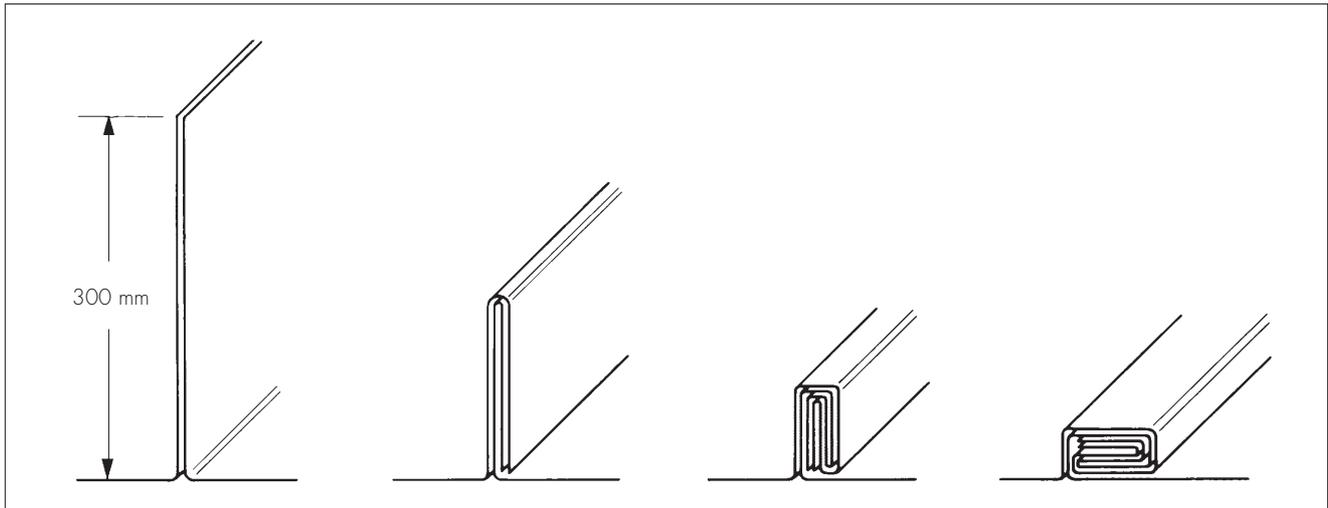
13.1 Adjacent sheets are overlapped by at least 150 mm, bound with VisqueenPro double sided tape and sealed using VisqueenPro single sided jointing tape (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 Typical tape joint



13.2 Alternatively, when it is not possible to keep a sheet dry, a double-welted fold can be formed using at least 300 mm of the membrane. It is essential that weights, eg bricks, are used to maintain the fold in position prior to placing the concrete (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 Double-welted fold joint



13.3 Perforations or punctures in the sheets must be patched with sheets of identical thickness, lapped at least 150 mm beyond the limits of the puncture and sealed with double-sided pressure sensitive tape.

13.4 The damp-proof membrane must be continuous with the dpc in the surrounding walls. Where necessary, the product is used as a vertical dpc to link the two. The dpm and the dpc joint must be overlapped by a minimum of 100 mm and sealed with an appropriate sealant tape. Where there is doubt about the compatibility of materials, the advice of the Certificate holder should be sought.

13.5 The membrane must be covered with a screed or other protective layer as soon as possible after installation. Care must be taken to ensure that the membrane is not stretched or displaced and to avoid the creation of areas of unsupported membrane when placing the concrete or screed, for example at internal angles.

## 14 Repair

Before permanent protection is placed, the membrane area must be inspected for defects. Damage to the product must be repaired using Visqueen Detailing Strip, or, if a larger repair is required, by using a patch of the membrane and sealing the laps with VisqueenPro double-sided tape and VisqueenPro single-sided tape. All patches must extend a minimum of 150 mm from the damaged area.

## Technical Investigations

### 15 Tests

15.1 An assessment was made of data to BS EN 13967 : 2012 in relation to:

- dimensions
- watertightness to liquid water
- resistance to static load
- tensile strength and elongation
- impact resistance
- resistance to tear (nail shank)
- water vapour transmission
- heat ageing followed by watertightness
- exposure to alkali followed by watertightness.

15.2 Tests were carried out to determine:

- melt flow index
- density
- dimensional stability
- low temperature flexibility.

## 16 Investigations

The manufacturing process was evaluated, including the methods adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

## Bibliography

BS 8000-4 : 1989 *Workmanship on building sites — Code of practice for waterproofing*

BS EN 13967 : 2012 *Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Plastic and rubber damp proof sheets including plastic and rubber basement tanking sheet — Definitions and characteristics*

BS EN ISO 9001 : 2008 *Quality Management Systems — Requirements*

CP 102 : 1973 *Code of practice for protection of buildings against water from the ground*

## Conditions of Certification

### 17 Conditions

17.1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product/system that is named and described on the front page
- is issued only to the company, firm, organisation or person named on the front page — no other company, firm, organisation or person may hold or claim that this Certificate has been issued to them
- is valid only within the UK
- has to be read, considered and used as a whole document — it may be misleading and will be incomplete to be selective
- is copyright of the BBA
- is subject to English Law.

17.2 Publications, documents, specifications, legislation, regulations, standards and the like referenced in this Certificate are those that were current and/or deemed relevant by the BBA at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate.

17.3 This Certificate will remain valid for an unlimited period provided that the product/system and its manufacture and/or fabrication, including all related and relevant parts and processes thereof:

- are maintained at or above the levels which have been assessed and found to be satisfactory by the BBA
- continue to be checked as and when deemed appropriate by the BBA under arrangements that it will determine
- are reviewed by the BBA as and when it considers appropriate.

17.4 The BBA has used due skill, care and diligence in preparing this Certificate, but no warranty is provided.

17.5 In issuing this Certificate, the BBA is not responsible and is excluded from any liability to any company, firm, organisation or person, for any matters arising directly or indirectly from:

- the presence or absence of any patent, intellectual property or similar rights subsisting in the product/system or any other product/system
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product/system
- actual installations of the product/system, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any works and constructions in which the product/system is installed, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any loss or damage, including personal injury, howsoever caused by the product/system, including its manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal
- any claims by the manufacturer relating to CE marking.

17.6 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal of this product/system which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product/system is manufactured, supplied, installed, used, maintained and removed. It does not purport in any way to restate the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, or of any other statutory, common law or other duty which may exist at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate; nor is conformity with such information to be taken as satisfying the requirements of the 1974 Act or of any statutory, common law or other duty of care.

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tel: 01923 665300  
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