



PCA Waterproofing Design Specialist (WDS) Register



The Role of the Waterproofing Design Specialist

There has been a fundamental change in recent years in the way that we approach waterproofing design for underground structures. Traditionally it had been the Architect's role to draw up and design Structural Waterproofing schemes for below ground projects. However, the majority of Architects will readily acknowledge that they do not have the specialist training or expertise to undertake this function. The only reason they were doing this work was because there were few people recognised to undertake this specialist role.

When the British Standard for Waterproofing was revised in 2009 - BS 8102:2009 *Code of Practice for protection of below ground structures against water from the ground*, it recognised this problem and addressed it by recommending that every design team must incorporate a Waterproofing Design Specialist.

This stated in section 4.2 of BS 8102:2009 under the heading "Design Team" that:-

"A waterproofing specialist should be included as part of the design team so that an integrated waterproofing solution is created. The waterproofing specialist should:-

- a) be suitably experienced;*
- b) be capable of devising solutions that accommodate the various project constraints and needs;*
- c) provide the design team with information and guidance that assists with and influences the design, installation and future maintenance of the waterproofed structure."*

What is a Waterproofing Design Specialist?

Waterproofing design specialists can, in theory, be anybody who is able to provide expertise in structural waterproofing. However, identifying those that have the appropriate skills and knowledge from those who don't can be difficult and daunting. Even the most experienced Architects and Building Developers can struggle to single out those that can be trusted to give the correct information.

BS8102:2009 guidance advises that the Waterproofing Design Specialist should have knowledge of the following:

1. The waterproofing systems available.
2. An in-depth understanding of the requirements of BS 8102.
3. Sources of water and how it flows through the soil and interacts with the structure.
4. Sufficient structural knowledge to be able to discourse meaningfully with the structural engineer.
5. Sufficient Geotechnical knowledge to be able to understand the implications of a soil report, and to discourse meaningfully with the Geotechnical Engineer.

Who can be a Waterproofing Design Specialist?

This can be anybody who is able to demonstrate that they have the requisite knowledge described above. There are many people who may be able to act in this capacity, such as Architects and Engineers who have specialist training in the field. Equally, there are many

Surveyors or Suppliers who operate within the structural waterproofing industry who already have this knowledge and apply it as part of their everyday work.

How does the leader of the design team find a Waterproofing Design Specialist?

Whilst there may be many people who are able to fulfil the function of Waterproofing Design Specialist, the leader of the design team will need to know who they are.

Previously the only way to identify an individual who has put himself through the rigours of study and qualification in this specialist Waterproofing field was to look for those who have attained the Property Care Association (PCA) - Certificated Surveyor in Structural Waterproofing (CSSW) qualification. Most surveyors who have attained this qualification work for PCA Contractor companies and so finding qualified people, quickly and efficiently could be difficult.

The PCA's Structural Waterproofing Group, in 2010, recognised a need for forming a special register of Waterproofing Design Specialists that have demonstrated they have the requisite competence, skill and knowledge.

This register of recognised Waterproofing Design Specialists is accessible to the leader of the design team via the PCA website (www.property-care.org) - look for the Register of Waterproofing Design Specialists (WDS) where you will find a list of WDS members, together with a description of their expertise.

What is needed to be recognised as a PCA Waterproofing Design Specialist?

To become recognised as a Waterproofing Design Specialist, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills in:

- Understand all the aspects of BS8102- 2009 and other relevant industry standards
- Demonstrate a full understanding of all types of Waterproofing (Types A, B and C)
- Building construction and waterproofing techniques
- Knowledge of the products and techniques commonly used in waterproofing
- Certificated Surveyor in Structural Waterproofing (CSSW) certificate or evidence of attainment of any other relevant academic or industry qualification
- Evidence of site experience (min. 5 years)
- Diagnostic investigation and problem solving
- Report writing
- Commitment to a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme
- Hold adequate Professional Indemnity Insurance cover

Waterproofing Design Specialist Membership Criteria

Membership Criteria and Application Process

All applicants must either be a member of the Property Care Association (PCA) individually or be employed by an existing member of the PCA to make an application as a Waterproofing Design Specialist.

All eligible applicants are to submit a package of documents that will include:

1. A completed application form.
2. Current CV that lists all relevant training and experience.
3. Two diagnostic reports with detailed specifications that have been created by the applicant and demonstrate a full understanding of all types of Waterproofing (Types A, B and C).
4. Documentary evidence that adequate Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place.
5. Certificated Surveyor in Structural Waterproofing (CSSW) certificate.
6. Evidence of attainment of any other relevant academic or industry qualification.
7. Evidence of site experience (min. 5 years).

The applicant must satisfy the PCA Applications Manager that they have attained a level of professional competence by providing evidence of one or more of the following:

- 1) Attaining CSSW qualification
- 2) Other relevant academic qualification, and/or
- 3) Evidence of competence, skills and minimum 5 years site experience

These documents will be then be reviewed by the PCA Technical Manager to ensure that the applicant can demonstrate adequate levels of skill, knowledge and experience. The Technical Manager will consider the applicant's ability in the following areas:

- Understand all aspects of BS8102- 2009
- Building construction and waterproofing techniques
- Diagnostic investigation and problem solving
- Report writing
- Diagram drawing and details
- Specification detail
- Knowledge of the products and techniques commonly used in waterproofing

The applicant will also be required to undertake a 30 minute interview with the WDS expert panel.

The panel will consist of two members of the PCA Waterproofing Steering Group and the Technical Manager. The interview will be conducted by telephone conference call or where pre-agreed by face-to-face or online video conference. The panel will be required to assess the applicant's knowledge, suitability and experience during the course of the interview. Where the applicant has not attained the CSSW qualification but is relying on the review of other qualifications and their experience this will also be assessed by the interview panel.

As all individuals that are listed on the register will be members of the PCA or employed by a member of the PCA, applications will be managed by the PCA executive with support from the Waterproofing Steering Group of the Association.

If the application is approved, the applicant will be informed by post or email and the individual will be placed on the register. The register will be published on the appropriate pages of the PCA website.

If the application is NOT successful, the applicant will be notified by post or email of the reason(s) for this and provided with suggested areas of further learning. A further application can be submitted after 6 months.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

All Waterproofing Design Specialists must adhere to the PCA Continuous Professional Development (CPD) scheme and agree to collect a minimum of 25 eligible CPD points annually. A CPD self-certification form is requested and audited annually by the PCA executive.

Insurance

All Waterproofing Design Specialists must be covered by Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Waterproofing Design Specialist must provide evidence of this cover to the PCA executive annually.

Code of Ethics/ Codes of Practice Performance Standards

All members will be required to acknowledge and uphold the Association's Code of Ethics and all relevant standards that relate to the conduct and behaviour of members.

Non-member applications to the register


When an individual proposes to make an application as a PCA Waterproofing Design Specialist BUT is not a member of the PCA or employed by a PCA member, they will be required to become a member through the normal channels before they can be registered on the Waterproofing Design Register.

If a Waterproofing Design Specialist leaves the employment of a PCA member to become an Independent Surveyor they must make an Application for Independent Surveyor membership of the Property Care Association as set out in the Articles of Association.

If a Waterproofing Design Specialist leaves the employment of a PCA member and is employed by a non-member they will be excluded from the Register. If the individual subsequently is re-employed by a PCA member they will be required to re-submit an application form to the PCA Applications Manager for review.

Membership Criteria Waterproofing Design Specialist

To make an application to become registered as a Waterproofing Design Specialist, you will need to provide the following information:

	Tick 
Application fee (£50 + VAT) made payable to “Property Care Association”	
A completed application form	
A current CV listing all relevant training and experience	
Two diagnostic reports with detailed specifications and diagrams that have been created by the applicant and demonstrate a full understanding of all types of Waterproofing (Types A, B and C).	
Copy of CSSW certificate or proof of existing relevant qualification <i>or</i> Relevant documentary evidence to demonstrate competence, skills and experience (to be assessed by WDS expert panel).	
Documentary evidence that adequate Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place.	
Please note: All applicants will be required to undertake a 30 minute interview by telephone conference call with the WDS expert panel.	

Application to be included on the Register of Waterproofing Design Specialists

Applicant name:	
Company name:	
Address:	
Tel number:	
Mobile Number:	
Email address:	
Date of Application:	
<p>Please indicate below the criteria you are applying under and provide details of your qualification(s) and/or achievements that qualify you for inclusion on the register:</p>	
Criteria	Details
1. CSSW qualification	
2. Other academic qualification	
3. Competence, skills and experience (to be reviewed by the WDS expert panel)	
<p>Please note: All applicants will be required to undertake a 30 minute interview by telephone conference call with the WDS expert panel.</p>	