

Glossary of Construction Terms

AREA	Building Areas: The total ground area of each building and accessory building but not uncovered entrance platforms, terraces, and steps. Floor Area: The total area of all stories or floors finished as living accommodations. This area includes bays and dormers but does not include space in garages, carports or attics. Measurements are taken to the outside of exterior walls. Unexcavated Area: An area under a structure having no more than 18 inches clearance between the structure and the soil.
ASHLAR STONE	Ashlar stone is made of sawed, dressed, tooled, or quarry faced stone with proper bond.
ATTIC	Accessible space between top of the uppermost ceiling and underside of the roof. Inaccessible spaces are considered structural cavities.
BACKFILL	Backfill is the replacement of excavated earth into a pit or trench against a structure.
BASEBOARD	A trim board placed around a room where the wall meets the floor.
BOX SILL	Wooden sill plate and header on outer end of floor joist.
BRIDGING	Wood members placed between floor joists in an X pattern to make floor more rigid and to strengthen carrying capacity.
BULKHEAD	Bulkhead is (in northern states) a sloping door or doors affording entrance to a cellar from outside a building.
CAP, FOUNDATION WALL	A solid masonry block between the top of a hollow masonry block wall and sill plate, used to seal the voids of the hollow blocks
CHASE	Chase is a groove in a masonry wall usually provided for accommodation of pipes, ducts, or conduits.
COLUMN	Column, in engineering, is a structural compression member, usually vertical; supporting loads acting on or near and in the direction of its longitudinal axis. (Note: Pier)
COPING	Coping is a capping at the top of a wall, serving to shed water.
COURSE	Course is a continuous level range or row of masonry, as a layer of foundation block. Also a row of plywood panels, as in sub-flooring or roof-sheathing.
COURSED RUBBLE	Coursed rubble is masonry composed of roughly shaped stone fitting approximately on level beds and well bonded.

CRAWL SPACE	A shallow space below the living quarters of a basement-less house, normally enclosed by the foundation wall or by a curtain wall.
CRIPPLE	Cripple is any part of a frame, which is cut less than full length, as in cripple studs under a window opening.
DAMP-PROOF	Damp-proof courses consist of a rigid or flexible waterproof layer of material (impermeable membrane) inserted into or onto a wall of a building in order to prevent water from passing upward or downward to that particular point. Damp proof courses (often called D.P.C.) may be horizontal or vertical.
DOWNSPOUT	Downspout is a pipe, which carries water from the roof gutter to the ground or any part of the drainage system.
DRY WALL FINISH	Interior covering material, such as gypsum board or plywood, which is applied in large sheets or panels.
DRY WELL	A covered pit with open-jointed lining or a covered pit filled with coarse aggregate through which drainage from roofs, basement floors, foundation drain tile or areaways may seep or leach into the surrounding soil.
ELEVATION	Elevation is a scale drawing of the upright parts of a structure.
ENCUMBRANCE	Encumbrance is an interest or right in real property, which diminishes the value of the fee, but does not prevent the conveyance of the fee by the owner thereof.
EXPANSION JOINT	A bituminous fiber strip used to separate blocks or units of concrete to prevent cracking due to expansion as a result of temperature changes.
FASCIA	Fascia is a horizontal board that is used as facing across the ends of roof rafters.
FLASHING	Sheet metal or other impervious material used in roof and wall construction to protect a building from water seepage.
FROST LINE	The depth below finish grade where frost acting on footings or foundations is improbable.
FOOTING	Base at bottom of foundation wall, wider than thickness of foundation wall. Furring Strips of wood or metal applied to wood or other surfaces to make it even, form an air space or give the wall an appearance of greater thickness.
FOUNDATION DRAIN	(Also called land drain, wall drain or French drain.) Drain tile near footing, surrounded and covered with coarse gravel.

FURRING STRIPS	Furring strips of wood or metal applied to a wall or other surface to even it, to form an air space, or to give the appearance of greater thickness.
GRADE	Finish: Top surface elevation of lawns, walks, drives or other improved surfaces. Natural: The elevation of the original or undisturbed natural surface of the ground. Sub grade: "The elevation established to receive top surfacing or finishing materials."
GIRDER	Solid or laminated wood or steel supporting floor joints between foundation walls.
GIRDER POST	Wood or steel vertical unit supporting a girder.
GRADIENT	The slope or rate of increase or decrease in elevation of a surface, road or pipe; usually expressed in percent.
HEADER	Wood members placed between joists, studs, rafters, and similar members to carry ends that have been cut to provide openings for stairs, doors, windows, or chimneys.
JOISTS	A series of floor, roof or ceiling framing members spaced not more than 30 inches apart.
LATH	A building material of wood, metal, gypsum or insulating board that is fastened to the frame of a building to act as a plaster base.
LINTEL	A wood member of timber spanning the top of an opening such as over a door, window or archway.
PARAPET	Parapet wall is that part of an exterior, party, or firewall extending above the roofline.
PARTITION	Any wall other than an exterior wall. Bearing Partition: Any partition that supports another portion of structure and which, if removed, would affect strength of structure. Non bearing Partition: A partition which is not relied on to support any load other than its own weight and covering.
PIER	Masonry or concrete column supporting foundation, girders, or the floor structure in crawl spaces. Pier may be free-standing or bonded to other masonry or concrete.
PILASTER	A pier forming part of a masonry or concrete wall, partially projecting from and bonded to that wall.
PLATE	Plate is a horizontal structural member placed on a wall or supported on posts, studs, or corbels to carry the trusses of a roof or to carry the rafters directly.

PORCH	Porch is a floor extending beyond exterior walls of a building. It may be enclosed or unenclosed.
RAFTERS	A series of roof framing members spaced not more than 30 inches apart in roofs having slopes over 3 inches drop in 13 feet. Members supporting roofs having slopes of 3 inches drop in 12 feet or less are defined as roof joists. Hip Rafter: A framing timber that conforms to the roof slopes into which jack rafters are trimmed at salient angles to the roof. Jack Rafter: A shortened rafter. Valley Rafter: A rafter required to carry jack rafters where two roof surfaces meet at an interior corner or valley.
RIPRAP	Riprap is stones or other material placed on a slope to prevent erosion by water action
SCREEDS	Wood strips of the desired thickness laid on a surface to serve as guides for plastering the intervals between them; also, the intermediate leveling strips in concrete slabs.
SEPTIC TANK	Septic tank is a sewage-settling tank intended to retain the sludge in immediate contact with the sewage flowing through the tank.
SHEATHING	A structural covering, usually wooden wallboards, plywood or wallboards, placed over the exterior studding or rafters.
SHORING	Shoring is the insertion of upright slanting braces, which press against the object supported.
SIDING	The finish covering of the outside wall of a frame building, whether made of weatherboards, shingles, or other materials.
SOFFIT	Soffit is the underside of a roof overhang.
SOIL PIPE	Soil pipe is any pipe, which conveys the discharges of water closets, or fixtures having similar functions, with or without discharges from other fixtures.
SOLE or SOLE PLATE	A member, usually 2 x 4 feet on which wall and partition studs rest.
STAIR RISERS	Vertical wood members at back edge of stair tread.
STAIR STRINGER/CARRIAGE	Supporting wood structural members cut out to receive stair tread and risers.
STAIR TREADS	Horizontal wood members, commonly termed steps.
STUCCO	Most commonly refers to an outside plaster made with Portland cement as its base.
STUDS	A series of vertical wall or partition framing members spaced not more than 24 inches apart.

TERMITE SHIELD	Termite shield is a shield, usually of metal, placed in or on a foundation wall or other mass of masonry or around pipes to make the passage of termites visible.
THOROUGHLY SEASONED LUMBER	Lumber that has been air or kiln dried so that moisture content is not over 20 percent for structural timber and lumber, and not over 12 percent for interior finish.
TRIM	The finish materials in a building, applied around openings (window trim, door trim) or at the floor and ceiling of rooms (baseboard, cornice).
TRIMMER	A beam or joist into which a header is framed in a chimney, stairway or other opening.
VAPOR BARRIER	Material used to retard the flow of vapor or moisture into walls. The membrane type is purchased on rolls and is applied as a unit in the wall or ceiling construction; the paint type is applied with a brush.
VENT	Vent is a pipe installed to provide a flow of air to or from a drainage system or to provide a circulation of air within such a system to protect trap seals from back-siphonage and back-pressure.
WALLS	<p>Bearing Wall: A wall that supports any vertical load in addition to its own weight. Fire Wall: A wall with qualities of fire resistance and structural stability which subdivides a building into fire areas, and which resists the spread of fire. Foundation Wall: A wall, below or partly below grade, providing support for the exterior or other structural parts of a building.</p> <p>Non-bearing Wall: A wall which supports no vertical load other than its own weight.</p> <p>Party Wall: A wall used jointly by two parties under easement agreement, erected upon a line separating two parcels of land, each a separate real estate entity.</p> <p>Rubble Wall: Any coarse masonry wall made with rough or broken stones (field stones).</p>
WALLBOARD	Any material other than metal or sawn timber used in rigid sheets for lining"
WALL VENEER	A self-supporting facing of brick, stone, concrete, hollow tile or similar material attached to a timber wall to provide ornamentation, protection or insulation, but not to add strength to the wall."
WATER TABLE	Water table is the level below which the ground is saturated.
WEATHERBOARDING	All exterior sheathing, whether rough-sawn or machined, fixed horizontally to any special section.

WEEPHOLE	Weephole is a small hole, as in a retaining wall, to drain water to the outside. Found on brick veneer construction.
WET BED FLOOR	Ceramic tile installed in concrete over double plywood underbase on screeds over concrete or some other floor.
WOOD TILE/WOOD PARQUET	Square or geometrically designed wood flooring blocks used as finish flooring.

Glossary of Entomological Terms Pertinent To the Pest Control Technician

ABDOMEN	The posterior of the three body regions of an insect.
ALATE	Having wings.
ANTENNA	Sensory organ, segmented, one on each side of the head. Often used to help identify the insect.
ANTERIOR	Pertaining to the front part of the body. For example the head is anterior to the thorax.
APTEROUS	Without wings.
APTEROUS NYMPH	Nymph that is lacking wings.
ARTHROPODA	The phylum of animals which includes the insects, spiders, ticks, mites, scorpions, crabs, shrimp, millipedes, and centipedes. The arthropods are characterized by their having an external jointed skeleton, segmented body and jointed limbs.
BASAL	Pertaining to the base or bottom of a member. Next to or nearer to the body.
BRACHYPTEROUS NYMPH	Nymph with short wings.
CASTE	A group within a colony of social insects which are morphologically and functionally distinct.
CLASS	A division of the animal kingdom below the phylum but above the order. For example the class Insecta or Arachnida or Crustacea.
COCOON	The protective silk covering which protects the pupal stage within it .
COLEOPTERA	The largest order of insects, the beetles and weevils. About 330,000 species belong to this order.
COMPOUND EYE	The large many faceted eye, one on each side of the head.
COXA	The first division of the insect leg. It attaches the leg to the thorax.
DEALATE	The alate or winged insect after it loses its wings.
DISTAL	Pertaining to a part that is away from the base, or distal to another part of the body. For example your fingers are distal to your wrist.
DORSAL	The top or upper part of the body of an animal. The back of an animal that walks on all fours.

ELYTRON	The hard protective forewing of a beetle which protects the membranous hindwings.
FAMILY	The unit of classification below Order into which the genera are placed. Family names always end in —idae. For example the Lyctidae .
FEMUR	The third division of the insect leg. It is between the trochanter and the tibia, and is usually the stoutest segment of the leg.
FRASS	Both insect excrement or droppings as well as the wood particles produced by chewing actions of insects.
FUNICULUS	In ants, the antennal segments following or distal to the scape.
GENUS	The category above the species level in the system of classification of animals and plants. Plural = genera.
HYMENOPTERA	An order of insects that includes the sawflies wasps, bees and ants.
IMAGO	The sexually mature insect.
INSTAR	The stage of an insect between molts.
ISOPTERA	The order insects containing the termites.
LARVA	The immature stage of an insect (preceding the pupal stage) which undergoes complete metamorphosis.
LATERAL	Pertaining to the side. For example your eyes are lateral (or to the side) of you nose.
MANDIBLES	The second pair of appendages that make up the mouthparts of chewing insects. Mandibles are usually very thick and hard. They may have some sharp points and tooth-like edges.
MEDIAL	Towards the midline of the body. (The opposite of lateral). For example your nose is medial to your ears.
MESOTHORAX	The middle or second part of the insect thorax. The part that bears the 2nd pair of legs and the 1st pair of wings.
METAMORPHOSIS	The change in bodily form through most insects undergo during their development.
METATHORAX	The hind or third portion of the insect thorax. The part bearing the 3rd pair of legs and the 2nd pair of wings.
MOLT	The periodic process of shedding the exoskeleton (skin) undergone by insects and other arthropods.
MORPHOLOGY	The study of the bodily form of living organisms.

NYMPH	The immature stage of an insect which undergoes incomplete metamorphosis.
OCELLUS	The simple eye of an insect. In contrast to the compound eye the ocellus has only a single lens.
OMMATIDIUM	One of the visual elements of the compound eye. Plural = ommatidia.
ORAL	Pertaining to the mouth.
OVIPOSITION	The act of laying eggs.
OVIPOSITOR	A specialized egg laying organ used by the female insect to deposit her eggs.
PHYLUM	A major division in the scheme of classifying animals. Examples of Phyla are the Arthropoda, the Mollusca and Protozoa etc.
PHYTOPHAGOUS	Plant feeding.
PREDATOR	An animal that captures and feeds on other animals (or prey).
PRONOTUM	The part of the prothorax which is on the dorsum of the insect (the top part of the prothorax).
PROTHORAX	The first part of the thorax. The part bearing the 1st pair of legs.
PUPA	The stage in the life cycle of an insect between the larva and the adult. Insects which have a pupal stage undergo complete metamorphosis.
QUEEN	The female sexually reproductive form of a social insect. Queens are found in the wasps, bees, ants and termites.
REPRODUCTIVE	The sexually mature insect. In the case of ants and termites the reproductives are the alate or winged males and females.
ROSTRUM	An extended part of the head of an insect which bears the mouthparts. Examples would be the extended proboscis of a mosquito or the snout of a weevil.
SCAPE	The basal (1st) and longest segment of an ant's antenna. The rest of the segments of the antenna (funiculus) are attached at a right angle to the scape. This gives the appearance of being geniculate, or elbowed.
SCLERITE	A hardened plate forming part of the exoskeleton of insects. It is bounded by a suture (a line or seam) that distinctly marks a division of the body wall.
SCLEROTIZED	Hardened part of the insect body as opposed to the soft membranous parts of the insect body.

SEGMENTS	Individual sections or units of the insect body.
SERRATE	Saw-like; with notched edges like the teeth of a saw.
SETA	A slender body hair or filament.
SOCIAL	Living together in a colony, and showing a division of labor. Examples are ants, some bees, wasps and termites.
SOLDIER	A caste found in the social insects having the responsibility of defending the colony.
SOLITARY	Occurring singly, not in a social colony.
SPECIES	The lowest unit in the classification scheme under the genus level. The species is a distinct unit, isolated reproductively from other such units.
SPIRACLE	An external opening in the insect body through which air is taken into the body.
STERNITE	The sclerotized plate on the underside (venter) of the insect abdomen.
STIGMA	A dark mark near the anterior margin of the front wings of many insects.
SYMBIOSIS	The association of organisms living together where both derive benefit from their being together.
TARSUS	The last portion of the insect leg. The tarsus consists of a number of segments, usually from one to five and often has claws attached to the last tarsal segment. The number of tarsal segments is important in insect identification. The plural of tarsus is tarsi.
TARSAL FORMULA	The tarsal formula refers to the number of tarsal segments that are present on each of the legs. For example the tarsal formula of 5-5-4 indicates that there are 5 tarsal segments on the first pair of legs, 5 tarsal segments on the second pair of legs and 4 tarsal segments on the last pair or hind pair of legs.
TERGITE	The sclerotized plate on the top (dorsal) side of the insect thorax or abdomen.
THORAX	The middle region of the insect body, the part bearing the three pairs of legs in the adult stage.
TIBIA	The fourth division of the leg. It is found between the femur and the tarsus. The tibia can usually be recognized by 2 long spurs on its distal end.
TROCHANTER	The second division of the insect leg. It is usually quite small and attached between the coxa and the femur.
VEINS	The strengthening "ribs" in the wings of insects.

VENTRAL
WORKERS

The lower surface or underside of an animal.

The sterile caste in the nests of social insects. They are charged with foraging for food, building and repairing the nest and taking care of the queen.