

Year 11 Construction TERM 1 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER 2 of 2

Fire Resistance

All buildings should be fire resistant. The Grenfell tower disaster proved that this is not always the case but important lessons have been learned from that tragedy.

Fire resistant materials include:

- Plasterboard
- Concrete
- Blockwork
- Intumescent Paint this is fire resistant paint that is usually seen on metal structures

Modern buildings should also have:

- Fire escapes
- Sprinkler systems
- Smoke detectors



Sound Insulation

Buildings should be insulated from sound. You would be pretty fed up if you were kept awake at night by traffic noise, aircraft noise or even noisy neighbours.

Types of sound insulation include:

- Double or triple glazing
- Blockwork these help to absorb sound waves
- Plasterboard a double layer of plasterboard is really effective at cutting out noise
- Carpeting carpets help to reduce sound in a room
- Acoustic ceilings these are designed to specifically break up sound waves



This shows a plasterer creating a ceiling with **2** layers of plasterboard. This will make the room better insulated from sound

Thermal Insulation

Buildings should be able to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This helps to reduce energy loss and also energy bills. Any thermal insulation will have a **U- VALUE**. This is simply a measurement to determine heat loss from a building.

Types of thermal insulation include:

- Sheep's wool expensive but environmentally friendly
- Glass Fibre made from re-cycled glass, the itchy stuff!
- Foam not environmentally friendly
- Cellulose made from re-cycled newspapers



Cellulose insulation

Weather Resistance

Making a building or a home weather resistant is very important. You would not want to live in a house that leaked water every time it rained or that allowed wind to get in. Making a home weather proof is known as Weather resistance.

Types of weather resistance includes:

- Guttering and downpipes to transport water to the drains from your roof.
- Rubber seals around doors and windows to prevent rain from getting in
- Sloping roofs these are known as pitched roofs
- Overhanging eaves these are parts of the roof that overhang the brickwork
- Lead flashings you see these on houses where a sloping roof meets a wall e.g. on a chimney stack



