



FACT SHEET

Building a Passivhaus - Sequencing

A critical aspect of building to the Passivhaus standard is the correct sequencing of trades during the build.

For example, in a masonry construction; in order to achieve the Passivhaus levels of airtightness ALL walls are required to be covered in 2 coats of plaster. There should not be any exposed areas of blockwork internally.

Examples of poor sequencing or not thinking ahead include:

- Not enclosing the ends of concrete hollowcore floors in airtightness membrane that is then masticced to the wall
- Plastering the walls without masticcing any areas of airtightness membrane first
- Installing suspended ceilings before the entire wall is plastered first (if this is not considered there is an air leakage point in the exposed blockwork in the suspended ceiling space)
- Not plastering a wall BEFORE ductwork or services is fixed to it - trying to air tighten it afterwards is problematic.
- Not plastering (plasterboard compound is excellent for this) behind electrical chasing or boxes BEFORE electrician first fixes will result in a drop in airtightness.

These are just a few examples, it should be remembered that:

SEQUENCING IS CRITICAL !

The excellent Passivhaus Handbook by Janet Cotterell and Adam Dadeby available from GreenBooks.co.uk has an excellent section on sequencing and advises architects & Passivhaus Designers to include

'Sequencing Notes' on drawings (example from book below):



Sequencing notes for airtightness

- 1 Plaster reveal in preparation for window installation.
- 2 Fix metal frame cramp to the outside of the existing wall.
- 3 Install window.
- 4 Stick tape to the inside of the window frame as per manufacturer's instructions. Embed the tape into a coat of plaster to create continuous airtight layer between plaster and window.

Figure 9.2 Example of airtightness sequencing highlighted on construction details.

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