

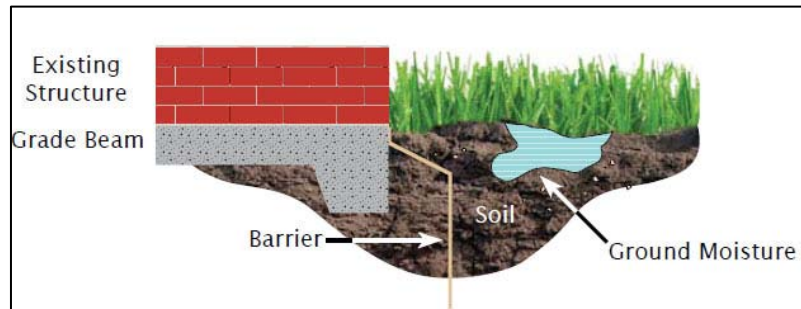


**Exterior Foundation Waterproofing Membrane
Moisture Barriers vs Concrete Vapor Barriers**

Used as a foundation drainage solution, see how foundation waterproofing membrane moisture barriers can help control moisture levels around foundations.

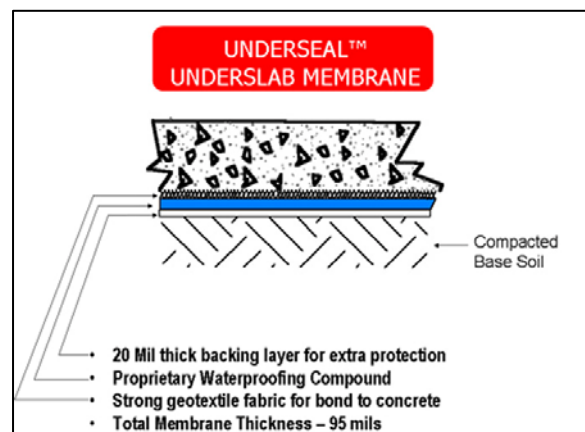
What is a Moisture Barrier?

Moisture barriers are exactly that. They hinder or stop moisture from moving from one place to another. Used throughout construction, moisture barriers come in



various forms: moisture barrier film, moisture barrier plastic, or concrete moisture barrier. The purpose of the moisture barrier is to keep ground water from moving under a foundation.

Don't confuse a foundation waterproofing membrane moisture barrier with concrete vapor barriers. Concrete vapor barriers are installed when a foundation is poured. They are there to prevent a damp cold and clammy concrete floor. By stopping water vapor from moving through a concrete floor, vapor barriers help prevent moisture from deteriorating the concrete and from damaging sealers and overlays. Vapor barriers are placed down before the slab is poured.



For concrete slab foundations, foundation waterproofing membranes moisture barriers are vertical layers of plastic that are buried in the ground around the perimeter of the foundation. They can be installed after a concrete slab foundation has been completed. As water flows up against an exterior foundation waterproofing membrane, it is stopped

and prevented from getting under a home. The purpose of the membrane is to keep ground water from moving under a foundation and to help maintain moisture levels in and around a foundation.

Keeping the right amount of water in the soil is important for foundation maintenance.

With too little water the soils shrink and your foundation goes down. With too much water the soil expands and pushes your foundation up. To help control situations where too much water is entering the soil, engineers sometimes call for the construction of a foundation waterproofing membrane moisture barrier.



While installing foundation waterproofing membranes is fairly basic, they are exceedingly labor intensive. Attention to detail is critical to ensure the moisture barrier does not have any tears or gaps. Foundation membranes are most commonly a polyethylene membrane. Check with a local hardware store for supplies. Determine the depth of seasonal moisture. Dig a trench around the foundation. Install the membranes so that they are below the depth of seasonal moisture. This could be as far down as ten to twelve feet. Many have an adhesive system that attaches to the top of the foundation. Back fill the trench.

Advanced Foundation Repair offers home repairs from the foundation up including foundation repair, plumbing, and general construction services. Advanced Foundation Repair has specialized in solving the foundation repair needs of Texas homeowners for over 100 years. Advanced Foundation Repair's reputation assures customers that they will receive prompt honest and reliable service.

Visit <http://www.foundationrepairs.com> for information on Advanced Foundation Repair's services, home owner tips and DIY white papers or watch the [How Exterior Foundation Waterproofing Membrane work as a Moisture Barriers Video](#) for a review on foundation waterproofing membranes and how they can help with foundation maintenance.

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