

**Tavistock Museum - Treatment of dry rot:-
March 2023**

	Areas where fungal attack has taken place or is active	Areas that are susceptible to attack
1.	Remove all sources of water penetration and promote air movement if practical.	Remove all sources of water penetration.
2.	Remove plaster to expose the full extent of the fungus, starting from the centre of the infection and working outwards to the growing front. This will maximise drying and minimise exposure work.	Thoroughly clean out any debris or floor coverings, or other material, that may have accumulated moisture or impede drying.
3.	Check the condition of concealed bearings with a hand probe if the timber is thin or a decay probe if the timber is thick. Expose if necessary. It may be necessary to expose thick beam bearings on both sides.	Expose damage as far as is practical to increase drying (perhaps lifting floorboards).
4.	If possible, cut decayed timber back to sound wood. Otherwise, use a paste preservative to coat the exposed bearings to 500mm past the last sign of decay. If the timber is thick, preservative may need to be caulked into pre-drilled holes. A formulation based on boron in glycol will give the best penetration into wet timber.	Cut back decayed timber to sound wood. Repair or re-support using sapwood-free oak or pre-treated softwood according to the original material. Chemically modified timber may be useful for joinery repairs or inorganic materials may be appropriate for lintels and structural support.
5.	Remove any decayed timber lintels within the zone of decay and replace with lintels made of inorganic materials.	
6.	Remove all bonding timbers, grounds and embedded wood within zone of fungus growth and decay. Brick up any cavities left by the timber removal.	
7.	Re-support structural timbers as necessary using pre-treated softwood timber or inorganic materials. The cut ends of pre-treated softwood should be	

	brush treated or dip treated with a fungicide or the end treatment fluid recommended by the timber supplier. All new softwood timber should be isolated from wet walls with an impervious membrane.	
8.	Spray treat exposed masonry/stonework within the zone of decay with a fungicide containing boron in glycol. This will discourage the fungus from fruiting.	